



# 2024 DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR AWARDS

MONDAY, MAY 6, 2024

Pleasantdale Chateau | West Orange, New Jersey

EXCELLENCE IN  
GOVERNANCE

# Leading the way



SJI congratulates our **Chairman Joseph M. Rigby** on being honored with the **Lifetime Achievement in Governance Award** by the **New Jersey Chapter of the National Association of Corporate Directors**.

We celebrate your outstanding career achievements and excellence in leadership.



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## A MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD LEADERSHIP:

*On behalf of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Corporate Directors New Jersey Chapter, we welcome you to our Fifth Annual Director of the Year Awards Dinner. Thank you for participating in tonight's celebration as we honor directors and leading organizations that continue to make a lasting, positive difference in the state of New Jersey, the business community and in the lives of those they serve.*

Directors today are grappling with a complex web of challenges, including geopolitical and domestic tensions, impact of GenAI, energy security, climate change, cybersecurity threats, and economic uncertainty.

Nevertheless, directors rise to the occasion, implementing good governance practices, ensuring the board operates with transparency, accountability and integrity, fostering trust and confidence among all stakeholders.

We at the NACD New Jersey Chapter applaud the commitment to excellence that we experience in working with each of you. Tonight, we celebrate the accomplishments and dedication of our honorees, who embody the highest standards of integrity, stewardship, strategic acumen and

ethical leadership. We are proud to honor truly outstanding individuals and companies.

We would like to offer sincere thanks to those who have made this evening a success, including the NACD New Jersey Board of Directors, the 2024 Nominating and Selection Committees, and especially our sponsors. Being a professional not-for-profit association, our volunteers and sponsors are the resources of our programming, our commitment and our future. Finally, we want to thank and recognize our honorees for the outstanding leadership each of you have demonstrated in the boardroom. Your leadership inside as well as outside of the boardroom is the model for others to emulate and demonstrates the New Jersey Chapter's commitment to Board Excellence.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Trish Oelrich".

**Trish Oelrich**  
Chair  
NACD New Jersey Chapter



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeannie Diefenderfer".

**Jeannie Diefenderfer**  
Event Chair  
NACD New Jersey DOYA

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS...

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### DIAMOND

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### PLATINUM

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## ...FOR MAKING THIS EVENT POSSIBLE

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The Rigby  
Family

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### BRONZE

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African American Chamber of  
Commerce of New Jersey

Atlantic City Electric, an Exelon  
Company

Barnes & Thornburg LLP

Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc.

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Denise Morrison and Associates LLC

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The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company

Trewstar Corporate Board Services

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### MEDIA

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**New Jersey Business**

## EVENING PROGRAM

### WELCOME REMARKS

#### **Daryl Brewster**

*2024 Award Program Master of Ceremonies  
Director, NACD New Jersey Chapter*

#### **Jeannie Diefenderfer**

*Event Chair, NACD New Jersey DOYA*

### LEADERSHIP IN NON-PROFIT GOVERNANCE

#### **John E. Harmon, Sr., IOM**

*Founder, President & CEO, African American Chamber  
of Commerce of New Jersey*

PRESENTED BY: **JUSTIN HARMON**, *Vice President, Truist*

## DINNER

### POST DINNER REMARKS

#### **Trish Oelrich**

*Chair, NACD New Jersey Chapter*

### PUBLIC COMPANY BOARD THE YEAR

#### **American Water**

ACCEPTED BY: **M. SUSAN HARDWICK**, *President and CEO,  
American Water*

PRESENTED BY: **THE HONORABLE VICTOR CARSTARPHEN**,  
*Mayor of Camden, New Jersey*

### LEADERSHIP IN PUBLIC CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

#### **Denise M. Morrison**

*Former CEO, The Campbell Soup Co.; Director, Visa Inc.,  
MetLife, Inc., Quest Diagnostics, Inc.*

PRESENTED BY: **ALFRED F. KELLY, JR.**, *Former Chairman and  
CEO, Visa, Inc.*

### PRIVATE COMPANY BOARD OF THE YEAR

#### **Wedgewood**

ACCEPTED BY: **MARCY BLISS**, *CEO, Wedgewood and  
KEVIN VASQUEZ*, *Chairman of the Board, Wedgewood*

PRESENTED BY: **DR. MATTHEW EDSON**, *Founding Dean, Schreiber  
School of Veterinary Medicine at Rowan University*

### LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT IN GOVERNANCE

#### **Joseph M. Rigby**

*Chairman of the Board, South Jersey Industries; Board  
Member and Chair of the Audit Committee, Dominion Energy*

PRESENTED BY: **MICHAEL RENNA**, *President and CEO, South  
Jersey Industries and ROBERT M. BLUE*, *Chair, President and  
CEO of Dominion Energy*

## LEADERSHIP IN NON-PROFIT GOVERNANCE



### **John E. Harmon**

John E. Harmon, Sr. IOM, has served as the Founder, President and CEO of the African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey (AACCNJ), since 2007. In this role he has the responsibility of establishing, implementing and executing the mission, as well as the fiduciary oversight and governance of AACCNJ in accordance with its Bylaws. In addition, he works to identify strategic partnerships in both the public and private sector to connect AACCNJ members and supporters to resources and opportunities to grow and sustain their goals and objectives. Harmon serves as

an advocate on behalf of the 1.2 million African American residents and the over 80,000 black owned NJ businesses to ensure that policy at the municipal, county, and federal level provides fairness, equity and access to a level playing field in the marketplace. Prior to his 20-year career as a chamber executive, Harmon was employed at The Bowery Savings Bank in NYC, managing the bank's Residential Real Estate Dept.; and at Chemical Bank managing third party loan originations. Harmon founded a transportation company in 1989, called Harmon Transfer, Corp.

# PUBLIC COMPANY BOARD OF THE YEAR



**Karl F. Kurz**, *Board Chair*

**M. Susan Hardwick**, *President and CEO*

**Jeffrey Edwards**, *Director*

**Martha Clark Goss**, *Director*

**Kimberly J. Harris**, *Director*

**Laurie P. Havanec**, *Director*

**Julia L. Johnson**, *Director*

**Patricia L. Kampling**, *Director*

**Michael L. Marberry**, *Director*

## American Water

American Water is the largest regulated water and wastewater utility company in the United States. With a history dating back to 1886, We Keep Life Flowing® by providing safe, clean, reliable and affordable drinking water and wastewater services to more than 14 million people with regulated operations in 14 states and on 18 military installations. American Water's 6,500 talented professionals leverage their significant expertise and the company's national size and scale to achieve excellent outcomes for the benefit of customers, employees, investors and other stakeholders.

As one of the fastest growing utilities in the U.S., American Water expects to invest \$30 to \$34 billion in infrastructure repairs and replacement,

system resiliency and regulated acquisitions over the next 10 years. The company has a long-standing history of executing its core operations, aligned with sustainable best practices, through its commitments to safety, affordability, customer service, protecting the environment, an inclusive workforce and strengthening communities.

American Water has been recognized on the 2023 Bloomberg Gender-Equality Index for the fifth consecutive year, ranked 18th on Barron's 100 Most Sustainable U.S. Companies 2023 List, earned the U.S. Department of Homeland Security SAFETY Act designation and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense® Excellence Award, among additional state, local and national recognitions.



## LEADERSHIP IN PUBLIC CORPORATE GOVERNANCE



### Denise M. Morrison

Denise M. Morrison is the Founder of Denise Morrison & Associates, LLC., a Consulting Firm. She served as President and Chief Executive Officer of The Campbell Soup Company from 2011-2018. She joined Campbell in 2003, where she held positions of increasing responsibility. Prior to joining Campbell, Ms. Morrison held executive management positions at Kraft Foods, Inc. from 2001-2003. She started her career with Procter & Gamble and held various positions with PepsiCo and Nestle before joining Kraft/Nabisco.

Ms. Morrison is currently a Director on the Boards of Visa, Inc., MetLife Inc., and Quest Diagnostics. She served as a Director of Campbell Soup Company from 2010-2018 and a Director of The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. from 2005-2010 and on the Board of Ballard Power Systems Inc. from 2002-2005. She is a member of the Board of Trustees

for Boston College, the EEDP Sponsorship Council for Bank of America, the Business Council, and the Advisory Council for Just Capital.

Ms. Morrison was a member of Governor Philip Murphy's NJ Restart & Recovery Commission. She served on President Trump's Manufacturing Jobs Initiative as well as President Obama's Export Council. She served on the Advisory Board for Tufts Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy from 2019-2022. She was named to Fortune's Most Powerful Women's List from 2012-2018.

Ms. Morrison earned the CERT Certificate in Cybersecurity Oversight, issued by Carnegie Mellon University. She graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Boston College in 1975 and received an Honorary Doctorate from St. Peter's University in 2018.

## PRIVATE COMPANY BOARD OF THE YEAR



**Peter Berweger**

**Sofia Gerard**

**Kevin Vasquez**, *Chairman*

**Dennis Maloney**

**David Kamenetzky**

**Marcy Bliss**, *CEO*

**Benjamin Shaw**

### Wedgewood

Over the last 40 years, Wedgewood has grown from a small, independent community pharmacy to become the nation's largest and most trusted provider of compounded veterinary medications. Our five PCAB®-accredited state-licensed pharmacies and our two FDA-registered, cGMP 503B outsourcing facilities represent the gold standard in pharmacy practice, reflecting our unwavering commitment to quality. Our recent merger with Blue Rabbit, an emerging leader in veterinary prescription management and pharmacy solutions, marks a

significant evolution in our services, enabling us to provide veterinarians with next-generation software to streamline patient care. Together, we serve more than 70,000 veterinary professionals and one million animals annually. Wedgewood is more than a pharmacy – we are educators, advocates, partners, and solution providers for veterinarians, dedicated to improving the lives of animals and those who love and care for them. For more information, visit [Wedgewood.com](https://www.wedgewood.com).

## LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT IN GOVERNANCE



### Joseph M. Rigby

Joe Rigby was born, raised and educated in South Jersey. He worked for 12 years on a local farm until he graduated from Rutgers University (Camden campus) in 1978. He began his career at Atlantic City Electric Company as a junior accountant. Following two mergers, Joe ultimately served as Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Pepco Holdings, Inc. (Pepco), an energy delivery company serving the mid-Atlantic region, from May 2009 to March 2016. Prior to that, he held other executive officer positions with Pepco and its subsidiaries, including chief operating officer and chief financial officer.

Joe currently serves as the non-executive Chairman of South Jersey Industries, Inc (headquartered in Folsom, NJ). He also currently serves on the board of Dominion Energy (headquarter in Richmond, VA) as Chair of the Audit Committee and a member of the Nominating and Governance Committee. He previously served on the boards of Energy Insurance Mutual and Dominion Energy Midstream GP, LLC, the general partner of Dominion Energy Midstream Partners, LP (2014-2017).

As noted above, Joe received his bachelor's degree in accounting from Rutgers University and an MBA from Monmouth University. Joe was an 2013 inductee to the Rutgers University Hall of Distinguished Alumni, and was previously inducted into the Maryland and Greater Washington Business Halls of Fame. Joe has served on numerous non profit boards over his career, chairing the United Way of the National Capital Area and the Greater Washington Board of Trade.

Joe and his wife Carol live on Hilton Head Island, and they have two adult children and three grandchildren.



## Congratulations to **Joseph M. Rigby**

Dominion Energy is honored to celebrate Joseph M. Rigby's decades-long leadership excellence as recognized by the New Jersey Chapter of the NACD as Director of the Year.

Thank you, Joe, for your exemplary service on our Board of Directors and for everything you do every day for our company, our communities, and our shareholders.



Powering Your Every Day.™



MetLife congratulates Denise M Morrison on being honored for her Leadership in Public Corporate Governance by NACD New Jersey





# Congratulations



Visa is proud to support the National Association of Corporate Directors New Jersey Chapter's Director of the Year Awards.

Congratulations to Visa Board Director, **Denise Morrison**, for receiving the Leadership in Public Corporate Governance award.





# Proud supporter of those who reach higher

KPMG supports NACD of New Jersey in accrediting excellence among boards and directors. They congratulate Joseph M. Rigby, Denise M. Morrison, John E. Harmon, Sr., IOM, American Water, and Wedgewood for their recognition at the Director of the Year Awards.



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# It all starts with... great governance.

Congratulations to the winners of the Fifth Annual Director of the Year Awards

PRESENTED BY NACD NEW JERSEY



2023 PUBLIC COMPANY BOARD OF THE YEAR



## Congratulations

Special congratulations to Denise Morrison as the NACD New Jersey Leadership in Public Corporate Governance Honoree and the American Water Board for being recognized as the New Jersey Public Company Board of the Year.

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**K&L GATES**

## CONGRATULATIONS

We are pleased to support the NACD New Jersey Director of the Year Awards, and we applaud the outstanding work of American Water. Congratulations on being named the 2024 Public Company Board of the Year!

K&L Gates LLP. Global counsel across five continents. Learn more at [klgates.com](http://klgates.com).



## Congratulations, Denise Morrison

on your well-deserved honor  
from NACD New Jersey

Thank you for your leadership and insights  
which are helping us to realize our purpose  
of working together to create a healthier  
world, one life at a time.

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**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THE  
2024 NACD NEW JERSEY DIRECTOR  
OF THE YEAR HONOREES.**

- THE RIGBY FAMILY

● ● ●

## Here's to the game changers

Suffolk Cares is proud to support NACD NJ  
and its work as a trusted resource for corporate  
directors. Congratulations to all the 2024  
Director of the Year Award recipients.



## HONOREE SELECTION COMMITTEE

**Anita Allen**, *Chair Emeritus*, NACD New Jersey Chapter

**Jeannie Diefenderfer**, *2024 DOYA Chair*, NACD New Jersey Chapter

**Peter Gleason**, *President and CEO*, NACD

**Fred Hassan**, *2023 Lifetime Achievement in Governance Honoree*

**Erin Kane**, *2023 Public Company Board of the Year Honoree*

**Trish Oelrich**, *Board Chair*, NACD New Jersey Chapter

**Tim Ring**, *2023 Leadership in Public Governance Honoree*

**Kathleen Shanahan**, *2023 Private Company Board of the Year Honoree*

## INDIVIDUAL HONOREE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

**Anita Allen**, *ex-officio*

**Andrea Bonime-Blanc**, *Chair*

**Daryl Brewster**

**Jeannie Diefenderfer**, *ex-officio*

**Richard Mroz**

**Trish Oelrich**, *ex-officio*

**Lori Pressler**

**Judy Reinsdorf**, *Advisor*

**Glenn Votek**

## COMPANY HONOREE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

**Anita Allen**, *ex-officio*

**Daryl Brewster**

**Jeannie Diefenderfer**, *ex-officio*

**Mary Jacobson**, *NACD Regional Director*

**Trish Oelrich**, *ex-officio*

**Lori Pressler**

**Michele Siekerka**, *Chair*

## STAFF

**Gina Barberio**, *Chapter Coordinator*

**Kristin Hassan**, *Executive Director*

## 2024 NACD NEW JERSEY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Anita Allen**, *Chair Emeritus*

**Andrea Bonime-Blanc**, *Secretary*

**Alice Brennan**, *Director*

**Chrissy Buteas**, *Director*

**Jeannie Diefenderfer**, *DOYA Event Chair*

**Julia Fisher**, *Marketing Chair*

**Susan Gray**, *Director*

**Gregory Johnson**, *Director*

**Ross Miller**, *Director*

**Richard Mroz**, *Program Chair*

**Trish Oelrich**, *Chair*

**Lori Pressler**, *Treasurer*

**Judith Reinsdorf**, *Nominating and Governance Chair*

**Brenda Ross-Dulan**, *Director*

**Shane Sanders**, *Director*

**Michele Siekerka**, *Director*

**Glenn Votek**, *Sponsor Chair*

**Kristin Hassan**, *Executive Director*

**Gina Barberio**, *Chapter Coordinator*

## 2023 – 2024 PROGRAMS

**SEPTEMBER 21, 2023** *The Role FinTech Plays in the Survival of the Financial Services Industry*

**Speakers:** Sharif Alexandre, *Chief Technology Officer, ConnectOne Bank*; Stuart Cook, *Chief Innovation Officer, Valley Bank*; Adam Goldstein, *Chief Business Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of New York*; Chuck Mazza, *Senior Vice President, Lending, Financial Resources Federal Credit Union*; Hillel Olivestone, *Head of Strategy and Corporate Development, Cross River Bank*; Jacob Sciandra, *Partner, Financial Services Risk and Regulatory, PwC*; and Jonathan Scott, *Professor of Finance at the Fox School of Business, Temple University and Independent Director and Former Board Chair of the Office of Finance of the Federal Home Loan Bank*

**OCTOBER 16, 2023** *A Conversation with Pat Harker*

**Speaker:** Patrick T. Harker, *President & CEO, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia*

**NOVEMBER 13, 2023** *Private Companies – Strategies for Navigating Risks and Opportunities*

**Speakers:** Susan Gray, *Board Director, NACD New Jersey Chapter*; Jason Navarino, *Partner, Tax and Corporate Groups, Riker Danzig*; Brad Neilley, Sr., *Board Director and Board Chair for Talent, Culture and Compensation, Turtle Inc.*; and Brenda Ross-Dulan, *Founder and Managing Principal, The Ross-Dulan Group, Board Director, NACD New Jersey Chapter*

**DECEMBER 5, 2023** *The Challenge of Managing Culture and Talent With 5 Generations in the Workplace*

**Speakers:** Samantha Dean, *Vice President, Business Transformation, Edelman*; Shyam Gidumal, *Independent Board Member RenRe, former Chief Operating Officer and President at WeWork*; Michael Marino, *Managing Director and Head of NY Office, FW Cook*; Joanna Dodd Massey, Ph.D., MBA, *Board Director, Management Consultant*; and Lauren Smith, *Managing Director, Diversified Search*

**JANUARY 11, 2024** *2024 Economic Forecast*

**Speakers:** Thomas A Bracken, *President & CEO, New Jersey Chamber of Commerce*; James W. Hughes, Ph.D., *Dean Emeritus of The Bloustein Institute*; Michele Siekerka, *President & CEO, New Jersey Business Industry Association, Board Directors, NACD New Jersey Chapter*; and Richard Mroz, *Senior Director, Archer Public Affairs and Board Director, NACD New Jersey Chapter*

**JANUARY 18, 2024** *World Economic Forum Global Risks Report 2024*

**Speakers:** Anita Allen, *Founder and Managing Partner, Allen Advisory Group, Board Director and Chair Emeritus, NACD New Jersey Chapter*; Richard Smith-Bingham, *Executive Director, Insights, Marsh McLennan*; Andrea Bonime-Blanc, *CEO, GEC Risk Advisory, Author, Board Director, NACD New Jersey Chapter*; and Michael Maquardt, *Advisor, Board Members, CEO, Epi One, Inc.*

**FEBRUARY 20, 2024** *Edelman Trust Barometer 2024*

**Speakers:** Julia Fisher, *Senior Vice President, Edelman Smithfield, Board Director, NACD New Jersey Chapter* and Alex Thompson, *Global Chair, Corporate Affairs & Impact, Edelman*

**FEBRUARY 29, 2024** *Activism in 2024: What Boards Need to Know and How to Effectively Prepare*

**Speakers:** Ted McHugh, *Managing Director and Head of Strategic Situations & Investor Relations, Edelman Smithfield*; Jim Miller, *Senior Managing Director, Advisory Group, Alliance Advisors, and Lina Tetelbaum, Corporate Partner, Wachtell Lipton*

**MARCH 13, 2024** *Cyber Governance 2024: Part 1 – Key Regulatory & Risk Developments for Boards*

**Speakers:** Nicholas Barry, *Client Advisor, Cyber Practice, Marsh*; Andrea Bonime-Blanc, *CEO, GEC Risk Advisory, Author, Board Director, NACD New Jersey Chapter*; and John Pearce, *Principal, Cyber Risk Advisory Services, Grant Thornton*

**APRIL 16, 2024** *Women on Boards: Navigating Your Pathway to the Boardroom*

**Speakers:** Stephanie Becker, *Manager, Member Engagement, NACD*; Karen Kessler, *Founding President & CEO, Kessler PR Group*; Gloria Mirrione, *Executive Director, Head of Sustainable Finance & Impact Investing, Acre*; Cheryl Norton, *Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer, American Water*; Brenda Ross-Dulan, *Founder and Managing Principal, The Ross-Dulan Group, Board Director, NACD New Jersey Chapter*; Michele Siekerka, *President & CEO, New Jersey Business & Industry Association, Board Director NACD New Jersey Chapter*; and Kelly Watson, *Vice President & Managing Partner, IBM Consulting*

## ABOUT NACD NEW JERSEY CHAPTER

NACD advances exemplary board leadership - for directors, by directors. Directors and boards turn to NACD to gain the knowledge and insight to become a strategic asset to their companies, and NACD amplifies the collective voice of directors in the national dialogue on board governance issues. NACD is the Voice of the Director.

The New Jersey Chapter of the NACD is one of 21 chapters in the growing national network. We are the premier organization for New Jersey's corporate directors for education on director effectiveness, and corporate governance best practices.

**[NewJersey.NACDonline.org](https://www.NewJersey.NACDonline.org)**



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