

Delaware Public Media Board of Directors



Randy Farmer (Chair) joined the Delaware Health Information Network (DHIN) in September of 2011 and currently serves in the role of chief operating officer. As DHIN's COO, Farmer is responsible for all customer-facing aspects of the organization, specifically in the areas of new business strategies, marketing, product development, member engagement, and customer service. He joined DHIN after a decade at JP Morgan Chase in Wilmington, where he served most recently as senior segment manager of strategic partnerships. A resident of Dover, he earned a Master of Science Degree in Human Organization Science at Villanova University, as well as a Master of Education Degree in Higher Education Administration and a Bachelor's Degree in Communication from the University of Delaware.



David Brond (Vice Chair) is vice president of strategy and planning for Aloysius Butler & Clark, a full-service marketing communications agency. He is responsible for strategic brand planning and research to develop, grow, and achieve effective outcomes for current clients, and new business development activities. He has more than 30 years of experience in communications, marketing, and strategic planning leadership positions in both higher education and healthcare. Before joining AB&C, he was vice president for strategic communications and external relations at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and served as vice president for communications and marketing at Augusta University, and a professor of business in the Hull College of Business at Georgia Regents University. He served as vice president for communications and marketing at the University of Delaware and as vice president for marketing and strategic planning at the University of Maryland Medical System. A resident of Middletown, he is also a board member of the United Way of Delaware and the Mid-Atlantic Society for Healthcare Strategy and Market Development. He earned an MBA and MHA from Duke University and a bachelor's degree from Bucknell University.



Ellen J. Roberts (Secretary) is a Delaware-based freelance writer, editor, copy editor, and project manager with a passion for punctuation, grammar, and the Oxford comma. She has more than 40 years of experience in public, investor, and constituent relations in the corporate, nonprofit, and government sectors. With a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in broadcasting from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, Ellen's early career included on-air and management positions at radio stations in Cincinnati, Cleveland, and Pittsburgh. She moved to Delaware in 1983 as the first public information officer of Delaware's Department of Services for Children, Youth, and Their Families. Ellen managed corporate communications at ALICO, JP Morgan, and Sallie Mae, and investor relations at Wilmington Trust. Her background also includes positions with Wilmington 2000 and the Delaware Symphony Orchestra. She is a past president of the Delaware Theatre Company, the ARC of Delaware, and Wilmington Women in Business. A resident of Wilmington, she sings with Market Street Music's Mastersingers of Wilmington and Center City Chorale, and she is a member of the chancel choir at First & Central Presbyterian Church, where she is an ordained elder, treasurer, and vice president of the trustees.



Ellen C. Wolf (Treasurer) joined the DPM board as Treasurer in July 2022. She retired as Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of America Water Works Company, Inc., the largest investor-owned U.S. water and wastewater company in May 2013. Previously, Ms. Wolf served as Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Centrus Energy (formerly named USEC, Inc.) from 2003 until 2006 and as Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of American Water works from 1999 to 2003. She had previously served on the Boards of Airgas, InfraREIT, and Connecticut Water as well as the Board of The Philadelphia Zoo. Ms. Wolf earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Duke University and a Master of Business Administration from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. She resides in Sussex County.



James D. Griffin lives in the Lewes area and is a semi-retired lawyer. He grew up in Arkansas and graduated from the University of Arkansas in 1962, followed by service in the Marine Corps until 1965. He received his law degree from the University of New Mexico in 1969, when he was admitted to the Delaware Bar. Jim's wife Patricia is a lawyer and recently retired Chancery Court Master. Together they were charter contributors to WDDE and since then have been subscribing donors and Producer's Circle members as well as active on the Delaware Public Media Community Advisory Board. Jim enjoys travel, reading, walking, and maintaining their horse farm, pleasure riding, and mounted fox chasing on the Delmarva Peninsula from October through March.



Charlisa Holloway Edelin, JD, is chair of Delaware State University's Department of Mass Communications, Visual, and Performing Arts and co-director of the university's Law Studies Program. In addition, she is co-advisor of the university's chapters of the National Association of Black Journalists and Public Relations Student Society of America. Her work focuses on the First Amendment, journalism, and public relations, and she has published articles on the speech-centered cases concerning Kimberly "Lil Kim" Jones' perjury trial and Robert Mapplethorpe's obscenity trial. She holds Bachelor of Arts and Juris Doctor degrees from Howard University. Charlisa is a resident of Sussex County.



Drew Fennell has been active in the Delaware community in a variety of roles, and most recently retired as chief communications and experience officer for ChristianaCare. She was previously chief of staff for Governor Jack Markell and former executive director of the Delaware Criminal Justice Council. She served for a decade as executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Delaware, and was an attorney with Young Conaway Stargatt and Taylor LLP. Drew has an undergraduate degree from the University of Delaware and a law degree from Rutgers University. A resident of Wilmington, she serves on the boards of several organizations, including as chair of the Delaware Community Foundation. She also served as chair of Delaware Public Media for several years. Her work has earned awards from the Delaware Human Rights Commission, Rutgers University School of Law, and other institutions. She was the 2018 Woman of Distinction for the Girl Scouts of the Chesapeake Bay and she was inducted into the Hall of Fame of Delaware Women in 2019.



Nancy Karibjanian has been with Delaware Public Media since its founding in 2009. She is an adjunct professor of communication at the University of Delaware, teaching Field Production for Television News. As the anchor of WHY?Y's former nightly news program, "Delaware Tonight," she helped reshape the local newscast to a mix of daily news and in-depth coverage of issues affecting the First State. Her broadcasting career includes anchoring, reporting, producing, and news staff management. She has hosted numerous Delaware political debates, including Delaware's 2010 U.S. Senate debate, which received worldwide attention. She lives in Wilmington.



Leslie Newman retired as CEO of Children & Families First December 31, 2019, after completing 28 years there: 13 as CEO and 15 as Director of Development. Prior to retirement, she was a Commissioner and Vice Chair of the Child Death Review Commission, a member of the Delaware Early Childhood Council, chair of Delaware's Home Visiting Community Advisory Board, and a member of the Vision Coalition Leadership. Leslie currently serves as President of the Board of the Milton & Hattie Kutz Foundation. She is a student at OSHER at the University of Delaware and a co-chair of the Social Justice Committee at Seaside Jewish Community. She is on the Board of the Jewish Federation of Delaware and co-chaired the recent demographic study of Delaware and the Brandywine Valley. Leslie is married to Bill Wolff and resides in Lewes.



Michael Sigman is a leadership development trainer, coach, consultant, and speaker with expertise in media interview techniques, public speaking, speech preparation, meeting facilitation, negotiation, sales team development, problem solving, and critical thinking. A senior consultant with CommCore Consulting Group, he brings 36 years of experience to his workshops and coaching sessions for senior executives, celebrity spokespeople, and subject matter experts. He has led programs for the US Department of State Foreign Service Institute, the Social Security Administration, the Government Accountability Office, the American Bar Association Bar Leadership Institute, and Chrysler. He has coached the entire leadership team of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and more than 1,800 CPA leaders across the country. He has ongoing assignments with healthcare and corporate clients where he has coached executives on four continents. Previously, Michael was a news planner for WCAU-TV in Philadelphia, an all-news radio anchor, and a PBS affiliate television news producer before anchoring Delaware's First State News, where he garnered six Emmy Award nominations during his tenure as news director. He was also the prime-time evening news anchor for TSM News, a regional news operation serving Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware. Married with grown children, he counsels a number of not-for-profit agencies and serves on several boards and committees. He has a BA from Temple University and he taught at a Kenpo Karate Studio where he is a 2nd degree black belt. He lives in Wilmington.



Robert J. Varipapa, MD, Immediate Past Chair, is a Dover neurologist and the founder and managing shareholder of CNMRI, a Dover-based provider of diagnostic, medical, and rehabilitative care. He is on the staff of Bayhealth Medical Center and chairs the Department of Medicine at Kent General Hospital. He is a member of the American Academy of Neurology, the American Society of Neuroimaging, and the American Medical Association, and he is a board member and secretary of the Medical Society of Delaware. Dr. Varipapa has expertise in Alzheimer's disease, headaches, migraines, magnetic resonance imaging, and sleep disorders. He graduated from the University of Maryland School of Medicine, where he completed his neurology residency in 1985.

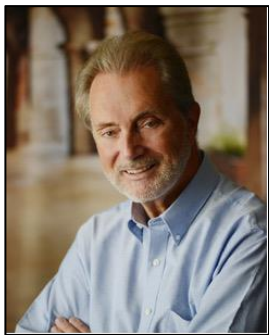


George H. Watson, Ph.D., holds a Ph.D. in Physics and is Unidel Professor Emeritus of Physics at the University of Delaware; he served nine years as the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at UD where, he was responsible for the leadership and administration of the arts, humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences at UD. George is founding director of the Institute for Transforming Undergraduate Education, created to promote reform of undergraduate education through faculty development and course design. He has advanced international problem-based learning (PBL) conferences and was one of the founders of the Pan-American Network for PBL. He has been supported by grants for development of PBL curricula for introductory physics, science education reform in Peru through PBL, and most recently for the GK-12 Project "Improvement of Science Education in Vocational Technical High Schools through Collaborative Learning and Coteaching." George's physics research has been in experimental condensed matter physics and laser spectroscopy. George has been active in the Delaware Arts Alliance, serving recently as President, and has been active with Delaware Shakespeare, the Delaware Contemporary, and the Friends of the University of Delaware Library. George is a resident of Hockessin.



Chanta Howard Wilkinson, JD, SHRM-CP, is the founder of Chanta Wilkinson Consulting, LLC, where she provides diversity, equity, and inclusion consulting and assistance to organizations implementing strategies and best practices. She previously served as a Human Resources Consultant for small to mid-size businesses in Delaware and New York City. Prior to that, she served as the Associate Director of EEO/Affirmative Action for a New York City Hospital. She also served as a Deputy Attorney General and an EEO/AA Coordinator for the New Jersey Office of the Attorney General. She has experience mediating workplace disputes and is a Delaware Superior Court certified mediator. In addition, Chanta has experience working with nonprofits on board governance consulting and training. She holds a J.D. from Rutgers University School of Law, a BA from Rutgers College, and a Diversity & Inclusion for HR Certificate from Cornell University. Chanta serves on the boards of several non-profit organizations across Delaware and resides in Lewes with her family.

Ex officio



Julian (Pete) H. Booker (General Manager) assumed the role of General Manager of Delaware Public Media in September 2022 after several years in a strategic consulting role. Pete has a 52-year broadcasting career and mostly recently retired from the position of President/CEO of Delmarva Broadcasting. His career has included positions as an on-air performer programmer, station manager, and company executive in Wilmington, Philadelphia, Detroit, and Virginia. Pete has been active in the Delaware service community for many years. He is a longtime Rotarian and has served in a variety of positions, including District Governor. He and his wife Susan founded the SmartDrive Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the driving skills of teen drivers. Over 200,000 students in more than 130 schools in Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and South Carolina have engaged with SmartDrive. Pete also served as Executive Director of the Delaware Safety Council, Inc., which provides driver safety, workplace safety, and family safety and security training, until 2022. SmartDrive is now a program of Delaware Safety Council. Pete was born in Wilmington and his interest in radio started at Thomas McKean High School and was refined at the University of Delaware. Pete and Susan live in Lewes.

As of August 27, 2023