

Franklin Township Chamber of Commerce
The 63rd Anniversary

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & CELEBRATION



Wednesday, April 19, 2023
The Marigold

Join us for a Networking Celebration Focusing on Community

6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

315 Churchill Ave., Somerset, NJ 08873

SOLVE THIS MATH PROBLEM:

She chants at "We Are ..." at Penn State games AND she shouts "Warriors" at Franklin games. Put them together and she screams "**We Are Warriors!**";

ADD countless hours of blood, sweat, tears, and sleep deprivation; also known as dedication, hard work, service, and love to the students of Franklin High School;

ADD a beautiful, strong woman, who is smart, has an eagle proofreading eye, with witty sense of humor, and most of all, kind;

ADD a friend who is always there to help: whatever, whenever, and whomever;

OUR FRIEND

MARISA GALLAGHER

who will always be Our Warrior for Life!



With sincere thanks, gratitude and love,

Franklin Warrior Athletics Booster Club

Ty-Wanna Cotton, Co-President

Monique Severino & Dreana Miller, Co-Vice Presidents

Jill Millman & Constance Brown, Co-Secretaries

Parul Patel, Treasurer

Countless Parent & Student Volunteers

... and especially, the students and graduates of Franklin High

Franklin Township Chamber of Commerce



PROGRAM

April 19, 2023

Master of Ceremonies.....	Bill Grippo <i>Vice-President, Chamber of Commerce</i>
Posting of Colors.....	Honor Guard <i>Franklin Township Police Department Presented by Montese Anderson</i>
Pledge of Allegiance.....	Montese Anderson <i>Secretary, Chamber of Commerce</i>
Benediction.....	Rev. Dr. Jamin Powell <i>Community Baptist Church of Somerset</i>
Installation of New Board.....	Namik Sercan <i>Director of Policy, Chamber of Commerce</i>
Commendation.....	Phillip Kramer <i>Mayor, Franklin Township</i>
Welcome & Acknowledgement of Committee...	Nicolas DiMeglio <i>President, Chamber of Commerce</i>
Recognition of Sponsors.....	Bill Grippo
Award Presentations.....	Bill Grippo Dinner
Recognition of Past Officers....	Peter Stavrianidis & Namik Sercan <i>2nd Vice President and Director of Policy, Chamber of Commerce</i> Dessert
Thank you	Nicolas DiMeglio
Announcement of Winners for Silent Auction—	Deb Parillo Music and Networking

Message from the President



Thank you for joining us this evening to help us honor some of the fine members of Franklin Township. I am honored and excited to lead the Chamber's dedicated Board of Trustees for the coming year. I want to thank our members and the community for their continued support. I am truly amazed at the energy that my fellow board members have in taking the Chamber to its new chapter. I see great accomplishments ahead for all of us as we address the challenges for Franklin Township's business community. We all need the Chamber of Commerce now more than ever to help local companies adapt to the one constant in business, and that is – change.

We have over 2810 businesses here in town. The Chamber is here to advocate, educate, and empower each business, whether large or small, corporate or family owned, in every industry. Every business matters. The Chamber is here to serve you. The Chamber will speak in favor of legislation that supports our members and helps our town.

We will work to help Franklin Township businesses succeed and grow in an ever changing environment by:

- .. providing networking opportunities on a regular basis where we will showcase our members
- .. helping them connect with their clients, customers and community
- .. keeping them informed about trends and opportunities that can affect them
- .. being a strong and consistent voice to our elected officials

In the last 2 months we have rebranded the Chamber. We have also created a new web site and Facebook page for the Chamber and we will continue to keep our members up to date with current information. We will also inform our business community about new businesses that come into town and join the Chamber.

I am excited to present this year's honorees. The great work that these individuals and businesses do for the community is amazing. They have a commitment for community service and each one of them leads by example. Please help the Chamber in congratulating each of them.

In closing, I would like to thank the Chamber's Board of Trustees for the confidence that they have placed in me and for allowing me to lead the organization. I would also like to thank Juanita Painson our past president for her years of service on the board, providing valuable insight to the executive board. We hope that you all support the local businesses in our directory and stay informed about what is happening with The Franklin Township Chamber of Commerce.

Nicolas J. DiMeglio

Franklin Township Chamber of Commerce President



Franklin Township Chamber of Commerce

Mission Statement: Our Mission is to serve the business community and its membership by networking, advertising and providing leadership for the improvement of the economy and the quality of life in Franklin Township.

2023 BOARD MEMBERS

Executive Committee

President Nicolas DiMeglio

1st Vice President Bill Grippo

2nd Vice President Peter Stavrianidis

Treasurer Evrim Cicek

Secretary Montese Anderson

Director of Policy Namik Sercan

Director of Communications PJ Parker

Director of Social Media John Park

HONOREES

Educational Leader

Lauren Francis

Coach Franklin High School

*Presented by: Kenneth Margolin,
Athletic Director Franklin Twp. Public Schools*

Volunteerism

Marisa Gallagher

President Franklin High School Booster Club

*Presented by: Nicolas DiMeglio,
Chamber of Commerce President*

Student Leadership

CJCP Charter School

*Presented by: Nicolas DiMeglio,
Chamber of Commerce President*

Large Corporation

Jimmy Lee

Joy Systems

*Presented by: Dan Grabon,
Roaring Moose*

HONOREES Continued

Small Business

Bill Bowman & PJ Parker
Franklin Reporter and Advocate

*Presented by: Evrim Cicek,
Chamber of Commerce Treasurer*

Community Leadership

Shanel Robinson, *Director, Somerset County Commissioner*
Megeen Laska, Benjamin Green, Alesha Clayton
Greater Somerset County YMCA- Camp Soar

*Presented by: Bill Grippo,
Chamber of Commerce 1st Vice President*

Public Service

Captain Sean Hebbon
Franklin Township Police
*Presented by: Quovella Maeweather,
Director of Public Safety*

Past Officers

President, Juanita Painson
Vice President, Robert Jordan
*Presented by: Peter Stavrianidis & Namik Sercan
Chamber of Commerce*

AWARD CRITERIA

The Franklin Township Chamber of Commerce honors its most outstanding individuals and companies with an award that recognizes **business' role in maintaining and improving the quality of life in Franklin Township and surrounding areas.** Recipients are chosen by the **board of trustees and presented at the Chamber's annual meeting.**

Large Corporation – An award that is presented to a large company in Franklin Township for its voluntary contributions to the community and its members.

Small Business – Recognizes an outstanding owner/manager of a small business in town who has started or developed a small, successful for profit business that is at least three years old.

Volunteerism – This award recognizes an individual who makes a commitment to give exemplary volunteerism service to the Franklin Township community.

Public Service – This award is given to a community civic leader who has proven him/herself to be an asset to the community and who supports the growth of the community. He/she volunteers time and services to support others.

Educational Leadership – The Award for Educational Leadership is given to a person(s), who has made a distinctive impact on student growth in the area of discipline, determination and the ability to apply knowledge and skills to good citizenship.

Student Leadership – The recipient of this award demonstrates excellence in student leadership and making a contribution in the school system.

Community Leadership - The Community Leadership Award is given to a person(s) who have made a distinctive impact on the lives of the adults and youth in the community.

Gala Committee Members

Thank you to each of our committee members that contributed their time to set up various parts of the event. They also worked to solicit gifts and assemble the baskets for the silent auction. The Chamber truly appreciates each of their efforts and assistance.

Alice Osipowitz

Helene Osman

Kim Gordon

Deb Parillo

Liz Nunez

Jeanette Nunez

Montese Anderson

Nichelle Esser

Imani Robinson

Wendy Riga

A Special Thank You To Michael Pinnix

The videotaping today
and the videos that are being presented at this event
were recorded and produced by
Franklin High School Students Aspects After Hours

Lauren Francis



Lauren Francis is a Health and Physical Education Teacher at Franklin High School. Lauren teaches an elective course, Concepts of Fitness, which is a PE elective that promotes lifelong fitness, and strength and conditioning techniques to the FHS students. Lauren has always had a passion for helping students and athletes learn about health and fitness and reaching their own fitness goals.

She is the head coach of the cheerleading program, which includes a Varsity and Junior Varsity team for FHS. They are a competitive and game day program that cheers for both the FHS football and basketball teams. Lauren is very proud of the program she has built and what they have accomplished so far and hopes to keep growing in the coming years. Lauren is also the FHS Unified Cheerleading Coach and Unified Track & Field Coach.

Lauren graduated from Monmouth University in West Long Branch, New Jersey with a bachelor's degree in health sciences and education. Lauren also cheered at Monmouth University for four years.

Marisa Gallagher



Marisa Gallagher's volunteer career began in 2003 when her son played flag football for Franklin Pop Warner. She quickly volunteered to be the team mom for his team. In 2010, she was recruited to be Secretary for the FTPW Executive Board and eventually Treasurer, as well as being a key player in running concessions at the weekly games. She stayed on with the FTPW Executive Board through 2013 even though her son's FTPW career ended in 2010. Marisa also served as Secretary for the MacAfee PTO from 2005 through 2010.

Marisa Gallagher is currently serving her 10th year as President of Franklin Athletics Booster Club (FABC). Back in 2013, she and a few other involved parents were asked to rejuvenate the booster club and become an active support system for the student-athletes, athletic teams, coaches and FHS Athletic Department. At that time, her son was a Sophomore at FHS and her daughter was in 7th grade at FMS. During her tenure as President, FABC has helped to increase school spirit by selling Warrior gear both in person and online. FABC has helped multiple teams raise money for their specific needs (i.e. Lady Warriors Basketball Championship rings, Track and Field Champions rings, Cheer Nationals Competition trip to Disney, among others). We have also been able to raise enough money to provide scholarships to some of our graduating seniors, as well as providing each senior student-athlete with a gift and a commemorative program at the end of their season. Marisa has promoted a culture of teamwork by collaborating with other parent groups to foster a partnership with the attitude of "we are all here for the kids". FABC has worked in partnership with FHS Project Graduation for the past 4 years to host The Franklin Food Truck Festival to raise money for both the student athletes and the graduating seniors. FABC has shared knowledge and skill sets with all other parent run organizations throughout the district. Overall, under Marisa's guidance, the Franklin Athletics Booster Club has grown and continues to grow each year. We strive for continuous improvement each and every day and are always looking for new and different fundraising ideas and how we can better support our teams and athletes.

Marisa is very thankful to her husband, Bill and her children, Adam (FHS 2015) and Andrea (FHS 2018) for their support through her years of volunteering.

Jimmy Lee, Founder Joy Systems



Jimmy Lee is the founder of Joy Systems, the world's leading refurbisher of personal computers. Since 2001, Joy Systems has refurbished over four million computers, monitors, tablets. Joy Systems moved to its current home in Franklin Township in 2011.

Jimmy was born in South Korea and educated at Seoul National University. He immigrated to the United States in 1993, taking roles with several technology companies before striking out on his own. He and his partner founded Joy Systems with a mission of extending the life of computer hardware & making business business-class machines affordable to everyone.

Jimmy and Joy Systems have been active members of the Franklin community, contributing computers to the Franklin Township School District and Franklin Police Department.

Franklin Reporter/ Bill Bowman/ PJ Parker



The Franklin Reporter & Advocate, currently celebrating its 10th year, was founded by Bill Bowman and PJ Parker in August 2013 as a News Website for Franklin Township. It has since grown into also providing township residents with the Monthly Digest newspaper, the daily Morning

Report email blast, plus regular community live streams and live virtual News Hour broadcasts.

Bill Bowman, FR&A Co-Publisher and Editor, is a graduate of Livingston College - Rutgers University, and has been a professional journalist since 1983. He's won numerous local, national and company awards, and his reporting has resulted in several laws passed at the state level, and has triggered two Congressional hearings. Bill is also the published author of two books.

PJ Parker, FR&A Co-Publisher and Advertising Director, is a graduate of New York University, tenured in newspapering in Somerset Press Newspapers and Forbes Newspapers as Major Accounts Director, with credits/awards for Campaign Development and Advertising Excellence. PJ is also an accomplished Jazz Vocalist with three albums acknowledged world-wide. Her original compositions have won international songwriting awards and have been featured in film, television, and streaming platforms. Her fourth album is slated for late Spring 2023 release.

Shannel Robinson



Shanel Y. Robinson is currently serving her third year as Somerset County Commissioner Director and her second term as Somerset County Commissioner. She is the first African American woman to serve in either role, representing the roughly 345,361 residents of the County. Previously Shanel served as a Councilwoman and Deputy Mayor in Franklin Township, NJ. Her focus as an elected official is to be a servant leader for every individual, business, and community and to work

cooperatively to make Somerset County the best place to live, work and play anywhere.

In addition to Shanel's work as an elected official, Shanel is the Borough Administrator for the Borough of Roselle, NJ, & previously served as an information technology executive in the health care industry. She holds a bachelor's degree in Labor Studies and Employee Relations from Rutgers University, and received a ministry in Dance Theology from the Eagles International Training Institute in Frisco, Texas. Shanel is also a proud veteran of the United States Air Force Reserves, and a member of the Sigma Pi Sigma physics honor society.

Shanel is also a mother of three wonderful children, and the three most amazing grandchildren in the world.

Benjamin Green



Ben Green is a cause-driven leader with over a decade of experience serving local communities through the YMCA. Delivering high quality programming and making Y services available to ALL fuels Ben's passion and pride in his nonprofit work. In his current role as District Vice President of Operations, Ben works to ensure critical community needs are being met through the nonprofit sector. This includes supporting local individuals and families

through access to vital Y programs such as chronic disease support and lifesaving water safety skills.

Megeen Laska



Meg joined Greater Somerset County YMCA eleven years ago, in a marketing role, she developed a strong affinity for the Y's mission. In 2018, she became the Director of Mission Advancement to explore opportunities that best serve all communities in the Y's service area, including Franklin Township. Since that time, Meg has been leading a task force of community champions to advance the vision of building a YMCA in Franklin Township. In parallel, Meg has also worked in collaboration with her Y colleagues to advance vital programs and services in the Franklin community, such as After School Care, Water Safety, and Summer Camp. Meg has shared that, to her, the vision of a Y facility in Franklin Township is about more than opening a door to a new YMCA; it's about removing barriers and opening the door to opportunity so everyone has the resources, support, and services needed to thrive.

Captain Sean Hebbon



Captain Sean Hebbon is the Officer-in-Charge for the Franklin Township Police Department in Somerset County, New Jersey. He was promoted to the rank of Captain in October of 2020, having over 25 years in service with the department. Upon his swearing in he became the first African American in Franklin Township history to be promoted to the rank of Captain. In his leadership role, he proudly led the formation of the department's Community Relations Bureau, which focuses on pro-active police and community engagement. Officers within his command go beyond traditional protecting and serving by taking on a role as mentor and community partner. As examples of this, his officers do activities such as lead Cooking with Cops classes for youth, teach classes in carpentry, hold self-defense classes for women and teach Citizen Police Academies to name a few. His goal is to forge a better relationship with the police department and community that they serve.

Additionally, Hebbon is the president of the Franklin Township Dr. Martin Luther King Community Foundation. As a long serving member of the foundation, he helped in raising over \$250,000 in scholarship money exclusively for Franklin Township students.



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GROWING TOGETHER

Congratulations to all of tonight's honorees!
Your meaningful impact on Franklin Township enhances the business community, and the community as a whole. Together, we celebrate the vibrant, diverse community that is Franklin Township.

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JOHN OSIPOWITZ, PRESIDENT

We looked for the words to say thank you but they just didn't seem to fit. We've been together through sunrise and sunsets (and sometimes both in the same day). We've been together through the good times, the bad times, and the greatest moments. You always ask "how may I help" and look for ways to make it better. You have been there when we laughed and wiped our tears when we cried.

So we'll keep it simple (wink) and 100% because that is how we do it!

You're the type of leader people want to follow, a co-worker who always helps. You get why we do this—it is for the kids! You have earned this recognition.

Let us know where to put you on the volunteer schedule!



Congratulations on receiving the Franklin Township Chamber of Commerce Award on Volunteerism.

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*Assemblyman Joe Danielson
congratulates
The Franklin Township Chamber of Commerce
on their
Annual Celebration Gala and Installation of Officers*



**The Franklin Township
Dr. Martin Luther King
Community Foundation, Inc.**

**Congratulates
Captain Sean Hebbon
for his
Leadership and Dedication
to the Community**



Lisa DiCenzo
Director of Catering

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Congratulations to

Jimmy Lee

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*To Jimmy Lee on being
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