Chapter Members,

I would like to thank all who were able to attend our first quarter meeting held at Appoquinimink Library. I am sure we all enjoyed seeing each other in person and to finally have a normal meeting. During the meeting we covered the chapter finances, the 2022-2023 Budget and Strategic Plans, and discussed future upcoming events for Delaware.

Since DPPA had to postpone the 2020 Mid Atlantic Reverse Trade Show (MARTS) due to COVID, we are in the beginning stages of planning for the event. Please start thinking about vendors who would benefit from education on how to do business with Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Washington DC, as well as obtaining information from the Procurement Technical Assistance Center – PTAC. In addition, we are looking to finalize a location for the event so if you have any suggestions, please let the Executive Board know and we will reach out to them.

Last, but certainly not least, we are so grateful to have, CEO of Bid Locker by Equity Hub, Mr. Steve Havelka sponsor another one of our chapter meetings. It was nice to finally see Steve, in person and not over Zoom. Thank you Steve for all your support over the last few years.

Respectfully,

Kimber’

www.dppa1.org ~ Procurement Newsletter for The First State ~ NIGP Chapter #77
Bid Locker is a secure on-line bid submission service used by agencies throughout the United States. Nearly every government agency already posts their solicitations online, many don’t have a way to accept bid submissions electronically as well. Bid Locker gives agencies a simple straightforward tool to let these vendors submit bids on-line. Bid Locker is a service run by Equity Hub, a Philadelphia based company. They build tools and software with an equality focus, for local government and non profit buyers, to help connect them with a more diverse supplier pool. In other words, they have leveled the playing field for diverse business.

Once again, we would like to thank Steve for his continued sponsorship and for presenting, in person at our 1st quarter meeting.

More information can be found on the Chapter website on how Bid Locker can assist you and your agency in electronic bid submissions. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Steve at 267-225-1407 or email him at steve@equityhub.us
After serving New Castle County for 37 years, the members of DPPA would like to congratulate Ruth Kowalski on her retirement. Ruth started working for the County in March 1985 as a Clerk in the Prothonotary’s Office and took various jobs within County Government until she found a home in Purchasing in 1988 as an Account Clerk III. In 1998, she became a Purchasing Agent and moved her way up to Chief of Procurement in 2016. Ruth has been a member of DPPA for over 20 years with a certification of Certified Public Purchasing Buyer (CPPB). Ruth has served on various committees and held various titles within DPPA, such as President, 1VP, and 2VP. Because of her commitment, as well as other long time members, DPPA has grown in numbers, knowledge, and experience. After 37 years of service, we congratulate Ruth on her wonderful career and wish her all the best in her retirement.

Sincerely,

Your Delaware Public Purchasing Family

Congratulations, Kimberly Cuffee
“Delaware State Police Civilian of the Year”

On April 1, 2022, our very own Kimberly Cuffee was nominated and awarded the 2021 Civilian of the Year by the DSP Executive Staff. At a special awards ceremony held in Cheswold, she was presented with this honor in front of Governor John Carney, Attorney General Kathleen Jennings, DSP Colonel Melissa Zebley, Secretary of Safety & Homeland Security Nathaniel McQueen and representing the Delaware State Troopers Association, MCPL Mark Ryde.

Way to go, Kim!
In Honor of Procurement Month

In honor of March - "Procurement Month", the chapter received proclamations from Governor John Carney, City of Dover Mayor Robin Christiansen, and Senator Nicole Poore. The proclamations recognized the value and resources the Delaware Public Purchasing Association provide for the state procurement community.

Pictured below are the proclamations presented to the Chapter.

When we celebrate Procurement Month, we acknowledge an elite group of professionals that have made a difference in governmental efficiency and effectiveness. This month, March, provides the opportunity to help educate elected officials, administrators, taxpayers and vendors about the procurement process and the admirable work you perform every day.” - NIGP
**Upcoming EVENTS**

### 2022 NIGP National Forum
**Boston, Massachusetts**

*Location:* Boston Convention & Exhibition Center  
*Date:* Saturday, August 20 to Wednesday, August 24, 2022  
*Registration:* Early Registration ends May 31st!  
$897.00 NIGP Members (Full Conference)  
$1097 Non Members (Full Conference)

For more information, go to [www.nigp.org](http://www.nigp.org)

### 2022 Area 2 Conference

**Hosted by:** Pennsylvania Public Purchasing Association  
Wyndham Grand in Pittsburgh, PA  
Wednesday, October 19 to Friday, October 21, 2022  
*Registration:* $250.00 with and early bird discount of $25.00

For more information, go to [www.pappainc.org](http://www.pappainc.org)

---

Rhonda’s name was drawn during the 1st QTR meeting to attend the next Area 2 Conference **FREE**!  

*Don’t worry,...you have one more chance to win!*  
One more name will be drawn during the meeting in June. To qualify you must have your dues paid for 2022 and must have attended the last 2 meetings prior to the drawing.  

**GOOD LUCK!**
Did you know we are ALL leaders in some form or fashion?

**LEADERSHIP**

What is leadership?

*Leadership is the act of guiding a team or individual to achieve a certain goal through direction and motivation.*

Benefits of strong leadership skills are:

- You can recognize quickly your strengths and weaknesses
- You can better understand your agency’s’ direction
- You can increase the motivation of your team
- You can unify your team

The top qualities of effective leaders are:

- Flexibility
- Empathy
- Decisiveness
- Communication

---

And Finally ……..

Are You A Member of NIGP ??

Some of the many membership benefits are:

- Tools to support your day to day activities.
- Online document library containing thousands of RFP’s
- Members discounts on all educational programs and classes
- Various procurement resources
- 18 Free webinars on relevant, real world trending procurement topics
- Study Tools to help you prepare for your certification or recertification's
- Discounts to attend NIGP National Forums and much more….

www.nigp.org

---

2022 -2024

**Officers & Committee Members**

**President**
Kimberly Cuffee

**First Vice President**
Clifton Crawford

**Second Vice President**
Rhonda Figueroa

**Financial Treasurer**
Deborah Dennis

**Recording Secretary**
Kimberly Jones

**Membership Committee Chairperson**
Barry Wolfgang

**Website /Newsletter Chairperson**
Kimberly Cuffee

**Editor-in-Chief**
Barry Wolfgang

**Sponsorship Chairperson**
Sussanne Jara

**Budget Chairpersons**
Susan Smith / Clifton Crawford

**Electronic Media Chairperson**
Rhonda Figueroa

**Education Chairperson**
Travis Crawford

---

Visit Our Website
www.dppa1.org