



**FYI**

**March 30, 2017**

**The Committee of 100 Celebrates its 50th Anniversary**



*We thank the Delaware State Chamber of Commerce for publishing the following article by Committee of 100 President Michael Scali in the March/April 2017 issue of their Delaware Business magazine. You can view the published article on pages 14 & 15 at this link: [https://issuu.com/destatechamber/docs/db\\_march\\_april\\_2017](https://issuu.com/destatechamber/docs/db_march_april_2017)*

Delaware's business community is tight knit and, appropriately, highly collaborative. The State and County Chambers, trade associations, and other business and professional organizations frequently join forces to support policies and legislation that will benefit Delaware's economy. The theme of the Chamber's Annual Dinner this year was to highlight these partnerships.

In 1967, a small group of prominent Wilmington and New Castle County business leaders and professionals concerned about the business climate in Delaware got together and formed The Committee of 100. The name, urban legend has it, was drawn from the U.S. Chamber's Committee of 100 advisory council.

The organization's mission would be to 'promote responsible economic development.' As Senator Tom Carper often observes, the government's job is not to create jobs, but to create the conditions in which the private sector can. From its origins, The Committee of 100 has pursued its mission by interacting with government in a balanced and thoughtful way on policies to improve those economic conditions and encourage growth.

Starting with a white paper in the summer of 1967 analyzing the lack of 'stability' in New Castle County's planning and land use process, The Committee of 100 established its pattern of combining its critiques with recommendations on how to fix problems. (Yes, we are still working with the County today to improve its land use process!) Later the organization worked to eliminate the usury laws that were discouraging the flow of capital into the state. You can see in those efforts the logical path that led a few years later to Frank Biondi's creation of the Financial Center Development Act. Constructive engagement with the Delaware Economic Development Office manifested itself in The Committee of 100 underwriting business attraction brochures and videos, and in bringing Delaware business leaders together with executives of AAA Mid-Atlantic for a dinner that helped convince AAA to site their headquarters in Wilmington.

More often than not, our initiatives have been in collaboration with the Chamber and others. There was the creatively named 'Business Group' which was formed during the Quality of Life debates in the 80's and 90's and continued to meet as the UDC was being adopted. On several occasions, loose coalitions of business groups have formed to support increased funding for infrastructure investments, particularly the Transportation Trust Fund. Today, we are working together to modernize the Coastal Zone Act, cleaning up polluted industrial sites and bringing them back to productive use. We contributed to, and strongly support the Delaware Business Roundtable's landmark Delaware Growth Agenda – which we hope will help get the state's fiscal house back in order.

In many respects, the economy in which The Committee of 100 was founded no longer exists. And as it has changed, so have we. Two years ago, we moved our offices to the 1313 Innovation Center in the heart of Delaware's technology and entrepreneurial ecosystem. It was more than a symbolic move. We are embracing these emerging sectors in the economy and will be backing education and workforce training efforts to support them. To that end, The Committee of 100 looks forward to helping shape the future of Delaware for another 50 years.

*Michael J. Scali is the current President of The Committee of 100 and a partner in the law firm of Gellert, Scali, Busenkell, & Brown, LLC.*

---

## "The Power Lunch"



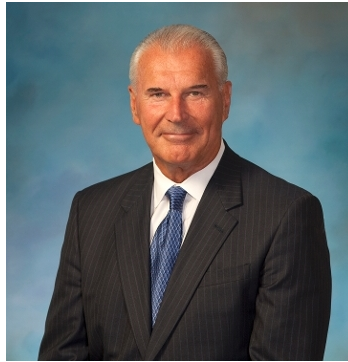
Butch Corrado of Corrado Construction Company was the winning bidder of "The Power Lunch" at our 2016 Annual Auction. Butch, Joey and their guests enjoyed a private luncheon on March 7<sup>th</sup> with **Governor John Carney**, **New Castle County Executive Matt Meyer** and **Wilmington Mayor Michael Purzycki**. The intimate gathering was an ideal forum to share ideas ranging from the establishment of a wastewater authority and privatizing water distribution in Wilmington; to attracting development to parts of New Castle County with Coastal Zone Act amendments and creation of an industrial park; and financing a dedicated clean water fund and statewide coordination of jobs programs.

Thanks to the University & Whist Club, Berger Harris, IFS Insurance and Whiting-Turner for sponsoring the Power Lunch at our 2016 Annual Auction.

## 2016 Scholarship Recipient Update

Sophia Leslie, recipient of our 2016 Academic Scholarship, recently updated us on her progress at the University of Delaware. She has expand her focus to double major in Economics and Finance at the Alfred Learner College of Business and Economics. She has maintained a GPA of 3.7 and has earned 21 honors credits to date and achieved Sophomore status as a Freshman. Sophia is currently looking for summer internships/employment--if you have any opportunities, please drop us a note at [info@committeeof100.com](mailto:info@committeeof100.com) and we will connect you.

## April 18th Dinner Meeting to Feature Wilmington Mayor Mike Purzycki



Mike Purzycki assumed office on January 3rd carrying the high expectations of city residents and the business community that he will be able to get Wilmington headed in the right direction. The announcement that Chemours' 800 jobs are staying in the city was a positive boost.

But we were reminded of the magnitude of the challenges the Mayor faces almost immediately when a spate of gun violence marred the early weeks of the New Year. Signs that the close relationship between the Mayor, County Executive, and Governor is paying early dividends came when the state and county immediately responded with commitments of police resources to assist.

Join us on April 18th to hear Mike report on his early days in office and on his plans for reinvigorating Wilmington in austere fiscal times. **Register today!**

---