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**NJ 211 Announces 2026 Board of Trustees,
Honors Member with Emeritus Title and Welcomes Six New Members**

Member Emeritus Wynn Johanson Honored with Employee Recognition Award in her Name

Cedar Knolls, NJ, January 20, 2026 – NJ 211, the state's most comprehensive community navigation service, announced its Board of Trustees for 2026 designating long-time member, Wynn Johanson, as Trustee Emeritus and honoring her with an employee recognition award in her name.

The Wynn Johanson Service Excellence Award will be awarded annually to an employee who consistently demonstrates exceptional service, professionalism, and commitment to the NJ 211 mission through their direct impact on callers, and coworkers. The inaugural award was presented to Judy Seidman, a Community Resource Specialist, who has worked for NJ 211 since 2013, at the nonprofit's holiday luncheon in December.

Johanson served on the NJ 211 Board of Trustees for 27 years starting her tenure in 1998. At the time, she worked for ExxonMobil's Research & Engineering Financial Division in information technology doing long range strategic planning for financial systems. After her retirement from ExxonMobil in 2001, she continued to serve on the board and brought her IT background, professionalism and passion to her board service. Johanson served in many capacities, including as a member of the governance committee and chair of the technology, nominating, fundraising, and strategic planning committees. She also served as both vice president and president of the Board of Trustees,

“Wynn brought a deep understanding of the role and purpose of a nonprofit trustee as she guided NJ 211 with her wisdom and rich knowledge, helping us grow from a small nonprofit into a \$9M organization,” said Melissa Acree, Chief Executive Officer of NJ 211. “She attended events, picnics, holiday parties and always thanked our team for their hard work with praise and sweets. We are delighted to honor her.” she continued.

Throughout 2025, the NJ 211 Board of Trustees implemented a plan to bring on new board members with distinct and diverse backgrounds, to bring expertise in key areas to help advance the organization’s mission. This effort led to the recruitment of six new members who add diversity to the board in terms of business background, race and ethnicity, gender, as well as lived experience.

They are Naomi Adler of the American Cancer Society, Alycia M. Guichard, MBA of Verizon, Paulina O’Connor of New Jersey Offshore Wind Alliance, Jennifer Nelson of Strategic Roots, LLC, Kishore Rachapudi of New Digital Intelligence, and Michelle Taylor, Ed.D, of United Way of Delaware.

“Our new members bring a breadth of experience to NJ 211, as well as a passion for the work we do and the talent to help us succeed. We are excited to be working with them especially as we develop a new strategic plan to address evolving demands to meet the needs of those we serve,” noted Melissa Acree.

In 2026, the board will be led by the executive committee consisting of Tim Hearne, retired CEO of the United Way of Monmouth and Ocean Counties, as Board Chair, Paula Umana of the Inglis Foundation as Vice Chair, Thom Jordan, technology consultant, as Treasurer, and John Emge of United Way Worldwide as Secretary.

NJ 211 is an independent nonprofit, the state’s most comprehensive community navigation service and a front door to help for individuals and families seeking help. NJ 211 operates 24/7, is free, confidential and multilingual, and can be accessed by phone, text, or on the web. Trained specialists connect New Jerseyans to local health and human services from the service’s accredited resource directory of over 6,000 programs. For more information about NJ 211, visit nj211.org.

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