



Cynthia A. Glassman

Board Director: Discover Financial Services; Navigant Consulting

Senior Research Scholar, Institute for Corporate Responsibility, GWU Business School

Former Under Secretary of Commerce for Economic Affairs and SEC Commissioner (and Acting Chair)

Education: BA in economics, Wellesley College; PhD in economics, U. of Penn

Hometown: Brooklyn, New York

Fun Fact: I have been to all 7 continents and 49 states, and along the way went hot air ballooning in Kenya, swimming with sharks in Bora Bora, and walking with penguins in Antarctica

Hobbies: travel, cooking, tennis

How long have you been a member of WHF and what have you gained from being a member?

I joined WHF about 30 years ago when I was transitioning from the Federal Reserve to consulting. I became a WHF Board Member from 1987 to 1992 and Treasurer from 1989 to 1990. Over the years, WHF has provided me a range of educational and networking opportunities. In particular, my position as Board Director at Discover Financial Services resulted from referrals from two women with whom I had served on the WHF Board years before.

How do you make the best use of your day?

Since I do not have a full time job, but rather several different positions, organization is critical. I keep a calendar out through 2018 as well as weekly and daily lists. I make sure to include “me” time - exercise classes and tennis, massages, spending time with friends and family, and vacations - to balance out the professional activities.

What do you love most about what you do?

Dealing with real business decisions after a career of consulting and making and enforcing rules for financial institutions.

What inspires you?

People who overcome adversity and the people and organizations that help them. That inspires me to get involved and help make a difference.

What is the best advice you've ever received?

To take more risks and get out of my comfort zone.

What are you currently reading?

I just started Unbroken, which I downloaded to my ipad some time ago. I have purposely not seen the movie, since friends have told me the book is much better.

What is your personal philosophy?

To treat others the way I would like to be treated.

Who do you look up to the most and why?

People, especially those in senior positions, who are gracious to everyone, who listen and welcome diverse points of view, who make informed decisions, and who are decisive.