



**Volume III, Issue I**

**June, 2009**

### **2009 LEGISLATIVE ISSUES APPROVED!**

BSMC had two legislative priorities for the 2009 General Assembly Session. These included support for \$300,000 in funding to complete the second half of the Procurement Disparity Study for the Commonwealth of Virginia and support for full funding of the Department of Minority Business Enterprise's (DMBE) \$2.2 Million Operating Budget.

The \$300,000, previously approved by the General Assembly to complete the Disparity Study, was snatched due to budget cuts. However, the Legislature again gave its nod of approval for the study by restoring \$30,000 in funding requested by Senator Yvonne Miller.

BSMC's Chair and Legislative Committee, with the help of Vice Mayor Joseph Whitaker of Newport News, Councilman Charles Brown of Suffolk, Councilman Charles Whitehurst of Portsmouth and Virginia Legislative Black Caucus Chairman Kenneth Alexander and Delegate Algie Howell of House Appropriations, traveled to Richmond and successfully convinced the Administration to support the authorization of \$270,000 to complete the study.

According to Samuel Hayes, Director of DMBE, the agency that will oversee the study, a contractor will be selected by June 28, 2009 to complete the work. Governor Kaine stated that the study will be completed before he leaves office.

Completing the second half of the Disparity Study is critical in identifying why disparity exists for Minority Contractors in the State's procurement process. More importantly, recommendations to remedy this problem will be identified. With over \$5 billion allocated by the State in discretionary spending, Minority Business Owners must have equal access to the procurement process.

Full funding of DMBE's \$2.2 million operating budget was also approved. This is the only agency, created by State Law that exists solely to protect the interests of Minority Business Owners in the Commonwealth. If you are not familiar with their services, please visit their website at [www.dmbv.virginia.gov](http://www.dmbv.virginia.gov).

A special thanks to Governor Kaine, the Virginia Legislative Black Caucus and all BSMC members that made phone calls, worked on our Legislative Committee and prayed for our success. We did it!

### **What's Next...**

#### **ARE YOU READY TO DO BUSINESS WITH THE STATE?**

In order to take full advantage of any state procurement contract opportunity Minority Business Owners must be certified by the State as a Small, Woman and Minority Owned Business or a Disadvantage Business Enterprise. If you do not have either certification, please call (757) 483-2452.

If you have these certifications and need to be pre-qualified to bid on state contracts, please contact Larry Wright, DMBE Certification Specialist at the following toll free number 1-(888) 792-6323.

**WHAT ABOUT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT?** If you have your State certifications and would like to obtain your Federal 8(a) certification, contact Tammy Proffitt at the Virginia District Office of SBA at (804) 771-2400, extension 116 to register for the free workshop on June 18, 2009.

### **CONGRATULATIONS BSMC BUSINESS OWNERS:**

- Andrea Cleaves, Owner of Family Systems II,
- George Jones, Owner of Automotive Engineering,
- Karen Bailey, Owner of the Resource King,
- Toni & Sarah Johnson – President & Vice President of the W.E. Johnson Education Foundation
- Maurice & Lavina Harris – Owners of Special Moments Event Photography, Planning, Portraits and Videography
- Anthony Banks - Staff Photographer and Graphic Artist

Your names were selected to present at our next event. Each of you will be given 2 minutes to tell our members about your business. Members interested in making presentations must be present at a BSMC networking event and place their business card in the drawing. We encourage our members to do business with one another in addition to securing public and private contracts.

### **CONGRATULATIONS BSMC CITIZEN MEMBER:**

**"HATS OFF"** TO Mrs. Lula Holland, citizen and Executive Board Member of BSMC who recently received the Girl's Club Inc. of Southwest Virginia 2009 Strong, Smart & Bold Women Award. We are so proud of you!

## **BSMC 2009-2010 LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

**Gwendolyn Davis, Chair and Executive Director CEO, OLEGNA Business Solutions**

**Andrea Cleaves, Vice Chair, BSMC PAC, Owner, Family Systems II, Inc.**

**Anthony Claud, Chair, President, CARPE DIEM Enterprises**

**The Honorable Joseph C. Whitaker, Vice Mayor, City of Newport News\***

**The Honorable Charles F. Brown, Councilmember, City of Suffolk\***

**The Honorable Charles B. Whitehurst, Councilmember, City of Portsmouth\***

**Waymon Blakeney, BSMC Executive Board,**

**Lavina Harris, Owner, Special Moments Event Photography, Planning, Portraits and Videography\***

**Lula Holland, BSMC Executive Board, Citizen Member**

**Anthony Reed, BSMC Executive Board, CEO, Alpha Omega Enterprises, Inc.**

**Mary Watson, Owner, Mr. Cream Cones**

**Alyson Frye – Williams, Branch Executive, RBC Bank\***

**Allon Wright, Owner, Families in New Directions, Inc.**

\*New Volunteers

## **CHECK OUT BSMC PAC AND TRAINING INSTITUTE WEBSITES**

**We have two distinct organizations that serve Minority Business Owners in Virginia – the BSMC Political Action Committee and the Non Profit 501 (c) 3 BSMC Training Institute. Go to our websites to learn more.**

**BSMC PAC – [www.bsmcpac.org](http://www.bsmcpac.org) and BSMC Training Institute – [www.bsmctraininginstitute.org](http://www.bsmctraininginstitute.org).**

**Contact BSMC Chair, Gwendolyn Davis at (757) 483-2452 or  
(757) 377-7830 to sign up to volunteer to serve on a committee today!**

*“At the bottom of education, at the bottom of politics, even at the bottom of religion,  
there must be for our people economic independence.”*

*Booker T. Washington*

**BUSINESSES SUPPORTING MINORITY CANDIDATES (BSMC)  
Training Institute • P.O. Box Office 3586 • Portsmouth, VA 23701**