



# BIG Parklawn Chapter

*(The Founding Chapter of BIG)*

# Newsletter

Issue 7 | Parklawn Chapter Newsletter

## *Welcome*

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Welcome to Issue 7 of the Parklawn Chapter Newsletter.

After you read our newsletter let us know what you think! You can reach us as [big.parklawn@gmail.com](mailto:big.parklawn@gmail.com)

Also, check out our website: <https://www.bigparklawn.com/>

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Message from the B.I.G. Parklawn President

### **PG. 3**

Parklawn Spotlight and Region XI News

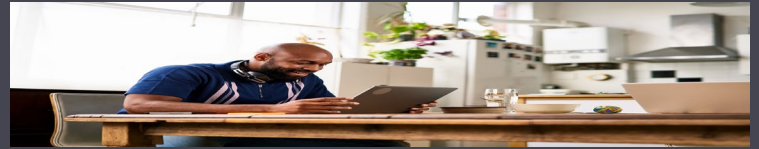
**Message from the B.I.G.  
Parklawn Chapter President**

Congressional Black Caucus – In March, I along with three (3) other BIG Parklawn members visited the congressional office of Congressman Steven Horsford. Congressman Horsford is the new Chair for the CBC. BIG Parklawn chapter will be building relationships with the CBC as they will be critical partners in making sure that Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) is fully implemented throughout the federal government and that issues like a lack of black hires into senior level positions in the federal government get addressed. For more information about the CBC visit their page here: <https://cbc.house.gov/>

Federal unionization is increasing. By all accounts federal union membership is up by 20% since the White House initiatives on labor and federal government policies on improving the relationship between labor and management have been implemented. Employees should not only join BIG but also join your local union chapter and hold unions accountable to protecting your workplace rights. There are numerous opportunities for unions and BIG to collaborate on our mutual goals and objectives. [Federal Employee Union Membership is Up 20% - Government Executive \(govexec.com\)](https://govexec.com)

**-Anthony W. Lee, J.D., Parklawn Chapter President**

## Remote/Telework



One of the most “water cooler” topics lately appears to be HHS/FDA’s telework/remote work policy reversals over the last few months.

Although many FDA Centers have upheld the flexibility of being able to work full time remotely based on job duties, other Centers have reverted to pre-Pandemic, in-person posture. What has confused many FDA employees has been a [MOU](#) that was sent out by HHS that NTEU worked out that stated remote work would be appropriate when “The employee’s position does not require regular face-to-face interaction with other employees or stakeholders at a specific HHS office location.” The MOU further asserts that approval of remote work request will be approved or disapproved by their direct supervisors and based on their individual circumstances. Hundreds of FDA employees received seemingly blanket denials for remote work or designation. The local chapter of NTEU, chapter 282 and National are currently working on grieving FDA current telework policy. For more information reach out to your local [NTEU chapter](#).



# Region XI News



Let's give a BIG welcome to our newest members of the Parklawn Chapter. We want to say welcome to our chapter; we are glad to have you, and we are looking forward to working with you. Thank You for Thinking BIG.

Welcome new members:

- Genise Barnes (Joined January)
- Adrienne Morgan (Joined February)
- Erycka Constant (Joined February)
- Shannon Beasley Taitt (Joined March)



To become an official BIG member, you will need to pay National and Chapter Dues each year.

National Dues are \$35

Chapter Dues are \$10 =

\$45 yearly

**REMINDER!**  
**28 - 31 AUGUST 2023**  
 HAVE YOU SAVED THOSE DATES?  
 FOR

The 44th Annual National Training Institute

Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center - 201 Waterfront St. - National Harbor, MD 20745

As a reminder, this year's NTI Training will be held in the National Harbor, August 28<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup>. Please begin to communicate with your management to let them know your interest in attending this year's training. For those in the DMV area, a "selling point" for this year's NTI is that it is local so no hotel or flight \$\$\$ needed. [Registration is open now. Click here!](#)

In other news.....

BIG's 2023 Oratorical Program is currently accepting applicants for its 9-12 grade scholarship awards. This year's theme is "Are Voting Rights Essentially for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century American? Why or Why Not? For more information [click here.](#)

And Finally.....

BIG RXI Legislative Committee is sponsoring a webinar with the Community Justice Action Network's Greg Jackson who will speak on preventing gun violence. Please attend this event on April 11, 2023 @ 12PM EST.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83990421419?pwd=Qm9sUS9tSktmaTdhejFQa3FqZFhYUT09>

Meeting ID: 839 9042 1419  
Passcode: 8J0SB9



## Poetry Hour



# Phenomenal Woman

BY MAYA ANGELOU

Pretty women wonder where my secret lies.

I'm not cute or built to suit a fashion model's size

But when I start to tell them,

They think I'm telling lies.

I say, It's in the reach of my arms,

The span of my hips,

The stride of my step,

The curl of my lips.

I'm a woman Phenomenally.

Phenomenal woman, That's me.

I walk into a room

Just as cool as you please,

And to a man, The fellows stand or

Fall down on their knees.

*\*Continued on Page 5*



## Join today!

Join us today in our advocacy of African Americans government employees and JOIN BIG!

There are a few steps to follow to become a member at the Parklawn Chapter which are outlined below:

**Want to become a member of BIG?!?!?!?**

**Here are the steps**

- First, create an account on the BIG National site which is located here: <https://members.bignet.site/account/login.aspx>
- Second, you will need to pay National Dues by going to the Membership Portal and completing the membership application.
- After you complete the application, please email a copy of your receipt to Klara Jenkins at [Klara.jenkins@fda.hhs.gov](mailto:Klara.jenkins@fda.hhs.gov)
- After paying National Dues through the Membership portal, you will need to pay **Chapter dues in one or two ways:**
  - ✓ By using PayPal (Registered PayPal Users only) and going to: [www.PayPal.me/BIGParklawnChapter](http://www.PayPal.me/BIGParklawnChapter).
  - ✓ Or by sending a check or money order made payable to: BIG Parklawn Chapter C/O Anthony Lee, 5001 Campus Drive, College Park, MD 20743.



**\*From Page 4 “Phenomenal Woman”**

**Then they swarm around me, A hive of honeybees.  
I say, It’s the fire in my eyes, And the flash of my  
teeth,  
The swing in my waist,  
And the joy in my feet.  
I’m a woman  
Phenomenally.**

**Phenomenal woman,  
That’s me.**

**Men themselves have wondered  
What they see in me.  
They try so much  
But they can’t touch  
My inner mystery.  
When I try to show them,  
They say they still can’t see.  
I say,  
It’s in the arch of my back,  
The sun of my smile,**

**The ride of my breasts,  
The grace of my style.  
I’m a woman  
Phenomenally.  
Phenomenal woman,  
That’s me.**

**Now you understand  
Just why my head’s not bowed.  
I don’t shout or jump about  
Or have to talk real loud.  
When you see me passing,  
It ought to make you proud.  
I say,  
It’s in the click of my heels,  
The bend of my hair,  
the palm of my hand,  
The need for my care.  
‘Cause I’m a woman  
Phenomenally.  
Phenomenal woman,  
That’s me.**

Maya Angelou, “Phenomenal Woman” from *And Still I Rise*. Copyright © 1978 by Maya Angelou. Used by permission of Random House, an imprint and division of Penguin Random House LLC. All rights reserved.  
Source: *The Complete Collected Poems of Maya Angelou* (Random House Inc., 1994)



If you have a birthday, anniversary, celebration, someone you would like to spotlight, or an inspirational thought/quote/poem you would like to include in the newsletter, please forward that information to our Hospitality Chair -[Dr. Contress Braxton](#).

#### **March Birthdays**

- Lorenzo Edwards, 3/10

#### **April Birthdays**

- Jason Lewis, 4/4
- April Hodges, 4/20

#### **May Birthdays**

- Denise (Matthews Milton), 5/22

“Hoping for the best, prepared for the worst, and unsurprised by anything in between.” -Maya Angelou

