



# BIG Parklawn Chapter

*(The Founding Chapter of BIG)*

# Newsletter

Issue 8 | Parklawn Chapter Newsletter

## *Welcome*

Welcome to Issue 8 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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**Single Parents Program**

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

Parklawn Chapter Elections are upcoming in November 2023. Positions open for election are:

- President (incumbent not eligible for nomination)
- Secretary
- Financial Secretary
- Regional Representative-1 (incumbent not eligible for nomination)
- Regional Representative 2.

We are accepting volunteer members each for the Nominations and Elections committees (2 members for each committee).

Check our chapter bylaws on our website for the duties of the nominations and elections committee members.

If interested in serving on either committee, please email [Anthony.lee@bignet.org](mailto:Anthony.lee@bignet.org) and [JasonLewis.va@gmail.com](mailto:JasonLewis.va@gmail.com) by September 8, 2023.

*Note: Candidates running for office cannot serve on these committees.*

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

## New CBA Between HHS/FDA and NTEU Reached!



**H**ealth and Human Services (HHS) and the National Treasury Employee Union (NTEU) recently reached a five-year collective bargaining agreement (CBA). Beginning in 2021, HHS leadership and NTEU embarked on a collaborative relationship that allowed the parties to negotiate in good faith and reach this agreement.

After years of difficult negotiations, NTEU successfully secured many major wins under this new legally binding contract, including new protections and benefits for telework/remote work, alternative work schedules, workplace flexibilities, and awards.

All Federal employees deserve to be treated with dignity and respect for the important work they perform for the American public. This contract marks a major accomplishment in ongoing efforts to secure fair treatment and benefits for all HHS/FDA employees. [Please look at the new CBA which can be found here.](#)



# **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**

**Its that glorious time of the Year.....The 44<sup>th</sup> Annual National Training Institute (NTI) is this month! This years' NTI will be held in the National Harbor, August 28<sup>th</sup> thru 31<sup>st</sup>. If you have not already done so by now, please ask for those end-of-the-year travel dollars and ask your management for the funds to attend this enriching 4-day 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!](#)**

**For those who are already approved for attendance, you should have received an email advising you that you will need to download [WHOVA](#) in order to register for training sessions. If you run into any issue with the app please reach out to**

**[Adrienne.Callahan@bignet.org](mailto:Adrienne.Callahan@bignet.org)**





## Parklawn Spotlight

**Our Chapter was just recently approved to enact our Single Parent Program. This new program will provide paid member for BIG for 2 years and an Amazon Certificate of \$55 for 10 deserving single parents. The goal of this project is to increase membership with younger potential members and provide a positive first impression of the organization.**

**If you know of any deserving single parents (male or female) that would be good additions to BIG and can use some \$\$\$ as well, then please send us their name, email, and a brief explanation why they would make a good addition to BIG. Please send that information to either [Anthonyw.leejd@gmail.com](mailto:Anthonyw.leejd@gmail.com) or [Jaonlewis.va@gmail.com](mailto:Jaonlewis.va@gmail.com)**

## Region XI News



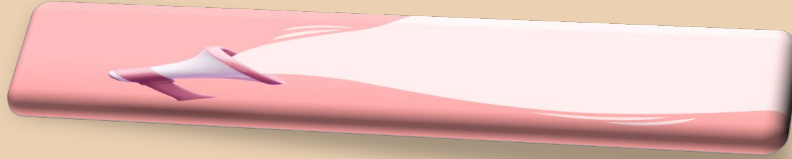
**Want to showcase your best Jordans, Dunks, or Off Whites!!!! Well, Region XI is having a fundraiser on Saturday on October 7<sup>th</sup> at the SPX Building (3611 Steward Rd. Forestville, MD 20747) that you can show off your sneakers for a good cause.**

**The cost of the event is \$60, and the dress code is Formal or Semi-Formal Attire. This event will raise money for future BIG Region XI programs, activities, and initiatives. For more information you can contact [Michelle.Mason14@gmail.com](mailto:Michelle.Mason14@gmail.com).**

**[For tickets, just click here!](#)**



## BIG's National Delegates Assembly



On August 27, BIG's National Delegates Assembly (NDA) will conduct annual elections for National Officers (Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Second Vice President, National Executive Vice President) and National Board of Directors.

[See the attached document for candidate details.](#) The Distinguished Service Hall of Fame (DSHOF) award nominees will also be voted on.

Eight delegates from BIG Parklawn will represent us. Limited guest spots are available for members that wish to attend the NDA at the Gaylord Hotel and Convention Center, 10AM-6PM.

If you are Interested, please Email [anthony.lee@bignet.org](mailto:anthony.lee@bignet.org).



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**





SEPT 13, 2023

9:00am – 5:00pm ET

U.S. FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA)

## MINORITY SERVING INSTITUTIONS (MSIs) EVENT

JOIN US FOR AN INFORMATIONAL SESSION to learn more about job opportunities at FDA! The day will include an overview of FDA, where and how to look for a federal job and internships, details on the federal hiring process, and tips and tricks for writing a federal resume. The second half of the day will include a panel session with FDA professionals and an opportunity to meet with representatives from each Center of FDA.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING students, post-docs, and alumni from MSIs interested in federal career opportunities in both the science and non-scientific professional fields. You are encouraged to attend to jumpstart the process of landing a federal career!

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT  
JOBS AT FDA

Visit [www.fda.gov/jobs](http://www.fda.gov/jobs).

To register, click link below.

<https://fda.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJlSd-uhrzwpHy89x5i0OcqSf3BO0Pn6klo>

[Meeting Registration - Zoom \(zoomgov.com\)](#)





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](#).

### July Birthdays

- Tracy Worley, 7/1

### August Birthdays

- Crystal Buffert, 8/4
- Robin Waller, 8/5
- Klara Jenkins, 8/26

### September Birthdays

- Contress Braxton, 9/29
- Leisa Lewis, 9/29



## 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.

