



BIG Parklawn Chapter

(The Founding Chapter of BIG)

Newsletter

Issue 5 | Parklawn Chapter Newsletter

Welcome

Welcome to Issue 5 of the Parklawn Chapter Newsletter.

After you read our newsletter let us know what you think! You can reach us at big.parklawn@gmail.com

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

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

Greetings BIG Family! It is still very true today that strong unions offer protection and access to the middle class. Minorities are often concentrated at the low-end of the wage spectrum or in the federal government at lower grade levels. These are the positions that often benefit most from the protection of unions. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a strong advocate of participation in unions to rise and achieve equality. Union labor leaders like John Lewis and Walter Reuther also encouraged black workers to join unions.....

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

“The message I’m sending to myself-I can’t change the world until I change myself first.” -Kendrick Lamar

...Continued

Public sector unions that represent federal employees can help gain better health care benefits (like paid parental leave), better retirement benefits and can even in some case negotiate for higher federal employee salaries, as is done for employees that work at the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). In the federal government the two largest unions available to employees are the National Treasury Employees Union and the American Federation of Government Employees, both unions will have speaking roles at this year’s BIG National Training Institute. Join the union at your federal workplace and get involved by being an active member and even running for positions available in the union. Let your voice be heard on issues that are happening in the workplace and tell your union officials what they should be doing to improve your working conditions. Unions and employee resource groups like BIG, FEW, and GLOBE have common goals and interests and we should always be working together to get the best outcomes available for federal employees. BIG Parklawn will be doubling our efforts to work more closely with unions in the coming year.



BIG National News



The Blacks In Government (BIG) 2022 Annual National Training Institute (NTI) will be held August 15- 18, 2022, in Cleveland, OH. NTI will feature workshops, special enhancement programs, and unlimited networking opportunities. The theme for this year's NTI is "BIG 2022: Training in a Transformed Workplace – Providing Innovative Professional Development."

This year's keynote speakers will be Kiran Ahuja, Director of OPM and Dr. Brian Monford, Co-Founder of the Mary Alice House, a substance abuse recovery program. For more information or last-minute registration please go to the BIG 2022 NTI site which can be found here:

<https://bignet.org/regional/2022NTI/home.html>

Region XI News



The NOW Generation will be hosting a Munch & Mingle at this year's NTI on Tuesday, August 16th, 2022, from 1-3 PM. The location of the "get together" will be in the Huntington Conference Center. For more information and to register [please click here](#). The link will likely be inaccessible from your work computer so please register on your personal computer or cell phone.



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
- 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.
 - ✓ 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.



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



Parklawn Poem

The Power of One

by Ashish Ram

One song can spark a moment

One flower can wake the dream

One tree can start a forest

One bird can herald spring

One smile begins a friendship

One handclasp lifts a soul

One star can guide a ship at sea

One word can frame the goal

One vote can change a nation

One sunbeam lights a room

One candle wipes out darkness

One laugh will conquer gloom

One step must start each journey

One word must start each prayer

One hope will raise our spirits

One touch can show you care

One voice can speak with wisdom

One heart can know what's true

One life can make the difference

You see, it's up to you!!

BIG Medical Spotlight.

What is Monkeypox?

Monkeypox is a rare disease that is caused by infection with monkeypox virus. This virus can spread to anyone through close, personal, often skin-to-skin contact. Currently, a high rate of the known cases in the U.S. are among gay and bisexual men and transgender and non-binary people, but this virus is not limited by sexuality or gender.

Please see the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's page [2022 United States Monkeypox Response](#) for the latest response information.

Treatment of Monkeypox: There is an approved [vaccine](#) and a cleared diagnostic test that can be used to help address the virus. For more information see: [CDC Prevention Steps](#).

Testing for Monkeypox: Yes. Moreover, since monkeypox was first detected in the U.S., the FDA is working closely with the CDC, commercial laboratories, and traditional manufacturers to make monkeypox tests more readily available to patients and providers.

Find out more information about Monkeypox from the [FDA](#) and [CDC](#).





Parklawn Chapter Spotlight

Parklawn chapter member Sergio Gregorio is a podcaster, educator, and attorney. His podcast focuses on individual journeys, personal growth, and transformative experiences. Please support our member and give him a listen and share this information with your friends and family.

Look for “The Serge Experience” on all major podcast platforms:

<https://www.thesergeexperience.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](#).

May Birthdays

- Matthew Milton, 5/22

July Birthdays

- Tracy Worley, 7/1

August Birthdays

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

And Finally.....

Be Represented, Be Included! The HHS Workforce Demographic Survey for HHS Federal full-time equivalent employees (FTEs) and Public Health Service (PHS) Commissioned Corp Officers is now open, please take 5-10 minutes and complete the survey using this link [HHS WORKFORCE DEMOGRAPHIC SURVEY](#).

We encourage all BIG Members to participate in this survey. Accurate demographic data is dependent upon your self-identification, and your participation in this survey is key to the continuous improvement of HHS diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility journey.

