



THE LEAGUE

OCTOBER 2009

NEWS YOU CAN USE!

Firms that are 8(a)s, in the GSA schedule, women-owned business, Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs), Service Disabled Veteran-Owned businesses, Native Tribes, businesses in Hub-Zones: and are State certified and have strong past performance have a more significant competitive advantage for “shovel ready” projects under the Recovery Act signed into law by President Barack Obama. Keep informed by visiting recovery.gov, fedbizopps.gov and grants.gov to make sure you are aware of every opportunity for your business

October is **Breast Cancer Awareness Month** and **Domestic Violence Awareness Month**. The CSRA Business League Board of Directors and staff urge you to visit <http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/wyntk/breast> to find out about breast cancer the number one cancer found among women. Domestic violence effects men and women and sometimes lead to death, please visit www.ncadv.org for additional information on Domestic Violence.

Do you work from home or out of your car, do you need a professional office or conference room to meet with your clients. Look no further, the CSRA Business League has a “Timeshare Office” for lease, equipped with a computer, phone, printer, wireless and wired internet access, as well as a Conference room with seating for 12, a phone and internet access. We are committed to ensuring your success, by creating innovative ways for business owners to reach their goals. We also have office space for lease, we offer flexible terms and rates that are affordable. Call us at 706 722 - 0994 for additional information.

The League is still soliciting ideas for seminars and workshops geared to the interest of small business owners to assist you in becoming successful. We are looking to sponsor *Grant Writing workshops*, workshops on how to

utilize *Web 2.0* services such as Blogs, Wiki, Facebook, YouTube, Consumer Generated Media, Twitter, LinkedIn, PURLs (personalized urls), podcasts, and mobile marketing, seminars on topics related to subject matters important to business owners and opportunities for face to face contact. Please email your comments to me ellisalbright@business-league.org or call the League at 706 722—0994 no later than 15 October 2009 to voice your opinion.

Are you looking to expand your business through the use of government contracts, visit the government website at <http://www.Business.gov> to find resources and information about government contracting.

The city of Augusta Disparity Study can be read on the City of Augusta website at the following link www.augustaga.gov/index.aspx?NID=1304. The study was commissioned by the City and conducted by NERA Economic Consulting to address disparities in the awarding of contracts to minority and women owned businesses. Recommendations from the “*Disparity Study Recommendations for Augusta-Richmond County*”, in regards to *Race and Gender Neutral Initiatives* suggested the appointment of a Task Force, Streamlining Procurement Procedures and Forms, Increasing Vendor Communication & Outreach, Unbundling Contracts, Reviewing Surety Bonding & Insurance Requirements, the prompt payment of contracts, and to develop remedies to end the discriminatory practices the study uncovered. The study revealed that Minority and Women owned businesses have been left out of the procurement process in the area. A meeting with the Augusta - Richmond County DBE Director Mrs. Yvonne Gentry and the Airport DBE Director Mrs. Brenda Brown is being planned so we can devise ways to better serve minority and women owned businesses in the area and ensure each receive their fair share of the economic pie. Once done, we will need a commitment from each of you in regards to ensuring your success, by working with us in following established processes, rules and guidelines.



Keeping you Informed

MBDA NEWS

On September 15, 2009 the House of Representatives passed H. Res. 215, a resolution congratulating the *Minority Business Development Agency* on its 40th anniversary and commending its achievements in foster the establishment and growth of minority businesses in the United States, read more on the resolution and related comments at the MBDA website located at www.mbda.gov.

Georgia Statewide Minority Business Enterprise Center (GMBEC) located at <http://www.georgiambec.org/> is part of a national network of centers established to increase the number of minority-owned businesses and strengthen existing ones. The center is designed to improve access to capital, increase profitability and sustainability and create jobs.

Funded by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) and under the direction of Ms. Donna Ennis and operated by the Georgia Tech Enterprise Innovation Institute, GMBEC is committed to working with all Minority Business Enterprises (MBEs) needing start-up, expansion, and sustainability assistance. The staff has many years of business and financial experience and the center offers a wealth of resources that fully address business requirements. Services include: Business Assessment * Access to Capital and Finance Management * Access to Markets * Strategic Business Consulting * Business Process Improvement.

The New Strategic Direction will focus on the fact that MBEs today are growing faster than the general business community, however, they are still far behind the general business community in terms of penetrating markets, attracting capital, and growing revenue. MBDA has re-engineered Minority Business Enterprise Centers across the country to focus on growing existing minority-owned firms and utilize more resources toward jobs creation to generate wealth. It is MBDA's goal, through its MBECs, to help MBEs create jobs and revenue. This new direction will redirect resources strategically so that all firms are served in a way that will ultimately help achieve our goal.

SBA NEWS

Current Legislative updates; *SBIR/STTR Reauthorization Act of 2009*, reauthorizes for 8 years the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and the Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs. The act also permits the limited involvement of majority owned venture capital companies in the SBIR program. The *Enhancing Small Business Research and Innovation Act of 2009* will extend for two years a provision which will allow small businesses with investments from venture capitalist to participate in the SBIR/STTR programs provided they meet eligibility requirements.

The IRS has unveiled new YouTube videos, radio public service announcements (PSA's), flyers and posters in many languages providing basic information for taxpayers in regards to the tax benefits currently available through the *Recovery Act*. The informational videos about Recovery Act tax credits are available on YouTube (www.youtube.com/irsvideos), podcasts on iTunes, and links on the IRS website at www.irs.gov/recovery. Videos are available in English, Spanish, and American Sign Language and the PSAs are in English and Spanish in 30 and 60 second formats, while the flyers and posters are available in English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Russian, and Vietnamese.

Are you a Veteran, service connected disabled, spouse of a veteran, active duty about to transition, Reservist or National Guard member, or widowed spouse of any of the above? The SBA has announced the funding of a loan program for members of the military community called Patriot Express Loans, designed for those looking to expand or start a small business. Please visit www.sba.gov/patriotexpress/index.html for additional information.

The SBA has an assessment tool entitled are you ready for business on its website located at <http://www.sba.gov/assessmenttool/index.html> to assist you in better understanding your readiness for starting a small business. It is simple to use and will take less than 5 minutes to complete. The tool will prompt you with questions and assist you in evaluating skills, characteristics and experience – as they relate to your preparedness for starting a business. Your responses will be scored automatically and an assessment profile provided, when you click the submit button. You will also receive, based on your score, a statement of Suggested Next Steps.

Quote of the Month - Encouragement

A smile of encouragement at the right moment may act like sunlight on a closed up flower; in may be the turning point in a struggling life.....Unknown

Other Related News & Events

AUGUSTA RENAISSANCE PRESENTS:

3RD ANNUAL

SALUTE TO SISTER CEOs OF THE CSRA

NOVEMBER 9TH – 15TH, 2009 HAS BEEN DECLARED AS **SISTER CEO WEEK** IN THE CSRA (CENTRAL SAVANNAH RIVER AREA - - THE AUGUSTA, GA METROPOLITAN AREA) BY THE PROFESSIONALS AT AUGUSTA RENAISSANCE. PLANS ARE CURRENTLY BEING DEVELOPED TO HONOR AND RECOGNIZE SOME OF THE AREA’S MOST DYNAMIC WOMEN IN BUSINESS. THE **3RD ANNUAL SALUTE TO SISTER CEOs OF THE CSRA** WILL CELEBRATE THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF WOMEN IN BUSINESS, LIFE AND IN THE CSRA. WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY. THE COMMITTEE HAS DEVELOPED A SERIES OF ACTIVITIES SUCH AS;.

LINKS TO MY LEGACY

TEEN TOWN HALL AND INTERACTIVE COMMUNITY DIALOGUE

HER TWO CENTS: REAL TALK FROM REAL WOMEN

INTERACTIVE DISCUSSIONS ABOUT PROFESSIONAL SUCCESSES AND FAILURES

CURVES, CURLS & COUTURE

FASHION AND ARTS NETWORKING EVENT

ACCELERATE& SNAPSHOT IN HISTORY

VENDOR EVENT, CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS SHOWCASING UP TO 100 BUSINESSES

ANNUAL GROUP PHOTO OF ALL SISTER CEOs IN THE CSRA

POISE, PASSION & POWER

3RD ANNUAL SISTER CEO AWARDS CEREMONY

PLEASE CALL 678 839 - 5082 FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER FOR THIS EVENT.

Entrepreneurs Business Expo

OCTOBER 16-18, 2009

(8:30 A.M. - 8:00 P.M. EACH DAY)

**SHERATON GATEWAY HOTEL
ATLANTA AIRPORT
1900 SULLIVAN ROAD
ATLANTA, GA 30337**

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION VISIT

BigBusinessExpo.com



**UPCOMING
MINORITY BUSINESS
DEVELOPMENT EVENTS**

8(a) Certification: Step-by-Step
October 15, 2009 - Athens, GA
\$15.00

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Register at www.athenssbdc.org
or call 706-542-6791

All about Certifications
October 19, 2009 - Carrollton, GA

\$25, includes Lunch

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Call 678-839-5082 to Register

CSRA Business League Board of Directors and Staff

R. Calvin Brown, Chairman
Veronica Shareef, Vice Chairwoman
Carol Martin, Secretary
Kirkatina Banks, Treasurer
Renata Boston
Helen Godbee
Earnestine Howard
Charlie McCann
L. C. Myles

Ellis Albright, President/CEO
Il-hwa Bowman, Staff Assistant

821 12th Street
Augusta, Georgia 30901
Phone: 706 722 – 0994
Fax: 706 722 – 3115
Email: info@business-league.org
Website: www.business-league.org

The CSRA Business League, Inc. has been “Serving our Community with Pride” since its founding in 1970. Our mission is to support and assist small, minority and disadvantaged businesses in their efforts to become successful and prosperous. Our goal is to serve as an information clearinghouse and referral source, in addition to providing networking opportunities and technology training for small, disadvantaged and minority owned businesses.

As a 501© 3 not for profit organization, we are dedicated to providing those we serve with modern strategies and services that gives the business owner the tools to maintain a thriving and successful small business.

Membership Corner

The Renewal of the CSRA Business League, Inc. is in full effect and you can assist us by purchasing a League membership. Please contact us for the benefits of a League membership and take a moment to visit our revamped website at * * www.business-league.org.

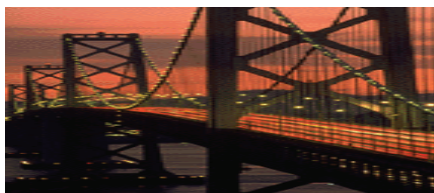
New Members for October

MEMBERSHIP FEES

STUDENT	\$25.00	NON-PROFIT	\$50.00
INDIVIDUAL/LLC	\$100.00	CORPORATE	\$150.00

SERVICES

Application Assistance
Business Plan Development Assistance
Business Incorporation
Business Networking Meetings and Seminars
Computer Lab
Computer Training for Business Owners
Copying, Fax and Mail Services
Partnership Facilitation
Educational Business Seminars
Grant Research and Recommendations
Marketing & Advertising Assistance
Small Business Incubator Office Space
Technology Assistance and Resources



**SINCE 1970
THE BUSINESS LEAGUE HAS
SERVED AS A BRIDGE TO
SMALL BUSINESS SUCCESS
IN THE CSRA**

UPCOMING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS AT
CLUB PURE WITH CHER BEST
5:30 - 8:30 P.M.
NETWORKING EVENT

AUGUSTA MINI THEATRE
8TH ANNUAL ALUMNI AND
FRIENDS CHEF SHOWCASE,
SUNDAY, 11 OCTOBER 2009
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
AUGUSTA MARRIOTT HOTEL