



THE LEAGUE

SEPTEMBER 2009

NEWS YOU CAN USE!

THE HBA Group, Small Business Breakfast on Thursday, 27 August 2009, held at the Partridge Inn on Walton Way was an event where the owners of small businesses should have overflowed the room. The program participants were interesting, the keynote speaker Ms. Terri Denison, the District Director of the Georgia Office of the Small Business Administration was informative and the food delectable. The theme for the event was *Entrepreneurs: Reviving the Economy in Challenging Times*.

Congratulations to Mr. Gil Hayes, SCORE Assistant District Director and the staff of the Augusta Office for being named the Georgia District SCORE Office of the Year. The program was honored on 27 August 2009 during an awards banquet held at Calvert's in Surrey Center. Ms. Terri Denison of the Small Business Administration was the featured speaker.

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 during the coming year would like to offer seminars and workshops geared to the interest of small business owners, it is our belief that small business owners can be successful, if they expand their horizons, not just through workshops and seminars but also through the use of technology, relationship building and taking advantage of opportunities to network.

We are looking to sponsor a *Grant Writing workshop*, 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 no later than 15 October 2009. We are committed to assisting small business owners, however it is imperative that small business owners are committed to doing those things which will ensure their success, by working together we can make this happen.

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 has released the findings of the Disparity Study conducted by NERA Economic Consulting in regards to the awarding of contracts to minority and women owned businesses. 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 and the prompt payment of contracts. The recommendations called for Augusta - Richmond County to tailor remedies to end the discriminatory practices the study uncovered. Minority and Women owned businesses have been left out of the procurement process in the area and the verified what has been known for a while. We are reviewing the study, found at www.augustaga.gov/index.aspx?NID=1304 and will be talking with the Augusta - Richmond County DBE Director Mrs. Yvonne Gentry and the Airport DBE Director Mrs. Brenda Brown to 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.

Quote of the Month - Vision

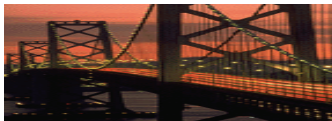
I see America, not in the setting of a black night of despair ahead of us; I see America in the crimson light of a rising sun fresh from the burning creative hand of God. I see great days ahead, great days possible to men and women of vision.....Carl Sandburg

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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

Please consider joining the CSRA Business League, Inc. Please contact us for the benefits of a League membership. Please Visit our revamped website at www.business-league.org

New Members
Angela Cummings

Keeping you Informed

SBA NEWS

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.

Please review the UGA SBDC monthly newsletter at - www.sbdc.uga.edu/pdfs/essential_news_september09.pdf

MEMBERSHIP FEES

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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

Economic Recovery

- Loans to Start or Expand Your Small Business
- Surety Bonds for Supply, Service or Construction Firms
- Gov't. Contracting Opportunities
- Training Programs



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