November 10, 2014

RXI Weekly

Blacks In Government Region XI

A Message From The President

2014 Region Election Results

It is my pleasure to announce the results of our 2014 election for the positions of 1st Vice President, Financial Secretary, and Corresponding Secretary held during our Saturday, November 8, 2014 Council meeting. In that regard, I would like to congratulate and personally thank Marion Allen, April Powers-Matthews, and Dr. Contress Braxton, respectively, for their commitment to the principles of BIG and their dedication to our Region XI Council which provides leadership, guidance, and support to all of the chapters in the DC, MD, and VA metropolitan area.

Marion Allen has shown true dedication to the Council during her service as 1st Vice President for the last 3 years, 1 year by my appointment at the outset of my term as Council President and 2 years by election to a first term. Prior to serving as 1st Vice President, Ms. Allen also served as the Region's Fundraising Chair. So, Ms.

Allen has definitely been doing some heavy lifting for the Council. In her capacity as 1st Vice President, she will perform all functions and duties in my absence, and have all powers and authorities stipulated for that position. Importantly, she will continue to serve as Chairperson of the Programs and Education Committee (P&E). Per the Region XI bylaws, that committee is responsible for developing a comprehensive and ongoing general training program for the Region, for addressing additional areas of concerns, and should provide program ideas and aids to the Council and to the chapters overall to assist our organization in maintaining a high standard of programs. The P&E Committee is also responsible for developing and implementing a Regional Training Conference (RTC) as well as Delegates Assembly Training. I wish Ms. Allen continued success in this very important position for the Council.

April Powers-Matthews has also shown her dedication to the Council having served several years on the Council's Fundraising Committee and most recently as Co-Chair of the Audit Committee. As the Region's Financial Secretary, Ms. Powers-Matthews will serve in the absence of the Treasurer and will be responsible for tracking the financial status of the Chapters. In that capacity she will seek to ensure that all chapters file their very important IRS Form 990s annually and submit their annual dues to the Council. She will also serve as Chairperson of the Budget and Finance Committee. Per the Region XI bylaws, that committee is responsible for annually collecting budget requests from Committee Chairpersons and officers in preparation of the proposed budget for the ensuing year. Throughout the year, the Financial Secretary is also responsible for working with the Treasurer to monitor expenses to ensure moderation of spending and compliance with the approved budget. I wish Ms. Powers-Matthews much success in her new position, a very important position for the Council.

Member of The Week: Raymond Eldridge, Prince George's Center Chapter

If you have information to submit to the weekly announcements send to: <u>giftedregion@gmail.com</u> by COB Thursday for posting the following week. Submissions must be in one of the following formats: PDF, MS Word, MS PowerPoint or JPG, **PDF format is preferred.**

Executive Committee

Shirley A. Jones, Esq., President

shirleyannjones@bigrxi.org

Marion Allen, 1st Vice President

Marion.Allen@fda.hhs.gov

Jesse Sharpe, 2nd Vice President

jesse.sharpe@ed.gov

Marie Perry, Recording Secretary

virtuouswoman004@gmail.com

Barbara Johnson-Cox, Corresponding Secretary

JohnsonCox.Barbara@bls.gov

Rochelle Bryant, Treasurer

rbryant@bigrxi.org

Kenneth Keys, Financial Secretary

John Hunter, Parliamentarian

Blackjack.bj@hotmail.com

L. Johnson/W. Speight,

Sergeant-At-Arms

William.a.speight@uscg.mil

CLICK HERE FOR COMMITTEE REPORTS



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Dr. Contress Braxton returns her talents to the Region in an elected position after having served as National Recording Secretary and most recently as a member of our Council's P&E Committee. As Corresponding Secretary, Dr. Braxton will be responsible for receiving and reporting all correspondence to the Region with the exception of bank correspondence which will be delivered promptly to the Treasurer. Importantly, she will be responsible for serving in the absence of the Recording Secretary to record and maintain attendance records and minutes of all meetings of the Region XI Council and Executive Committee. I wish Dr. Braxton much success in this new position, a very important position for the Council.

I am always torn being first congratulating or first thanking the person who has the dedication and commitment to take on a position within our Region XI Council. So, I do both here. I congratulate Marion, April, and Contress for having the support and the confidence of their BIG peers such that they were nominated and ultimately elected to their respective positions. But, I also thank each of them profusely for their willingness to stand side by side with me in this quest to deliver career development training, mentoring, networking, community service, scholarships, and advocacy to our members and supporters. They each take on a tall order that I know they are more than equipped to deliver on.

Please join me in giving them a round of applause.

Donate Now!

(Using the following online tools)

CFC EXUS

Shirley A. Jones, Esq. Region XI Council President

> Region XI Combined Federal Campaign <u>#59123</u>



Educating our Children * * * If not YOU, then WHO? * * *

Donate at little as \$25.00, \$50.00 or \$75.00

You can donate via <u>payroll deduction</u>, which is one of the best ways to contribute, or you can donate by credit card, debit card, eCheck, cash, or check. Remember to retain a copy of your pledge for tax purposes. It's quick and simple to participate in the CFCNCA. complete your paper pledge form or give online at www.cfcnca.org.

Rochelle Bryant Blacks In Government Region XI Council Treasurer



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FRIDAY · DECEMBER 12 7 PM · 12 MIDNIGHT

Blacks In Government (BIG) Region XI

presents

The JAMES E. WOOD

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wazaz

NEWTON WHITE MANSION 2708 Enterprise Road Mitchellville, Maryland 20721



Music by DJ Master Tee Cash Bar

NO TICKETS SOLD AT DOOR

Shirley Jones, RXI President 202-465-5852

April Powers-Matthews 443-876-6393

Proceeds will support BIG RXI mission related activities.

Online ticket purchases http://www.eventbrite.com/e/james-e-wood-holiday-awards-gala-tickets-13491550591

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Blacks In Government Region XI Council BOOK Scholarship

Applications due by Monday, December 15, 2014



Eligibility:

1. Students must be currently enrolled at a college or university in a degree program.

2. Students must be currently a Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, or Senior.

3. Students must currently have at least a 2.8 GPA.

4. Students must write a one page personal statement discussing the value of education and how their education in particular will benefit the African American community at large.

Submissions should be emailed to:

Council President Shirley A. Jones, Esq. at jonessa@gao.gov .

Four Students will be awarded \$250 book scholarships.

Presentations will be made at the January 2015 Region XI Council meeting.



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BIG Region XI Polo Shirts Are On Sale Sizes (Men and Ladies): S-XL \$20.00/2XL \$22.00/3XL \$24.00 Colors available: Spring Green and Purple



BIG Region XI Lapel pins are on sale \$10.00/pin



Items are on sale at all RXI Regional Council Meetings. Contact Fundraising chairperson Michael McCrimmon at 202-427-3720 for further information.

CHAPTER SUCCESSES

REGION XI IS ALWAYS DOING BIG THINGS

Success stories describing your chapter's recent successes through 2014 are greatly appreciated as we show BIG's value added in the community and in the workplace. While we may not have the space to run full page stories we would love to highlight your successes through photos and/or a summary of your chapters successes. Chapter successes may include but not limited to scholarship activities, fundraisers, special events and community service. Please submit your chapter success stories to the below address.

SUBMIT TO: GIFTEDREGION@GMAIL.COM



BIG MEMBERS:

Please encourage your members to join our mailing list. We need your support to help increase BIG's positive visibility within the government community and beyond. The advice in the President's remarks, the job announcements, tips from experts, and the event announcements contained herein are indeed useful to members. Members may join by emailing: bigcomrxi@yahoo.com

Members can sign up separately for the National office newsblasts by visiting the national website at <u>www.bignet.org</u> and opting in for those announcements.

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WOMEN VETERANS ROCK! Veterans Day Rally November 11, 2014

The Women Veterans National Memorial

At The Ceremonial Entrance to Arlington National Cemetery

9:00 AM Welcome Reception With Light Refreshments & Entertainment

10:00 AM 5 Star Tribute To Women Veterans

Plan to Arrive By 9:00 AM. Memorial Drive Closes to Vehicles At 10 AM For The Veterans Day Presidential Motorcade.

*** DC Metro Transit Nearby ***

Free Admission. Registration Required. Don't Delay...Register Today.

WOMENVETSROCK.ORG



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Honor a Veteran for Veterans Day

The VA Center for Minority Veterans has launched a new "Veterans History Project Initiative" and is seeking volunteers to record interviews of local veterans to be permanently preserved at the Library of Congress.

For more information, contact: Your Center for Minority Veterans Program Coordinator

Download a how-to field kit at: www.loc.gov/vets

- All veterans who served at any time between WWI and the more recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan are invited to participate, even if they did not see combat.
- VA employees, veterans' loved ones, community members and students in grades 10 and above are invited to participate as volunteer interviewers and videographers.
- No interviewing experience required; training is available.
- Each veteran and interviewer's name will be listed on the Library of Congress' website.



The U.S. Congress created the Veterans History Project of the American Folklife Center in 2000 to collect, preserve and make accessible the personal accounts of American war veterans so that future generations may hear directly from veterans and better understand the realities of war. Learn more at <u>www.loc.gov/vets</u>.





KXI Week

BLACKS IN GOVERNMENT



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR CHAPTER

Win 2 (two) Washington Redskins **Football Game Tickets** w/ Parking Pass!!



Rams vs. 'Skins

Sunday, December 7, 2014 1 p.m. Section 134, Row 7, Seats 5 & 6



FedEx Field – Landover, Maryland



Raffle 5 per ticket or \$20 for 5 tickets



Drawing will be held Monday, November 24, 2014 (location & time to be announced)

Participants need not be present to win!! (**No Refunds**)

Proceeds Benefit the BIG-DOL Scholarship Program

Tawanna Watson
Nancy Jackson
Hallie Rene' Glascoe
Joe Gomez

For tickets/information, contact: (240) 328-4416 (240) 383-3339 (540) 654-5587 (202) 288-9905

Patricia Martin Sandra Swinson Lisa Hawkins Michael Parrish

(301) 433-2613 (301) 653-6414 (240) 338-4418 (301) 728-2183

Raffle is not affiliated with any other discount, promotion, or coupon. BIG-DOL is not responsible for lost, mutilated, or stolen tickets.

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The above colleges are not sponsors of this fundraiser, they only represent some of the colleges students have attended.

SAMPLE PRIZES

\$250 CASH	\$150 CASH	\$100 CASH	
\$50 GAS CARD		\$100 GAS CARD	
\$50 GIFT CARD		100 GIFT CARD	
PRIZE AMOUNT WILL BE BASED ON TICKET SALES			

BLACKS IN GOVERNMENT COAST GUARD CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER



1. Tickets \$5 per book of 5

2. Raffle Sept. 1 to Dec. 1

3.3 prizes to be awarded

4. Prizes will be awarded at

the Region XI Holiday

Party

Sponsored by Programs & Planning Committee biguscg@gmail.com

INFO: GWENDA E. BRADFORD OR KRISTINA N. WILLIAMS @uscg.mil DO NOT NEED TO BE PRESENT TO WIN

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PROTECTING



Karen Scott Mims, Esq. Founder and CEO

what matters

At Harbour Pointe Wealth Management, we believe that your financial future is far too important to leave to chance. We view it as our responsibility to thoroughly understand your goals and dreams so that we can leverage our experience and expertise to help you realize them. Rather than approach your finances with an outdated transactional approach focused on products, we serve as your comprehensive financial solutions provider, forging a deeper relationship and creating a plan that can be adjusted as needed to help you reach your unique personal goals.

& offering the freedom to enjoy the things you want

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- Elder Law Planning
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COLUMBIA • ROCKVILLE • TYSONS CORNER

Ask The Expert

Veterans Day Freebies

Provided by Gerald Kyler, BIG, IRS-NCC

Check these out for Veterans Day, November 11, 2014. Identification of some type required for most. See highlighted note below.

Two notes before jumping in:

• Proof of Military Service: Most companies require some form of military ID. These include: a Military ID Card(active/reserve/ retired), Current Leave and Earnings Statement (LES), Drivers License with Veterans Designation, Photograph in uniform, wearing your uniform (if your service permits), Veterans Organization Card (e.g., American Legion and VFW), DD214, discharge paperwork, or other form of identification. Other restaurants and companies may go by the honor system.

• Participation: Always call ahead to verify locations, dates, times, and participation. Many of the companies listed are franchises, and may have different policies.

7 - Eleven: Veterans, active members of the US military and their immediate families can stop by 7-Eleven on Veterans Day and get a free small Slurpee drink. Just bring proof of current or former US military service to participating 7-11 stores.

Applebee Restaurants: The will again provide a meal at no cost for all military active, retired and veterans. Proof of service is required in the form of a Service Retired I.D. card or other such proof. For a restaurant near you go to www.applebees.com. Bar Louie, Free meal on Veterans Day, Nov. 11. Active duty military members and veterans can receive a free meal, up to \$10 in value, and a free non-alcoholic beverage. Available at all locations, military ID or proof of service is required (source). Find a location near you.

BED BATH & BEYOND November 9, 10 & 11th, 20% off your entire purchase. In-store only. US Military ID required at time of purchase.

Big Lots – 10% off your entire purchase. Offer available to active duty, Guard/Reserve, veterans, retirees and their immediate family members, with valid ID. Call ahead to verify. **California Pizza Kitchen**. Free meal and non-alcoholic beverage for veterans and active military with valid ID or proof of service. Find a location near you.

Chammps. On Veterans Day - All Veterans & Active Duty Military will receive a free burger (excluding the Pepperjack Bacon Stack Burger and The Kobe Burger). Please visit Champps Facebook page for more information.

Cheeseburger in Paradise. Free meal from select menu with military ID or proof of service. Beverages and gratuity not included. Find a location near you.

Christmas Tree Shops November 9, 10 & 11th, 20% off your entire purchase. In-store only. US Military ID required at time of purchase.

Chilis. Free entree to Veterans and active duty military from 11am -5pm.

Denny's: Get free all you can eat pancakes at Denny's. Call your local Denny's.

Dollar General. 10% discount on entire purchase on Veterans Day. Offer good for all active-duty military, retirees, veterans, Guard/Reserve, & immediate family members. The coupon can be found in the store circular, or by asking an employe. Also good online, use Coupon Code VETERANSDAY. <u>More info</u>. **Famous Dave's**. Participating locations (see their website), are offering different meal deals for current or retired military on Veterans Day.

Food Lion. 12% off all groceries (some exclusions) for Active & Retired Military Personnel with military ID and MVP card. <u>More info</u>

Fox & Hound and Bailey's Sports Bar. Veterans and Active Duty Military will receive a free item from the 7 under \$7 menu. Active military ID, retiree card, or other proof of service required. Fox and Hound Bar & Grill | Locations | Find A Location Near You

Golden Corral (Hours vary by location!): Military Appreciation - Golden Corral restaurants will host their Military Appreciation with a meal at no cost for all military active, retired and veterans. No proof is required to enjoy this buffet meal. Guests of veterans will have to pay the regular meal price. No take outs. For more information refer to http:// goldencorral.com/military/faq.asp. If you have questions, can contact their Corporate Headquarters at Golden Corral Corporation, 5151 Glenwood Ave., Raleigh, NC 27612 919-781-9310. Headquarters says "You will need to contact the location you are planning to attend to find out their specific hours as some of the locations are making adjustments to accommodate the veterans."

Home Depot Military Discount: The Home Depot(R) is offering all active duty personnel, reservists, retired military, veterans and their families a 10 percent discount off their purchases in honor of Veteran's Day. The offer is valid on purchases of up to \$2,000 for a maximum of \$200 and is available at The Home Depot stores, The Home Depot Design Center locations, Yardbirds and EXPO Design Center(R) locations. The 10% military discount is available everyday for active duty and retirees, but not all veterans. Home Depot makes this offer available to all veterans on most military holidays. You can also find Home Depot discounts online.

JCPenny: Veterans, active duty and family members receive an extra 20% off in stores Nov. 6-11 with coupon.

Jos. A. Bank Specials: Veterans Day Sale- 1 Day Only! <u>JoS. A.</u> <u>Bank Veterans Day Sale Orders.</u>

Krispy Kreme: Free doughnut and small coffee. Available only at participating Krispy Kreme stores. Offer available to all active-duty, retirees & veterans on. Be sure to call ahead to verify your local Krispy Kreme is participating.

Ask The Expert

Veterans Day Freebies

continued...

Little Caesars Pizza. US Military and vets get a free order of Crazy Bread, with proof of military status/service. Call your local Little Caesars to make sure they are participating in this deal.

Lone Star Steakhouse. (update): All veterans and active duty military will receive a FREE entrée from the Stars & Stripes Menu. ID required, please call ahead for verification. Long Horn Steakhouse. Complimentary Texas Tonion and nonalcoholic beverage for Veterans and active-duty military members. Visit their site to find a location near you. Lowe's Military Discount: Lowe's Companies, Inc. will offer all active, reserve, honorably discharged, retired military personnel and their immediate family members a 10 percent discount on in-store U.S. purchases made during the Veterans Day holiday. The discount is available on in-stock and special order purchases up to \$5,000. To qualify, individuals must present a valid military ID or other proof of service. Excluded from the discount are sales via Lowes.com, previous sales, and purchases of services or gift cards. Like Home Depot, Lowes offers this discount daily to active duty military members, but not to veterans. However, they extend the offer to military veterans on military holidays. You can also find exclusive discounts at Lowe's.com.

McCormick & Schmick's: Complimentary Lunch or Dinner. The McCormick & Schmick's Veterans Appreciation Event on, is offered at participating restaurants to veterans defined as a person who served in the Army, Air Force, Marines, Navy or Coast Guard. Verification of service is required (retired ID card or DD214). McCormick & Schmick's highly encourage reservations for the Veterans Appreciation Event as tables fill up quickly for this event each year. You can easily make their reservations online through the restaurant's website at www.McCormickandSchmicks.com.

Massage Envy: Participating Massage Envy locations in the Washington DC, Maryland, and northern Virginia region are offering a complimentary 1-hour massage to active military, veterans and spouses on Monday, Nov. 11.

Menchie's Free Frozen Yogurt On Veterans Day, Veterans and active duty personnel get a free 6 oz. frozen yogurt. Show a valid ID or be in uniform to receive.

National Parks: National Parks will offer fee-free days to ALL visitors at more than 100 national parks that usually charge entrance fees. Visit one of your national parks on Veterans Day, and you won't be charged an entrance fee. And making the fun even more affordable, many national park concessioners are joining the National Park Service in welcoming visitors with their own special offers.

Olive Garden: Veterans and active duty military get a free meal on Veterans Day. With proof of service, choose from a special menu with breadsticks and a choice of soup or salad. **On The Border.** "Sizzling Salute to Veterans" promotion. Mention this special, and On the Border will donate 15% of your purchase to Carry the Load, a non-profit military organization. Veterans and Service members with ID who dine at On The Border will receive a certificate for a free entree (up to \$10) valid at corporate locations only. Find a location near you.

Outback Steakhouse: As an expression of Outback Steakhouse's appreciation to our Country's veterans and active duty military*, a free Bloomin' Onion and Coca Cola will be available to them at every Outback in the country. Learn more. Please visit www.outback.com for locations.

Paciugo Gelato Caffe Paciugo will thank our nation's veterans and troops on Veterans Day with a free 12 oz Gelatte. Military guests will need to provide proof of military service.

Red Lobster. Free Appetizer on Veterans Day with military ID or proof of service. Vets may choose from a select list of appetizers. Find a location near you.

Red Robin. Free Red's Tavern Double and Bottomless Steak Fries for all Red Robin guests with a military ID or proof of service. Red Robin is also partnering with Heinz for Veterans Day to benefit the Wounded Warrior Project. Red Robin will also donate \$10,000 to the Wounded Warrior Project. Find a location near you.

Pirate's Dinner Adventure: November 8th-11th, Veterans and Active Military are free. One free admission per paid admission. Valid at CA locations only. Call 866 439-2469 to make reservation, and mention "Veterans Free".

Shoney's Offers Free All-American Burger Shoney's says 'Thank You' to America's heroes by bffering Shoney's All-American Burger to All Veterans and Active Duty Military Members on Veterans Day.

Sizzler: Veterans and Military can show proof of service get a free 6oz Steak Entree with the purchase of a second one.
Sports Authority – 15% off all purchases. All Veterans and Military personnel please stop by your local Sports Authority store to receive 15% OFF YOUR ENTIER PURCHASE!
Sport Clips – Veterans Day. Sport Clips offers a Heroes discount which includes active and retired military. Please call ahead to verify participation. Find a location near you.
Steve Madden. We'd like to salute our heroes by doubling our everyday military discount of 15% to 30% OFF for Veteran's Day ONLY. Valid with a form of Military identification (past or present) in Steve Madden stores only (not valid online). *Full priced merchandise only. Find a store near you.

Ask The Expert

Veterans Day Freebies

continued...

Subway (not all stores participate – call ahead): Free Six Inch Sub - Select Subway locations offer a FREE six inch sub to military veterans on Veteran's Day. However, Subway restaurants are franchises, so this offer may not be available everywhere. Please call ahead.

Texas Corral. Free entrée (dine-in only). Offer available to all active duty members and veterans with ID. Note: All Texas Corral locations also regularly offer a 50% discount to active duty police officers, firemen and military personnel dining in. **Texas Roadhouse**: Free lunch. Offer varies by location; our local Texas Roadhouse is offering a free meal from opening until 4pm. Other locations may vary in offer, hours, or availability.

Call ahead to your local restaurant for more information. **T.G.J. Friday's** - Free Lunch: Valid for all US Military personnel and veterans. Must wear uniform (if permitted by your service) or present military ID or other proof of service. Only valid at participating locations for anyone with an old or current military ID. More details on TGIFridays.com.

The Olive Garden, Free entrée. Offer good for veterans and active duty military, during regular business hours. Chose from a special menu; all entrées include freshly baked garlic sticks and choice of soup or salad. Off er good in US and Canada, proof of service required. More info.

Travel Centers of America Free Meal On Veterans Day, all CDL drivers who are Military Veterans eat FREE at participating full-service restaurants with proof of service. Must present valid ID.

Tucanos Brazilian Grill All active duty, reserve and retired military and veterans receive a complimentary Churrasco meal. Also, get 10-percent off the entire bill for veterans and troops who dine with their families, from Friday, Nov. 8 through Veteran's Day.

Twin Peaks Free entrée for service men and women (up to \$10). Good for veterans and active service personnel with valid ID or proof of service. Dine in only; gratuity not included. Locations **Uno Chicago Grill**. Free individual pizza or entrée with the purchase of a pizza or entrée of equal or greater value. Available for all active duty and veterans. No coupon necessary; proof of service required. Find a location near you.

Veterans Day in Virginia: A list of Veterans Day Events and Memorials in the state of Virginia is available on the Vacation in Virginia website. Hotels, bed-and-breakfasts, and inns across Virginia are offering special rates, reductions and promotions for Veterans Day. National Parks and National Park Service sites are also free to all visitors on Veterans Day in Virginia.

Cost Plus World Market November 9, 10 & 11th, 20% off your entire purchase. In-store only. US Military ID required at time of purchase.

