

Volume I
October 2020

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BBC News

President's Corner

Lift Every Voice and Sing

by Monica Hedgspeth



As I thought of what I wanted to share with our BIG family in our first edition of the Benjamin Banneker Chapter (BBC) newsletter the song "Lift Every Voice and Sing" kept running across my mind. Although I knew the words pretty well, I decided to read the lyrics to the song to see what they were saying to me. And as I read the words, it soon became clear to me what it was telling me that, every "Voice" needs to lift itself to bring unity and liberty to this world. There are so many things pulling us apart these days, social distancing, republican or democrat, liberal or conservative. We are one people, one race, the human race.

We have to find it in ourselves to work together. And to use our voices, not in a harsh and aggressive way, but in a way that will bring the community back; looking out for your neighbor and caring about the person standing right beside you. I challenge us all to help bring back our "communities". It was only through unity that our ancestors made a life for themselves. The Benjamin Banneker Chapter of Blacks In Government is one of the largest chapters in the organization with 80 members, but nobody really knows that, because we have not done our best to use what we have.

We can make a difference in our communities and show others how to make a difference in their communities. Start by just coming to chapter meetings and getting more involved. I challenge the Benjamin Banneker Chapter (BBC) to lift their voice, if it's only by calling to check on a friend or lending a hand to someone that may be having a difficult time right now or writing a letter to your congressmen on an issue that is important to the community or workplace.

Let's be the change that everyone is looking for. It really just starts with one person.

Special Thank you and Kudos to our new Communications Chair Ms. Vanessa Ussin. She has hit the ground running. We are so thankful to

BBC OFFICERS

Monica R Hedgspeth

President
703.306-6350
monica.hedgspeth@gsa.gov

Pia Scott

Vice President
pia.scott@gsa.gov
703.605.2687

Debra Shorts

Recording Secretary
deborahshorts@gmail.com

Renita Nowlin

Treasurer
renitatownsend@yahoo.com

Bridget Gotay

Membership Chair
703.605.9436
bridget.gotay@gsa.gov

Ruth Mc Duffie

Correspondence Sec
202.501.0043
Ruth.mcduffie@gsa.gov

Vanessa Ussin

Communications Chair
817.905.7708
ladyussin@msn.com

Regional Representatives

Monica R Hedgspeth
Pia Scott
Donna Hill
Kevin Coleman - Alternate

Executive Liaisons

Darlene Shelton (PBS)
Jacques Malebranche (CO/FAS)
Rick Parker (NCR)

have her for starting this Newsletter!!!

See you at the next chapter meeting!!!!

The Benjamin Banneker Chapter is Live!

by Jacques Malebranche

We are excited to announce that the Benjamin Banneker Chapter (BBC) of Blacks in Government (BIG) is LIVE on social media. BBC has its very own website, and we are on the major social media platforms. The Web Development committee's goal is to keep the BBC family connected, informed and inspired.

Our website is integrated, which means you can connect to all of our social media platforms by clicking on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram icons. We constantly update these platforms with new and helpful content. Our content includes the President's Corner, BBC quarterly goals, fundraising efforts, upcoming events, etc.

BBC is committed to making a difference in the community and for our members. Looking to advance your career, let BBC help. Leverage your competitive edge: your BBC website. Being profiled on a professional organization's website is a differentiator, a game changer. Be bold. Winners play to win.

Our officers and executive committee members committed to post their current picture and synoptic biography on the BBC website. You should too. Send your picture and synoptic biography (3-5 sentences) to the BBC Social Media Chair, Jacques Malebranche at bigbbchapter@gmail.com.

BBC is LIVE thanks to our BBC Web Development committee, Jacques G. Malebranche, Kevin M. Coleman, Jeannine Hunter, Tanika Jenkins, Renita Nowlin, Anakia Walker, Christian Williams and Vanessa Ussin.

Check out our work and let us know what you think. We appreciate your feedback and suggestions. Stay BIG. Stay connected.

Benjamin Banneker Chapter (BBC) of Blacks in Government (BIG)
Website - <https://bigbbchapter.org/>



Important Dates

Self Assessments Due – October 16

BBC Chapter Meeting – October 21
11:45 am eastern
meet.google.com/hfv-jmqt-gss

Election Day – November 3

BBC Executive Board Meeting –
November 11
11:45 am eastern
meet.google.com/qtn-csjr-smj

Contact Us

Blacks In Government (BIG)
General Services
Administration (GSA)
Benjamin Banneker Chapter
(BBC)
P.O. Box 27704
Washington, D.C. 20038-
7704



BIG BBC Facebook Account - <https://www.facebook.com/BIGRXIBBC/>
BIG BBC Instagram Account- <https://www.instagram.com/BIGRXIBBC/>
BIG BBC Twitter Account - <https://twitter.com/BIGRXIBBC>

Also check out the National and Regional websites and the BIG Membership Portal.

BIG National Official Website - <http://bignet.org/>
BIG Region XI -- <https://www.bigrxi.org/>

GSA FAS Office of Personal Property Management Training

by Rick Parker

GSA FAS Office of Personal Property Management will be conducting the following personal property disposal relating courses during the month of November 2020.

Training Course: Reporting Excess Personal Property (November 4, 2020)
10:00 AM – 11:00 AM – Learn how to report excess/surplus personal property.

Click the link plus the control key (ctrl) to register for the class:
<https://gsasolutionssecure.gsa.gov/LP=2382>

Training Course A & D Overview (November 18, 2020) 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM – Learn about the Abandonment & Destruction process relating to disposal of excess/surplus personal property.

Click the link plus the control key (ctrl) to register for the class:
<https://gsasolutionssecure.gsa.gov/LP=2386>

Training Course: GSA Personal Property Management Overview (November 19, 2020) 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM - Learn about the Federal Personal Property Management disposal process.

Click the link plus the control key (ctrl) to register for the class:
<https://gsasolutionssecure.gsa.gov/LP=2390>

Shoot Your Shot

By Pia Scott

Did you know that communication can boost or plummet your career? It is vital to communicate in an authentic, captivating and succinct manner.

Did you know that the average person's attention span is less than a goldfish? According to Time Magazine, the goldfish's attention span is about eight seconds, and the human's attention span is only seven seconds. Interestingly since 2000, the human attention span decreased by more than sixty percent. A Microsoft Study attributes this to an "increasingly digitized lifestyle."



If you have something to say, say it, but make it impactful and make it succinct. An elevator pitch is an effective communication tool to broker a new business relationship or to get approval for a new project. An elevator pitch is a succinct and persuasive speech that

sparks interests.

It takes about 30 seconds to deliver an effective pitch. That is about the same time it takes to ride an elevator from one floor to the next. The typical elevator pitch audience includes supervisors, executives, key stakeholders, customers, and potential partners.

The purpose of the elevator pitch is to share who you are, what you do and to ask for a follow-up meeting. Your elevator pitch can be delivered anytime the opportunity presents itself (e.g. networking events, pre or post-meetings, etc.).

An elevator pitch is an excellent way to communicate your value proposition and to talk yourself into your next opportunity. Don't be afraid to sell yourself. If you don't speak up, someone else will. Leverage your time and maximize opportunities. Tell your quick and delightful story, without sounding rushed.

To give a natural sounding pitch that does not sound mechanical or rushed, you need to practice, practice, practice. Remember people have short attention spans. They will only listen to an intriguing message. Brevity and clarity are the order of the digitized world. Now, go ahead and shoot your shot

How Leaders RISE in the COVID-19 Pandemic Environment

by Kevin M. Coleman

It is obvious that the current pandemic environment has taken a tremendous toll on many organizations and especially on the leaders that lead the organizations! Therefore, it is critically imperative that leaders RISE to the occasion in the COVID-19 Pandemic Environment. Here are four (4) key leadership attributes needed to R.I.S.E. to the occasion during times of adversity.

1) R – Resilience During Chaos

The Resilient Leader will understand the cause of the problems you face and prepare yourself for setbacks in advance. When preparing for setbacks think logically and control your emotions during the difficult time. Remember to remain calm during stressful situations and be empathetic for your team needs. Keep a realistic point of view to make informed decisions. Be self-aware and be a self-starter. Last but certainly not least “don’t ask WHY? ask HOW? Do not find an excuse, find a way to get things done!

2) I – Inspire Your Team

The Inspired leader will express positivity with the team. They will understand that there is an issue and make the necessary tweaks to uplift their team. The leader will be grateful for the situation so they will learn from it; especially since leaders sometimes must Learn, Unlearn, and Relearn to grow their team. Lastly, the leader will map out a clear vision where they can get the team to buy into and keep their momentum going.

3) S – Successful Mindset

The Successful Mindset leader is first and foremost strategic in his or her approach in times of chaos. They believe in Self-Leadership and Self-Managing actions. In addition, with the Successful Mindset they are personable and understand the Know – Like – Trust (KLT) factor. In this current environment of COVID-19 the leader must exhibit the KLT factor, because your team must:

- Know you’re Authentic
- Like you as Leader
- Trust that you have their best interest in mind

4) E – Empower Others

Great leaders know that they must Empower Others. Only secure leaders give power to others and they know that by empowering others they can reach their full potential. Create a nurturing environment so that others can not only survive during the pandemic but thrive during the pandemic.

The above four (4) key leadership attributes needed to R.I.S.E. to the occasion during times of adversity are critical in building a cohesive team.

Benjamin Banneker Chapter BIG Scholarship Fundraiser

By Vanessa Ussin

The Benjamin Banneker Chapter (BBC) of Blacks In Government (BIG) launched its first annual raffle to support our scholarship program. Each year, BBC provides two \$500 scholarships to qualified students pursuing a Degree or Certification at an accredited college, university or technical/trade school.

So here's how the raffle works. For \$5.00, you will get ticket raffle tickets. Those tickets will be entered into the drawing for amazing prizes. The prizes include:

Prizes

\$100 Food Delivery Service of your choice
Bella Pro Series 4.3 qt. Air Fryer
Insignia 50" 4K Fire TV and Wall Mount

We need your support of this fundraiser. The monies raised will be used to provide scholarships for two well-deserving Richard Wright Public Charter School graduates pursuing higher-education. Simply click [here](#) to make a difference.

You got to play to win. If you play, a promising student will definitely win and you may win a delicious meal, air fryer or a big screen TV. Hurry, the raffle closes soon. We will draw tickets on Monday, November 20, 2020.

Drawing Date: November 20, 2020

Purchase information: <https://go.eventgroovefundraising.com/bbcbig>

BBC Community Service and Outreach

by Pia Scott

BBC members are extraordinarily blessed, and we give back. We have a beautiful tradition of ensuring that we bless as we are blessed. Each year, BBC provides Thanksgiving meals to families, who need a little love and support. We also share our love each Christmas season, by providing essentials and gifts to local families, who are experiencing difficulties. BBC knows it is important to encourage, nurture and support the academic success and wellbeing of our youth. We do this through our partnership with our adopted school, Richard Wright Public Charter School. BBC loves the kids and we love our elders. This year adopted a Senior Citizen Residence Facility in DC. Thank you for your continuous generous support of these impact community outreach programs. If you have questions about any of the programs, or if you are interested in volunteering to serve on any of these outreach committees, please contact Donna Hill, Chair of Community Outreach

Thank you again for your generous contribution and support.

GET OUT AND VOTE

by Vanessa Ussin

Voting is an important part of democracy. It is a fundamental process in a democratic society. Voting is your voice in deciding what happens next in our society. Voters are not just giving voice to whom they want to be the next President of the United States, but are also giving voice to issues such as social justice, education, healthcare, the economy, and host of issues that will define our Nation. Rep. John Lewis referred to voting as “the most powerful nonviolent tool” we have in a democracy.

Voting Information

Maryland Residents Voter Guide

Absentee ballot deadlines

Request: Received by Oct. 20

Return by mail: Postmarked by Nov. 3

Return in person: Nov. 3 by 8:00 p.m.

Early voting

Oct. 26 - Nov. 2, but dates and hours may vary based on where you live

More information:

<https://www.baltimoresun.com/politics/elections/voter-guide/>

Washington, DC Residents Voter Guide

Absentee ballot deadlines

Request: Oct. 27

Return by mail: Postmarked by Nov. 3

Return in person: Nov. 3 by 8:00 p.m.

Early voting

Oct. 27 - Nov. 2, but dates and hours may vary based on where you live

More Information: <https://patch.com/district-columbia/washingtondc/dc-voter-guide-2020-deadlines-candidates-how-vote>

