

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



Greater OC Chapter Newsletter

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President's Corner – Tonya Davis

The year 2009 is rapidly coming to an end. I want to thank all of the Greater Orange County Chapter members for your support and dedication to the chapter and its activities in 2009. I was very proud of our delegation at this year's National Delegates Assembly and National Training Conference (NTC). The chapter supported Region IX with our attendance at the Regional Council meetings and supported our sister chapters at several of their events. We are team players.

The year 2010 presents new challenges. Several of our chapter members are re-locating, transferring to new agencies, changing jobs and careers due to BRAC (Base Realignment Commission) closure of the U.S. Army 63d Regional Readiness Command in Los Alamitos, California. As departing members from the Command join new agencies, we continue to spread the BIG message to others. I expect the chapter to grow because of this new outreach.

It's not too early to start planning to attend the 2010 National Training Conference in Kansas City, Missouri. The dates are August 16-20, 2010. Lets have another great showing of our membership at this valuable training.

In conclusion, we, the Greater Orange County Chapter of Blacks In Government, are still "The Chapter of Choice".

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Quote for the Quarter

"We need quiet time to examine our lives openly and honestly...spending quiet time alone gives your mind an opportunity to renew itself and create order"

- Susan L. Taylor

Chapter Members Attend Leadership Excursion

Chapter members Tonya Davis and Rowmell Hughes joined former BIG National Board of Directors Chairman Farrell J. Chiles on his annual Leadership Excursion from December 9-13, 2009. This year's attendees met at the Miami, Florida International Airport for the three hour flight to the capital city of San Jose in Costa Rica.

Participants came from the San Francisco/Oakland Bay Area, Los Angeles, San Diego, Washington, DC, St. Louis, and Melbourne, Florida. As part of the Leadership Excursion, each participant made a presentation on an aspect of leadership and was critiqued by the others. Participants also toured the city, met with country officials, and capped off the trip with dinner at one of the fabulous restaurants in the beautiful city of San Jose.

"As long as there is government - there will be - Blacks In Government"



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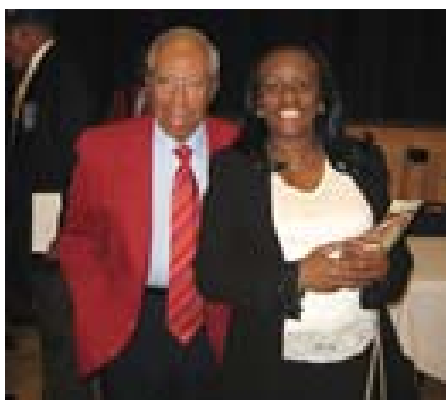
Tonya Davis and Eula Cunningham pose with the Tuskegee Airmen at WWRE

BIG Supports Tuskegee Airmen at WWRE

More than 25,000 people attended the annual Wings, Wheels, Rotors and Expo (WWRE) at the Joint Forces Training Base in Los Alamitos on Sunday, October 25, 2009.

One of the main features at the event was a booth operated by the Los Angeles Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. Assisting the airmen were Chapter President Tonya Davis and Eula Cunningham of the Greater San Diego Chapter. The airmen sold books and their memorabilia; shook hands, signed autographs, and posed for photos.

It was a nice sunny day under the canopy.



Rachel Taylor with Dr. Thurston L. Gaines Jr., an Original Tuskegee Airman and Ex-POW.

BIG Greater Phoenix Chapter Honors Tuskegee Airmen

The Greater Phoenix Chapter hosted a scholarship dinner on September 16, 2009 in honor of the Original Tuskegee Airmen. The well-attended event was held at the George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center in Phoenix.

Chapter President John Flowers presented the Tuskegee Airmen Scholarship Foundation with a check for \$500.00. Representing the Greater Orange County Chapter at the dinner was Rachel Taylor of the Defense Contract Audit Agency (DCAA), Western Region.

Other News

- The year 2010 brings new leadership in Region IX. Rhonda Early, Greater Los Angeles Chapter, will become the Region IX Council President; Wilbert Tillman, Greater Los Angeles Chapter, assumes the duties of the Region IX 2nd Vice President; and Gwendolyn Tolbert, Los Angeles/Long Beach Area Chapter, is the new Assistant Treasurer. Sam Maze, Inland Empire Chapter, joins the National Board of Directors as one of Region IX's representatives.
- The Greater Los Angeles Federal Executive Board is hosting three one-day Pre-retirement courses on January 26-28, 2010. On January 26th, FERS and those who have transferred to FERS; January 27th, CSRS and CSRS Offset; and on January 28th, FERS Special Provisions. The courses are conducted at the Federal Building, 502 West Ocean Boulevard, Long Beach. The cost for each course is \$85.00 per person. For additional information, contact the Federal Executive Board at 562-951-6970.

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