



2011 Membership Kickoff

At the Crossroads Theater in New Brunswick

The New Jersey Chapter of the National Black MBA Association hosted its annual Membership Kickoff and Networking event on Thursday January 27, 2011 at the Crossroads Theater in New Brunswick, New Jersey. They introduced the theme of the year – Recession Proof Your 2011 which serves as a call to action for our members, partners and friends to improve their careers, businesses and networking. Everyone needs a way to address the challenges we are facing during the recession. The evening was opened with greetings from Kathleen (Kathy) Valentine, new president of the New Jersey chapter, followed by the formal introductions and induction ceremony of the 2011-2012 NBMBAA Leadership Board. The Oath of Office was delivered by Kevin McMillan (pictured right), who is the past-president of the chapter. Kevin served as president for 7 years and has been a main contributor to the chapter's continued success. "We will really miss Kevin at the head of this organization", commented Kathy Valentine, "But he has gone onto other organizations that need his help and expertise." It was shared with the group that Kevin is the newly elected Mayor of Neptune New Jersey and gave up his post as chapter president to work in this new government position.



After each committee was explained, by presenting the focus, roles and responsibilities of each of the committees, the program shifted to a presentation by Susan Settles on the re-start of the famous Crossroads Theater and its upcoming productions. The theater just finished a Tribute to Billie Holiday and the next upcoming program will be the famous Raisin in the Sun. Crossroads Theater was generous in their gift giving and awarded free tickets to upcoming shows, signed posters and free memberships. During the program the president, Kathy Valentine, also talked about the value of networking and developing a 60-second commercial for yourself.

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Recession Proof Your Finances – Part 1

Financial and Retirement Planning

Investors, entrepreneurs and individuals gathered at the Prudential Corporate Headquarters in Newark New Jersey on February 17, 2011 to attend the Financial Planning Seminar offered by the Professional and Economic Development Committee of the National Black MBA Association New Jersey Chapter. The panelists included Steven Cooper who has 22 years of experience in the Mortgage Business. He is a Franchise Owner/Operator-Eagle National Mortgage Banking Division. He founded Chelsea Management Advisors, LLC: to help real estate investors navigate through the turmoil in the real estate market. The second panelist was George R. Barnes, a financial planner and registered representative of Pruco Securities in the West Essex Agency in East Hanover, New Jersey. He has been with Prudential for over 12 years and has his Life, Health, Variable Annuity, Mutual Funds and NASD Series 6, 7, 63 & 65 registrations. The next panelists was

James H. Hunt, IV, a Wealth Management Advisor for Northwestern Mutual. He is a Certified Investment Management Consultant (CIMC), a Certified Fund Specialist (CFS) and also has a certification in Long Term Care (CLTC).

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**NEW & RENEWING
MEMBERS**

- Jacqueline Bain
- Gail Baker
- Vanel Beuns
- Khary Burke
- Michael Fleming
- Abolaji Oladipupo
- Anthony Winston
- Yolanda Dandridge
- Fred Ellis
- Kenneth Espinoza
- Andrea Singleton
- Beverley James
- Clarence Monroe

**UPCOMING
EVENTS**

Thursday May 19, 2011
BASF Corporate Spotlight
"Recession Proof Your Career"

6:00PM - 9:00 PM
Hamilton Park Hotel
175 Park Avenue
Florham Park, NJ

- Meet HR Executives
- Mini Career Fair
- Leadership Panel

Saturday May 21, 2011
Leaders of Tomorrow
Youth Empowerment Summit
Weequahic High School
279 Chancellor Avenue
Newark NJ 07112



Greetings and thanks for reading our newsletter!

I am honored to take over in the role of President for the New Jersey Chapter of the National Black MBA Association, Inc. As some of you may know, I was the former president of the Dallas Chapter and I am proud to say that our success in Texas led to us winning the Chapter of the Year award. Having met the amazing team of people that I have to work with here in New Jersey, I have no doubt that we can achieve similar success here – with the help and support of our members. It is appropriate that the NBMBAA New Jersey Chapter theme for our 2011 programming is Recession Proof Your Life. As we all know, there have been a great many changes in the economy in the last few years, and our community has been severely affected. As the prospects for the MBA employment market change, so must we. The NJ Chapter will provide the resources, connections and networks that you will need in this new market climate, but its up to you to take advantage of all that the chapter has to offer. I look forward to serving you in 2011.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Valentine
President, NBMBAA New Jersey

MEMBER Spotlight



Trenae S. Forman is a service oriented human resources professional who has spent her career building and maintaining relationships with managers and colleagues to achieve results. She currently serves as a Human Resources Manager with BASF – The Chemical Company. She has used her experience to drive her passion for equipping youth with the tools necessary to succeed in life. She has partnered with community organizations to serve as a mentor and deliver workshops on a variety of topics including Academic Success, College Preparation, Career Choices, Resume Writing, and Self Esteem.

Trenae is an active member of First AME Zion Church in Paterson, NJ where she serves on the Scholarship Committee, Young Adult Missionary Society, Board of Evangelism, and as the Director of Young Adults. She is also a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., where she has served in various capacities, including AKATEens and PR Chairperson.

Trenae received her undergrad degree from Morgan State University in Baltimore, MD and an MBA from Fairleigh Dickinson Univ. She has earned recognition as a Professional in Human Resources (PHR), a certification granted by the HR Certification Institute.

Recession Proof Your Finances – Part 1

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A surprise addition to the panel, was Julius Atterbury, who is a financial advisor with Merrill Lynch. Julius is a life-time member of the National Black MBA Association and was presenting a vendor table, when he was asked to step up on the panel due to a late arrival of one of the other panelists. Given his 10 minutes of prep time, he was able to do a great job of presenting key financial information.

The session components consisted of a moderated panel discussion followed by an open question-and-answer section designed to aid the attendees in preparing their financial portfolios for the upcoming year. After enjoying dinner and complementary cocktails, courtesy of Prudential Corporation, the panelists shared their thoughts and recommendations.

The event is the first installment of the Recession Proof Your Finances series and was moderated by Lena Taylor, the Chairperson of the chapter's Professional Development Committee. Lena took previously submitted questions from the members, combined with key issues in the news and started the panel off with a set of questions in 4 key areas: financial planning, planning for retirement, housing issues and long-term care issues. Speakers expounded on those topics and the discussion included some very interesting comments from Steven Cooper about the opportunities that are available in the Real Estate market, both here and in other countries. One theme that could be taken from the panelists' comments is the importance of making time to find the right financial planner. Mr. Barnes commented, "Each situation is different and no one answer can work for everyone. The most important thing you can do is sit down with a professional and discuss your goals for the future. You two then work together to create the perfect plan that fits your needs.

The 5 Tracks of the NBMBA Programs:

EDUCATION CAREER LEADERSHIP ENTREPRENEURSHIP LIFESTYLE

2011 Leaders of Tomorrow

High School Mentoring Program

Leaders of Tomorrow (L.O.T.) was first implemented in New Jersey 14 years ago. The program displays mentoring outreach efforts of the National Black MBA Association- New Jersey Chapter. It functions as a network of high school students and professionals working together to guide young people down a path to professional and academic success.

The New Jersey chapter of the National Black MBA Association believes that influencing a young person to focus on success is a process that requires consistent interaction, a rise in expectations, and provision of the tools and resources necessary to meet their goals. Mentorship, by itself, is not enough. Tutoring, by itself, is not enough. College preparation, by itself, is not enough. An integrated program is necessary to help students increase their professionalism, increase their confidence, focus on academic achievement, and plan for the future. LOT is that integrated program – an intense system of engagement and activities related to academic excellence, college preparation, professional development, community service, life lessons, finance, SAT/ACT preparation, history and current events, networking, public speaking, analytical development, and leadership.

The LOT program in New Jersey is designed for 8th-12th grade students who are interested in learning how to get into college, improve SAT scores, set goals, develop professionally, work in the community, and lead peers. Students must have a demonstrated desire to achieve. Meetings are the 3rd Saturday of each month from September through June.

Working together to complete a homework assignment.



Leaders at the M&M Mars booth at the Career Fair During the national conference in Los Angeles.



Private tour of the ABC Studios in LA.



Financial Literacy session delivered by Orane Williams.



Getting ready for the LOT National Business Case competition in Florida.



2011 Membership Kickoff

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Always be ready to sell yourself – that is what networking is all about. At the close of the session, the attendees continued to network with other professionals as well as talk with Susan about the upcoming Crossroads shows. In addition, participants enjoyed the delicious food that was prepared by A Taste of Rubies - Famous Cheesecakes. The fare included finger sandwiches, cold shrimp cocktail and Ruby's signature creations, mini cheesecakes. All of the attendees were commenting on the great and tasty offerings and had nothing but praise about the desserts.

The National Black MBA Association is an organization which leads in the creation of economic and intellectual wealth for African-Americans and dually serves as the professional organization of choice for this community. Our mission is to assist in the professional, entrepreneurial and economic development of our members, corporate partners and the community at-large.



Mystery Dining Diva

Brief Restaurant Reviews

Delta's Restaurant

Rating: That's What I'm Talkin' Bout

At first glance, the long wooden bar of this restaurant makes you think that Delta's is a little more about the party atmosphere, rather than the food. But step into the restaurant, or better yet, grab a prime seat upstairs at one of the tables that overlook the first floor and your appetite for good old-fashioned Southern comfort rises. Here, the sweet, hot buttered cornbread basket and the long-time-cooked turkey legs smothered in an amazingly delicious gravy make up for a less than friendly front door hostess. And a big kudos to Deltas for hiring only the most attractive young, hip wait staff and buff GQ-esque bartenders that look like they just stepped off of the front page of Men's Health magazine.



The food is very good and you get a great value for money, especially on nights with specials like Soul Kitchen Thursdays with ½ price chicken dinners. The one thing I would have to fault them for is the service. To all waiters and waitresses out there – If you take my order without writing it down – you better not get it wrong! You have to be Denzel-cute to make me forgive that. Otherwise, Delta's is well worth the trip to New Brunswick.

Diva Rating System

Poor - Oh No You Didn't!

Fair - Seriously!?

Good - Good Times

Very Good - That's What I'm Talkin' Bout

Excellent - I'm Gonna Need Extra Napkins

Delta's Restaurant

19 Dennis Street
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

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