On January 26, 2019, history was again made at the Hilton Airport Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia, when the National Organization of Blacks In Government (BIG) held its second installation program outside of Washington, DC.

More than 200 current and former members of BIG, their families and friends, jammed packed the Hilton Atlanta Airport Hotel’s Grand Salon, where the Honorable Hazel Calhoun Hays presented the Presidential Oath to Honorable Dr. Doris P. Sartor.

Honorable Hazel Calhoun Hays (left) and Dr. Doris P. Sartor National President of Blacks In Government with Honorable Sartor’s granddaughter--DaShalyn Wilson.

Photo by Cal Stevens, Blacks In Government

Honorable Sartor, in her Inaugural Address, said, “It is because of the collective passion, dedication, sacrifice and service of our BIG members, chapters, Regional Councils, National Executive Committee and National Board of Directors that BIG’s LIGHT Still shines brightly even amidst the current political turmoil.”

Honorable Sartor goes on to say -- “BIG knows the power of Hope in the face of uncertainty and in times of insecurity. Our organization was founded on the need to organize around issues of mutual concern and to use our collective strength to confront workplace and community issues. An estimated 24% of our members were impacted by the partial government shutdown. I’m proud to say that our membership answered the call and will continue to answer the call to action. Our Regions and Chapters reached out to members and non-BIG members and offered assistance in the form of providing gas cards; conducting food drives; providing monetary donations; donating to food banks; and being that source of emotional support. Emotional support is about helping to lift someone to higher ground; so, he or she can see their way through the difficulty. Many households could ill afford to miss two paychecks.”

First elected as National President in 2017, Honorable Sartor promised in her campaign that she would Deliver Results. TODAY, says Honorable Sartor, “I am proud to announce that by collaboratively working with the Regional Council Presidents, National Executive Committee and
National Board of Directors, that we took on the challenge of providing leadership that measures and balances the needs of every member of Blacks In Government.”

She went on and expressed, “Blacks In Government remains committed to its mission of promoting equity, excellence and opportunity and serving as a mechanism for inclusion, growth and advocacy.”

Honorable Sartor closed out her acceptance speech by saying, “My final thoughts-- as National President of Blacks In Government, I will embody honesty, generosity, integrity, and sacrifice and I will remain steadfast to the mission and purpose of BIG. I will always remember ‘It’s not about me’ BUT about ALL of us WORKING TOGETHER hand-in-hand to make a Better Tomorrow.

Other elected officers of the 2019 National Executive Committee installed were: Mr. Jesse Sharpe, 1st Vice President; Dr. Deborah A. McClanahan, 3rd Vice President; Ms. Paula Davis, Secretary; Ms. Sandra Glenn, Corresponding Secretary; and Ms. Rochelle Bryant, Assistant Treasurer.

Other installed 2019 National Board of Director members were: Ms. Atricia L. Irons-Region I; Ms. Gwendolyn Townsend-Region II; Ms. Johnita Pitts-Region III; Mr. Famous Johnson-Region IV; Ms. Deena Sheppard-Region V; Mr. Shelly L. Warren-Region VI; Ms. Tracy C. Bradford-Region VII; Mr. Michael Smith-Region VIII; Mr. Edward Wilson-Region IX; Mr. Lamart Glenn-Region X; and Honorable Darlene H. Young-Region XI were also installed.

In addition to the installation ceremony, the National Board of Directors and the National Executive Committee had their respective meetings on Friday and Saturday.

Many members of BIG came from across the country to witness the installation program. An estimated 200 + members attended, including Former National President of BIG, Honorable J. David Reeves.

BIG was established in 1975 and incorporated in 1976 by a small group of African Americans at the Public Health Services which is a part of the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) in the Parklawn building in Rockville, MD. The organization was viewed as essential to the Black civil service employees, based on a wide assortment of racially motivated problems faced by the HEW Black employees in Rockville, MD.
Initially, it was thought that the umbrella organization would address only the problems at the Federal level. However, it was soon determined that State, County and Municipal Black employees were faced with the same general type of employment problems.

Nonetheless, BIG’s goals are to promote EQUITY in all aspects of American life, EXCELLENCE in public service, and OPPORTUNITY for all Americans.

For more information concerning BIG, go to: www.bignet.org.

Click to View Pictures of BIG's 2019 Installation Ceremony

Calvin Stevens, Region IV Council President