



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE HALL OF FAME AWARD

The **Distinguished Service Hall of Fame (DSHOF)** award shall be the highest honor which can be bestowed upon any single member of **Blacks In Government (BIG)** and shall be reserved for active and financial members who have been active in BIG for a minimum of **fifteen (15)** consecutive years. These individuals shall have distinguished themselves as making exceptional contributions at the National, Regional and/or Chapter levels of BIG and their respective communities. Members receiving this high honor must be recommended by their Chapter, their Regional Council and verified for eligibility by the National Board of Directors respectively.

The National Board of Directors (NBOD) will not make recommendations but serve only as a screening entity for membership eligibility criteria. No more than **three (3)** persons during any given year and no more than **one (1)** person from the same region may be submitted for approval, as voted by the delegates, during any given year. Each Region is entitled to annually nominate no more than **one (1)** candidate for enshrinement into the **DSHOF**.

The National Delegates Assembly is the sole forum during which elections to the **DSHOF** are conducted. Each nominating Chapter must submit recommendations to their respective Regional Council and Regional recommendations must be received by the National Board of Directors no less than **sixty (60)** days prior to the National Delegates Assembly.

There shall hereby be established a **DSHOF** lapel pin which shall be reserved only for persons inducted into the **DSHOF** of Blacks In Government. The NBOD, through Board Action may determine any additional benefits it may deem appropriate in recognition of persons holding this highest honor within BIG. The lapel pin shall be designed of high-quality materials and shall be provided to members inducted into the **DSHOF** at an official induction/recognition ceremony held during the National Training Institute.

Members of the **DSHOF** shall be referred to at public events as “**The Honorable**” preceding their names in recognition of this highest of BIG honors. Names of all persons inducted shall be listed in the BIG archives by name, designated number and year of induction. The BIG National archives will be maintained by both the National Office and the National Historian/Librarian. In the event that more than **one (1)** person is inducted into the **DSHOF** during any given year, the numbers assigned to the inductees shall be determined alphabetically by their last names.



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE HALL OF FAME AWARD

QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Active regular or life member of Blacks In Government, consistently financial within the National organization for a minimum of **fifteen (15)** consecutive years.
2. Have distinguished themselves in BIG at the National, Regional and/or local Chapter level, making significant and lasting contributions and accomplishments which have earned the respect and admiration of BIG membership and colleagues.

Significant Outstanding Contributions and Accomplishments must:

- Reflect BIG's core values.
- Exemplify outstanding commitment towards meeting BIG's mission of Equity, Excellence AND Opportunity for all.
- Special efforts or contributions resulting in significant benefits to the membership, BIG programs and fulfillment of BIG's mission towards overall membership growth to improve the financial viability of the organization.

Must have demonstrated that their work is unique and exceptional beyond normal qualifications of the general membership. Examples might include leading a segment of the national organization for a variety of years; rising to the highest level of the organization (i.e., National President, National Board Chair and other leadership positions); Regional Council and Chapter Officers, Committee Chairs and some that work on any committee and contribute substantially to the success of programs or projects within BIG for many, many years; revamping a BIG or community service program for effectiveness and efficiency. **Collaboration with community, church and other organizations may be considered but shall not be the deciding factor.**

Community service must align with BIG's National, Regional or Chapter community service and outreach efforts.

3. Must have served as an elected officer of BIG for at least **four (4)** years at the National, regional or local levels, and/or as a National Presidential appointee or Committee Chair by at least **one (1)** National President for a combined total of **six (6)** years or more.
4. Candidate's membership status must be verified by the National Office of BIG.
5. Candidate's application upon submission to the National Board Chair must be signed by the Chapter President and/or Secretary and the Regional Council President and/or Secretary.



REQUIREMENTS:

1. Candidates are recommended by their local Chapter.
2. Final recommendations from each Region require approval by the respective Regional Council.
3. No more than **one (1)** name will be eligible for submission by any Regional Council during any single year.
4. Finalists from each Region must be sent to the National Board of Directors for final review to ensure all candidates meet nomination criteria before being presented to the National Delegates Assembly for election.
5. Nomination packages shall include:
 - Nomination Form – “wet”/ink or digital signatures required
 - Nomination Certification Form – “wet”/ink or digital signatures required
 - Nomination Statement – a recent write-up (500 word maximum, not to exceed two (2) pages, single-spaced, typed in Times New Roman, 12 font only).
 - Letter(s) of Recommendation
 - Recent Photograph to be included in a published document presented to the delegates at the National Delegates Assembly -Separate page required
 - Community Service (if any) – Letter(s) of Verification and Optional Photos
6. Nomination packages shall only be forwarded to the National Awards Committee by the Regional Council President and/or Secretary after all signatures have been obtained. Routing of the nominating package is not the responsibility of the National Awards Committee and if received without all required signatures, package will be returned. No exceptions.
7. Failure to comply with all requirements shall render the nomination package null and void.

Important Details to Remember

- Absolutely no typos or grammatical error.



DISTINGUISHED SERVICE HALL OF FAME (DSHOF) SELECTION CRITERIA

1. Delegates may vote for any of the candidates; however, no more than **three (3)** candidates can be approved annually. Each candidate selected must receive a minimum quota (50% of the total votes, divided by the number of candidates).
2. Run-off elections are only required when more than **three (3)** candidates receive the minimum quota and there is an exact tie for 3rd place.
3. If less than three (3) candidates receive the minimum quota, less than three (3) candidates will be inducted.
4. If more than three (3) candidates receive the minimum quota, then the top three (3) vote recipients will be selected.
5. The DSHOF shall serve as the highest honor of recognition within BIG.