History of BDPA Cincinnati

Our Beginning . . . In 1989 several professional African Americans were approached at Digital Equipment Corporation by the BDPA Dayton chapter president. Our strategy was to approach individuals affiliated or associated with Cincinnati-based Fortune 500 companies in order to gain a business community perspective as well as insight, into the needs and potential value of BDPA.

Our Support . . . In our search to gain insight and perspective from the Cincinnati business community, we in turn, gained business community support. Gina Billings, Charles Cooper, Everett Gregory, Brenda Johnson and Neal Johnson were delighted with the BDPA concept and what it would bring to the African American community in Cincinnati. They made the official request that National BDPA accept our charter as a new chapter. In December 1989 the BDPA Cincinnati Chapter was officially chartered.

Our Success . . . The current success of the chapter is due to a restructuring in September 1998. Gina Billings, Wayne Hicks, Brenda Hogan, Tina Welch and Marilyn Wilson made the decision to rejuvenate the Chapter. These five visionaries met weekly for the remainder of 1998 putting together the organizational plans and goals for 1999. BDPA Cincinnati Chapter re-opened its doors in January 1999 with our first program meeting since 1997. There were approximately a dozen guests at that initial program meeting and we ended the month with six (6) financially current members. As we continued to provide adult education opportunities through those monthly program meetings, we also added quarterly technical & professional workshops. In 2000, a Youth Technology Seminar series was added. The Seminar takes place each month and targets high school & college students.

Our Recognition . . . BDPA Cincinnati chapter has been recognized for its’ many community outreach programs and services. The chapter named ‘Chapter of the Year’ on a national level in 2001-2002, 2004 and 2006. Our success is the culmination of the efforts of all chapter volunteers, supporters and sponsors. These accomplishments would not have been possible without the support of our Board of Directors, the members and the Corporate Advisory Council. These people have quietly and consistently given their time, talent and energy to build our ‘Chapter of the Year’! These men & women of all races, ages, and gender have made a commitment to excellence with their BDPA involvement. We will continue to grow, prosper, and provide support to the membership and the community.

Our Leadership . . . The Chapter’s Executive Leaders Are as Follows:
   President – Dalric Webb (GE Aviation)
   President-Elect - Vacant
   Vice President of Finance – Steve Gutter (Kroger)
   Vice President of Membership Management – Wayne Hicks (Hicks Enterprises)
   Vice President of Member Services – Karen Lipscomb (Yoh)
   Vice President of Strategy & Planning – Dr. Prince Ellis (Brown Mackie College)
   Immediate Past President - Clarence Larcarte (Procter & Gamble)

Our National Organization . . . BDPA is a national organization with 46 local chapters located within 4 regions throughout the United States. Earl Pace and David Wimberly founded the organization in May 1975. To research more information about the national BDPA or reach other chapters go to the web site – www.bdpa.org