

Dear IA-SBA Member:

Over the last 8 months, your board of directors has worked hard to continue the progress made last year and to achieve the goals we set in the beginning of 2009. I'd like to take a moment to recap some of those achievements and to highlight what we have planned for the remainder of the year.

- We completed the IA-SBA web site development providing the membership with the ability to register their company qualifications and capabilities. This will be used to provide our customer communities with useful small business capability information. If you haven't completed this, please consider going out to the web site and entering your information. We have already used this database to answer some customer questions from the National Security Agency (NSA).
- On May 15th, Mother Nature cooperated, the clouds parted, and the IA-SBA held its first annual charity golf event. This began an annual contribution to a local school to further the education of students who may someday work in the IA market – perhaps for one of our small businesses. This year, the event raised \$5,000 to benefit science and technology programs at Digital Harbor High School in Baltimore, MD. It was great to see so many of our member companies come out and support such a worthy cause. We look forward to an even better event next year.
- We continued our lunchtime talks and afternoon roundtables that were so successful in 2008. So far, we have sponsored 8 events. I've highlighted some of the events below.
 - Briefing on the challenges facing the NSA TS organization.
 - Government Technical Exchange on the Cyber Initiative.
 - Briefing by the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) Small Business Advocate who provided the membership with important information on how to do business with DISA.
 - How to survive a DCAA Audit.
 - Mergers and Acquisitions.
- We have several additional events scheduled over the next few months.
 - In an effort to better connect small businesses to IA customer requirements, we are hosting technical interchange events. We start these series of events on September 14, when Mark Lantz, NSA Director Cross-Domain Management Office (CDMO), will present on technical challenges facing his organization and have an open dialogue on these challenges with the audience. See the IA-SBA web site for further details.
 - September 17, 2009 – BRAC Update. Guest Speaker Bob Leib.
 - October TBD – IA Technical Talk with Mr. Steve LaFountain, NSA Technical Director I8. Mr. LaFountain will present on technical challenges facing his organization and have an open dialogue on these challenges with the audience.

- October 29, 2009 – ITAR Overview. Guest Speaker to be determined. If you are doing business with NSA or plan to do business with NSA, it is important to understand how ITAR might affect you.
- November TBD – Annual IA-SBA meeting.
- As part of our outreach activities, an IA-SBA board member speaks at each of the monthly small business sessions sponsored by the NSA SADBUs office, as well as the monthly Maryland Marketing Meetings.
- The IA-SBA board has been working with the NSA acquisition organizations to brainstorm innovative strategies to more effectively engage the small business community. We will be presenting our thoughts on how to contract with small business in a way that allows flexibility in reaching specific small businesses and reduces the time/labor for the government between identifying a requirement and awarding a contract. We will also be well represented again at the Small Business Conference this fall.

Your Board of Directors is here to serve you. If there is a subject you would like us to address, or if you have an idea for different mechanisms to bridge communications between the customer and small business communities, please let us know. And, as always, if you have any time, we would love to engage you in our IA-SBA planning activities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mary Stassie".

Mary Stassie
President IA-SBA