

Inside the New York District

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The SBA's programs and services for small businesses include financial assistance, business education and training, federal government contracting assistance, advocacy and disaster assistance.

The New York District encompasses the area of New York City, Long Island and the downstate counties of Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster and Westchester.

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Inside the New York District Office
John J. Miller, Editor

Helping small businesses
start, grow and **succeed.**



LONG ISLANDER WINS NEW YORK STATE SMALL BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR

New York, NY— At a Manhattan ceremony in celebration of presidentially declared *National Small Business Week 2009*, the New York District Office of the U.S. Small Business Administration this spring presented Teresa M. Ward, owner of Teresa's Family Cleaning, Inc., with the award for New York State's top small business.

Ward also won for Small Business Person of the Year in the SBA's Region II, which includes New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Ward founded her residential cleaning company, Teresa's Family Cleaning, Inc., in 1992, providing the traditional cleaning services one expects for this type of business. Along the way she added non-traditional services such as organizing and management services for senior-living facilities throughout Long Island.

That ability to adapt and grow enabled Family Cleaning to weather the current economic downturn. And rather than submit to the crisis, Ward en-



New York State Small Business Person of the Year, Teresa Ward, Owner, Teresa's Family Cleaning, receiving her award from SBA Acting District Director, Al Titone.

ures that her core group of customers is always satisfied with her company's service. In fact, she still has her pre-crisis 12 to 14 work crews out on any given day. "With the traditional spring cleaning time, I feel as though we have gotten through the worst," said Ward.

Ward started her business— not in the infamous entrepreneur's garage— but as a one-woman business in her basement. The company now owns its own building in Rocky Point,

NY, employs upward of 40 cleaners, office staff and sales personnel, has a fleet of 15 vehicles and grosses well over a million in sales. Also environmentally conscious, the company now uses only "green" and eco-friendly products in its cleaning arsenal to help ensure the safety of its customers, employees and the environment.

When her sister passed away from cancer in 2003, Ward embarked upon

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Another other mission and helped launch the Cleaning for a Reason Foundation in New York in 2006. The non-profit, along with 500 cleaning companies across the nation provides free or at-cost cleaning services for women undergoing chemotherapy. Last year she began donating company services to Habitat for Humanity, to prep the homes for their new inhabitants.

Ms. Ward's awards prove you do not have to be some sort of exotic, high-tech business owner to win this honor," said SBA Spokesman John J. Miller. "You just need to be good at what you do."

Others receiving awards at the ceremony were:

Family-Owned Business of the Year

Peter F. Negri, President & CEO
Jamaica Bearings Co.
New Hyde Park, NY

Financial Services Champion of the Year

Patrick Mackrell, President & CEO
New York Business Development Corp.
Albany, NY

Women in Business Champion of the Year

Deborah Brenner, CEO
Women of the Vine Cellars
Piermont, NY

Minority Small Business Champion of the Year

Rev. Carmen Hernandez, President
New York City Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgender Chamber of Commerce
Bronx, NY

Small Business Journalist of the Year

Joan Hamburg and Liz Hamburg, Co-hosts
WOR News/Talk Radio 710
New York, NY

Veteran Small Business Champion of the Year

Benjamin B. Hunt, Director
Department of Defense Procurement Technical Assistance Center, LaGuardia Community College
Long Island City, NY

NEWS FROM THE IRS

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 implemented some new tax provisions of benefit to business owners including the following.

Net Operating Loss Carry-back: Small businesses with deductions exceeding their income in 2008 can use a new net operating loss tax provision in ARRA to get a refund of taxes paid over the past five years instead of the usual two.

Section 179 Deduction: A qualifying taxpayer can choose to treat the cost of certain property as an expense and deduct it in the year the property is placed in service instead of depreciating it over several years. This property is frequently referred to as section 179 property.

Reduction of Estimated Tax Payments: Normally, small businesses have to pay 110 percent of their previous year's taxes in estimated taxes. The Recovery Act permits small businesses to reduce their estimated payments to 90 percent of the previous year's taxes.

Subscribe to e-News for Small Businesses at <http://www.irs.gov/busineses/small/article/0..id=154825.00.html> to stay on top of IRS implementation of ARRA provisions.



Small Business Persons and Champions of the Year (L to R)- Patrick MacKrell; Peter Negri; Benjamin Hunt; Joan Hamburg; Teresa Ward; Rev. Carmen Hernandez; Deborah Brenner.