

THE VOICE IN VIRGINIA



JULIA CIARLO HAMMOND
WWW.NFIB.COM/VA

House, Senate Leadership Addresses NFIB/Virginia

House Speaker William Howell, Lt. Gov. William Bolling and Sen. George Barker met with NFIB/Virginia members in January as part of Small Business Day at the Capitol.

Following a breakfast briefing at the Richmond Marriott by state officials, almost 100 NFIB members from across the state boarded shuttles to the capitol so they could "Storm the Hill."

"Small Business Day is important because it gives our members a chance to hear first-hand about legislation and visit with their legislators about issues that affect them, their employees and their families," said Julia Ciarlo Hammond, NFIB state director.

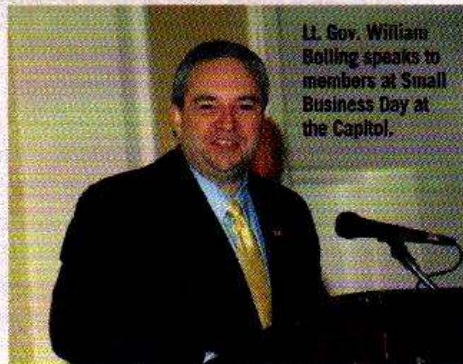
Lt. Gov. Bolling and Speaker Howell praised NFIB/Virginia for its work on behalf



NFIB/Virginia State Director Julia Ciarlo Hammond poses at Small Business Day at the Capitol with (left to right) Paul Lawrence of NFIB member business National Counseling Group of Annendale, Delegate Steve Shannon (Vienna) and Frank Viera and Tom Minnick, both of National Counseling Group.

been a more critical time to lobby for small business ... [and] I think you guys do the best job of any business group. I love NFIB," he said.

"It's encouraging that Virginia's elected officials understand the importance of small, independent businesses to the state's economy and are willing to listen to NFIB," Hammond said. "They understand that when you help small business, you help everyone."



Lt. Gov. William Bolling speaks to members at Small Business Day at the Capitol.

of the commonwealth's entrepreneurs and small, family-owned businesses.

"It's important that we work to create a pro-business environment in Virginia," said Lt. Gov. Bolling, who leads the Senate. "It's especially important to do that in times like these."

Speaker Howell agreed. "There's never

HELP STRENGTHEN THE VOICE OF SMALL BUSINESS

MEMBER GET A MEMBER

NFIB IS THE VOICE OF SMALL BUSINESS, but it's you, our members, who give us our voice—so the more members we have, the louder our voice will be.

That's especially important now that the Legislature and Congress are back in session, working on tough issues such as tax relief and healthcare reform.

If you know any small business owners who should be NFIB members, invite them to join.

NFIB represents small and independent businesses better than anyone else, but we don't decide the issues: You do—through our unique state and federal member ballots. Once we know what's important to you, we get to work in all 50 states and Washington, D.C.

Our newsletters, Web site and e-mail alerts keep you informed about potential legislation that could affect your bottom line and tell you when you need to take action.

We support small business in other ways, too:

- The NFIB Small Business Legal Center is the voice of small business in the nation's courts and a free resource to our members.
- The NFIB Young Entrepreneur Foundation promotes the lessons of free enterprise in the nation's classrooms and offers college scholarships to students who have started their own businesses.
- NFIB members also qualify for special rates on shipping, computers, and financial and other business services.



The New NFIB.com

Come on in and browse around our new Web site. Register at NFIB.com and enter to win \$15,000. Results of the 2009 State Member Ballot are also available online. For a complete summary of the 2009 ballot, visit www.NFIB.com/VA.

>> Help strengthen the voice of small business and refer potential members to NFIB. To find out how, contact Member Support Manager Audrey Berkshire at audrey.berkshire@nfib.org or 804-377-3661.