



**Big Bend Minority Enterprise Development (MED) Week
Woman-Owned Business Enterprise (WBE) of the Year - 2025
Patricia Bates Trotta**

Patricia Bates Trotta

Grateful for every day and thankful for every blessing that has been given to me through this long journey.

Patricia Bates Trotta, is President, Secretary, and Treasurer of Big Bend Rebar, Inc., an independent rebar manufacturing company located in the Business Park in Quincy, FL. The company was established as a Florida C Corporation in July 2002. It was a start-up company; specifically designed and built from the ground up. It remains as one of the few manufacturing plants in Leon and Gadsden County; providing the fabrication and sale of DOMESTIC reinforcing steel to commercial construction contractors in Florida, Georgia, and Alabama.

Mrs. Trotta re-directed her professional career and interests in 2000 at the urging of her husband Joe Trotta, a former commercial concrete superintendent. She capitalized on her husband's experience to conduct market research in the steel rebar industry; examining growth and development trends in North Florida. Profiting from Joe Trotta's practical knowledge base and experience; it was determined that there was a local market need for fabricated reinforcing steel.

Mrs. Trotta started this venture in a bedroom at home. She attended programs provided by Florida SBA at FAMU, attended local Chambers of Commerce meetings and events, and explored opportunities that could be realized through government and corporate grants. She capitalized on her experience in employment relations, time and task management, communication, and financial management skills to begin the arduous task of writing a Business Plan. None of this would have been possible were it not for the local SBA assistance that was offered. It was at brown bag lunch meetings that her confidence was cultivated; that pitfalls were clearly explained and that strategies for avoidance of mistakes, especially those involving financial ruin be avoided.

Through NETWORKING, with one step forward and sometimes two steps backwards, what began as a DREAM started to become a reality. A location in the new Business Park in Quincy was secured by partnering with the City of Quincy, thus securing for the city funding to complete the park's infrastructure. The United State Department of Agriculture in Jacksonville,

FL, The USDA Department of Agriculture in Marianna, FL, and the TDS Telecommunications Company all committed funding opportunities for the construction of a 14,000 square foot manufacturing plant which would house offices and a state-of-the-art manufacturing plant. Having beaten the sidewalks, with a trusty business plan, and being turned down multiple times, sometimes on the spot, financing became the challenge that was all consuming. Mrs. Trotta never forgot the lessons learned at SBA meetings. Funding was secured with the least risk with startup capital from personally borrowed money, and finally through The Quincy State Bank.

As President, Mrs. Trotta, assumes the responsibility of Chief Financial Officer. She maintains close relationships with financial institutions, plans, organizes, and implements all financial decisions. She supervises all work required to adhere to Federal and State requirements, and overseas accounting and payroll. She establishes all company policy and works closely with the General Manager and Vice-President.

Mrs. Trotta is most proud of being certified as a minority business owner in the states of Florida, Alabama, and Georgia. Additionally, she is a graduate of the Jim Moran Institute of Global Entrepreneurship, Florida State University College of Business. Big Bend Rebar is recognized as a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise by the Florida Unified Certification Program, and is a State of Florida Woman Owned Business.

Big Bend Rebar has been riddled by inflation, an epidemic, most recently fierce competition, and mistakes that taught us difficult lessons. Never give up and ALWAYS seek professional help.

Education

College of New Jersey, BA Degree	1962-1966
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University of Connecticut, MSW Degree	1971-1972
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Jim Moran Institute, FSU College of Business	2015
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Employment

Educator, State of New Jersey	1966-1970
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Educator, State of New Jersey (Retired)	1972-1995
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State of Florida, Dept. of Health	1999-2000
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President Big Bend Rebar	2002-Present
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