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**MISSION
STATEMENT**

The Mission of the African American Chamber of Commerce of Western Pennsylvania is to provide access and opportunities to African American businesses and professionals throughout the region.

Guided by the core values of equity in opportunity, economic advancement, self-sufficiency and entrepreneurial excellence, we will seek to advance economic parity by insuring full participation.

**AFRICAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA
REGIONAL ENTERPRISE TOWER SUITE 701
425 SIXTH AVENUE PITTSBURGH, PA. 15219-1811
(412)392-0610 FAX (412) 392-0612
WWW.AACCWP.COM
DORIS CARSON WILLIAMS, President**

WELCOME

**This newsletter is prepared solely for
members and sponsors of the
African American Chamber**

*The Membership
Directory Addendum is
enclosed. Use both when
you purchase goods and
services*

*We've shortened the
website address to:
'www.aaccwp.com'*

**PowerBreakfast Meeting
March 17,2000
7:30 AM**

**Mr. Clyde Hart, Manager
Aggressive Sourcing
PNC Bank
R.S.V.P. by March 13th**

**Chamber's Annual
Meeting May 19, 2000
Rivers Club**

**Guest Speaker:
Mr. Ralph Dickerson
President United Way of
New York City**

Many may remember the outstanding contributions Ralph made when he headed the United Way of Allegheny County. He has agreed to return and give the keynote address for our annual meeting when we report on the progress made to date. You will receive a separate notice.

An evening mixer is

being planned for April 19th. Time and place to be announced, but please mark your calendar.

The Chamber will serve as one of the hosts that welcomes the South African Delegation to Pittsburgh in June. About 30 individuals from South African Countries will be visiting Pa. The Chamber will hold a special Breakfast Meeting June 9th at the Westin William Penn Hotel on Let's give them a big Pittsburgh welcome during this their final stop!

Don't forget to complete your U.S.Census questionnaire and return it when it arrives at your home. It has a direct impact on congressional seats, state funding, and many aspects of our lives. It's our future: don't leave it blank!

The new year has taken off for Chamber Members engaged in the new form of County Government. Some who have been appointed to the committees include:

Harvey Adams, Sam Stephenson, Dwight White, Al Ahmed, Greg Spencer, Bob Agbede, Garland McAdoo, Estella Smith, Earl Hord, Darryl Ponton, Tom Burley, Mona Generett, William King, Esther Bush, George Miles, Dwight Mayo, Jim Henry, Sally Mizerak, Barbara McNees, & Eugene Berry. How impressive!

The City's Director of General Services recently became a partner of the Chamber. Following a presentation to Director Dale Perett, he has begun to forward bids for contracts to the Chamber office. You will receive related information by the category of services requested.

The Chamber is still accepting loan applications for the state's Community Economic Development Loan Fund. Call the office for forms.

March 29th begins phase one construction on the Fort Pitt Bridge, scheduled to last thru late June or early July. The off-ramps into downtown from the Fort Pitt Bridge to Liberty Avenue and the Blvd. of the Allies will be closed, so be prepared. The primary

detour route will be the Parkway East to Grant Street, via the Grant Street Exit. The Fort Pitt Tunnel is scheduled to remain open thru 2001.

The SBA has opened their Small Business Information Center Riverside Commons Innovation Center, North Shore. It's a great place for existing small business and new start-ups. Call 395-5960 or visit www.sba.gov for more information.

Duquesne University is hosting a Trade Mission to Puerto. Members interested in expanding their markets should call Tonya Roberts 396-6233 for details.

Member Councilman Sala Udin did an outstanding job this past weekend to seek public input in the the 5th & Forbes Corridor Project. Co-sponsored with the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership, over three hundred people attended the Friday evening and Saturday event to hear how other cities managed the challenge and the status of the design with Urban Retail Properties. Workshops on design, merchandising, financing, and ways to minimize downtown disruption were held. There are planned district council public hearings for all city residents learn about the project and offer input. Watch for the date and time for your area, in the

newspaper.

The Riverlife Committee is progressing with their discussions on how to develop the North Shore as an attractive, user-friendly river front. I hope some of attended the public input meeting on the design plans.

The Pa. Conference 2000 on Small Business will be held April 13 & 14 in Harrisburg. This will be the wrap-up on seeking support for amendments and issues that affect small business. It was nice to see so many members at the Western Regional Meeting held on February 22. Member Eustace Uku was one of the presenters for proposed amendments.

Member Charles Reaves is moving forward in making the final touches to the business plan & investment prospectus for the Minority Mezzanine Loan Enterprise Fund. Late Spring is the anticipated start date.

Sixty-six packages are scheduled to be let for bids on the Convention Center Expansion Project, including professional service contracts. The bid room will be located at 951 Penn Avenue. Lamar Jones, Project Manager, is the contact.

The Minority Enterprise Corporation recently unveiled their on-line business to business

directory. Many of you were sent a release letter to be listed. You must do so to be included.

The National Black Chamber of Commerce was awarded \$2 million by Purchaser.com. toward closing the digital divide in the African American American Community.

CONGRATULATIONS

Board Vice Chair Gwen Allen recently became President- National Conference of Minority Public Administrators.

Member Connie Portis was recently elected President of the National Association of Black Page Publishers at their conference. Renaissance Publications will hold their annual Trailblazers Awards Night at Carnegie Music Hall on March 25th. This years honorees include members Esther Bush and Dr. Grady Roberts.

Member Bill Strickland was named one of the ten Strong Men & Women: Excellence in Leadership by Dominion Resources.

August 17-19
National Black Chamber
Annual Convention,
J.W. Marriott
Washington, D.C.

NEW MEMBERS
Delores Allen
PACE Executive Search
Lloyd & Cathie
Billingsley

Sterling Development

Melvin Lydell Blanks
Lydell's Clothier

Barbara Burgess,
Ph.D.

Barbara Burgess
Assoc.

Jerry Butler
Butler Landscaping East

Clarence Carlos
All Pro Service/
Moon Laser City

Tom Lewis,III
Lewis Environmental
Services, Inc.

Dr. Duane G. Martin
West Penn Ent/Allergy
Associates

Dr. Brenda K. Mitchell
Management &
Environmental
Technologies

Albert L. Smith
Al's Superette

Jacqui Tocci
Jaden Development
Corporation

Richard Tripp
R.P. Tripp Enterprises

Karen Farmer White
Anlyn Corporation

Associate Member
Dale Perett

City of Pittsburgh
General Services
Corporate Sponsor
Raymond Steeb,III
Turner Construction

Presidential
Roundtable Member
William Johnson
H. J. Heinz Co.