

THIS EDITION

- ◆ Upcoming PowerBreakfast Meeting
- ◆ Directory Update
- ◆ Member's Mixer
- ◆ We're Western Pa.
- ◆ Mentor Protégé Program
- ◆ Welcome New Members



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 ensuring full participation.

AFRICAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

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DORIS CARSON WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT

JANUARY 2001

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

**-Start of the New Year-
PowerBreakfast Meeting
January 19, 2001
7:30 a.m. Rivers Club
Guest Speaker:
Honorable Tom Murphy
Mayor of Pittsburgh
RSVP by Jan. 16th
Remember: Confirmation
Guarantees Payment!**

Happy New Year! We are officially into the new millennium, and have successfully concluded our second official year of operation. We appreciate the team effort for making the year 2000 a productive one. We look forward to enhancing the Chamber's position throughout 2001.

MEMBERS MIXER

**Thursday, January 25th
5:00 to 7:00 PM
One PNC Plaza 30th Fl.
Your Host: PNC Bank
RSVP by January 22nd**
A sincere thank you to all who supported our Second Annual Business Luncheon. Over 400 people were in attendance to hear Tom

Usher, Chairman of our Presidential Roundtable & Chairman USX, delivered the keynote address. We have had calls from members who left the luncheon with 'solid business leads'. It was good to see so many logo pins in the audience. 'Merci' to Oscar Worthy, (Oscar's LTD.) for producing the pins.

The Chamber Board of Directors approved a new category of membership:

The Chairman's Circle.

Members in this group are African Americans who give \$1,000 annually to support your Chamber. Activities for this group are being planned. We are pleased that two members are already in this group!

Let's all recognize one of our newest members,

Dave Petett/Agent Nationwide Insurance for serving as underwriter for November's PowerBreakfast meeting. Speaking to a packed house, Allegheny County Chief Executive Jim Roddey reported 38%

of his appointments to Boards and Commissions have been to African Americans as well as having named African Americans to County Director positions. Keep it going!. If your company would like to sponsor a PowerBreakfast Meeting or Evening Mixer, please let us know.

Your Membership Directory is being prepared for delivery to the office as of this publication. Please let us know if we can save the postage and bring it to the meeting on the 19th. Additional directories can be purchased for \$30.

We are now fully engaged in Western Pa., with new members in Erie, Pa. and the surrounding counties. This will broaden our network of members while expanding the opportunity for all to do business. We hope to make a formal announcement about the businesses participating in Erie by Spring.

Good News! Your Chamber has received the financial support needed to establish a Mentor Protégé Program. The purpose will be to help members and firms move to the next

level of engagement. This process, expected to evolve over the upcoming months, will match firms by area of expertise and size. You will be receiving information on how your company can participate. It's a program worth investigating.

Your Chamber has taken a pro-active stance on improving the process for inclusion in all aspects of government procurement. As your advocate for Plan B, we are talking with state, county and local officials providing your input and making recommendations on ways to level the playing field for minority participation.

Member Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield has earned the top ranking from NCQA for its managed care programs. The Select Blue, Keystone Blue, and Security Blue plans were awarded its top accreditation status of "Excellent", a benefit to all members.

Roofer's Local #37 JAC is now accepting applications for their Apprenticeship program. Classes will begin in June. Call their office (412)732-0720 for more information.

The Rensselaerville Institute/TRI, agent for the Sanders Task Force is seeking ideas for improvement projects for Clairton, Braddock,, Duquesne, Homestead, Rankin, McKees Rocks,

and Wilkinsburg. This could be an opportunity for developers, consultants, and those in construction. Call Edward Givner at (412) 362-3793 for details and to ask for the ten question form.

The A.R. Building Venture Capital Fund is offering from \$50K to \$250K in seed money for either new retail start-ups or capital for expansion of existing retail businesses in a 25 year old city building and construction company. Call A. Richard Nernberg (412) 681-4600 for details.

Several members have been featured in the Pittsburgh Courier over the past year. A special thanks to the Managing Editor, Member Rodd Doss, for promoting our members.

One Shot: The Life & Work of Teenie Harris
The documentary on this former Pittsburgh native is finally complete. The film will premiere on February 9th at 7:30 PM at the Byham Theater. Call 456-6666 for ticket information. A must do!

CONGRATULATIONS

Member Paul Brown (Professional Limousine Transportation Services) recently bought out his competition and expanded his operation in the Strip

District.

Member Eric Bruce (Trilogic Corporation.), was named to the Board of Directors of the Pittsburgh Technology Council.

Chairman Robert Agbede (ATS) was voted into the University Pitt's Graduate School of Engineering's Hall of Fame, .

Member Eustace Uku on the recent purchase of the Centennial Building/Exico, Inc. Business Center on Fourth Avenue Downtown. .

Member Joe Williams, Esq. has been recommended to the Board of the Sports & Exhibition Authority.

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

Renee Amore
Amore Health Systems

Malik Bankston
Kingsley Association

Dr. Barbara Bazron
IRETA, Inc.

Willie M. Hudson
Universal Environmental Cleaning Services, Inc.

Sharon Jackson,
Edmunds Travel Consultants

Joseph R. McGrath,
Pittsburgh Convention & Visitors Bureau

Rev. Dr. James H. McLemore

Small Seeds Development

Cynthia Glover Muhammad,
Erie Black Pages/
Positive Image Bookstore

Bernard Ott,
Addison Terrace
Learning Center

James L. Rice
Rice Enterprises

William Robinson,
Pa. House of
Representatives

Ann Rucker
Ann Rucker & Associates

Howard Russell, Jr.
The Bijah Group

Ralph P. Watson
Clean Sweep Janitorial
Services, Inc.

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