

THIS EDITION

- ◆ Candidates Forum
- ◆ Upcoming PowerBreakfast Meetings
- ◆ Risk Management Seminar
- ◆ 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

MARCH 2001

This newsletter is prepared solely for members, supporters, and sponsors of the African American Chamber of Commerce of Western Pennsylvania.

March 16, 2001

**7:30 a.m. Rivers Club
Speakers: Ed Burton U.S. Export Assistance Center & Paul Skouletas, Port Authority Allegheny County RSVP- Mar. 13th Remember: Confirmation Guarantees Payment!**

The first speaker on is Paul Skouletas, Executive Director of the Port Authority-Allegheny County. He will begin @ **7:45 AM sharp!** His presentation will provide insight into the exciting transportation plans for our area and how your business can become engaged in the process. Following Paul will be Edward Burton, introducing his team who will speak on the upcoming 2001 Corporate Council on Africa Summit to take place in Philadelphia in the fall. Learn how to export your product in Africa.

March 21st is your first Candidates Forum. By now you have received the announcement. The session

will be facilitated by Member Rodd Doss, Editor of the Pittsburgh Courier. For two hours, you will gain insight into each candidates position on their support of African American business. Add to the list Leroy Hodges, who is running for Mayor. This is your opportunity to decide for yourself. Please plan to be at the Rivers Club by 4:20 pm. The forum will begin promptly at 4:30 pm. Refreshments will be served. Call the office to reserve your seat.

April 5th is the Risk Management Seminar. You will receive a boxed lunch and information on insurance options, how to determine if your coverage is enough, and how to maximize your investment strategy. Members Grace Robinson & Elise Yanders will preside. Our Chamber Choice Representative Jan Pokrifka will also be in attendance. Come spend your lunch time, plus one

additional hour. It's worth your time!

A group of us are planning to go the opening Pirate Baseball Game. Interested? Call the office.

Mark your calendar for: April 20th-PowerBreakfast Pa. Secretary Gary Crowell of General Services. He will address state procurement and our letter of recommendations for changes to the SERB language.

May will be our Second Annual Meeting. You will receive an invitation once the date and speaker are confirmed. We will have a separate meeting prior to the luncheon for Members Only, announcing the beginning of our Mentor Protégé Program and how you can participate.

June 15th PowerBreakfast
Dr. John Thompson, Superintendent Pittsburgh Public Schools.

If your company would like to sponsor a Meeting or Evening Mixer, call the office at: 412-392-0610.

Your Chamber, in conjunction with the Hispanic Chamber, will co-host a franchising seminar with McDonald's Corp. at the Hilton Hotel, Monday April 9th. The company is looking for business owners who may want to purchase a franchise. It's worth investigating.

Your Chamber Office is preparing the 1st quarter Addendum since the Membership Directory was published. Corrections received will be included. Additional directories can be purchased for \$30.

Member Mulugetta Birru recently announced the 504 Loan program as part of the newly formed Allegheny-Pittsburgh Business Development Corporation, designed to better service small firms in city/county area. This program will provide up to 40% of a project cost, enabling the bank to reduce its loan. The rate on the program is fixed below prime with a term of 10 or 20 years. Call 412-255-6557 for info.

Member Connie Portis recently released the 2001 Black Business Directory. You can call Renaissance Publications to receive your copy 412-391-8208. They are busy preparing for the 16th Annual Black Extravaganza & Trail-

blazer Awards scheduled for March 24th at Carnegie Music Hall in Oakland.

Member The Sports and Exhibition Authority reported on the MBE/WBE participation at the last Oversight Committee Meeting. Of the \$4.3 million contract awarded \$934,000 was awarded to minority firms (all Chamber members). If you recall, they are revising the formula to determine minority participation. Under the old plan, the numbers represent 21.3%; under the new plan, minority participation is 8%. This means minus suppliers and brokers.

How wonderful to see so many of our members listed in the Business Times' Top 25 minority businesses. Several members also made the list under the majority industry category.

Don't forget the 25th Annual Minority Business Opportunity Fair, March 26-27th at the Westin Convention Center. You can buy a booth to showcase your business, but the breakfast is always a hit.

Member Jerry Cozewith of the American Red Cross is preparing for their 1st Golf Classic on

May 14th at the Allegheny Country Club. Call 263-3137 to register.

Member Phillip Petite just informed our office the city has designated off street vending districts for mobile food vendors. Call Phil for locations at 412-255-8804.

Member Program to Aid Citizens Enterprise is hosting a benefit for the fully staged production of Porgy & Bess, Friday, April 13th at Heinz Hall. Price includes V.I.P. seating and a private reception with the cast. Call the PACE office for more info at: 412-562-0290 x15.

The Neighborhoods USA Conference will take place in Pittsburgh at the Westin Convention Center May 23-26th. Representatives from community groups across the country will be meeting to discuss neighborhood initiatives. Call 255-8818.

Member Sharon Jackson-Edmunds Travel Consultant has moved to their new Regent Square location: 1139 S. Braddock Avenue. The new telephone number is: 412-244-9700.

CONGRATULATIONS

Member Ty Alexander on his recent appointment to the National Purchasing Executive Council.

Member Karen Farmer White received the Susan B.

Anthony Women of Vision Award from the Executive Women's Council.

Member James Hamlin had another successful Whitney M. Young, Jr. Service Awards Dinner of the Greater Pittsburgh Council, Boy Scout of America. Honored at the event was Member Gregory Spencer, & Presidential Roundtable Member James Mesloh. Board Member Gwen Q. Allen serves as the Chair.

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

Kenneth Brown
Birdie;s Culinary Delights

Salvadora Dean
J & T Welding, Inc.

Judge James M. DeLeon
Philadelphia, Pa.

Howard K. Graves, Jr.
Graves Architects, Inc.

Monsignor William Kerr
LaRoche College

Charlene McAbee
C.R. McAbee & Associates

C. David Seller, III
Mass Mutual Financial Group

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