

THIS EDITION

- ♦ Welcome New Staff
- ♦ Doing Business with CCAC
- ♦ How to Effectively use the Media
- ♦ Town Meeting with State Department of Transportation
- ♦ Fall Events
- ♦ 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
REGIONAL ENTERPRISE TOWER SUITE 701
425 SIXTH AVENUE PITTSBURGH, PA. 15219
(412) 392-0610 FAX (412) 392-0612
DORIS CARSON WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT**

JUNE 2001

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

Welcome to the Staff:*Courtney Smith,*
Director - Membership & Program Development
Shawn Hicks,
Business Assistant

Upcoming Programs for
Members Only.

July 17th

Doing Business-CCAC
Corporate Sponsor Dr. Roy Flores will have his procurement officers and those who make contract & purchasing decisions available to meet you & discuss how to do business with the college. Continental breakfast and an optional lunch is planned. RSVP early to our office and indicate if you are staying for lunch. By now you should have received the announcement.

August 15th

How to use the Media
Member Rodd Doss will facilitate the panel discussion, along with Members from the Business Times & Renaissance Publications that will help you get the

most out of the media. It will be conducted over lunch. Your notice will be sent mid-July.

Those in the highway construction industry or training may want to attend a **Town Meeting** on identifying the barriers that prohibit minority participation within the Federal Department of Transportation. Your Chamber will serve as the Co-Host for this July 24th (5-8 PM) meeting. It is open to the public and will be held in the Regional Enterprise Tower. Your input is needed, given the proposal is to reduce the GOALS to **7%** minority participation!!

You are encouraged to offer your input as the County deliberates the Living Wage Legislation. Many of you responded that you were not aware when the city passed the legislation. Now is the time to express your concerns to your County Council Representative.

Don't delay. Time is of the essence.

Our region has gained the expertise of Mr. Ronnie Bryant, the new President of the Pittsburgh Regional Alliance. He and his family are in the process of relocating to Pittsburgh from St. Louis. Stay tuned, he will be invited to address the membership.

Secretary Gary Crowell has agreed to accept many of our suggestions for changes to the SERBS (socially & economically restricted businesses) language. Although he has accepted the position of Assistant Director of FEMA (federal emergency management assistance), he has instructed Gary Lee, Director to work on their implementation. Once we receive the Secretary's letter of confirmation, an announcement on how Chamber Members should proceed will occur.

Don't forget beginning July 12th, you must use a ten-digit number when making all telephone calls, regardless of the area code. You must also change your auto-dialing and internet connections. Be patient, it will take some getting use

to.

We are working with Dr. John Thompson and his office on advancing procurement. His presentation at our June 15th PowerBreakfast was well received. Your mission is to follow up on his request.

Mark your calendar for:

Member Jerry Cozewith will hold his 5th Annual Golf Outing August 9th at Lone Pine Golf Club. Call their office to register. September 21st Earl Hord, Executive Director of the Department of Economic Development will address you at our PowerBreakfast Meeting. Following Him will be Kent George, Executive Director of the Pittsburgh International Airport on October 17th. His remarks will focus on doing business with the airport. Both should be beneficial.

If your company has changed telephone or fax numbers, email address, or has moved, please notify the office when the change occurs. It will help keep our records & you current.

Over 100 members attended the March 21st Candidates Forum. Many called to request that this be made a regular event. We do plan to hold the forum with each election. A big thanks to Member Rodd Doss for facilitating. The April 5th seminar on Risk Management was filled to capacity. Members

Grace Robinson & Elise Yanders did an excellent job! A big thank you to those who attended the Members April Mixer at Dowe's on Ninth. We took over the entire main level and met, exchanged info, and networked. The June Mixer at PNC Park was fun.. Thanks to Rodd Scott and Patty Paytas for conducting tours of the new ball park. Everyone enjoyed it. July 12th is the start of honoring the Negro Baseball League. You can buy group tickets by calling the Pirates ticket office. Like to sponsor a Members Mixer? Call the office and let us know. Also, additional directories can be purchased for \$30.

Our Second Annual Meeting speaker- Member Murry Gerber, was just what the doctor ordered according to those who called. Many of you left the luncheon feeling he spoke directly to you on focusing on the core value and mission of your business. There is still time to submit the survey for the Mentor Protégé Program.

Member Connie Portis recently released the 2001 Women's Business Directory. You can call Renaissance Publications to receive your copy at 412-391-8208.

CONGRATULATIONS

Member Gerri Holden recently earned her

Doctor of Education degree from Indiana U.

Member Esther Bush received the Human & Social Service Award and your Chamber President- the Business & Industry Award at the YWCA's Tribute to Women's Annual Luncheon.

Member Charles "Bobby" Short released his first CD, "It's a wonderful World. Is it smooth!"

Member Bill Strickland was elected to the Board of Directors of Mellon Financial Corporation.

Member Thelma Spells was appointed to Allegheny County's Authority for Improvements in Municipalities.

Members Irvin & Janice Williams were the Civic Leaders Honorees at Carlow College's Anna Julia Cooper Scholarship Luncheon.

Member Karen Farmer White will be moving on this fall to WQED Pittsburgh as V. P. of Education.

CORRECTION

Presidential Roundtable Member Mellon Financial Corporation was incorrectly listed in our annual report. We apologize.

"WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS"

Carol Foster Allen
Northwood Reality

Patsy Austin
Citizens East
Community Development
Federal Credit Union
Dr. Cecelia Griffin Gordon
YWCA

Raquib Jamal

Morgan Stanley Dean Witter
Len Johnson
Bidwell Technical Services

Kareem Jones

The Penn Mutual Group
Alexander Nichlos, Jr.
Pittsburgh Regional Minority
Purchasing Council

Brian K. Parker

McGuire Woods, LLP
William Pendelton
Alpha Plex Net
Corporation

Dr. Herman Reid, Jr.
NEED

Donna J. Rucker
Changing Billing Focus

B. Sullivan

Soak-N-Wet Car Wash
Jennifer Cash Wade
Northwood Realty

Phillip H. Washington
Washington Training
& Consulting

SUPPORTING MEMBERS

John T. Lucey
US Filter Engineering & Construction/ Chester Engineers

Harry Reinhart
William M. Mercer, Inc.
D. Lansing Taylor
Cellomics, Inc.

Beth Wainwright
Leadership Pittsburgh

CORPORATE SPONSOR

John Bonassi
Dick Corporation

Kevin McClatchy
Pittsburgh Pirates