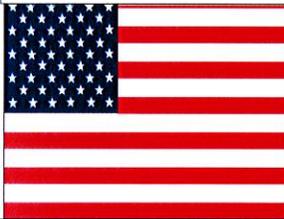


THIS EDITION

- ◆ Business Luncheon Sold Out
- ◆ Living Wage defeated
- ◆ Tazwell Thompson coming to town
- ◆ Upcoming Events
- ◆ Chamber Members in the News
- ◆ 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**

DECEMBER 2001

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

A huge thank you to all those who attended the Third Annual Business Luncheon. Over 450 were in attendance to help us celebrate America. We appreciate the kind notes and are grateful to know that some of our members have a follow-up meeting with people they met.

The January PowerBreakfast Meeting will feature Mr. Stephen Steinour, Chairman & CEO of Citizens Bank. We look forward to having you in attendance as we learn about their plans for our region. Sign up early. Already they have asked for members to respond to their RFPs!

You will be hearing from Member Vernon Saunders of the Pittsburgh Business Times on a special advertising rate for MBE & WBE Chamber Members. Taking advantage of this opportunity will afford you a 52% savings. You should receive more

information on this special program in early 2002.

The RFP must be out for development of the NorthShore property between the two sports fields. Our office has received several phone calls from firms across the country wanting a copy of the directory. You will know more as I know more, so stay tuned!

Your Chamber heard your concerns & held a press conference to voice them. The Living Wage proposal for Allegheny County was defeated as there was no plan for funding the proposal. Thank Members Bill Strickland, Constance Balthrop, Tony Bell and Lee Hipps for their compelling arguments on how passage of the bill would destroy economic development for their organizations. The deciding vote was that

of County Council-man Rev. James Sims.

Through their website, you can now donate on-line to the United Way: www.unitedwaypittsburgh.org.

The campaign is in high gear and your support is needed.

Member Bill Strickland welcomed singer Nancy Wilson to a sold-out crowd to announce her Christmas album & the proceeds going to MC. Her special guest to accompany her was non other than Flutist Herbie Mann! You can see her interview on The Oprah Winfrey Show, Barbara Walters, or the CBS Morning Show in the next 3 weeks. You too can purchase the CD on-line:

www.nancywilsonchristmas.com

The Financial Services Workshop Summit was great! Corporate Sponsor Tom Golonski of National City Bank was the chief organizer that helped to plan the day's activities. Members of the Presidential Roundtable Martin Mc Guinn, Mellon Financial Corporation & James Rohr, PNC

Financial Services Group, Inc. were part of the opening panel discussion. Members Al Jones and Dr. John Thompson participated as panelists on the needs of students and young people entering the workforce & and the climate within financial institutions.

Sustainable Pgh. (in the Regional Enterprise Tower), is looking for qualified candidates for an Associate Director staff position. For more info, call 412-258-6642.

Did you know that Blair Insurance has a bonding program up to \$1 million per job for contracts with the Department of Transportation or any job that has transportation funds involved. There is also up to \$500,00 in loan money available for those projects. Call Member Bonnie Hand at 412-381-9081 for details.

The Andy Warhol Museum has decided to extend "Without Sanctuary" to January 21st. For details call (412)227-4211.

Plans for the Chamber's educational conference are well underway. We ask your patience as we 'tweak' the agenda. More ideas flowed from the first meeting than expected. The highlight will be on our local support

agencies.

Your response to our first Candidate's Forum was encouraging so we have decided to schedule on for this spring. Member Rodd Doss is already identifying what would be the best time for the gubernatorial candidates in town. So far we know in the Democratic corner that Ed Rendell-Phila. and State Auditor General Robert Casey are in. On the Republican side there is Member State Treasurer Barbara Hafer and State Attorney General Mike Fisher. Don't forget we have a local election taking place also but so far candidates have not surfaced. The only exception is for filling the remainder of the Councilwoman's, soon to be County Recorder of Deeds, term-Member Valerie McDonald. Two running are Tawanda Carlisle & Louis 'Hop' Kendricks. Keep your ears open, there may be more.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

National City Bank will be our host for the **January Members Mixer**. The flyer is enclosed with this Newsletter.

PowerBreakfast Meeting

February 15,2001
New York Playwright **Tazwell Thompson**
On his play to premiere

at City Theatre in June:

**'Constant Star':
The Story of
Ida B. Wells**

CONGRATULATIONS

Members Chairman Robert Agbede Cameil Williams & Corporate Sponsor Jim Schwing were among the presentors to kick off a new mentoring program for minority engineers.

Member Esther Bush on an outstanding Ronald Brown Leadership Banquet.

Member Rodd Doss was recently made a member of the Prince Hall Masons of Pennsylvania.

Member Eddie Edwards finally received FCC approval to sell off his broadcast ownership interest.

Member Robert Jones of Dominion Resources, Inc. for being named a Black Achiever by Black Opinion Magazine.

Member Richard Portis has become a legislative aide to Member state Rep. William Robinson.

Member Kevin McMahon on his groundbreaking for a new theatre -parking garage.

Member Sylvester Pace was passed the baton as the Executive Director of NEED. **Member Dr. Herman Reid**, after 31 years is stepping down as the head but will continue as executive director emeritus.

Member Chloe Velasquez on her feature story in the Pittsburgh Courier on her Sabio Springs bottled water company.

Member Councilman Sala Udin for sponsoring the successful Gun Amnesty Day.

Lost your Logo Pin

Your logo pin is admiss- on to our Members Mixers & events. For \$5 you can buy a replacement.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Bradley D. Kemps
"B" Kemps Konstruction
Decks, Decks, Decks

Lisa Hammett
Hair Unlimited, Inc.

Sylvester Pace
Negro Emergency
Education Drive

Troy D. Ford
Salomon Smith Barney

Your Chamber Staff:
Shawn Hicks,
Business Assistant

Courtney Smith,
**Director Membership
& Development**

Doris Carson Williams
President

**Wishing You
a Wonderful
Holiday Season &
a Prosperous New
Year**

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