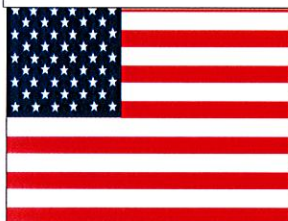


THIS EDITION

- ◆ Members Mixer
- ◆ History made in County Government
- ◆ Tazewell 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

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DORIS CARSON WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT

JANUARY 2002

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

Happy New Year!

Here's hoping 2002 VALERIA MCDONALD'S ROBERTS SWEARING IN. a prosperous year. Your chamber has begun planning programs & activities to help you and your business.

There were over 480 people in attendance at our Business Luncheon. The re-structured *Vision Statement*, adopted by the Board of Directors, was presented for the first time: 'The vision is to be the central conduit for African American business access in all of Western Pa'. Being the voice of the African American business community enhances our collaboration with entities, agencies & organizations in support of our mission. The updated mission statement was well received by the audience. Again, your support of the luncheon was greatly appreciated.

The January 10th PowerBreakfast Meeting

should be very informative Stephen Steinour, the Chairman & CEO of Citizens Bank, will share his vision for our region, and how you can do business with Citizens Bank. Call the office to RSVP until January 8th.

Corporate Sponsor National City Bank will serve as our host the January 31st Members Mixer. Remember-your Logo Pin is the cost of admission.

Plans for our small business conference are well underway. The 2nd planning meeting will take place in two weeks. More ideas flowed from the first meeting than expected. The seminar will focus on member needs to grow their business, using our local resources & support agencies.

Bynum Advertising is putting the final touches on our new Membership Directory for 2002. We

hope to you by the end of the month.

Several members want to christen the new Ice Skating Rink in PPG Plaza. Enclosed is a flyer on the Chamber Party. Bring the family and join us (you can rent skates or bring your own).

This is a history making month for African Americans in Allegheny County: Member Valerie McDonald Roberts is sworn in as Allegheny County Recorder of Deeds, becomes the first African American elected to hold a county row office!

With a 8-7 vote for a two-year term, James Simms is now President of Allegheny County Council, making him the highest ranking African American in the 214 year history of county government. We look forward to working with them as they help move our county forward.

Both the Mayor & the County Chief Executive have endorsed and support the plans for developing the African-American Cultural Center. It will be located

in downtown. We'll keep you posted about plans to move the project toward implementation.

Thanks to all who responded to our email and attended the most recent School Board Meetings. There are many challenges facing Member Dr. John Thompson and he will need our support.

Please complete the Pittsburgh Business Times Survey we sent you via email, and return it to Larry Slater. They are preparing for their list of top minority firms.

The Roofers Local #37 is taking applications for the June Apprenticeship Program. Must have a High School Diploma and \$15 money order. Call 412-732-9720 for details.

By now you've heard The Carnegie Museum of Art purchased the Teenie Harris photos collection. Look forward to us visiting their next exhibit.

The Urban League recently issued a Black Health Report, worth calling to receive a copy (412-227-4150).

A new report on "African American and Women Board Members in the Pittsburgh Region" is out. Visit

Pitt's website <http://www.ucsur.pitt.edu/publications.htm>. The report highlights how the representation continues to remain low for African Americans and women relative to the local working-age population. Also studied was the boards of major employers in the region and it found that representation of African Americans and women is low relative to shares of the local working-age. There is room for improvement!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
PowerBreakfast

Meeting
February 15, 2001
New York Playwright Tazewell Thompson Will talk about his play to premiere in June at City Theatre :

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

**Multi-modal Airport
Corridor**

This is a fast track project (less than 1yr) to identify & develop solutions for the transit & highway issues between downtown and the airport. As members, you along with the public are invited to provide input:

January 15, 2002

4:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
Robert Morris College
881 Narrows Run Road
Moon Township,
or

January 16, 2002

4:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
Sto-Rox High School
1105 Valley Street
McKees Rocks

or
January 17, 2002
4:00 P.M. - 8:00P.M.

**Green Tree
Borough Building**
10 West Manilla Ave.

Pittsburgh, PA.
Questions? Call Erin Carenbauer or Glenda Murphy 412-281-9262.

January 23rd
SBA and Hill, Bath & King LLC CPA firm are hosting a free seminar on how to use Quickbooks. Call 412-395-6560 x 108 to reserve your seat!

FEBRUARY 26TH
CMU will feature the film on Teenie Harris. There will be a speaker, & photo gallery with luscious deserts. Time: 7:00 PM. A reception will be held on the 22nd at noon.

March 21st
'Think Outside the Box' at Duquesne University's SBDC. The Global Trade Institute Program is designed for CEOs & COOs for developing & improving your global business strategy. Your chamber will serve as one of the hosts. You will receive more info on this.

CONGRATULATIONS

Member Barbara Bazron, Ph.D. has become the Executive Director of PACE (Program to Aid Citizens Enterprise).

Member Keith Kinard was recently elected Executive Director of Pgh Housing Authority.

Member Eddie Edwards

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

The PRA is looking for a Customer Information Specialist for the new Business Resource Center, located in the lobby of the Regional Enterprise Tower. Position includes responding to all phone and website inquiries, tracking, as well as serving as an ambassador for the new Regional Showcase. Must be very strong in Word, Excel and PowerPoint; thorough understanding of databases, particularly ACT! (412-392-4555).

**WELCOME NEW
MEMBERS**

Cheryl L. Phillips
Marsetta Lane Staffing

Terrence L. Chaney
Nationwide Insurance

Beverly A. Portis
Multi-Cultural Arts
Initiative

Michael Turner
Turner & Associates

Supporting Members
Charles Schielbs
iNetworks, LLC