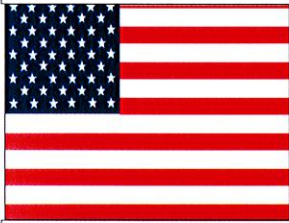


### THIS EDITION

- ◆ Remembering Bernie Jones
- ◆ Tazewell Thompson coming to town
- ◆ Calling all ADP Clients
- ◆ Black History Month Events
- ◆ 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 aaccwp@pittsburghchamber.com  
www.aaccwp.com DORIS CARSON WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT

### FEBRUARY 2002

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

**We** are all saddened by the passing of Member Bernie Jones. What a Visionary, creating one of the first African American grant-making organizations in the country! He will be greatly missed.

The February 15th PowerBreakfast Meeting should be educational & entertaining. Tazewell Thompson, noted national playwright, will be our speaker. His play, 'Constant Star'-the civil rights & life of Ida B. Wells opens at City Theatre in June. It's one meeting you don't want to miss. Call the office to RSVP until February 12th. Also starting this month, each table will be hosted by a Board Member or Membership Committee Member.

Thanks to National City for hosting our Mixer last month. Tom Golonski, Chairman & CEO greeted us & was quite engaging all evening. Stephanie Cipriani and Tim Johnson helped make the event such fun. National City's

Community Development Lending Department will end operations April 1st. They can now make their CRA objectives with-in other functions. Sandi Kielek will move else-where in the bank while Member Tim Johnson will leave to become our newest entrepreneur: Managing Partner of the Horizon Mezzanine Fund, Small Business Investment Company created to provide mezzanine debt financing to moderate income areas. Go Tim!

**Would** all members who have signed up for ADP Payroll Services call or email when you signed up? We need to know for our referral credits.

The Post Office asks all firms in downtown to separate metered letters from stamped mail. The ongoing Fort Pitt Bridge construction has them challenged to meet their deadlines.

SBA will have their

Quality Circle Conference at Seven Springs March 14 & 15, 2002. Call 412-395-6560 for details.

**Member** Jaison Wells is finishing PNC's Advantage Tools for Chamber Members. There will be a formal roll-out of the services in early spring.

Join me in welcoming our new Chamber Services Rep. - Michele M. Urbano. Previously the Producer of New Business at Hilb, Rogal and Hamilton/Pittsburgh, she has over 20 yrs. in the insurance business.

Did you know of the 40,000 firms in our 10 county region, 90% are firms with under 100 employees? The PRA Pittsburgh Regional Alliance and your chamber will be setting up a focus group to learn the good and the bad about perceptions and the reality of conditions in our region for doing business.

The Pa. Economy League has a new project, Issues PA, that will shine a spotlight on the key issues facing us as we enter the 2002 race for Governor. Visit their Website throughout the 2002 campaign. <http://www.IssuesPA.net>.

Supporting Member Catherine Baker Knoll entered the Democratic race for Lieutenant Governor. Good Luck!

The featured Black Heritage stamp released this month is that of the great Poet-Langston Hughes.

Opportunity Pittsburgh is offering Chamber Members a 10% discount. Call Jan Getz 412-392-4505 x4560 to register.

The National Assoc. of Industrial & Office Properties will hold their 9th Annual Awards Banquet, February 21st at the Hilton Hotel. Ms. Roberta Gutman is the speaker (Director - Motorola Foundation & President of Roberta Gutman Consulting). The theme is People: The Other Part of the Puzzle; Diversity & Economic Development. It's a great networking event. Space is limited. Call Melodee Bright at 412-928-8303.

Maya Angelou will be performing at Carnegie Music Hall March 3rd at 8:00 PM. For ticket info, call Allison Hammond @ 412-578-2586.

#### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR** **Black History Month** **Program Calendar**

**Tuesday, February 5:** Fiber Artists Associated sponsors a series of African Quilting Classes taught by nationally renowned fiber artist Ruth Ward, 6PM-8PM, Kingsley Association's

Selma Burke Arts Gallery, East Liberty. To register, call Bonnie Young Laing, (412)661-8751.

**Thru February 22:** Dual Exhibit: Civil rights photos of Charles Moore & clay sculptor Frank Giorgini @ Manchester Craftsmen's Guild.

**Saturday, February 9:** Nego Gato sponsors a Classes in Capoeira, an Afro-Brazilian blend of Martial Arts and Dance, 1PM to 2PM, Selma Burke Arts Gallery, Kingsley Assoc. East Liberty. You must register. Call Bonnie Young Laing (412) 661-8751.

**Member Pat Baker** has a host of exhibitions and artists throughout the month at Images in Homewood Brushton. Artists are: Meredith Watson Young, Biko, Larry Tinsley & Ahmad Francis. The closing reception on March 3rd will feature George Gist, Art Burns, and Jazz Incorp. All events are free & open to the public. For more info, call 412-242-2518.

**Monday, February 25:** Kingsley Assoc. is sponsoring a Spirit of King Student reception with educational workshops on Black Memorabilia, facilitated by local artist Emory Biko. Its free to the public at the Selma Burke Arts Gallery,

Kingsley Association, East Liberty. Call Carl Redwood (412) 661-8751.

**Tuesday, February 26:** CMU will feature the film on Teenie Harris. Time: 7:00 PM. A reception will be held on the 22nd at noon.

#### **Upcoming** **PowerBreakfast Meetings**

##### **March 15th**

Arthur Ziegler  
Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

##### **April 19th**

Michael Baker, Jr., Inc.  
Multi-Modal Airport Corridor Project

##### **June 21st**

Congressman William "Bill" Coyne  
(A Salute)

#### **CONGRATULATIONS**

**10 Members** made the Business Times' 25 Top Minority-Owned firms in our area: ATS, Rice Ent., B Tranz, MJP Ent., JRL Ent., Capco Contracting, North America Telecom., Waller Construction, All Purpose Cleaning Servs, & Sheridan Broadcasting!

**Members Esther Bush** received the Community Service of the Year Award & John Laymon, the Entrepreneur of the Year by Junior Achievement.

**Members Bill Strickland & Greg Spencer** are two of WQED's 2002 African American Leadership Awardees Black History Month Celebration.

**Member Eustace Uku** on being featured on the cover of the URA's Annual Report; The Power of 1.

**Member**  
Rev. Dr. James McLemore

on Small Seeds presentation at the Mother to Sons event in East Liberty.

**Member Connie Portis** is one of this year's Susan B. Anthony's Women of Vision Awardees. The event is February 19th from 5:30-7:30 PM at the Sheraton Station Square.

**Member Greg Spencer** on being recognized as an 'Uncommon Leader'.

#### **WELCOME NEW** **MEMBERS**

**Patricia Cobbs**  
JLC Daycare & Learning Center

**Victoria A. Coleman**  
Urban Design & Construction

**Kemo A. Crawford**  
IKM, Inc.

**G. Toby Gaines**  
Gaines Funeral Home

**Denise Smith-Russell**  
D'Anita Consulting & Associates

**Andrea Wright-Banks**  
Hill District Community Development Corporation

**Supporting Member**  
**Kurt Price**  
Price Securities, Inc

**Associate Member**

**Dr. Esther L. Barazzone**