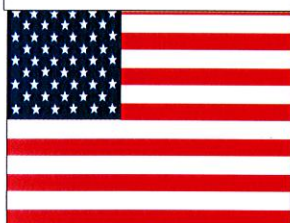


THIS EDITION

- ◆ The 2002 Membership Directory & Addendum
- ◆ Upcoming Annual Meeting
- ◆ 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

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DORIS CARSON WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT

MARCH 2002

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

Congratulations to Ms. Twanda Carlisle on her victory, becoming the City Councilwoman for the 9th District. There was no room to even stand at the Chamber's Candidates Forum. Rodd Doss did an outstanding job facilitating the session & provided insight for all as we learned about each candidate. Member Malik Bankston & the NAACP Youth Council also had a full house at the Kingsley Assoc., suggesting there was a lot of interest in who was to fill the remaining two years of the term.

xEarl Hord on bonding attorneys, laon packaging, real estate developers. engineersThe Ice Skating Party was a perfect afternoon for the over 25 members who came & brought their families for a fun-filled time. We had a ball! There were no casualties and at the end of the afternoon, we were all still standing! Wait until you see the pictures.

Your 2002 Membership Directory & the first

quarter addendum have been mailed. We are also adding your areas of expertise to our website for companies engaged in e-commerce.

There's still time to make your reservations for the March 15th Power-Breakfast with speaker, Arthur Ziegler, President, Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation. Before his presentation, Charles LaVallee will present the CHIP Program. The Children's Health Insurance Program of PA provides comprehensive health-care for children from birth through age 18. Families who earn up to 235% of the Federal Poverty Level, and are ineligible for Medical Assistance, can receive these benefits for their children. For example, a family of four can earn up to \$42,535 annually & remain eligible for coverage. No child should be without health insurance. An **AdultBasic** package will be available soon. You will be receiving a letter about this special

program.

Thank you for telling us if you signed up for ADP payroll services. A new referral form is being developed to eliminate the problem. If you haven't responded, there is still time.

Don't forget that April 6th begins the construction & closing of the out-bound lanes of the Fort Pitt Tunnel.

Member Ronnie Bryant & the Pittsburgh Regional Alliance team unveiled state-of-the-art interactive exhibits called Xploration in the lobby of the Regional Enterprise Tower. It features attractions and offerings with an interactive on-line tour of our region. Come use one of the workstations that includes over 1,100 links, take a virtual tour, view the imprint wall, or just watch yourself walk by.

Please hold April 10th for our Statewide Candidates Forum. It is our intent to have all the candidates present, including those running for governor.

Members -Nubian Sisters, Inc. March 8th-

March 17th at the 2002 Pittsburgh Home & Garden Show at the New David L. Lawrence Convention Center, Booth #425, Level O.

Member Attorney Joe Williams released the MBE/WBE participation policies report that was presented to the Sports & Exhibition Authority. Your Chamber remains committed to improving your participation on public projects and remains willing to assist the SEA.

On a related note, the Pittsburgh School District presented their audit report on minority vendors and contractors and the picture was very similar. Much remains to be done to insure full participation and those who traditionally choose to interfere must now step aside.

April 18th
UPMC Shadyside
West Wing Auditorium
6:30-8:00 PM

April is National Minority Cancer Awareness Month. African Americans are invited to attend this special event. Sponsoring Member UPMC is presenting an evening program for patients, family, & the public.

"A Reason to Hope: The importance of participating in new advancements & cutting-edge treatment for such areas as breast, colon, prostate, & lung cancer". The expert panelist are:

Dr. Steven V. Evans
Dr. Dwight E. Heron
Dr. Samuel I. Jacobs
Free Parking
You must confirm your attendance by calling:
1-800-237-PCI(4724).
See you there!

We've all heard of a thesaurus, but there is a new twist on presenting word relationships. Try it! It's online: <http://thesaurus.plumbdesign.com/index.html>.

Member Ronnie Bryant & Sam McCullough-Pa.'s Secretary of Community & Economic Development have announced that Lake Region Medical, Inc., a manufacturer of guide wires for diagnostic & therapeutic applications will buy a facility in the (RIDC) Regional Industrial Development Corp.'s East Complex. The move will create at least 140 jobs over the next three years. The company plans to be in the new space by fall.

Freedom Corner will be opening for the public starting March 9th. I encourage you to go see it.

Member Nick Nichols has mailed brochures on the 26th Annual Business Opportunity Fair, April 3-4 at the David Lawrence Convention Center. The kick-off breakfast is on the 4th. Call Nick at 412-391-4423.

Member Connie Portis

is almost ready for the Black Extravaganza & Trailblazer Awards at Carnegie Music Hall. This year's honorees include Members Tim Stevens, Rev. Donald Clay, & your President. Call 412-391-8208 for more info.

Upcoming **PowerBreakfast Meetings**

March 15th
Arthur Ziegler
Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

April 19th
Michael Baker, Jr., Inc.
Multi-Modal Airport Corridor Project

Annual Meeting
May 17th
Pittsburgh Hilton Hotel
Mr. Charles Bunch,
President Elect,
PPG Industries

June 21st
Congressman
William "Bill" Coyne
(A Salute)

CONGRATULATIONS

Member Howard Russell has teamed up with Tim Johnson for the newly established Horizon Mezzanine Fund, LP. Both expect Horizon operations to begin in April 2002. It will focus on investing in disadvantaged businesses that range from \$500K-\$5MM. We all look forward to learning more about it.

Member Andrea Wright-Banks on the successful business seminar. Good luck in helping to develop the Hill District. Mary Ellen Sullivan (PNC) has become

an Independent Mortgage Broker.

Members Dr. John Thompson, Greg Spencer, & Bill Strickland, on receiving the 2002 African American Leadership Awards. Members George Miles (WQED), & Victor Roque (Duquesne Light) were the sponsors.

Member Aaron Walton on his outstanding recognition from the Sickle Cell Society, Inc. Over 600 people attended.

WELCOME **NEW MEMBERS**

Tamara K. Davis
Washington Mutual Bank
Lula M. Sweeney
Sweeney Consultants
Antoinette Watkins
Help Is On The Way
Maloyd 'Ben' Wilson
Wilson Group Network
Supporting Member
Mariann Geyer
Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership
Arthur P. Ziegler
Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

Associate Member
Barbara McMahon
Renaissance
Pittsburgh Hotel

Corporate Sponsor

Joyce Bender
Bender Consulting
Services, Inc.

Presidential Roundtable

James D. Roy