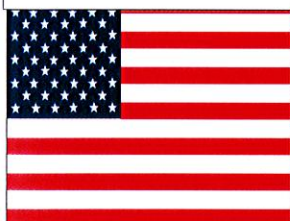


THIS EDITION

- ◆ Candidates Forum
- ◆ Getting ready for e-commerce
- ◆ Upcoming Annual Meeting
- ◆ Working your way thru the traffic maze
- ◆ 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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APRIL 2002

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

April 10th is the State-wide Candidates Forum. The media, including the Pa. Cable Network, and the Associated Press will be covering our Forum! This means you should plan to arrive by 4:00 PM for us to begin at 4:30 sharp. We have confirmed the following candidates: For Governor- **Auditor General Robert Casey & Ed Rendell**; Senate - Councilman **James Ferlo & Bonnie DiCarlo** (Warner Macklin is off the ballot); House - Member **Rep. Joseph Preston & Patrick Dowd**, Member **Rep. William Robinson & Jake Wheatley**. Each has been given the two questions you are most interested in: What have you done to support minority business and if elected, what will you do to support and contract with minority business? We need all members to support this important event. There will be complimentary refreshments & a cash bar. RSVP to the office & plan to arrive early. We will begin on time!

Member Arthur Ziegler of the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation shared invaluable insight as our speaker last month & then accepted business cards from members interested in obtaining contracts! Since your Chamber is a corporate member, you are entitled to savings on tours, publications, educational programs & more. Email Mary Lu Denny at marylu@phlf.org.

The April 19th Power-Breakfast should prove beneficial. Your input is needed on the Airport Multi-Modal Corridor Project. You will gain insight into the issues & make recommendations on improving traffic between downtown and the airport. As always, don't forget the business opportunities. By now you have found a way to get around the closing of the outbound lanes of the Fort Pitt Tunnel, or maybe you need the help of 'CONEMAN'. Member Mariann Geyer (PDP) offers a website to get detour routes &

schedules for construction projects, PAT info, maps, special events & PennDot's website for detours. Click on www.coneman. To make things easier, you can also get up to the minute traffic info & view images on Penn Dot's website: www.epenn.net/traffic_cams.php The cameras update themselves every 60 seconds so check it out before leaving home or work.

Thanks for responding to our request for your specific areas of expertise. We are updating our website for companies to inquire for e-commerce procurement. Over the next month, we hope to complete entering the information for easier company access.

Applications are being taken April 8th thru the 12th for the Cement Masons Pre-Apprentice Program in May. Call 412- 761-6310 for info.

Our Presidential Roundtable Chairman Tom Usher & Chamber Chairman, Bob Agbede are Co-Chairs for the May 11th Ebony & Ivory Ball at the Omni William Penn Hotel. We would like to fill a table. Tickets are \$80 each. Call us & reserve a seat.

<p>Your Chamber President was named to Co-Chair the Mayor's Task Force to make recommendations on changes to the city's tax structure. Pittsburgh's 21st Century Future, or PGH21, consists of elected officials, government, business, & community people. Each will submit ideas as though a new city is being built.</p> <p>Member Richard Witherspoon is preparing for the Hill District Federal Credit Union's 31st Annual Meeting, Friday April 12th, 6:00 PM, Hill House Assoc., 2nd floor. Speaker-Member Rodd Doss. Dinner cost: \$7.</p> <p>Member Cameil Williams & the County Division of Purchasing & Supplies will be hosting another Meet & Greet Session with the County Purchasing Partners on April 9th, 9-11 AM. Call her if you need more info at 412-350-4309.</p> <p>The 26th Annual Small Business Awards Luncheon will be held May 3rd at the Westin Convention Center. Your Chamber President has been named the SBA Advocate of the Year. Call Daria Brown at 412-371-1500 for ticket info. There is also a trade exhibit that begins at 10:30 AM.</p> <p>Did you know that Member Steve Steinour is adding over 500 new positions statewide at Citizens Bank. Jobs include positions in their retail branches, operations (in Philly.), cash</p>	<p>mgmt, marketing & their newly created Mortgage Processing Division.</p> <p>The Women's Economic Development Out Reach Tour will be June 10th thru 14th. The tour moves thru-out Western Pa. Log onto www.e-magnify.com to register & find out when it will visit your county.</p> <p>Thanks to Member Art Baldwin of NETL, the Chamber was honored by CTC, (Concurrent Technologies Corporation) with an equipment grant for our FTAA Program - designed to aid minorities as energy brokers. NETL is also recruiting for 10 internship positions to be filled by minority youth at their Pgh. or Morgantown, WV offices. Email them at MMIT@netl.doe.gov if you know of interested students.</p> <p>Did you know Addison Terrace Learning Center is now Addison Behavioral Care? Member Bernard Ott stated it best describes their mission: Providing behavioral services to individuals, families, & institutions in S.W. Pa.</p> <p>Member Esther Bazzarone is preparing for: 'The Points of Contact: African Art of Ritual Power & Personal Status', from the Cheryl Olkes Collection. The exhibit will be at Chatham College's Woodland Art Gallery - Shadyside. April 11th,</p>	<p>4 to 6 p.m is the opening reception. The gallery is open Monday — Friday Noon to 5 p.m. Saturday & Sunday, 1 to 4 p.m. from April 8 thru April 22.</p> <p>There is still time to see 'The Colors of Sunlight' Spring Flower Show at Phipps Conservatory. Member Richard Piacentini states the show will run until April 14th. The Used Bulb Sale will be on Saturdays 9 -11 AM thru April 27 or until the supplies last!</p> <p>April 18th UPMC Shadyside, West Wing Auditorium 6:30-8:00 PM <i>"A Reason to Hope:</i> The importance of participating in advancements & cutting-edge treatment for such areas as breast, colon, prostate, & lung cancer". The expert panelists are: Dr. Steven V. Evans Dr. Dwight E. Heron Dr. Samuel I. Jacobs Free Parking If you plan to attend call: 1-800-237-PCI(4724). <u>Upcoming Meetings</u> April 19th Michael Baker, Jr., Inc. Multi-Modal Airport Corridor Project</p> <p>Annual Meeting May 17th Pittsburgh Hilton Hotel Mr. Charles Bunch, President Elect, PPG Industries</p> <p>June 21st Congressman William "Bill" Coyne (A Salute)</p> <p>September 20th David Donahoe Allegheny Regional Asset District</p>	<p><u>CONGRATULATIONS</u> Member Sylvester Pace on his first NEED dinner. Great attendance! Member Sam Stephenson recently received the Jefferson Community Champions Award. Members Tim Stevens, Bishop Donald Clay & your Chamber President were honored at the 2002 Black Extravaganza & Trailblazer Awards. Member Bill Strickland now owns the land & has begun building their Greenhouse!</p> <p><u>WELCOME</u> <u>NEW MEMBERS</u></p> <p>A. Kenneth Mann, Esq. Tucker Arensberg, PC</p> <p>William E. Strothers W.E.S. Distributors</p> <p>Cedric D. Thomas KDKA-TV</p> <p>Lula M. Sweeney Sweeney Consultants</p> <p>Antoinette Watkins Help Is On The Way</p> <p><u>Supporting Member</u></p> <p>Mariann Geyer Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership</p> <p><u>Associate Member</u></p> <p>John Cassase Community Service Provider Network</p>
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