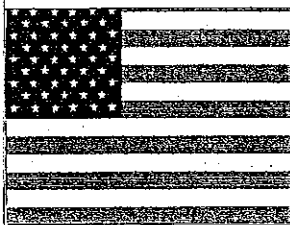


THIS EDITION

- ◆ Chamber's Annual Meeting
- ◆ Chamber Night of "Constant Star"
- ◆ Ebony Ivory Ball
- ◆ Don't forget to Vote
- ◆ 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

MAY 2002

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

We hope all members are planning to attend our **Annual Meeting & Luncheon, Friday, May 17th at the Hilton Hotel.** Your Members Meeting will begin at 11:00 AM in the Le Bateau Room. At noon we will move to Ballrooms 3 & 4 for lunch & to hear Charles Bunch, President-Elect, PPG Industries, our luncheon speaker. Both are worth your attending. There is still time to send in your reply card and check. We need you at the Annual Meeting.

The Chamber has the house for the **June 2nd** performance of **Constant Star**. Let's all make it a fun evening by bringing the family to learn about the life & times of the civil rights woman Ida B Wells. Many of you got a preview of what inspired Writer Tazewell Thompson to write this play at our February PowerBreakfast. He will be present and will join us, along with the Cast of Constant Star, including Member Etta Cox, for a great Dessert Reception by Member Manchester Craftsmen/

Bidwell Corporation, right after the performance. Tickets for the event are \$30. You can purchase them thru the Chamber office only. We need your support to fill the house.

The Candidates Forum was a success, thanks to the over 150 people who attended. We had 15 media outlets present, including the Pa. Cable Network who taped and aired the Forum across the state. Member Rod Doss did an outstanding job on facilitating. We received calls from Philly and Erie on their approval of the Forum. Now that the issue of the primary has been resolved, see you at the polls on May 21st. It's worth taking the time to vote.

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 your seat.

Member Ralph Horgan needs all members interested in doing business with the **PARKING AUTHORITY** to attend the Public Meetings. It is required for contract awards.

Member Jaison Wells is all prepared for the first Business Advantage Workshop Series: "You are the thinking behind Your Business".

The Workshop is broken into 3 sections:

1-3 yrs start-up business (8:30-10:00); 3-5 yrs. Growth business (10:30-Noon); 5yrs.+ Mature Business (1:30-3:00PM). Don't miss it on **May 10th** at PNC Bank, One PNC Plaza, 16th Fl.

Governor Mark Schweiker was in Pittsburgh recently to announce the Pittsburgh Life Sciences Greenhouse Inc. (PLSG), a partnership to put the region's life sciences industry on a fast track for growth. It attracted its first company - Renal Solutions Inc. - and secured \$33.33 million in state seed funding!

Rev. Kevin E. Cooper will be hosting a group of business owners to interest them in joining our Chamber on May 15th at the Mulberry Community Church, 740 South Ave.,

Wilksburg. If you know companies that would be interested in learning about joining, invite them to attend. The Business Networking Event is from 7:00—9:00 PM.

Member Andrea Wright Banks has office space available on the 2nd & 3rd floors of the Hill District CDC building. If you are interested, call Eli Weissman at 412-765-1320, then walk to town!

The Carnegie Museum of Art has on view until July 7th, **CONTEMPORARY DIRECTIONS: Glass from the Maxine and William Block Collection**. This exhibition of 62 works of contemporary studio glass includes African American Artist Therman Statom who has long been a forerunner of the wild and unconventional Studio Glass Movement.

In a surprise move, City Council voted to raise downtown parking fines from \$15 to \$16, & neighborhood fines from \$10 to \$11. The intent is to pay city government retirees at least \$90 more each year for health care. This will add about \$171,500 to the \$8 million dollar total payment needed each year!

The Joint Apprentice Training Committee-U.A. Local Union 542, is taking applications for their apprentice training program, May 20-24 & May 27-31 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Pittsburgh Sprinkler Fitters, Affler Building,

2987 Babcock Blvd., 15237. Questions? Call 412-931-2241.

Member Richard V. Piacentini is busier than ever with *DinoQuest*, an exhibit of dinosaurs throughout the Phipps Conservatory's tropical surroundings. The exhibit is from May 11th to August 18th, time to take the entire family.

Member Ralph Watson's Granny's Touch Day Care Center (Wilksburg) is accepting applications. For more information, call 412-731-7610.

Member Eustace Uku and Shelly Fants were married on April 19th. It was beautiful & we wish them happiness.

Members Grace Robinson & Robert Agbede have been nominated to receive the Western Pa. Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Awards. June 28th is the announcement date at the Westin Convention Center.

The Women's Economic Development Outreach Tour will be June 10th thru 14th. The tour moves thru-out Western Pa. To find out when it will visit a county, log onto www.e-magnify.com.

Upcoming Meetings & Events **May 17th**

Chamber Annual Meeting
11:00 AM Meeting Luncheon: 12 Noon

Hilton Hotel
Speaker: Charles Bunch, President-Elect, PPG Industries.

June 2nd
Constant Star & Reception at City Theatre
7:00 PM

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

September 20th
David Donahoe Allegheny Regional Asset District

CONGRATULATIONS

Member Russell Bynum recently won: 2002 Communicator Award for the Ebony Ivory Ball invitations. This international award recognizes work in the field of communications.

Member Ronnie Bryant & the Pittsburgh Regional Alliance were honored as one of the Top 10 Economic Development Groups in the Country!

Member Rod Doss & his management team received approval to buy four Black-owned newspapers: the Pittsburgh Courier, the Chicago Defender, the Michigan Chronicle in Detroit, & the Tri-State Defender in Memphis!

Member Bill Robinson on this year's outstanding Soul Food Sampler. He honored African American elected officials; past & present.

Member Bill Strickland on giving keynote address to graduating class at Pitt. Bill also now owns the land & has begun building their Greenhouse!

Member Sincerely Yours (Andre & Robin Young) on their successful Book Signing party for Emmy-

winning TV producer, and writer Rita Coburn Whack.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Renee Aldrich
American Cancer Society

Marvin Carolina, Sr.
Carolina Insurance Agency

Eileen D. Hall
Halls Professional Drywall Enterprise, Inc.

Elise James
Big Brothers/Sisters

Lanesha Lewis
AFLAC

Michael Moore
H2M1 Engineering, Inc.

Jeffrey Thomas
Thomas Consulting Group, Inc.

Lamonte Wilson
Fire Chief
Allegheny County Airport Authority

Supporting Member

Warren E. Baugh
Southern Pines Trucking, Inc.

Tom Churchill
R.E. Crawford Construction

Associate Member

Stephen Klein
Pittsburgh Public Theatre

Pat Prozzi
American Red Cross

Corporate Sponsor
James A. Williams
Ernst & Young

Presidential Roundtable Member
Charles Bunch
PPG Industries, Inc.