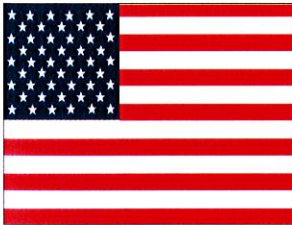


THIS EDITION

- ◆ Annual Meeting Luncheon Sold Out!
- ◆ Constant Star performed to a Full House!
- ◆ Chamber Member Makes History
- ◆ 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

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

JUNE 2002

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

Thank you to the over 100 members who attended the Annual Meeting & helped set the Chamber's agenda for the upcoming year. The members voted priority should be given to:

- ◆ Enhancing your business acumen,
- ◆ Advocacy, and
- ◆ Growing the membership base.

This means you will be receiving more information about programs on each one. Following our meeting, the members were joined by over 300 guests to hear speaker Chuck Bunch, President & COO-Elect of PPG Industries. Kudos to Member Don Lee for the arrangements and the delicious meal!

Thanks to Presidential Roundtable Members Equitable Resources & Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield for underwriting the students, & Corporate Member Manchester Bidwell Corp. for the fabulous desserts for our night at City Theatre to see the production of Constant Star. We were able to sell

the entire house! Playwright and Director—Tazewell Thompson made remarks at the reception as Member Fred Kenderson Photography Studio snapped pictures. It was truly a fun night to learn about such a strong woman. It truly is a play you must see.

Eustace & Cameil on their June 13th reception and MBE Roll Out Plan. **We** ask that you make every effort to attend the June 21st PowerBreakfast to thank Congressman Bill Coyne for his many years of helping to advance African Americans in this region. We will salute him and highlight some of his accomplishments. Your presence will help make the difference.

The public awareness meeting on the Mon Fayette Expressway Project provided members with a status update & info on how to become eligible for contracting with the Pa. Turnpike Commission.

Need is soliciting volunteers to walk with

them June 19th for one hour & collect 'Dollars for Scholars'. Meet at Verizon at 11:45 AM and support this worthy drive. Verizon in turn will give **NEED** a 1 for 1 match on the monies collected.

You, the voters have spoken & Ed Rendell is now the Democratic nominee for Governor. Your Chamber is planning to have GOP candidate, State Attorney General Mike Fisher, address you.

History was made last week by a Chamber Member with the help of Chamber Members, Supporters, & Partners. Chamber Chairman Bob Agbede (President & CEO of Advanced Technology Systems) & Supporter Chester Engineers, part of USFilter Engineering & Construction Co., were awarded a contract worth over \$30 million dollars over the next several years with Corporate Sponsor-Pgh Water & Sewer Authority. Member Joseph Preston is the Chairman of the Authority. Both have done business with PWSA, but their joint venture marks the authority's largest contract award involving

a minority firm and demonstrates their commitment to the city MBE program. It further opens doors for other African American firms to expand doing business in the city. This reaffirms what the Chamber's mission is committed to and we want you to join us in congratulating them; four Chamber Members helping to advance inclusion and promote economic development!

Chairman's Circle Member Victor Roque recently announced a partnership with Corporate Sponsor Roy Flores to establish the Electric Distribution Technology (EDT) Program at Community College of Allegheny County. This two-year degree program will combine academic experience with hands-on technical training that will produce an associate in science degree in Electric Distribution Technology. Graduates of the program may qualify for employment as an overhead line-worker and can expect a starting salary of \$40k per year. You will hear more info on the program.

Don't forget to notify the Chamber Office of address and email changes to receive your correspondence on time.

Member Rob Jones presented Neighborhood Housing Services with a \$5,000 grant for pre-paid work-shops on owning your home. The goal is

to place 500 clients in homes in one year.

Controls have been tightened on applying for a PA driver's license, learner's permit, & ID card. Now all forms of ID must show the same name and or date of birth, or association between the information on the documents. Additional documents are needed if a connection can't be established between the documents.

Partner Ronnie Bryant held a Regional Economic Development Summit recently at the Marconi Headquarters in Cranberry and the impact is being felt thru out the region. The process has been very methodical to highlight the region as the prime area for expansion while fostering regional economic growth.

The Governor's Advisory Commission on African American Affairs is planning a special session "Doing Business with the State" October 9th in Harrisburg. The purpose is to provide insight into all services provided by the Depts. of Labor & Industry and Community & Economic Development. This includes state programs and services for small businesses ranging from general resource info, workforce forecasting, workers comp, employee tax credits, & certification to

disability programs, & how to negotiate your contracts! You will also have time to discuss procurement matters with purchasing agents who will be present.

The State Dept. of Health has published the Minority Health Task Force's Special Report 2002, and Chamber Member Mel Causey was a member of the Task Force. To receive your copy, call Darlene Sampson at 717-787-6436. We need your reaction to the report by June 24, so it can be part of the statewide report to Health Secretary Ronald Zimmerman.

Upcoming Meetings

& Events

June 21st

Congressman

William "Bill" Coyne

(A Salute)

June 27th

Members Mixer

Kick off the Summer with Live Entertainment with a Steel Band. Your Host: Chairman Robert Agbede
Advanced Technology Systems

September 20th

David Donahoe

Allegheny Regional Asset District

September 27

Year-End Networking Mixer
Senator John Heinz Pgh
Regional History Center
Host: Dominion Resources

CONGRATULATIONS

Member Dr. Cecilia Griffin Golden on an outstanding YWCA Tribute to Women Luncheon. **Member Esther Bush**, received a commemorative award. **Member Chuck Powell** received the Champion Enterprises Pgh M.V.P. Award. **Member Grace Robinson** on

celebrating her 10th successful year in business! **Member Bill Strickland** on Bidwell Training Center ranking as one of the 25 largest private career schools in the country! This past Sunday, Manchester Craftsmen Guild was listed as the number one cultural force in our region! **Member Elise Yanders** on the recent birth of her son, Charles, Jr. **Presidential Round-table Members Tom Usher, Murry Gerber, & Martin McGuinn** made the list of the Top 50 Business Leaders. **Presidential Roundtable Member Martin McGuinn** on his new advertising for Mellon Financial Corp.: "At the beginning of the day, it's all about possibilities; At the end of the day, it's all about results".

WELCOME

NEW MEMBERS

Honorable

Twanda Carlisle

City of Pittsburgh

Veronica Edwards

Business Consultant

Princeaner Hall

& Peggy Davis

The Healing Grounds

Timothy Johnson

& Howard Russell

Horizon Management Group

Carolyn Howard

Clergy & Churches

United

Michael Moore

H2M1 Engineering Inc.

Associate Member

Howard B. Slaughter
Fannie Mae Pittsburgh