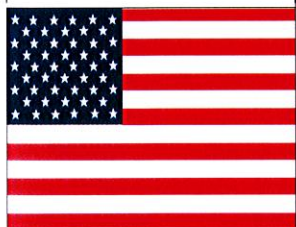


### THIS EDITION

- ♦ Linking to a broader Procurement Network
- ♦ Statewide Info Tech. Conference for Minority Business
- ♦ County launches Small Business Development & Technical Assistance Program
- ♦ 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

### JULY 2002

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

If you don't have a website, your Chamber can create a business web page for you that is linked to the Chamber's website. Call the office for details.

The Public Meeting to Chamber Members by PennDot and Mackin Engineering on the Mon/Fayette Expressway project provided insight on the different aspects of the project. This is the public comment period of this \$1.5 billion dollar project. Thanks goes to Member Roy Flores for the Student Service Center. If you are a consultant, in construction or engineering and didn't attend the session, you missed out on an opportunity!

Member Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield has offered to include all members in their National Administrative Services Purchasing Council Data Base. This enables all Blue plans east of the Mississippi to identify small businesses for possible procurement opportunities. You must be SBA certified to be included. Interested? Call

the Chamber office and confirm your wish to be linked.

Now is a good time to weigh-in with your opinion of the planned reorganization for the county's 55 District Justice Offices. One of the two proposed plans calls for the elimination of the city magistrates court. Write to Judge Robert Kelly, President, Court of Common Pleas, 437 Grant St. 15219.

The recent spin off of several of H.J. Heinz Co.'s businesses & merging them with Del Monte Foods will hopefully not affect their presence and the many partnerships in our region.

State Rep. W. Curtis Thomas, Co-Chair of the House Subcommittee on Information Technology, is Conference Convener for the first "Sharing the Wealth Through Participation" meeting, Monday July 15th & 16th. The conference will provide participants with the step-by-step instructions on getting certified for state

IT business. To register, call Tameka Jackson 717-787-9471.

The Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce is accepting nominations for the 2002 ATHENA Award presented to a woman who contributes in significant ways to the achievements of other women. You can obtain a nomination form by calling 412-394-4555.

**Member Nick** Nichlos is preparing for the Purchasing Council's Golf Outing, September 23rd at Nevillewood. Call 412-391-4423 to join in.

**Member Richard** Piacentini has a host of classes available thru September at Phipps Conservatory & Botanical Gardens. Call 412-441-4442 to obtain a catalog & to register.

**Member Mariann** Geyer has several retail and restaurant promotional programs taking place through July to highlight why Downtown Pgh is the place to frequent. You should check them out.

The House of Representatives passed 119 - 78 an amendment to SB 1089 with a repeal of Joint & Several Liability after 60% responsibility (i.e., if you are less than 60%, you pay your

fair share and no more; if you are more than 60% responsible, you could be responsible for your fair share plus the additional liability including 100%). Under current law if only found 10% responsible you could pay 100% of the costs. Tort Reform is moving!

The Frederick Douglass Institute announced the release of 'Multiculturalism: Roots and Realities. The book is a collection of essays published from their first presentation at the '94 academic conference celebrating the centennial of Douglass' life; "Voices of the 19th Century: Roots & Realities of Multiculturalism". H. Louis Gates from Harvard Univ. has the lead essay & Jacob Lawrence's image from the 'Builder's Series' is on the cover. Call 610-436-2766 to buy one.

By the time your Chamber returns to the ice this winter Member Dick Corp. will have installed the computer-choreographed water fountain in PPG Plaza. This new fountain will have over 100 columns & over 250 underground lights, forming a diamond around the obelisk. Can't wait to see it.

Member IRETA will be participating in the Substance Abuse Treatment Today: Using Data to Empower the Treatment System Conference, July 7 - 9 at the Hershey Lodge and

Convention Center in beautiful Hershey, PA. Projected outcomes will result in: a valid evaluation, using identified data sources of a substance abuse treatment system, & the effective collaboration of relevant stakeholders in the development & implementation of an evaluation plan.

The Pittsburgh Regional Champions held their annual reunion last week at the Carnegie Library of Homestead, celebrating the rebirth of the Steel Valley & ongoing influence that the Champions have had throughout our 10 counties. To get involved & learn more about this group of volunteers, call 412-392-4555.

The PRA has joined CMU, Pitt, Penn State, and Catalyst Connection to create the National Center for Defense Robotics (CDR). The center for mobile robotics and related technologies, having a market for the first time because of the U.S. government's desire to develop such technologies for combat and homeland security, will be incubated under the Pittsburgh Gateways Corporation (PGC).

#### **Correction Note**

We incorrectly listed one of our Corporate Sponsors in the Annual Report. University of

Pittsburgh Medical Center should have been listed as: UPMC Health Systems

#### **Upcoming Meetings & Events**

**September 20th**

David Donahoe  
Allegheny Regional Asset District  
&

Rev. Dr. James Sims,  
Chairman Allegheny County Council

**September 30**

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

#### **CONGRATULATIONS**

Member Esther Bush on inducting 105 new students into the National Achievers Society. Each student had a grade point average of 3.0 & above.

Member Rod Doss for receiving the best editorial, best editorial cartoon and best new story with the National Newspaper Publishers Association. The New Pittsburgh Courier also recently took home a Golden Quill Award for Best Editorial.

Member Weida Tucker on being listed as Number 2 of the Pgh area retained executive search firms in this region!

Member Glenn Mahone on receiving the Professional Man of the Year Award from the Negro Business & Professional Women's Club.

Members Andre and Robin Young also received their Business Partners of the Year Award.

#### **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

**Kimberly Park**  
The Federation of  
International Trade  
Assoc.

**Associate Member  
Starr Marshall Cash**  
Pittsburgh Community  
Reinvestment Group

**HAVE A GREAT  
SUMMER!**