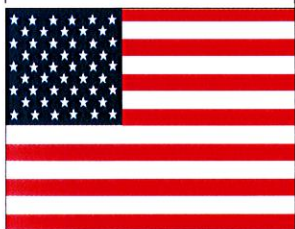


THIS EDITION

- ◆ We're moving to Suite 1330
- ◆ Business Acumen Program this month
- ◆ Corporate Members Mixer in September
- ◆ Members in the News Chairman is the new Entrepreneur of the Year George Miles exhales
- ◆ 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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DORIS CARSON WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT

AUGUST 2002

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

Hope your summer has allowed for some time to relax. Your Chamber has been maintaining its usual pace. By the end of this month, your Chamber will be in new offices within the Regional Enterprise Tower. Our new suite of offices are #1330, with space for meetings & our offices will be contiguous.

The **Business Acumen** program is:

**August 28th
12:00-1:45 PM,
O'Neill Room, Regional
Enterprise Tower
Cost \$12**

The announcement was included in this mailing. Members who attended the annual meeting voted that improving their business acumen was the #1 priority for their business. Experts in networking will share their tips. Includes lunch. Reserve your seat early, it's one you should not miss. This session is for Members Only.

The September 20th PowerBreakfast Meeting is a definite double-hitter. Supporting Member David Donahue of the Regional Asset District will present their program & what it

means to our region, given talk of building a hockey stadium.

Following will be the Honorable Rev. James Simms, President, Allegheny County Council.

First African American Chair in County Government history, Rev.

Simms will update us on council activities & give insight into why he is recommending the Sanders Task Force be dismantled. As always, both will be asked to discuss opportunities for you to do business.

Our last Corporate Sponsored Members Mixer for the year will be September 30th at the John Heinz History Center-Strip District. Dominion Resources, Inc. will be hosting what is shaping up to be a fabulous evening. You will receive a flyer before the end of the summer. Remember, your logo pin is admission. Let's fill the house!

Our first Member Sponsored Mixer was held at ATS' Corporate Offices in the RIDC Park, O'Hara township.

It rained that day, causing the food & Caribbean Trio to be moved in doors. The tent was still put to good use, as the fun moved in & out of the building.

Thanks to Bob Agbede for an enjoyable evening.

If you wish to sponsor a Mixer, call the office. We will be glad to put you on the schedule.

Hope all city members attended one of the five public comment hearings on the new City Council district maps. Estimates are each district will have about 37k people (conforming with the 2002 census), a drop from the 41,000 set in 1993. The re-mapping must be finished by 2003 when five seats are up for reelection.

Developer Irv Williams recently held the Grand Opening of One Hope Center, an office building on Centre Avenue. This is the second one for Irv, and based upon the look of the structure, finding tenants should not be a problem.

If you have a junior-year college student, majoring in accounting, & is looking for an internship (in the fall, winter, or summer, semesters) with a reputable Accounting

Firm, call the office as soon as possible. The pay scale begins at \$10-\$12/hour. We will need their resume.

Dowe's on Ninth is offering a 10% Summer Discount on lunch thru August. A coupon is enclosed.

Mayor Murphy's RAVN initiative is in effect. The "Remove Abandoned Vehicles Now" is a voluntary program to rid city streets of abandoned vehicles. Turn over the title, and the city will arrange to tow the vehicle no cost, thru the 60 day grace period, ending Sept 15th. After that fines are up to \$1,000 per day for a vehicle left on private property. Call the Mayor's Service Center 412-255-2621.

Member Ronnie Bryant and his senior staff are in the United Kingdom on a regional business development mission. Allegheny County Chief Executive Jim Roddey & Member Steve Morgan (Director-County Economic Development) will join Ronnie, along with a delegation of 17 regional business, academic & governmental leaders in Manchester & Sheffield Pa. to firms with a high potential to invest here.

The Soul Circus is in town from August 6-11th at East Gate Shopping Center. You can buy tickets thru Ticket-master.

Operation Nehemiah recently received a nice

vote of confidence. U.S.Senator Arlen Specter stated the Senate Appropriations Committee approved \$225k for the East Gate Commerce Center. The County's Redevelopment Authority will work with Member Constance Balthrop to fund site remediation, demolition & other assessments. The project now moves forward!

2000 Census ranks Pennsylvania as the 4th oldest state with a median age of 38. Dr. Ralph Bangs at Pitt has begun to place data on his website for local neighborhoods and communities. The first set is at <http://www.ucsur.pitt.edu/benchmarks/>, or go to www.ucsur.pitt.edu & click on publications. Your Chamber will notify you as new data is placed on the site.

Member Keith Kinard is busy with expansion projects for the Homewood North and Garfield Heights. The projects will allow for the growth of the children's safe haven program (ages 5-12) on Nolan Court and conversion of a three-bedroom on Columbo Street into office space. Opportunities!

Call the Chamber office to confirm if you are SBA certified & want your firm linked to the National Administrative Services Purchasing Council

Data Base for Blue Cross Blue Shield Plans on the east coast.

There's still time to sign up for the Purchasing Council's Golf Event, September 23rd at Nevillewood. Call Nick Nichols @ 412-391-4423 to join in.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

August 28th

Business Acumen Seminar

September 20th

David Donahoe

Allegheny Regional Asset District

&

Rev. Dr. James Sims,
Allegheny County Council
September 30

Fall Corporate Networking Mixer Host:

Dominion Resources

CONGRATULATIONS

Chairman Robert Agbede received the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award for Business Services. He now moves to compete nationally in Palm Springs this fall.

Members Malik Bankston, Tim Stevens & Councilman Sala Udin were honored by the Pittsburgh Pirates for their contributions to the growth of our region.

Member Andrea Wright-Banks & her Chairwoman, Estella Smith for their bold new plans to assist in revitalizing the Hill District.

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

Corporate Sponsor Member Mona Generett on the effective implementation

of Dollar Bank's home ownership program for public housing residents.

Member George Miles received approval from the FCC to convert WQEX Channel 16 to a commercial station. Closing the sale will enable WQED to strengthen its infrastructure & make technological changes. Exhale, George, with this big first step!

Member Ron Porter on the Allegheny County Housing Authority award for RDP Consulting. This is a two year contract to provide comprehensive management development services. They will also begin their third year of managing a yearlong Leadership Development Program for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Charles L. Anderson
Anderson Cleaning

Edward W. Diggs
Kirkpatrick &
Lockhart, LLP

Debbie Hickman
Giant Eagle # 697
Hickman Foods LLC

ASSOCIATE MEMBER

Donna J. Ellison
Westmoreland County
Information & Referral
Services