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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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OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

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DORIS CARSON WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT

SEPTEMBER 2002

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

We have settled into our new offices within the Regional Enterprise Tower. Our new offices are located in suite #1330. We invite you to visit us.

The September 20th PowerBreakfast Meeting is filling up nicely. Both Supporting Member David Donahue of the Regional Asset District & the Honorable Rev. Dr. James Simms, President, Allegheny County Council will provide insight into their operations & the opportunities that exist for you to do business.

September 30th Corporate Mixer 5:00-9:00 PM

John Heinz History Center

(The flyer listed the start time as 6:00 PM). Let's all try & attend the Fall Members Mixer. Corporate Sponsor Dominion Resources is our underwriter & is looking forward to meeting you. Many of our corporate sponsors are expected to be there. Remember, wear your logo pin for admission.

October 18th PowerBreakfast Meeting Rivers Club 7:30 AM

State Attorney General Mike Fisher

As a candidate for Governor, Mike Fisher will address you and respond to his vision on procurement opportunities. This completes this years' Candidate Forum.

If you missed the "Strengthening your Business Acumen" program, you really missed a treat. Yvonne Campos, President/ Campos Market Research, did an outstanding job explaining networking tips, overcoming shyness, & the protocol for successful engagement with business owners: Thirty-two members gave rave reviews on her presentation. She was terrific!

Your Chamber is once again accepting applications for state's CED Loan Fund. This is a state loan program where small businesses can qualify to borrow up to \$100,000 at 2%! Call us to receive an application. Once completed, we will schedule a meeting for you with Exico, Inc. who will do

the loan packaging, provide the analysis and submit the paper-work to the state.

The City of Pittsburgh, including the Parking Authority has changed their procurement process for A & R under \$10,000. You can logon their websites to obtain bid and RFP info at www.city.pittsburgh.pa.us ; www.pittsburghparking.com or call 412-560-2527.

We will also be providing their new brochures at the September meeting.

Finally, a way to stop telemarketing calls. You can register on-line at www.nocallsplease.com, or call 1-888-777-3406 to stop those unwanted solicitations.

Member Sharon K. Williams is putting the final touches on MEC's 2002 Pillar Awards, Sat. Sept. 7th. The Guest Speaker is Ms. Sharon Epperson of CNBC. Call 412-434-5806 for tickets.

September 17th is the ATHENA Awards at the Westin Convention Center. **Member Esther Bush** is one of the finalist. **Connie Matsiu**, National President Girl Scouts of USA is the speaker. For more info and tickets, call 412-392-4555 x3560.

Member Community

Media's First Friday will be September 2nd, at 8:15 PM., Mellon Park (5th Ave. & Beechwood Blvd). Take your lawn chair/blanket and enjoy the cool sounds of jazz!

After only 10 months in to this fiscal year, the Pittsburgh District Office of SBA is the #1 district office in the country in total loan production! Hats off to Member Al Jones & his staff! Incidentally, they have extended the deadline for SBA nominations to Nov. 29th. The guideline brochures will be ready in about two weeks.

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

October 4th is the start of Minority Enterprise & Development Week. A luncheon at the Ramada Plaza Suites will kick it off. For info & tickets, call: (412) 731-5086.

The Katz Leadership Development Conference will take place Oct. 4th. Mr. Joe Johnson, Corporate Development & Transformation Officer will be the evening speaker on at the luncheon. On Oct. 5th, Mark Lay, Chairman & CEO MDL Capital Management will be the speaker. Call the Katz School of Business for more info at 412-648-1531.

Denyce Graves, Metropolitan Opera Star will be performing

Sunday, Sept. 29th at Carnegie Music Hall, 6:30 PM. She is the African American who sang at the 9-11 Memorial Service in D. C. Your host: The Pgh Chapter of The Links, Inc. Tickets are \$50 for the concert; \$100 if you wish to attend the Champagne Reception with Ms Graves. Call TicketMaster @ 412-323-1919.

Stamp collectors will be thrilled to acquire the new Judge Thurgood Marshal stamp, going on sale in early September.

There is a website where you can find historical documents & other information related to African Americans: www.toptags.com/aama/docs/docs.htm

WQED-TV is doing a show on "Heroes", Thursday, September 12th, @ 7:30 pm - "On Q" will air segments with Member Bill Strickland & the Honorable K. Leroy Irvis.

There will be an exciting program with information & presentations, including a trade show focusing on solutions to shipping, transportation, packaging, & labeling needs for today's businesses.

Wednesday, September 18, 2002
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Mountain View Inn,
Greensburg, PA
Registration Fee: \$ 99.
Includes continental

break-fast, lunch, program materials, admission to sessions & their trade show.

David Siegel, President and CEO, US Airways, visited Pittsburgh recently. His presence here served to reaffirm Pittsburgh will remain a major hub for "a long time to come". We commend Jim Roddey, Chief Executive, Allegheny County, for his leadership in this initiative. The Pittsburgh Regional Alliance handled the logistics.

Synergy Real Estate Corporation is engaged in a Business District economic development initiative for the Borough of Wilkinsburg. The ultimate goal is to fill vacant commercial space along Penn Ave and Wood Street. Company President Alan Wampler, has been invited to speak at an upcoming PowerBreakfast Meeting.

Member Dr. John Thompson is planning an extensive television-based media campaign entitled, 'What's Going On Inside the Classroom'. The purpose is to heighten public awareness of the many opportunities for students to excel in the Public Schools. Want to be a sponsor? Call 412-622-3600.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

September 20th PowerBreakfast Meeting

David Donahoe
Allegheny Regional Asset
District &
Rev. Dr. James Simms,
Allegheny County Council

September 30
Fall Corporate
Networking Mixer
Your Host:
Dominion Resources

October 18th
PowerBreakfast Mtg.
State Attorney General
Mike Fisher

CONGRATULATIONS

Member Esther Bush is a finalist for the Athena Award & will receive the Carlow College's Woman of Spirit Award.

Member James Moreland on Jaymore Electrical Systems recently became an authorized distributor of GE lighting products.

Member Bill Strickland on MEC's Lifetime Achievement Award & McDonald's Big MAC Award.

Member Eustace Uku & your President are finalist for MEC's Pillar Award.

**WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS**
Rosemary Crawford
Crawford McDonald &
Greene, LLC

**Brian & Donna
Keener**
Keeners Kleaners

Terry Long
Value Added Foods

Delbert Tyler
Delbert Tyler LLC

ASSOCIATE MEMBER
Donna J. Ellison
Westmoreland County
Information & Referral
Services

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