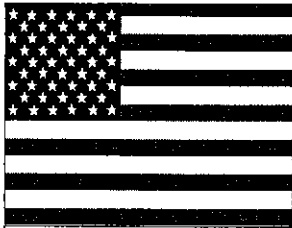


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MISSION STATEMENT

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

REGIONAL ENTERPRISE TOWER SUITE 701

425 SIXTH AVENUE PITTSBURGH, PA. 15219

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DORIS CARSON WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT

October 2002

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

Beginning November, you will begin to receive your newsletter through email. If you wish to receive it through the regular mail, simply call the office. The increase cost of postage has us examining ways to keep membership dues at the current levels. We are settled into our new offices (Suite 1330) within the Regional Enterprise Tower. We invite you to visit us.

Believe it or not, it's time to begin preparing for the 2003 membership directory. You will receive an email asking you to verify the information we have on file is correct. If you have moved, or changed any of your business information in the last year, please call the office. We want to have the books completed by mid-December. Supporting Member David Donahue of the Regional Asset District did an outstanding job presenting. We hope you took advantage of the free weekend of arts and culture. Rev. Dr. James Simms, President, Allegheny County

Council presented opportunities that exist within the County on economic development, including the proposed new mall in Frazer township by the Mills Corporation. Your Chamber is following up on several projects.

October 18th PowerBreakfast Meeting

Rivers Club 7:30 AM
State Attorney General
Mike Fisher

Please call the office to confirm your attendance. Our numbers are growing. Don't forget Oct. 7th is the last day to register for voting in November.

October 12th is the Sixteenth Annual Afro-American Heritage Day Parade. Why not bring the family & support your local high school or marching group as they move thru downtown, beginning at 11:00 AM. One of this year's Parade Marshals is our Member Irv Williams!

Save December 5th for our Annual Business Luncheon. We are pleased to announce

that Presidential Round-table Member Ronald Davenport, Chairman Sheridan Broadcasting will be our speaker. Your invitation will be mailed in October.

November 5, 2002 is the second African American Corporate Symposium. The goal is to give African American professionals a chance to participate in a well-structured developmental experience that will assist them in their career and professional growth. Member Greg Spencer has indicated the committee has put together an exciting program. Erroll B. Davis, Jr., Chairman, President and CEO of Alliant Energy will be the key presenter. George L. Miles, Jr., President and CEO of WQED Pgh will be the luncheon speaker on the subject of leadership in Pittsburgh. The event will be held at the I.B.E.W. Hall, Southside. Fee: \$100. You can get more info on-line at: symposium_02@hotmail.com.

The Governor's Commission on African American Affairs is holding a Business Summit, Wednesday, October 2 at the Radisson Hotel in

Harrisburg. Fred Clark, Executive Director of the Harrisburg Downtown Partnership will be the keynote speaker. That evening the commission will honor its members, including your Chamber President. Call Ted Darcus, Executive Director, for info at: 717-772-5085.

A major delegation of companies recently participated in the National Black MBA's 24th Annual Conference & Career Fair to recruit and raise awareness of our region to top African American graduate students. Led by Corp. Members PNC Financial Services & the PRA, the consortium of firms also included H. J. Heinz, PPG Ind., Highmark & Mellon Financial Corp., all Presidential Roundtable Members.

Dr. Ralph Bangs has produced tables ranking communities in the county on key variables available from 2000 census data, including profile tables. You can view and print out the info on Pittsburgh neighborhoods the Center web site: www.ucsur.pitt.edu, click on publications. Pages can be printed from the website.

The Urban League's Annual Meeting and Conference will be October 8th at CMU from 8:30 to 4 p.m. Planned are a series of workshops, concluding with a Gubernatorial Forum. Interested? Call (412) 227-4211.

Don't forget October 4th is the start of Minority Enterprise & Development Week, beginning with a luncheon at the Ramada Plaza Suites. For info & tickets, call: (412) 731-5086. MED week.

Your Chamber is once again accepting applications for the state's CED Loan Fund. This is a state loan program where small firms can qualify to borrow up to \$100,000 at 2%! Call us for 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. SBA recently announced the launch of its new Spanish website, aimed at reaching the growing Hispanic business community and the Spanish-speaking communities. With a business tool to help current and aspiring owners start & grow their businesses successfully.

Join me in bidding farewell to Member Billy Jackson of Community Media. After 15 yrs., he has decided to move on. He will remain busy doing projects, including a documentary on former State House Speaker K. Leroy Irvis. Stay tuned, I'm sure we will be reading

about him in films.

The Chief Executive Officer of the Sheffield Chamber of Commerce and Industry recently paid a visit to your Chamber office, a step in continuing to develop a bi-lateral relationship between our region and Sheffield, England. Ours was one of many meetings with several leaders of the region's business community to explore opportunities for businesses in each community to extend operations overseas. I'll keep you posted.

Our non-profit members should be aware the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh's Foundation Center moved to the Library Center, 414 Wood Street, downtown, lower level. The phone number is: 412-622-1917. The move is part of a comprehensive Capital Improvement Program that includes the reorganization of the Main Library.

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; or www.pittsburghparking.com, or call 412-560-2527.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

October 18th
PowerBreakfast Mtg.
State Attorney General
Mike Fisher

November 15th
PowerBreakfast Mtg
Alan Wampler
Synergy Corporation &
Roland Corvington

Federal Bureau of Investigation on their Recruiting Program

December 5th
Third Annual
Business Luncheon
Speaker: Ronald
Davenport, Chairman
Sheridan Broadcasting

CONGRATULATIONS

Member Renee Amooore on Amooore Health Systems' Employers Appreciation Breakfast. Member Joyce Bender honored as the 2002 Employer of the Year Award from the National Epilepsy Foundation. Member Sharon Williams on MEC's Pillar Awards Event: our members honored were: Tom Cousar of Capco Contracting, as Entrepreneur of 2002, Debbie Hickman of Hickman Foods-the Up & Coming Award, & Al Jones of SBA-the Economic Impact Award.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

John J. Clark
John J. Clark & Assoc.

Anita Galloway
AGP
Regina Ragin
Community Leadership
Development Institute

ASSOCIATE MEMBER
Judith O'Toole
Westmoreland
Museum of Art

Corporate Sponsor
Jeffrey Pina
Nova Chemicals, Inc.