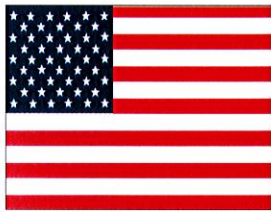


THIS EDITION

- ◆ Members Holiday Party
- ◆ New Website coming
- ◆ Back by Popular Demand
- ◆ 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 1330
425 SIXTH AVENUE PITTSBURGH, PA. 15219**

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www.aaccwp.com DORIS CARSON WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT**

December 2002

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

Your Chamber just completed two successful meetings. If you were not able to attend either of them, you missed a real treat. The Business Briefing to Chamber members & supporters by Dr. Roger Ferguson, Vice Chairman, Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System in Wash., D.C. was exceptional. He spoke on the state of the economy and our region with an emphasis on small and minority business. Following his remarks, our Chairman 'pinned' Governor Ferguson as an honorary member of our Chamber. We do have his remarks available if you would like a copy.

Our 4th Annual Business Luncheon with Presidential Roundtable Member Ronald Davenport Chairman, Sheridan Broadcasting Corp. was exceptional. Although it was the day of our worst snowstorm this year, over 350 people listened intently as Ron shared his philosophy for success. Our Governor-Elect Ed Rendell sent his regrets for not being able to attend (the turnpike was closed), but promised to address

us in 2003. We were pleased to have the Officers and Board of Directors of the Pa. Chamber of Business & Industry with us. At their Board Meeting it was announced that passage of Joint & Several Tort Reform was one of the most meaningful pieces of legislation passed in Harrisburg in the last 25 years.

December 16th is our first Holiday Party, hosted by the Federal Reserve Bank. Bring your spouse or guest for an evening in their Point Room from 5-8 P.M. Call the office to confirm. You must show ID. This will be yet another opportunity to network and build relationships.

Updates for the 2003 Membership Directory have been received. If you need to make last minute changes, the drop dead date is December 10th. We are also in the process of setting up our own independent website.

Your Chamber President has almost completed work as Co-Chair of the Pgh21 Task Force. Thanks to all who called to voice their concerns and opinions. This is a belt tightening period for the city, which is never easy. The committees worked hard over the past nine months. Join me and congratulate Members

Councilman Sala Udin & Sam Stephenson for their work as subcommittee chairs.

Your Chamber is making plans for our second Ice Skating Party at the PPG Ice Skating Rink. We hope to have the Saturday afternoon outing in early February.

By now you have all read that Sponsor Member Roy Flores has accepted the Presidency of Pima Community College in Arizona. No word yet on his departure date, we do want to be a part of his farewell activities.

Dominion Peoples has a new CEO. Mr. Jay Johnson is a former Navy Admiral & member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff until '99 as Chief of Naval operations. He will be headquartered in Virginia, and will be spending time in Pgh.

On January 15th, The John Heinz History Center will exhibit Bold Improvisations:

150 Years of African American Quilts.

2003 will be an important year for connecting Pittsburgh communities, starting with the Hill District-to the rivers. We will keep you posted of significant milestones & opportunities for you to participate.

Our new Governor-Elect is planning eleven economic development summit meetings all across the Commonwealth.

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We look forward to having our members participate in the sessions.

The Third Annual National Minority Health Leadership Summit on Eliminating Racial and Ethnic Health

Disparities: The Role of Community Based Participatory Research will take place on January 9 -10, 2003, at the University Club, University of Pgh. Call Stephen B. Thomas, Ph.D., FAAHB at 412-624-5665; email sbthomas@cmh.pitt.edu for more information.

The deadline for SBA nominations has been extended to December 13th. Call Ray Becki 412-395-6560x104 if you have questions.

The Pittsburgh Pirates are recruiting a Director of Ticket Operations and a Coordinator of Guest Relations. Resumes should be sent to:

Vice President of Human Resources
Pittsburgh Pirates
PNC Park at
North Shore
115 Federal Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

Every Child, Inc. is accepting nominations of an organization or person who has shown a commitment to ensure permanency for children through birth family support and adoption. The award will be presented at their annual jazz benefit Sunday, February 16th at Chamber Member Dowe's on 9th. To nominate a candidate, write a one-page letter explaining your nominee. Applications

must be received by Jan. 8, 2003. Send it to: "Champion Award," Every Child, Inc., 6401 Penn Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15206; fax- 412-665-0755 or e-mail to: everych98@aol.com.

Did you know that from 1987 to 1997, the number of minority owned businesses increased by 186%.

Member IRETA recently implemented a Researcher-In-Residence Program for County Authorities. Five counties will participate in the program, addressing substance abuse and mental health specific treatment issues.

Researchers will then be loaned at no cost to counties throughout the state who do not have the resources.

There is a new social & economic data on city neighborhoods is now available from the Census 2000 data on Pitt's website:

<http://www.ucsur.pitt.edu/benchmarks/Soc%20Econ%20Neighborhood%20ProfilesOct2002.anpdf>.

Speaking of the census, the region lost almost \$750,000 in federal funds due to the under counting of households, primarily in African American neighborhoods.

Your Chamber wants to remind all members that events involving a fee such as our Power-Breakfast Meetings and Luncheons require direct payment to the facility where they are held based upon you confirming your attendance. If you cannot attend, it is important that you call the office at least 24 hours before the event otherwise we have no choice but to send you an

invoice.

The YWCA has opened Technology 7 Education Center, focusing on small business owners who want to improve the skills of their staff. Call Mary Samsa @ 412-255-1165.

The County is offering an affordable financing program for furnace & boiler replacement at an Interest rate of 0-3%! Call Jayne Atkins at 412-350-1043.

A new play, 'Christmas is Comin Up-town' will be performing thru December 29th at The New Penn Theater 4809 Penn Avenue in the Bloomfield/Garfield area. A take off from Charles Dickens 'A Christmas Carol', the play is directed by Eileen Morris & welcomes group sales as a holiday gift gathering. Call 412-391-2324

Upcoming Meetings & Events

December 16th

5:00 - 8:00 PM
Members Holiday Party
Federal Reserve Bank
Pittsburgh Branch
Grant Street
Point Room 1st Floor

CONGRATULATIONS

Chairman Robert Agbede on his recent gift (\$50k) to Pitt's School of Engineering to underwrite scholarships and create a fund to develop diversity programs within the school.

Members George Miles and Gregory Spencer joined the Board of Directors of Advanced Technology Systems, our Chamber Chairman's firm. We added to our website today a new file ranking Pittsburgh neighborhoods on economic indicators in

the 2000 census.

Member Tim Stevens won re-election as President of the Pgh Branch NAACP.

Member Bill Strickland on being featured in Worth Magazine on having the best Cultural and Horticultural facilities in the state.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Melvin Lydell Blanks
Lydell's Clothier

Benjamin Butler
Minority Business Opportunity Committee

Samuel Evans
A & S Associates

Algia Gary III
Peoples Mortgage Services, Inc.

Arthur Sheffield
Onyx Alliance

Associate Members

Dr. Mary McKinney
Duquesne University
Chrysler Corp. SBDC

Connie Scott
United Negro College Fund, Inc.

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Have a Wonderful Holiday Season

&

Your Chamber Looks Forward to You Having a Prosperous

New Year

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