

THIS EDITION

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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

AFRICAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA  
REGIONAL ENTERPRISE TOWER SUITE 1330  
425 SIXTH AVENUE PITTSBURGH, PA. 15219

(412) 392-0610 FAX (412) 392-0612 aaccwp@pittsburghchamber.com  
www.aaccwp.com DORIS CARSON WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT

January 2003  
This monthly newsletter is prepared solely for members, supporters, and sponsors of the African American Chamber of Commerce of Western Pennsylvania.

**Happy New Year!**

We hope yours will be productive & prosperous. Your Chamber is busy working on a program and meeting schedule that will be beneficial to growing your business.

January 17<sup>th</sup> is our PowerBreakfast Meeting that will feature Mayor Tom Murphy who will formally present the Pgh21 Task Force findings. Our second speaker will be Ralph A. Falbo, President of Ralph A. Falbo Inc, a Housing Developer working in the Braddock & Mon Valley. He will share his insights and present opportunities available in many facets of his development projects. Ralph is interested in working with Chamber Members. Alan Wampler, President of Synergy Real Estate Corporation was scheduled to present but has been called out of town.

**February 15<sup>th</sup>** is our second Ice Skating Party. Your first cup of Hot Chocolate is on the Chamber! It should be fun. Skate rentals are available.

Your 2003 Membership Directory will have an entire new look to

compliment the design of our new website. Due to last minute changes received, we are currently going through the final proof before sending it to production. The new website is projected to go into production by mid-February.

Your Chamber will be offering the 2003/2004 Legislative Directory to all members. It includes all state elected officials with their addresses & telephone numbers. This will be beneficial for our advocacy initiatives.

The National Black Chamber of Commerce is searching for 8a firms who do web-hosting, web-casting & other internet services. You can call the office @ 202-466-6888 for more information. The Honorable Johnny Ford (Alabama House of Representatives & the first Black mayor elected in the South) will be Honorary Chair of the National Black Chamber of Commerce's 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, July 31 - August 2, 2003 at the Sheraton Hotel, Birmingham, AL. We'll keep you posted on details about the conference.

Governor-elect Ed Rendell made a good choice in

adding Member Gregory Spencer to his Economic Summit Committee for Western Pa. They will begin meeting later this month.

The City of New York is about to issue an RFP for a Disparity Study that will aid in finding out if women-owned & business enterprises receive equal opportunities to contracts with the City of New York. Any qualified consultants who can compete for the task should contact Rodney J. Littles at 718-270-6904 or [rodjittles1@cs.com](mailto:rodjittles1@cs.com).

Three CDC's (Oakland, NorthSide and East Liberty) are looking for real estate program managers. Visit <http://www.dkiinc.com/execsearch.html> for job descriptions.

The Allegheny Conference on Community & Economic Development officially now consists of the Pa. Economy League, Pittsburgh Regional Alliance, & the Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce. They're all together now! Rick Stafford has decided to pursue his personal interests after an outstanding 10 years as President. We wish him the very best.

"Gifts in Kind" is one of the largest sources of product & service donations & free management services to the non-profit community in the world. It targets schools, human service providers, & other non-profits, distributing over \$675 million dollars in



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quality products to more than 50,000 charitable non-profits around the world. Over 40% of the Fortune 500 companies choose Gifts In Kind International to assist non-profits. Check out their website at: [www.giftsinkind.org/default.asp](http://www.giftsinkind.org/default.asp).

The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust will present a series of programs beginning January 20<sup>th</sup> : At 7:00pm, a Free to the Public performance by Kuntu Repertory Theatre of "Lift Every Voice and Sing" at the Byham Theater.

On February 8, 2003 an African-American Art & Design Showcase will be held from 11:00AM to 6:00PM in the Theatre Lobby. It will feature local & international Black artists' presenting and offering their work for sale. A local jazz band will also perform throughout the day. February 9th, The Buena Vista Social Club presents Ibrahim Ferrer, The Grammy award winning Afro-Cuban orchestra at the Benedum Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets-\$32, \$42, \$52, & on February 13<sup>th</sup>, "Keepers of the Dream; Celebration of significant Sistahs!" Tickets for this event are \$10 & \$20. Call 412-471-6070 for info.

SBA recently completed the integration of two key federal contractor databases: the Procurement Marketing & Access Network (PRO-Net) & the Central Contractor Registration (CCR),

simplifying the contracting processes for small Businesses that provide goods & services to federal agencies. Small companies to handle the larger, more complex contracts. It also has a special section dedicated to subcontracting opportunities at:

<http://web.sba.gov/subnet>

The system can be used free of charge by small businesses looking to partner with other firms.

The Bloomfield-Garfield Corporation Community Technology Coordinator - East End. Compensation: Salary \$33,875 plus fringe benefits. Send resume and cover letter to: Richard Flanagan Bloomfield Garfield Corp. 5149 Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pa 15224 Phone: (412) 441-9833 Fax: (412) 441-6956

By now you have read the 10<sup>th</sup> Street Bypass will reopen some time this month, & will remain open until the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge and Route 28 construction is completed. Once the work on the bridge & surrounding projects are completed, this matter could be revisited in 2007.

The Carpenters' Joint Apprenticeship Program of Greater Pa. will be accepting applications for Commercial & Residential Carpenter, Heavy Highway Carpenter, Floor Coverer, Mill-cabinet, Millwright & Pile Driver. Applications will be taken February 3-15 from 8:00 AM - 11:00 AM at the Carpenter Training Center, 222 Second St., Neville Island. You can call the center at: 412-262-1830.

The Pittsburgh Chapter #161 of the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) is again sponsoring a Block Kids competition on Sunday afternoon, February 9, 2003. The Block Kids Program introduces children to the construction industry in an effort to create awareness & to promote an interest in future careers in one of the many facets of the industry. The program is non-discriminatory & as such, is open to all elementary school children grades one through six. All eligible children must participate thru a recognized sponsor. Call Supporting Member Elizabeth Bowers, Block Kids Chair for NAWIC Chapter #161 at: 12-343-7460 email her at: [bowerse@mizerakbowers.com](mailto:bowerse@mizerakbowers.com)

#### **Upcoming Meetings & Events** **January 17<sup>th</sup>**

Rivers Club 7:30 AM  
Mayor Tom Murphy &

Mr. Ralph A. Falbo, Pres.  
Ralph A. Falbo, Inc.

**February 15<sup>th</sup>**  
Members Skating Party  
1:00 PM-3:00 PM  
PPG Ice Skating Rink

**February 21<sup>st</sup>**  
Mr. Ty Alexander &  
Ms. Joyce Bender  
Employees with  
Disabilities

**March 21<sup>st</sup>**  
Ms. Elizabeth Link  
& Project Team for  
The Mills Corporation

#### **CONGRATULATIONS**

Presidential Roundtable Member Martin McGuinn named Chairman of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development.

Member Gregory Spencer on his recent appointment to Governor-elect Ed Rendell's Economic Development Summit Committee for Western Pa.

Presidential Roundtable Member Citizens Bank on their opening of a branch at Member Deborah Hickman's Giant Eagle on Frankstown Road.

Presidential Roundtable Chairman Tom Usher on his acquisition of National Steel Corp, making U.S. Steel the 5<sup>th</sup> largest steel maker in the world.

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

#### **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

**Judith Alexander**  
Allegheny Financial  
Group

**Niambi Sims**  
Onyx Alliance

**Melvin Blanks**  
Sharde, Inc. d/b/a/  
Lydell's

#### **Associate Members**

**Jeannine Foster-  
McKelvia**  
City Theatre

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