THIS EDITION

- **New Email** addresses
- All together Now!
- Status of Membership Directory
- 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, selfsufficiency and entrepreneurial excellence, we will seek to advance economic parity by ensuring full particiption.



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

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February 2003

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

You have already received notice of changes within your Chamber office. The new email address is information@aaccwp.com Our personal emails have been streamlined; just use the first name- @ aaccwp.com.

The January Power-Breakfast Meeting with Mayor Murphy & Ralph Falbo gave good info. The Mayor talked about the recommendations of the Pgh21 Task Force as it relates to Chamber members; the benefits & the offsets. To get a copy of his remarks, call Tamara Kilgore @ 412-255-2619. Ralph Falbo presented opportunities with his development projects in Braddock & the Mon Valley.

The Ice Skating Party numbers are now up to 25! We do hope you will bring the family and join us February 15th from 1-3:00 PM @ PPG Ice Rink for a fun afternoon!

The February 21st PowerBreakfast Meeting includes Presidential Roundtable Member Dr. Kenneth R. Melani, the new President & CEO of Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield & Members. Ty Alexander & Joyce Bender, President of Bender Consulting, Inc.

After Ty's report on the company's minority contracts, he & Joyce will discuss hiring people with disabilities. Joyce will then present opportunity possibilities within Bender Consulting.

The March 21st Power-Breakfast will feature the Mills Corporation, a developer of retail malls across the country. They are planning to build on 320 acres off Route 28 near Harmarville. Their plans for regional & minority inclusion are impressive!

The Chamber's Legislative Directory will not be completed before late March or early April. The Pa. House is in the process of picking new office assignments & will not finish until early February.

SBA will be holding their MBE-WBE Business Fair Wednesday, Feb 26th 8:30 - Noon at the Riverside Center for Innovation 700 River Avenue Pittsburgh, PA. 15212 RSVP by calling 412 322-6441 or e-mail: wpbic@riversiddecenterfo rinnovation.com.

On February 4th, Mayor Murphy recognized African Americans in this region that are making a difference. How exciting

to have ten Chamber Members receive a Proclamation from the Mayor: Chairman Robert Agbede, Curtis Aiken, Cecelia Jenkins, Howard Graves, James Moreland, Faye Ritter, Bill Strickland, Eustace Uku, Milton Washington, & your Chamber President.

Representative LeAnna Washington, Chair of the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus, is circulating MBE/WBE draft legislation to insure their fair share of contracts awarded by State Government. A press conference announcing the introduction of this legislation will be held February 24th at 11:00 AM at the State Capitol in Harrisburg.

The National Black Chamber recently partnered with AFFIAC to create an Entrepreneur of the Year Award. Soliciting names for nominee starts next month. The award will be presented at the Annual Convention July 31st in Birmingham, AL. The winner will also receive a two-page story in Black Enterprise Magazine.

Do you know about the new U.S Government website where you can comment on Federal rules? www.regulations.com is the site to review & submit comments on documents, open for the public that are published in the Federal Register, the Government's legal newspaper. You can submit comments about regulations, & have the Government take your views into account!

The Image Gap Committee Chairman Member George Miles, held his first public meeting recently on coming up with suggestions on 'branding' Pittsburgh. A 'gap' exists between people's perceptions of our region & the reality of what we really offer here. It impacts, in particular Ronnie Bryant, who are actively marketing the region.

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Governor Ed Rendell made good choices in choosing five local business people for Cabinet level positions, but where are the African Americans?

Dr. Larry Davis, Dean of Pitt's School of Social Work, recently established the Center on Race & Social Problems, a national. multidisciplinary center to address race-related social problems thru research, intervention, & education. Noted Civil Rights Leader Julian Bond will soon be coming to give a lecture. We'll let you know the date.

The Airport Authority wishes to fill a public relations position. Write JoAnn Jenny at the County Airport Authority, Pittsburgh International Airport P.O. Box 12370 Pittsburgh, PA 15231, or email her at: jjenny@flypittsburgh.

The Pittsburgh Pirates and Sports Magic Team are looking to hire those who are energetic, athletic, sports-minded, & outgoing individuals to their 2003 season. Interviews will be Sat., February 15th 11:00a.m.-1:00p.m. & 2:00p.m. -4:00p.m at PNC Park. Contact the Sports Magic Team at: 1-800-646-1110. The Pirates hope Chamber members will consider marketing partnerships for African American Heritage Weekend August 29 - August 31. Call Mark Berger 412-325-4952 or Winifred Torbert 412-325-4731. Community College

of Allegheny County is

looking to hire part-time faculty members for teaching opportunities for credit & non-credit courses at all CCAC locations for the 2003 summer & fall semesters. You can pre-register at www.ccacjobs.com.

You can still see the Quilting Exhibition at the John Heinz History Center. It's great!

A Leading Ethnic Hair Care manufacturer of Distributor /Sales is looking for professionals to distribute & represent their product line in our area. Must be selfmotivated, organized, minimum computer skills, & a good communicator with sales experience. Send or fax your resume with cover letter to: McBride Research Lab... Inc. 1-866-206-1950 Fax: 770-981-2067 Deadline: March 15th URL/LINK:http://www.do m. com/jobs/dsp.jsp

Dominion's Diversity Scholarship/Internship Program wants as many eligible college or collegebound engineering studdents and/or their parents to take advantage of their program. Click on:

http://www.dom.com/jobs/dsp.jsp for a copy of the application. Anyone who meets the requirements can apply for the program. Call Drexel Harris, Workforce Planning, Development, & Diversity, Dominion Resources, Inc. Voice: 804-771-6205 FAX: 804-771-4792.

The Manchester Craftsmen's Guild will exhibit "ONE SHOT HARRIS:" Select photographs, from the Teenie Harris Collection, thru February 28th, Mon- Fri 9-5; Tues 9-9PM.

And it's worth seeing City Theatre's "Sorrows and Rejoicings" by Athol Fugard.

Pitt's Graduate School of Public & International Affairs presents the 2nd part of their Ethics and Accountability Lecture Series on Thurs. March 13th @ 4pm. Carl Ware, Exec. Vice President of Coca-Cola Corp., is the featured speaker. Call: 412-648-1336.

Dominion will honor 10 African Americans known for their leadership and accomplishments at their 13th annual "Strong Men & Women: Excellence in Leadership" educational series this spring. Included is our own Former House Speaker, K. Leroy Irvis.

Correction

Member Greg Spencer was named to Governor Rendell's Pittsburgh Economic Improvement Task Force.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

February 15th
Members Skating Party
1:00 PM-3:00 PM
PPG Ice Skating Rink

February 21st

Dr. Kenneth R. Melani President & CEO Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield Ty Alexander & Ms. Joyce Bender on Employees with Disabilities

March 21st

Ms. Elizabeth Link & Project Team for The Mills Corporation

CONGRATULATIONS

Member Rod Doss completed the deal and is now the proud co-owner

of the Courier, & 3 other newspapers: Chicago Defender, Michigan Chronicle, and the Memphis Tristate fender.

Member James
Hamlin on a successful
Scouting Dinner with
Member Bill Strickland
as the speaker.

Member Jim Moreland on his Partnership Dinner Event with GE Industrial Systems.

Member Malik Bankston on moving forward to develop a new \$7.1 million center.

Vice Chairman Grace Robinson on receiving the Jefferson Community Champion Award.

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 5th largest steel maker in the world.

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

Member Lamont Wilson recognized by Member National City in its 'Celebrating Everyday Heroes' series.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Judith Alexander Allegheny Financial Group

Ralph Ferguson
Parkway East Ford