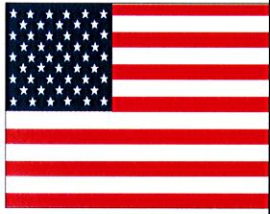


THIS EDITION

- ◆ Bill's Back!
- ◆ New MBE Head at the Board of Education
- ◆ New Retail Mall Planned
- ◆ 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

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OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

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www.aaccwp.com DORIS CARSON WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT

March 2003

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

Here's hoping March is the beginning of better weather as we prepare for Spring (remember that?)

Last month's Power-Breakfast Meeting gave Chamber Members great insight about healthcare. Highmark's new CEO & President, Presidential Roundtable Member Dr. Kenneth R. Melani. A medical internist, he shared his vision as he spoke in laymen's terms about the future. Next Ty Alexander gave an impressive presentation on Highmark doing business with minority firms. The meeting ended with our Corporate Member Joyce Bender's compelling presentation: 'Hiring people with Disabilities'. A powerful meeting!

Chamber ice skaters ranged from all ages at this year's outing at the PPG Rink. Several suggested we hold the party at the beginning of the season.

Thursday's March 20th PowerBreakfast meeting will feature Elizabeth Link, V.P. Predevelopment & the project management team of the Mills Corporation, a national firm planning a 320-acre retail mall out Route 28 near Natrona

Heights. They will present the project & discuss how you can get involved.

Thanks to the design team at MARC USA, you will hopefully be impressed with your 2003 Membership Directory. It's currently at Member Seymour Graphics being printed & should arrive at your office soon! In addition, Webmaster Member Milestone New Media Group is implementing the directory on-line. You will be able to toggle thru, find the new members who join at a quick glance, using the directory as a living, breathing, document. Thank you for your patience.

The U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) 'Doing Business with the Commonwealth' is March 26th from 9-12 noon at their Information Center. To register, call Kathy Shirley @ 412-442-5829 or email her @ kashirey@state.pa.us

Member Dr. John Thompson recently hired Paula Castlebury as the Board's new MBE Coordinator. A native of Cleveland, Paula will monitor & track minority participation. Your Chamber recently served as Host for a reception for the Pa. Conference of Trial

Judges. Over 50 African American Judges were in attendance. A big thank you to Judge Cynthia Baldwin for the opportunity & to Corporate Sponsors Equitable Resources, Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, & PNC Bank, for providing them a 'Welcome to Pittsburgh' gift.

Any business owners who lost a federal contract due to bundling should email the National Black Chamber office @ halford@nationalbcc.org ASAP to provide testimony before the Senate Small Business C on March 18. Only 3 witnesses have been allotted to testify. This v be very helpful to small businesses at the federal level.

State Representative LeAnna Washington, Chair of the PA. Legislative Black Caucus, along with Auditor General Robert Casey & other members of the General Assembly announce legislation that would improve a state program MBE/WBE contracting & procurement work. The bill would establish a 3-member MWBE Contracting Commission to guide the program-all a result of the State-wide Task Force that followed the 2001 performance audit.

Presidential Roundtable Member Dominion recently Honored 10 prominent African-Americans for their accomplishments & leadership at their annual "Strong Men & Women: Excellence in Leadership" Educational Series. Included was the former State House Speaker K. Leroy Irvis. The March 15th deadline is approaching to submit candidates for Dominion's Science Scholarship Program. Your Chamber is preparing a

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Candidate's Forum. This will include Candidates for all County Offices except County Exec. This is scheduled for April 30th. A special forum will be held in September.

Bill Robinson is back having won the Democratic nomination for County Council. Member City Councilwoman Twanda Carlisle recently opened a district office in Homewood at 7249 Franks-Town Ave, telephone: 412-371-6390.

Supporting Member Elizabeth Bowers has notified us the dates for the outreach sessions for the Carnegie Library of Pgh Capital Improvement Program have been changed to April 7th @ 4pm, and April 8th @ 9am, both at 708-710 Brookline Boulevard.

The results are in! View the 12th Annual Economic Survey at <http://www.pachamber.org>

Don't worry, the US Postal Service is not discontinuing the Black Heritage series nor planning to destroy the remaining stock of Black Heritage stamps. A new website highlighting African American artists, the Harlem Renaissance, etc. is a treat to view:

www.artcyclopedia.com/index.html

Your Chamber is working with the Rivers Club to develop a membership program that will be beneficial and provide greater access for doing business. I'll keep you posted.

SBA will hold an 'Image Improvement for Entrepreneurs' session from 8:30-10:00 on April 2nd at the Business Information Center (North Shore). RSVP to 412-322-6441 or email:

wpbic@riversidecenteforinnovation.com.

There will be a National Business Institute Seminar March 28th at the Omni William Penn Hotel from 9-4:00 pm. Member Barry Trilling will be one of the seminar leaders, discussing matters such as 'Contaminated Property Transactions', one stop shop for real estate development services, etc. The seminar will also qualify for CLE credit for lawyers.

Chamber members are invited to attend the inaugural Lecture of the Center on Race & Social Problems - March 26th at Pitt featuring Mr. Julian Bond, Chairman NAACP. You must RSVP by March 26th. The event is in partnership with the Office of Public Affairs, Center for Minority health and school of arts & sciences. RSVP by sending an email to: bondlect@pitt.edu.

The World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh and the PRA are joining forces with the Rivers Club to launch the new Global Pittsburgh Network on Wednesday, March 12, 2003, at the Rivers Club from 5:30 to 7:30 pm, to bring together people from the region's international communities & people interested in the region's many & diverse international connections. Only \$10 to sample a great spread!

Pitt's Department of Information Science & Telecommunications is seeking internships for their minority undergraduate information science students to involve them in supervised work in an information environment. If you are inter-

ested in having a student at your firm & would like more information on the criteria call: Robert R. Perkosi- Director, BSIS @412-624-2788.

Johnson Controls, Inc (JCI) is looking to recruit minority engineers. Minimum of 3yrs preferred, mechanical, electrical experience in commercial building systems. Call Rick Bullock @ 717-730-3207 for detail.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Thursday, March 20th
Ms. Elizabeth Link & Project Team for The Mills Corporation

CONGRATULATIONS

Member Al Dowe as a vector honoree at their Annual Dinner. Member Etta Cox on the PRA commercials. Member Irvin Williams for completing the One Hope Square. Rod Doss completed the deal and is now the proud co-owner of the Courier, & 3 other newspapers. Chicago defender, Michigan Chronicle, and Memphis Tri-State Defender.

Member Jackie Dixon was recently elected to the Board of Directors for Dwelling House Savings & Loan.

Member William Robinson on being the only African American to receive the County Democratic endorsement for County Council.

Supporting Member Barbara McMahon on receiving the Marriott International General Manager of the Year award.

Presidential Roundtable Members
Murry Gerber & James Rohr for serving as co-sponsors of the National Urban League Conference, scheduled for July 26th.

Member Steve Zylstra & the Pittsburgh Technology Council as they celebrate 20 years of serving the region's technology firms.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

James Cooper
Sterling Contracting, LLC

Rev. Karen L. Battle
NIA Community Lutheran Church

Thomas B. Burley
Crawford Grill on the Square

Frederick Douglas
Cosmos Technologies

John A. Garth
Mother's Touch Day Care

Martin Hampton
Silverscreen Graphics

Ajmani S. Singh
LogiX-Guru

Myrna Wigley
Phoenix Training & Development

Jesse Williams
Business Information Systems, Inc.

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