

THIS EDITION

- ◆ Annual Meeting set for May 20th
- ◆ We're ranked #13!
- ◆ Upcoming Mixer
- ◆ Advocacy Meeting date scheduled
- ◆ Results are in on the Multi-modal Corridor Study
- ◆ Legislative Directories are in
- ◆ 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

April 2003

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

Your Chamber completed two of our most important projects, along with programs we hope will bring value to your business. As part of our branding campaign with the expertise of MARC USA, the 2003 Membership Directory has generated letters & calls of acceptance from both the membership & sponsors. Please use it whenever making a purchase of products or services available within our organization. You will be equally impressed with the capabilities of our new website, which will include having the directory online.

The interaction of our membership with the Link Corporation at the March PowerBreakfast Meeting demonstrated we have moved to a new level of networking. Staff was impressed with the amount of post presentation dialogue & plans to follow-up on bids being let by our new Corporate Sponsor. Keep the momentum going!.

IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday, April 15th
Member's Advocacy Meeting. Regional Enterprise Tower. The meeting is open to all members. The purpose

is to speak with one voice on issues affecting small business. The room-TBA. Half of our Legislative Directories have arrived.

They will be sent out soon.

Wednesday, April 16th

PowerBreakfast Meeting

7:30 AM Rivers Club

The day is changed due to the Easter Holiday. Allegra McCullough, Regional Administrator - U.S. Small Business Administration will present her vision & status of activities. Member Marimba Milliones of Milestone New Media Group will then conduct an online demonstration of our new website & membership directory. Don't miss it!

April 29th

Candidates Forum

5:00-6:30 PM Rivers Club. Due to the number of candidates running for office, the forum will focus on the offices of County Controller & Pittsburgh School Board races. All candidates are invited & will be recognized.

May 6th

Members Mixer
National City Bank
20 Stanwix Street

Thanks to Corporate Member Stephanie Cipriani for hosting. A flyer has been mailed to you to confirm your attendance.

May 20th

Member's Annual Meeting
& Luncheon

Renaissance Pgh Hotel.

We are pleased to announce that Mr. Ulice Payne, the first African American President & CEO of a major league baseball club (Milwaukee Brewers) will be the speaker. There is limited seating so plan to confirm when you receive your invitation.

There is time if you hurry to confirm attending the NEED Dinner, Wednesday, at the Hilton Hotel. Call Member Sylvester Pace at: 412-566-2760x7

A recent survey conducted by The Business Times on Chambers of Commerce in our area ranked your African American Chamber 13th among the top 25 Chambers!

Your Chamber Services new Account Representative is Judie Krause. You can contact her at 1-800-377-3539 x756, or email her at: judie.krause@hrh.com.

The SBA is cautioning small businesses across the country about telephone callers who say they are connected with SBA & are seeking your financial or personal info or solicit fees for products. If you are contacted, call SBA's Inspector General's Office- 202-205-6586; email OIG@sBA.GOV.

The Mayor's Commission on Education conducts weekly surveys & posts the results on: www.educationcommission.org/survey.html. If you're new to this list, you're invited to do all of the surveys on the survey page. They are open to get as much feedback as possible in the coming weeks.

The Airport Multi-modal Corridor Investment study, address-

PAGE 2

ing congestion in the airport corridor, was done last fall. Your input helped produce the following results:

- . Two light rail alternatives to originate in downtown & connect to the airport.
- . Widening the parkway west to improve efficiency.
- . Upgrade connections to Downtown & Oakland to reduce the potential number of accidents.
- . A bus rapid transit option to enhance service, new park & rides and better passenger info systems.

Next: An Environmental Impact Study.

The Urban Redevelopment Authority recently awarded \$250K toward the development of the new African American Cultural Center. We will be inviting the Executive Director - Neil Barclay to address the Chamber.

On July 5, 2003, Carnegie Museum of Art will debut an exhibition research project on the work of Teenie Harris'.

The Pittsburgh Chapter of The Links recently made a \$25k contribution to Homewood Library, & a contribution of \$25k was made to The Pittsburgh Foundation for The African American Cultural Center!

The Westmoreland Museum of Art has an exciting exhibition schedule thru October, from photography to an extensive collection by Samuel Rosenberg. It's a great museum: give them a call at 724-837-1500.

Chatham College has an exciting Sunday Brunch & Lecture Series thru May 4th. Brunch @ 1; Lecture @ 1:30pm. The cost: \$20. RSVP-412-365-1148.

The Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation is

offering interesting public tours in Downtown, East End, & Riverview Park.

Call Mary Lu at:
412-471-5808x527.

If you know of high potential African American, Hispanic American and Native American students that would be interested in Harvard University's Summer Venture in Management Program for one week in June, at no expense to the student, inquire on their web site: <http://www.hbs.edu/mba/experience/learn/prospectiveminority/svmp/index.html>.

Duquesne's Small Business Development Center is offering half-day classes on writing business plan, QuickBooks, & managing your company's waste. Call 412-396-6233 for cost & details.

Madame Jehan Sadat will hold a symposium at Carnegie Music Hall April 24th at 7:00 pm. For information, call 412-361-8206. Sponsor- Member Dollar Bank.

We were sorry to learn that ETC, after 38 years, has closed. Changes in air transportation & the mounting cost to agents lead Sharon Jackson to make the decision. She will be doing vacation travel.

Call her @ 412-956-4368.

The new Alcoa Business Services Center recently opened at Isabella Street, North Shore. Check it out!

Upcoming Meetings & Events

Wednesday April 16th

Ms. Allegra McCullough
U.S. Small Business Administration

April 29th

Candidates Forum
5:00 - 6:30 PM

Rivers Club
(County Controller & School Board)

May 6th

Members Mixer

5:00-7:00 PM

Host: National City Bank

April 15th 5:30 PM

Regional Enterprise Tower. Chamber Advocacy Meeting

May 20th

11:00 AM

Members Annual Meeting

12:00 Noon

Annual Meeting Luncheon

Renaissance Pgh Hotel

Speaker: Mr. Ulice Payne

President & CEO

Milwaukee Brewers

Baseball Club

CONGRATULATIONS

Member Ty Alexander on being promoted to Executive Vice President Human Resources & Administrative Services and Aaron Walton to Senior Vice President of Corporate Affairs.

Member Malik Bankston on being named Sheridan Broadcasting Corp.'s Newsmaker of the Year.

Member Tom Burley as the YMCA's #1 Volunteer at their Annual Meeting.

Member Rosemary Crawford, Esq. appointed as Chapter 7 Bankruptcy Trustee by the U.S. Dept. of Justice: the only African American woman in the Western District of Pa.

Members Jackie Dixon, Grace Robinson, & your Chamber President were nominated by Congresswoman Melissa Hart to the African American Leadership Summit in D.C. in May

Member Ayanna King on her outstanding work as Executive Director-The Pittsburgh Transportation Equity Project.

Member Dr. John Thompson on his \$18 million state grant to improve literacy in grades K thru 1st grade; the largest grant to be received.

Member Elise Yanders selected by the Governor's office as one of PA.'s 50 Best Business Women for 2003.

Corporate Sponsor Turner Construction named Peter Davoren

its new President, succeeding Robert Fee this fall.

Member Joy Evans as a member of the women in technology discussion panel on the challenges facing women & what can be done to overcome obstacles to succeed.

Member Tom Cousar on his \$400,000 County Redevelopment loan for construction of their new office and warehouse facility in McKeesport.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Carl G. Cooper, Esq.

Kirkpatrick & Lockhart, LLC

Elisa Sanders

E & C Abstract, Inc.

Ann Lawrence, PHR

ACT.1 Personnel Services

Evans DeMoore, Jr.

Pittsburgh Interfaith

Impact Network

Charles L. Yanders

Big Sam's Memphis BBQ

Supporting Member

Ralph A. Falbo

Ralph A. Falbo, Inc.

Associate Member

Ann M. Dugan

Institute for Entrepreneurial Excellence

Corporate Sponsor

Ramsey Meiser

The Mills Corporation