

THIS EDITION

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- ◆ We're ranked #13!
- ◆ Don't forget to vote!
- ◆ Useful websites for Non-Profits
- ◆ New Developer comes to town
- ◆ 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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REGIONAL ENTERPRISE TOWER SUITE 1330
425 SIXTH AVENUE PITTSBURGH, PA. 15219

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

May 2003

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

April was a busy month for the Chamber office:

Allegra McCullough provided an insightful view on future directions of SBA at our Power-Breakfast Meeting and gave praise to the work of Member Al Jones & staff of the Pgh office.

The New Markets Tax Credit Program was attended by members engaged in economic development and will hopefully prove beneficial for their initiatives. Member Kathy McCollom & her team gave an excellent presentation!

Your Legislative Directories are currently being mailed. The work of your Chambers Advocacy Committee has begun. Our first effort: to request public input on the unified certification being developed. Stay tuned- we will need your help.

The Candidates Forum for County Controller & Pittsburgh School Board was attended by over 70 members and guests. Member Rod Doss KQV'S Elaine Effort did a great job of providing

a look at the candidates' perspectives & views on the issues. The next forum is September 11th when candidates Dan Onorato & Jim Roddey come before you to discuss who should be our next Allegheny County Chief Executive.

Thanks to Corporate Member Stephanie Cipriani for hosting our Networking Mixer. What an evening. It was nice to see so many of our new members in attendance, introducing their firms & engaging in doing business. We learned that several members actually obtained business, fulfilling the evening's purpose. Finally, thanks to all who met us for the dessert reception & pre-Mother's Day performance of 'Piano Lesson' was outstanding.

Our Annual Meeting is quickly approaching and your Chamber office is finalizing the arrangements. Presidential Roundtable Member Citizens Bank has signed on as our major sponsor. If you have not done so, send in your reply card & indicate if you are attending the meeting at 11:00 AM. Our speaker, Ulice Payne has been invited to meet you prior to the luncheon. Afterwards

don't forget to go to the polls & vote! Good luck to Members Twanda Carlisle (Pgh City Council-District9) & Valerie McDonald Roberts (Allegheny County Recorder of Deeds) on their re-elections.

The Pittsburgh Business Times recently ranked the top 25 Chambers of Commerce in our region & we ranked 13th, trailing #12 by four members!

Corporate Member Bidwell Training Center is offering Plant & Garden Workshops thru May 22nd. Call 412-323-4000 x206 for details. The Drew Mathieson Horticultural Center Gala will be on June 7th.

Associate Member LaRoche College will have a Champions Camp this summer for youth in basketball, football & cheerleading, beginning June 15th. Call 412-635-2444 for details.

Member Al Jones has announced SBA's 2003 Small Business Award Winners that include Member Ann Dugan (Univ. of Pitt) Financial Services Advocate. The luncheon will be held May 23rd. For more info call 412-395-6560 x104.

Associate Member Dr. Mary McKinney will host the annual Entrepreneur's Growth Conference on June 12th. To register email jonesst@duq.edu or call 412-396-6233.

Initiative for a Competitive Inner City, a non-profit organization that encourages & stimulates growth & development in America's cities, named

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Pittsburgh the "Most Entrepreneurial Inner City in America"! This award, presented to Mayor Murphy, put our city in the national spotlight & should prove beneficial.

Associate Member Kevin McMahon recently announced the Cultural Trust will use staff of the Three Rivers Arts Festival to assist in their taking over the annual First Night New Year's Eve celebration. This should help with the year round work required to hold the event.

New Markets, an African American Development Company will explore the viability of revitalizing the Hill District's former business strip. This represents an opportunity also for several of our members (Advanced Technology Systems, Ebony Development, & Urban League of Pittsburgh) to assist in the development of a plan for the current residents, & those who wish to relocate in the Hill. Sounds exciting!

The local office of HUD notified your Chamber that more than \$2.3 billion of competitive funding is available for local units of government, universities, community & non-profit faith based organizations. Visit their website at www.hud.gov to prepare your application.

Member Barry Trilling will be leaving Pittsburgh & Pepper Hamilton Law Firm, having accepted the position as Partner of the environmental law practice with Wiggin & Dana, based in New

Haven, Conn. with offices in Hartford, Stamford, & suburban-Philly. We will miss Barry!

Did you know there are two online resources that offer a wide variety of tools to help non-profits stretch their budgets: Powered by one of the nation's oldest & largest nonprofit technology assistance agencies www.techsoup.org offers non-profits one-stop shopping for technology needs, TechSoup's now distributes donated & discounted technology products exclusively to non-profits, including software, hardware & other products that can be ordered for a small administrative fee. CompuPower is made possible from Microsoft, Cisco, & Symantec. Gifts In Kind also provides comprehensive discount services thru vendors in just about every area: computer hardware, software, technology planning, web hosting, and more. For more info, visit www.giftsinkind.org.

UNIVERSOUL Circus returns May 14-18th at the Heinz Field parking lot. Great outing for the family. Call Ticketmaster at 800-277-700.

Golfers, did you know there is an African American owned Golf Course in East Canton, Ohio? Visit www.clearview-gc.com.

Non-profit members can participate in the Business Times' fourth annual business philanthropy guide, due to Larry Slater, Research Director by May 15th. Call him at 412-481-6397. They will publish a fundraising

events planner in their weekly paper. Send info to: smccabe@bizjournals.com

Member Marian Geyer & the PDP have a new exciting program: Thursday With A Twist. Their website: www.downtownpittsburgh.com highlights a special dining experience in downtown on Thursdays, during the month of May. There is still time to visit the House of Soul in Gateway Center, Caribbean Vibes, Dominion Tower, & Velveeta, PPG Place. Check it out!

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS

Please help us keep your information current. Call the office when you have email or address changes, updates to your certification, & new areas of expertise for your firm. It helps us with referrals to companies.

June 20th

7:30 AM

PowerBreakfast Meeting
Dr. John Thompson,
Superintendent
Pittsburgh Public Schools
& Paula Castlebury,
MBE Coordinator

September 11, 2003

5:00 – 6:30 PM

Rivers Club

Candidates Forum for
Allegheny County Chief
Executive
James Roddey &
Dan Onorato

CONGRATULATIONS

Member Rodd Doss received the Golden Quill Award.

Member Carol Foster Allen on winning the Platinum Andron Epiphanon Fraternity Society of Excellence Award, presented by the Realtors Assoc. of Metro Pgh.

Member Glen Mahone as this year's honoree for the National American Heritage Award at the Anti-Defamation League Dinner

Member Tim Stevens on a successful Human Rights Dinner.

Members Tom Cousar, Eustace Uku, Representative Joseph Preston & Lamont Wilson on receiving Renaissance Publication's Trailblazer Awards.

Member James Hamlin on receiving KDKA's Lift-up Award.

Member Nick Nichols on his annual Minority Purchasing Council's Business Fair. This year, it was held at Heinz Field.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Gwendolyn Mooror
Emlenton Water
Bottling Company

Ruth Byrd-Smith
Ruth Byrd-Smith
Consulting

Tonia M. White
White Design
Innovations

Supporting Member

Neil A. Barclay
African American Cultural
Center

Associate Member

Ann M. Dugan
Institute for Entrepreneurial
Excellence

Corporate Sponsor

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