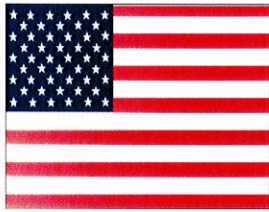


### THIS EDITION

- ◆ Unified Certification in the works
- ◆ Doing business with Equitable Resources
- ◆ Chamber Members support NULConference
- ◆ 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

AFRICAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA  
REGIONAL ENTERPRISE TOWER SUITE 1330  
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[www.aaccwp.com](http://www.aaccwp.com) DORIS CARSON WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT

August 2003

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

August will be a busy month for your Chamber Office as we prepare for our upcoming programs and the fall schedule.

The June PowerBreakfast meeting with Dr. John Thompson was informative, as he presented the improvements in performance measures & introduced Paula Castleberry & discussed her role on improving business opportunities.

The Special July 25<sup>th</sup> Breakfast Meeting with Secretary for Community & Economic Development Dennis Yablonsky gave insight on the state's current budget process & the various programs to benefit small businesses within his department. He also highlighted his commitment to restructuring & improving the performance of the Pa. Minority Business Develop. Auth.

The August 18th Unified Certification Box Lunch Program is designed to inform all members who are certified or are seeking certification on the proposed unified requirements that will allow your certification to be valid with all levels of government. Harold Levy from Penn Dot will be presenting. Local committee members Cameil Williams

& Ed Greene will also be on hand. You should have received info in the mail. Check out our website for details. It's a must do!

**September 10<sup>th</sup>**

**For Members Only**

9:00 AM - Noon

Doing Business with Equitable Resources, Inc. Presidential Roundtable Member-Murry Gerber will welcome everyone & affirm his commitment to the session developed solely for Chamber Members.

You will then be introduced to Equitable Resources' procurement personnel, who will present how to do business with Equitable. Call our office & confirm if You plan to attend Your name must be on the list to be admitted. A mailing on the program will be sent out next week.

**September 11<sup>th</sup>**

5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Rivers Club

Candidates Forum for Allegheny County Chief Executive.

Both Jim Roddey & Dan Onorato have confirmed. You are encouraged to attend & ask questions about small business & the future of county govt. Come learn about both candidates.

**Beginning October 1<sup>st</sup>, the new dues structure will take affect.** You will receive the new Member-

ship Application with the new dues structure for planning purposes. Membership dues will now be according to your firm's gross revenues. The policy is consistent with other organizations & Chambers of Commerce. Companies now ask about the member's capacity. Providing referrals according to revenue categories takes us out of the guessing game & requirements will be matched to companies appropriately.

You will be receiving a letter on special advertising rates your Chamber has obtained with the Pittsburgh Courier. The rates apply to Regular & Corporate Members.

AFLAC & ChamberChoice have formed a partnership. You will be hearing more about the new benefits that will be available to you in the near future.

Member Neil Barclay is off & running since the Architect has been chosen for the African American Cultural Center. Ai Architects of San Francisco's glass design was chosen for the new facility on Liberty Avenue. The groundbreaking is planned for the fall-2004.

Thank you to all members who responded to the call & helped Members Esther Bush & Glenn Mahone in making the National Urban League Conference a success. It was wonderful to see so many volunteering & registered for the sessions and events. The special joint publication with the Post-Gazette & Member The New Pittsburgh Courier was a first, documenting the growth & performance of our local affiliate products. It was nice to see members billed as sponsors,

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as well as our Corporate Members. Your Chamber was a sponsor for 'MARKETPLACE', where minority vendors sold their merchandise. And *oh* the Special Events! Great team effort!

Allegheny County Executive Jim Roddey recently announced he is reactivating the Minority /Women /Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Advisory Committee by establishing a 19 member panel that he Chief Exec will chair. Work continues with Director Cameil Williams on fair purchasing practices on county economic development projects.

The feedback on the second two-day, July 14-15 technology conference 'Sharing The Wealth Through Participation' was it was definitely beneficial on providing the step-by-step instructions on receiving IT qualification, certification, & MBE certification. Your Chamber served as a sponsor of the conference. Member Miramba Millions attended & represented the Chamber at the regional planning meetings.

We are sure you will join us in remembering two outstanding leaders that Pittsburgh recently lost: Freda Shapira & James Henry- both giants in our community who will be greatly missed.

Member Nick Nichols is getting ready for the PRMPC's 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Golf Outing & Dinner at Nevillewood & Southpointe Golf Clubs. Call 412-391-4423 for details.

If you haven't already, go see the exhibit PASSAGES at the Carnegie Museum of Art. It's

Breath-taking! Also, the Teenie Harris Archive Project is on exhibit until November 16<sup>th</sup>. Enjoy a twofer☺.

Duquesne University's Small Business Development Center has a series of training workshops geared for small business owners. Call 412-396-6233 for more info.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation is seeking candidates for the Special Agent position. They are interested in minority candidates. Call Bruce Schwindt 412-432-4015 for more info, or write him at: 3311 East Carson Street Pittsburgh, Pa. 15203-2148.

### 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.

Member Joe McGrath still has room for his upcoming August 11<sup>th</sup> Golf Outing at the Grand View Golf Club. Call Lynne Popash at 412-281-0482 x 3149.

The United Way Campaign is starting a development effort working with small businesses. Presidential Roundtable Member Murry Gerber & Member Connie Barren will present the new program at our October PowerBreakfast Meeting & discuss the new Impact Fund.

The University of Pittsburgh Workforce Development Center has a host of training programs available for small business. For more information, log on: <http://www.pitt.edu/~cgs/workforce.html>.

## Monday August 18<sup>th</sup>

12:00 Noon to 1:30 PM  
Unified Certification Program for Women & Minority Business Regional Enterprise Tower, AE Hunt Room  
**\$10 Members;**  
**\$15 Non-members**  
RSVP 412-392-0610.

### For Members Only **September 10, 2003**

How to do Business with Equitable Resources, Inc.  
9:00 AM - 12:00 Noon  
One Allegheny Center

### **September 11, 2003**

5:00 - 6:30 PM  
Rivers Club  
Candidates Forum for Allegheny County Chief Executive  
James Roddey & Dan Onorato

### **October 17<sup>th</sup>**

PowerBreakfast Meeting  
Murry Gerber & Connie Barron on the United Way's Program with Small Businesses

### CONGRATULATIONS

Member Connie Balthrop on her successful Fashion Africana Event at the Carnegie Museums.

Member Esther Bush for her outstanding leadership in getting the NUL Conference to Pgh.

Member Chuck Powell on being appointed to the Board of PMBDA.

Member Tom Burley on the New Crawford Grill on the Square, Station Square. The jazz restaurant is open seven days a week.

Member Tim Stevens held the first Candidates Forum for Chief Exec.

Member Cathy McCollom on becoming President of the Executive Women's Council.

Member Ralph Ferguson on his successful sale of Parkway East Ford (he will be around Pittsburgh).

Member Joe Preston for his presentation to AARP #4542 Chapter.

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

Member Faye Obregon Ritter recently held a Furniture Summer Showcase at the William Penn Student Union.

Your Chamber President was vote as one of this year's Carlow College Women of Spirit.

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**Charlotte Y. Bullock**  
Citizens Bank

**Todd Elston**  
Ebony Enterprises

**Shelly L. Fant-Uku**  
FCG Solutions

**Andrew Lee**  
**Richard Reed**  
Executive Style Men's Wear

**Terri Michele**  
Banks Children's Learning Center

**Danielle Robinson**  
Northwood Realty

### Supporting Member

**Elizabeth Bowers**  
Elizabeth Bowers Construction Services

**Jeffrey Letwin, Esquire**  
Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis LLP

### Associate Member

**Eric K. Mann**  
YMCA of Pittsburgh