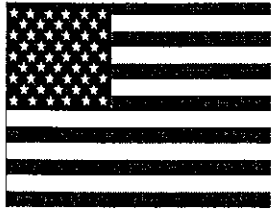


### THIS EDITION

- ♦ Chamber Members added to the Regional Directory
- ♦ New rates effective October 1<sup>st</sup>.
- ♦ Public Legislative Hearing scheduled for October 9<sup>th</sup>
- ♦ 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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DORIS CARSON WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT

### SEPTEMBER 2003

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

September begins the fall season & your Chamber is on a terrific start.

The Unified Certification Seminar was full of discussion and thought provoking ideas. Over 35 people were in attendance to learn from Harold Levy about the move to create one certification that is accepted by all levels of state government. Thanks to Cameil Williams & Ed Greene for contributing to make the luncheon program a success. The evaluations were positive; over half felt it useful, just long enough, & everyone left with good information.

#### September 10<sup>th</sup>

##### **For Members Only**

9:00 AM - Noon

Doing Business with  
Equitable Resources

Allegheny Center

If you haven't confirmed your attendance, please do so by Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>. It's an excellent opportunity to enter a new market.

#### September 11<sup>th</sup>

5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Rivers Club

Candidates Forum for  
County Chief Executive.

This is your forum to learn where both Jim Roddey & Dan Onorato stand on advancing

opportunities for minority business owners & professionals. Plan to attend this 90-minute session.

The doors will open at 4:30 PM; introductions promptly at 5:00. Please RSVP by September 9<sup>th</sup>.

#### September 19<sup>th</sup>

PowerBreakfast Meeting

New Markets, LLC

7:30 AM Rivers Club

Join us for a presentation by Les Matthews & his team regarding developing the upper Hill District & how your firm can do business with them.

#### October 9<sup>th</sup>

##### **Public State Legislative Forum**

Regional Enterprise Tower

Members State Representatives Joe Preston & Jake Wheatley will be present to gain your input on issues affecting your ability to do business with the state & the laws & policies that impact it. A notice will be sent once the plans are completed.

**Don't forget that beginning October 1<sup>st</sup>, the new dues structure will take affect.** The new applications are in production & will be sent to you. Become a Chamber Ambassador & solicit new members.

Members The Greater Pgh Chamber of Commerce & the Regional

Alliance produce Pgh Profile. The directory includes Chambers of Commerce throughout the region. The next edition will include members of the African American Chamber. This will give your firm additional exposure while promoting the diversity of our region. We will provide you a copy.

Member State Rep. Jake Wheatley co-sponsored a bill that would help minority & women owned firms compete for state contracts by raising the limit to \$18 million for all companies, including manufacturing & contracting firms. This matches the limit in place for IT companies. H.R. 1638 has been referred to the House Commerce Committee for debate.

Member Barbara Mc Nees will host A' Lelia Bundles at the 2003 ATHENA Award Luncheon, Monday September 15<sup>th</sup> at the Westin Convention Center Hotel. Ms. Bundles, Director of Talent Development for ABC News & author of the best-selling biography, *ON HER OWN GROUND: The Life and Times of Madam C.J. Walker* will deliver the keynote address. For tickets,

call 412-392-4555 x3560. It's a networking event you won't want to miss!

**SBA's Entrepreneur's Conference** is designed for business sessions, procurement matching, & more. It's Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> in D.C. Register online at: [www.sba.gov/50/nec\\_e.html](http://www.sba.gov/50/nec_e.html).

**Member Ebony Development** is leasing office space at One-Hope Square & Williams Square at affordable rates. Call 412-434-6571 for quotes.

**Member Citizens Bank** is offering a 1% interest rate loan to assist homeowners & renters who might not otherwise qualify for a loan. The term of the loan is three years. You can go to a branch of Citizens to apply, or call 1-888-337-6500.

**Mayor Murphy** has notified our office that due to the city's financial situation, the semi-annual Fall Clean-up campaign has been cancelled.

**Don't forget** that your Chamber will provide you with mailing labels for marketing purposes. The cost? Just \$25. Call the office to order a set.

**The General Services Administration** in Kansas City, Mo., is soliciting proposals from small disadvantaged businesses for work under its 8(a) FAST2 contract (GWAC). FAST contracts for Information Technology are scheduled to expire Oct. 31, 2004. The proposed contract term is a three-year base with two two-year

option periods. For more info, send e-mail to [8a@gsa.gov](mailto:8a@gsa.gov). Areas included are application development; computer-aided software development services; network design; computer operations and support; data processing and hosting; imaging; contingency planning; disaster preparedness and recovery; information assurance; Internet publishing and broadcasting; call centers; distance learning; & point-to-point telecommunications.

**Member Tim Stevens** is holding the NAACP's 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Freedom Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM at Bethel AME Church in the Hill District.

You should know that PENNDOT recently gave public notice of their revised DBE goals from 7.25% to 14.8%. The Associated Pennsylvania Constructors (APC) is challenging their decision. This group wants to keep the current goal of 7.25%. We need your support by having Chamber Members write a letter of concern and direct it to: Allen D. Biehler, P.E. Secretary, Department of Transportation, Commonwealth Keystone Building 400 North Street Harrisburg, PA 17120-0041.

There will be a Free Grant writing workshop September 12 - 13, 2003 "Building & Strengthening Collaborations" Grant Writing for Faith-Based Organizations at the Loews Philadelphia Hotel, 1200 Market Street, Philadelphia. SPACE is limited, so call 215-822-1550, ext 111 or fax your interest to 215-997-9582.

**The American Heart Association's 8<sup>th</sup> Annual African American Heart Health Conference** will be held Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> at the Westin Convention Center Hotel. Dr. Gwendolyn Goldsby Grant, noted columnist with Essence Magazine will be the speaker. For more info, call Andrea Estes at 412-243-5393x133.

If you didn't attend the luncheon for the Negro Baseball League Celebration, you missed a treat. Buck O'Neil at 92 was engaging, witty, & full of history. Congratulations to Member Winifred Torbert for putting together such a wonderful event.

It is noteworthy that the National Urban League Conference generated \$4 million for local businesses.

There will be a Regulatory Fairness Hearing for Small Business with the National Ombudsman, Sept. 25th 8:30-Noon Room 713 Rockwell Hall Duquesne University. For info & registration, call the SBA @ (412) 322-6441.

We received word from the state DCED that there is still \$4 million available for the educational improvement tax credit program. To inquire, call 717-787-7120.

A sincere thank you is extended to Highmark for the development of a Business and Referral tracking database. This now permits your Chamber to accurately account for the number of firms and individuals who make inquiries, need referrals for business opportunities and services, & distribution of bid information. The database allows us to record, retrieve, and conduct

analysis of various types of requests for services. The database will be placed into production on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### **CONGRATULATIONS**

**Member Dr. Grady Roberts** on being nominated for the Gertrude Labowitz Lifetime Achievement Award.

**Presidential Roundtable Member Jim Rohr** on PNC's acquisition of United National Bancorp in New Jersey.

**Presidential Roundtable Member UPMC** for their recent honor presented by CIO magazine for excelling thru information technology management and practices.

**Member Dr. John Thompson** on the opening of CAPA School in downtown & for the in student achievement in math & reading.

**Member Myrna Wigley** on being a guest instructor for teen girls at Camp Start-up at Rutgers University School of School.

**Supporting Member Arthur Ziegler** on the August 3<sup>rd</sup> article on the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation's many initiatives in helping to restore inner-city neighborhoods.

#### **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

**LeSans Heard**  
Automated Websites,  
Inc.

**Supporting Member**

**John Stillwagon, CPA**  
McGill, Power, Bell &  
Associates, LLP