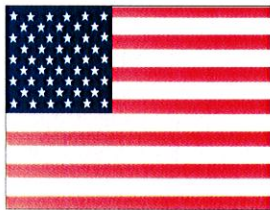


THIS EDITION

- ◆ Governor Rendell to address the Chamber
- ◆ Chamber's Business Institute announced
- ◆ Public Hearing transcript ready to email
- ◆ Connections Directory ready for pickup
- ◆ Order your Business Briefcase
- ◆ Members in the News



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

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DORIS CARSON WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT & CEO

December 2003

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

December represents the end of a busy & productive year for your Chamber Office.

The best word to explain the last Members' Mixer is fun☺. Over 80 members attended the event & Member Tom Burley went out of his way to make everyone feel welcome.

The Fifth Annual Business Luncheon maintained the tradition of networking & making new contacts. The new CEO of Allegheny Conference & Affiliates – Michael Langley, unveiled their first-time ever logo & shared his impressions & insights about our region to the 400 in attendance. Thanks again to Corporate Sponsor NOVA Chemicals who sponsored the luncheon, & Presidential Roundtable Member Dominion Foundation for underwriting the beautiful orchids. Member Bill Strickland informed us The Drew Matheison Horticultural Center has received numerous inquiries about where to purchase orchids. We appreciate the telephone calls asking how we can extend the networking time. We will incorporate 'networking time' in next year's luncheon.

January 16th

PowerBreakfast Meeting
7:30 AM Rivers Club
Governor Ed Rendell

We received confirmation that the Governor will be our speaker for January's PowerBreakfast Meeting. In October, Donald Cunningham – Secretary, Dept. of General Services unveiled the Governor's new initiatives for women & minority businesses at our Public Hearing. Governor Rendell will discuss his plans & present the state of the Commonwealth as he enters his 2nd year as the state's Chief Executive. A letter has also gone to new Allegheny County Chief Executive Dan Onorato, inviting him to speak.

February 20th

PowerBreakfast Meeting
7:30 AM Rivers Club
Ronnie Bryant

Pittsburgh Regional Alliance He will update us on his progress recruiting firms to our region & how you can do business with the PRA. We can no longer accept changes to your entry for the 2004 Membership Directory. We are at work with our creative team on the layout and hope to start production by January 15th.

Don't forget your copy of Connections that includes Chambers (including the AACC) throughout the region is available at our office. Due to the expense, the directory won't be mailed.

The transcript of the Public Hearing is ready for you. To request a copy, e-mail us at: information@aaccwp.com.

The Chamber's Business Institute was formally announced at our Business Luncheon. This program will build upon the existing Mentor Protégé Program & provide an opportunity for members to participate. You will receive a questionnaire in early January. It will help to identify those firms for active participation in the two-year review process. All members however will have the opportunity to participate in what is a national model for small business, corporate, & academic partnerships.

The Business Briefcase, developed by the United Way is now ready. Member Connie Barren is coordinating the final touches for our distribution. A CD-ROM of this valuable human service information will be available at the January PowerBreakfast.

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Presidential

Roundtable Member Equitable Resources has informed us they have delayed bidding the data infrastructure package until February 2004.

Start the new year off right. Member Eric Mann at the YMCA Downtown will have Open House JAN 1-10, free to the public. There will be personal trainers & instructors available. Included are classes that are normally part of the Y membership. All you need is photo ID. Hours, Monday-Friday 5:30 AM - 9:00 PM.

Member Al Dowe is having a Gospel Buffet every 3rd & 4th Sunday at Dowe's on Ninth. This is in addition to their full week of jazz happenings. Call 412-281-9225 for reservations.

Member GlaxoSmithKline is recruiting a Category Development Manager. Resumes can be faxed to Linda Guest @ 412-249-4505.

Associate Member Slippery Rock University has a number of facility and professional positions available in communications, government & public affairs. Call them for more info.

Working Hearts is planning a 'Put Your Heart on National Women's Heart Day', Friday February 20th at the David Lawrence Convention Center. For more information, call 412-594-2583.

The Center for Minority Health at the University of Pittsburgh is creating a directory of health programs targeting African Americans in

Allegheny County. If you know of programs, email Angela Ford at aford@cmh.pitt.edu.

The most recent edition of the Pittsburgh Economic Quarterly published by the University of Pittsburgh features an article by Dr. Susan Hansen on local college graduates decision to stay or leave the city. It also includes demographic components of our population change from July 2000 - July 2002. To get on the mailing list email: peg@pitt.edu.

The new board game, Prosperity, is based on the manuscript "Building Black Wealth In America," authored by the game's creator, J Amitenejah. Prosperity Board Game [amitenejah@hotmail.com]

'Christmas is Comin' Up-town' is a play set in a Harlem neighborhood, & is a rendition of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol." This all African American cast arouses sparks of giggles, shimmers of joy and twinkles of hope... this is a real count your blessings story, Thursdays -Sundays beginning December 4. Call (412) 441-2213 for tickets.

The Andy Warhol Museum has on exhibit - November 22, 1963: Image, Memory, Myth; the 40th anniversary of the assassination of President John Kennedy.

Get ready to enjoy the entertainment of the Reduced Shakespeare Company's performance of The Bible: The Complete Word of God (abridged at the O'Reilly Theater. December 18th - The 23rd. Call for ticket information.

Make sure you get the

newspapers (Pittsburgh Courier in conjunction with the Pittsburgh Tribune Review) special edition Saturday, December 20th celebrating the 110th Anniversary of the Kingsley Association.

Partner Ronnie Bryant shared an article he found recently on our city-Pittsburgh: A City to Experience.

www.SunSpot.net, a website based in Maryland, published an article on Pittsburgh, touting the city as a great place to visit. It talks about our ties to Meriwether Lewis, the Klondike bar and our own Andy Warhol. Take a look for yourself.

Associate Members Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership & The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, along with Pittsburgh City Council & DPW bought 73 new trash receptacles to help clean up the image of downtown for the holiday season.

CONGRATULATIONS

Chairman Bob Agbede & Member Tom Cousar have been appointed the State Dept. of General Services Business Roundtable for members in construction related industries.

Presidential Roundtable Member Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield - has been named the "2003 Outstanding Philanthropic Organization". Dr. Ken Melani received The Tony Coelho Award.

Member Ty Alexander appointed to the Board of Directors for the Institute of Supply Management.

Member Winifred Torbert on modeling for the Elements of Style II Fashion Show.

Members Bob Agbede, Barry Lumdsen, & Glenn Mahone, were Omega honorees where Greg Spencer presided.

Member Sam Stephenson appointed to the State Board of Accountants.

Member Mark Lewis on his feature interview story about the POISE Foundation in the Pittsburgh Courier.

Associate Member Barbara McNees on being nominated for a 2nd term on the CCSC Board of Directors.

Member Aaron Walton will confer degrees at California University's commencement.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Tyra Butler
The York Group, Inc.
Division Matthews Int.

Zachary Coleman
Rave For Success

Eugene E. Harris
Harris Consulting

Joseph H. Rollins
Improvement Products

Erroline Williams
University of Pittsburgh
Workforce Development

Associate Member

Grace Ann Geibel,
RSM, Ph.D.
Carlow College

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**MAY ALL THE
SEASONS OF YOUR
LIFE BE FILLED WITH
LOVE & PEACE.**