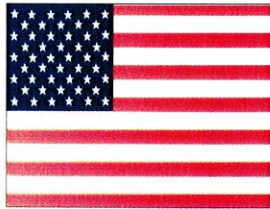


### THIS EDITION

- ◆ Chamber on Ice
- ◆ Business Institute Questionnaire Mailed
- ◆ Business Briefcase Demos distributed
- ◆ 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 & CEO

### February 2004

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

The Governor's presentation was well received by the largest number of members to ever attend a Power-Breakfast Meeting. Thanks to everyone who braved the cold. His comments, directed to you, the business community, were on taking an active role in letting our elected officials know your position on issues. Education is also a priority for his administration.

PowerBreakfast Meetings are available for sponsorship in your company's name. Please call us for more information on this opportunity. The Chamber Board of Directors serves as table hosts at each meeting.

### February 20<sup>th</sup>

PowerBreakfast Meeting  
7:30 AM Rivers Club

**Ronnie Bryant,  
President & COO  
Pittsburgh Regional  
Alliance**

Ronnie will be our Breakfast Sponsor and will update us on his progress recruiting firms to our region & how you can do business with the PRA. Let's shoot for another record attendance.

### February 21<sup>st</sup>

Ice Skating Party  
1:00 – 3:00 PM

you will be joining us for our 3<sup>rd</sup> trip around the rink!

Bring the family for two hours of fun. Your first cup of hot chocolate is on the Chamber®.

### March 19<sup>th</sup>

PowerBreakfast Meeting

7:30 AM Rivers Club

**Allegheny County  
Chief Executive  
Dan Onorato**

Plan to be in attendance as we learn about the Chief's vision to improve County Government & his plans for women & minority business.

### April 16<sup>th</sup>

PowerBreakfast Meeting  
7:30 AM Rivers Club

**Doing Business with the  
Pittsburgh Presbytery**

Spearheaded by our newest member, Rev. James Mead, the Pittsburgh Presbytery will be our Breakfast Sponsor & present how you as members can do business with the Presbytery, another venue for procurement.

### ANNUAL MEETING MONDAY,

**MAY 11, 2004**

**PLACE AND TIME TO  
BE ANNOUNCED.**

The sample Business Briefcase CD-ROM (demonstration was mailed to everyone who attended last month's meeting. Member Connie Barren will call you about developing

briefcase. To order your customized briefcase, or to get a demo, call Connie @ 412-456-6807.

We have begun to receive completed questionnaires for the Business Institute Program. The deadline for submitting the survey is February 16<sup>th</sup>. Your areas for assistance will be prioritized & included in the actual application.

The Minority, Women, Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Governmental Committee will hold their 3<sup>rd</sup> annual conference February 5<sup>th</sup> at the IBEW Hall on the Southside, beginning at 9:00 AM. Call Members Ray Meyers 412-734-8737 or Monica Jones 412-472-3516 for more info, or register online at: <http://mwdbe.trilogic.com>.

Members Councilman Sala Udin & Supporting Member Mariann Geyer are to be commended for their leadership against the 51% parking tax increase: Sala for voting 'NO', & Mariann for her leadership, advocating on behalf of downtown businesses. The latest development is Senator Jim Ferlo is submitting legislation roll-back the tax increase, as part of his own tax reform legislation. Meanwhile, the tax increase took affect today. Stay tuned!



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Thank you to everyone who submitted a tribute to Member Marva Harris on her retirement. She appreciated the book of email tributes. PNC truly demonstrated their gratitude for Marva at her farewell reception.

**Member James Hamlin's** organization will recognize two outstanding Chamber Members at this year's Whitney Young Dinner Saturday, Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>. Call 412-471-2927 for tickets.

**Member Esther Bush** is looking forward to seeing everyone at: Urban League Sunday Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>, 4-6:00 PM Mt. Ararat Baptist Church. The speaker will be the Rev. Charles Booth Pastor, Mt. Olivet Baptist Church Columbus, Ohio.

**Member Sepia Associates** will hold a 2-hour Seminar on Fraud Prevention & Detection - Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup> at the Rivers Club. Call 412-215-7231 to register & for more info.

**Associate Member City Theatre** has a great play, thru Feb. 8<sup>th</sup>.

'2.5 Minute Ride' is a 75-minute play that is worth seeing. For tickets, call 412-431-city.

**Associate Member The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust** will feature 'August in February', vignettes by August Wilson Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> 7:30 PM. Call 412-471-6070 for ticket information.

Did you know the 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> Calvary of the Buffalo Soldiers included a woman?

'The Buffalo Soldier + One' Thru Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> at Pitt Call the Kuntu Repertory Theatre @ 412-624-7298 for tickets & group info.

**Don't forget** Woman's Heart Day is Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup> at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center.

**Presidential Roundtable** Member Dominion is sponsoring an annual Achievement Collegiate Grant Award Competition for African American high school college-bound students. It's a grant for African American students in the Pa. service area who have distinguished themselves academically & demonstrated positive leadership qualities \$3,000 for first place, \$2,000 for second place, & \$1,000 for third place awards will be made based upon the determination of an independent collegiate review committee. Students will be judged on their academic profile, letters of recommendation, & a personal interview. The final selection will be made by the first week in May. To receive an application, contact your student's high school guidance counselor or a Dominion representative at 412-690-1430. Completed application must be returned by MARCH 1ST.

Mark your calendar for:

**Associate Member Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy's** Spring Hat Luncheon Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup> Schenley Park

Ebony & Ivory Ball Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup> Westin Convention Center Hotel.

**Member Pittsburgh Regional Minority Purchasing Council (PRMPC)** Annual Business Opportunity Fair May 3-4<sup>th</sup> Heinz Field

Join us in wishing our former Partner Roland Corvington (Special Agent, FBI-Pittsburgh) Good Luck as he settles into his position in Virginia.

## CONGRATULATIONS

**Chairman Bob Agbede** on receiving the 2004 African American Leadership Award in Business & Government Award from Duquesne Light & WQED.

**Member Esther Bush** on receiving the David L. Lawrence Award & **Presidential Roundtable Member Tom Usher** being chosen as Man of the Year for the Pittsburgh Men & Women of the Year 2003.

**Members Russell & Cathy Bynum** on the Courier's feature story on their 19<sup>th</sup> year in advertising.

**Member Malik Bankston** on his appointment to the city's Police Review Board.

**Members Ed Diggs & Glenn Mahone** on the successful 2004 MLK Prayer Breakfast honoring Attorney Wendell Freeland.

**Member Ernestine Harris** has been promoted to Director of GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare!

**Member George Miles** on enjoying a successful recovery from surgery.

**Member Bill Strickland & Corporate Sponsor Cliff Rowe** on receiving the Master Builders Association's Excellence Award

for the Drew Matheison Horticultural Center.

**Member Ruth Byrd Smith** on being appointed Director of M&WBE Minority Business Enterprise.

**Member John Thompson** elected President of the Large City Schools Superintendent Organization.

**Member & First Vice Chairman Greg Spencer** on receiving an award from Junior Achievement Award & then joining **Member Robert Lavelle, Jr.** to receive service awards at this year's Whitney M. Young Dinner of the Greater Pittsburgh Council of the Boy Scouts.

**Member Weida Tucker** will be the featured speaker at the Rediscover what works conference for women businesses - March 16<sup>th</sup> at the Westin Convention Center. Register on-line @ [www.e-magnify.com](http://www.e-magnify.com).

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**Keith D. Hill**  
New Life Management  
Company, Inc.

**Gary Spencer**  
Neighborhood Housing  
Services, Inc.

## Supporting Member

**Renee D. Farrow**  
Decorating Details

**Linda Gasper**  
Regency  
Transportation Group



**Happy  
Valentine's Day**