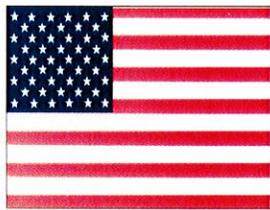


THIS EDITION

- ◆ New County Exec to address the Chamber
- ◆ Candidates Forum no April Fools joke
- ◆ Annual Meeting date confirmed
- ◆ 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
425 SIXTH AVENUE PITTSBURGH, PA. 15219

(412) 392-0610 FAX (412) 392-0612 information@aaccwp.com.

March 2004

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

The PowerBreakfast Meeting featuring Ronnie Bryant was informative & thought provoking for everyone. He highlighted the marketing capability of the Pittsburgh Regional Alliance & the strength of the Allegheny Conference & It's affiliates. He also challenged us to have greater participation in helping shape our region.

The next day, over 30 of us had fun at the PPG Ice Skating Party. No bruises to report!

March 19th

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.

Monday, March 29th

Members Mixers
5:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Manchester Bidwell Corp.
The Mixer is for networking with members & sharing information.

Thursday, April 1st

Candidates Forum
4:30 PM – 6:30 PM
Rivers Club
Pa. State House Races
This will give you an opportunity to learn about their support for minority

business & critical issues affecting our region.

April 16th

PowerBreakfast Meeting

7:30 AM Rivers Club

Doing Business with the Pittsburgh Presbytery

Rev. James Mead, the Pittsburgh Presbytery will be our Breakfast Sponsor & present how you, as Members can do business with the Presbytery.

Monday, MAY 10th

ANNUAL MEETING
Convention Center Hotel
Members Meeting 11:00
Luncheon @ 12:00 Noon
Speaker:

United States Senator
Arlen Specter

Please note the date. This presents our Tenth Anniversary of the African American Chamber of Commerce! Don't miss it.

The 2004 Membership Directories are in print & will be mailed upon receipt from Seymour Graphics.

Members Tim Stevens & Cathy McCollom gave compelling testimony at Councilman Sala's Udin press conference on the lack of women & minority participation on the city's Oversight Board. Member Joe Preston expressed his appreciation to have such a strong message for he & Member Jake Wheatley, along with Dan Frankel to take to the Governor

on expanding the Board. Member Glenn Mahone has since been named General Counsel, a sign the message is being heard. Also present were Members Esther Bush, Cecelia Griffin Golden, & your Chamber President.

The National Black Chamber of Commerce has invited us to join them in their first trade mission of the year June 10 – 17 to visit Paris, London, Accra, & Ghana. The cost: \$3800 all-inclusive. The agenda is very exciting ([click here](#)). Let us know if you are interested so we can go as a group.

Seven Chamber members were listed in the top 25 Minority Owned Companies. Hats off to Rice, Merritt MJP, & JRL Enterprises, Waller & Trilogic Corps, Jaymore Electrical Products & Systems & All Purpose Cleaning.

The City of St. Paul, Minn. is looking for minority owned Engineering Architectural & Environmental Firms that can assist in meeting environmental compliance issues. Those capable should email Readus Fletcher readus.fletcher@ci.stpaul.mn.us.

Member Nick Nichols is looking for volunteers for the Annual Business Opportunity Fair, May 3 thru 4. Call the Pgh

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Regional Minority Purchasing Council at 412-391-4423.

Continental Developers have begun working with your Chamber to identify firms for the construction of Del Monte Foods & Equitable Resources on the North Shore. A qualification form will be emailed to all members in the construction related fields. You must complete the form. Certification is preferred, but not required. They are interested in working with Chamber firms and sharing the names with their primes to increase participation.

PNC Bank is looking for management level professionals for sales, investments, & business banking.

Email Amy @: amy.laskody@pnc.com.

March 31st, the U. S. Department of Housing & Urban Development & the national Office of Small & Disadvantaged Business Utilization, are sponsoring a Small Business Development Day at the Four Points Sheraton in Mars, Pa. to learn about federal procurement process & doing business with the Federal Government & its partners. No charge, but you must register. Call Cheryle Campbell, @t (412) 644-6596 or HUD, or email:

[Cheryle E. Campbell@hud.gov](mailto:Cheryle.E.Campbell@hud.gov).

Member Cecelia Griffin Golden invites both men & women to join the YWCA of

Greater Pittsburgh. Call Jillian Georges to become a member or visit: www.ywcapgh.org.

Suzan-Lori Parks became the first African-American woman to win a Pulitzer Prize for Drama for *Topdog/Under dog*. It runs from March 4 through April 4 at City Theatre, starring Home-wood native Billy Porter & Obie award-winner Ray Anthony Thomas. Call (412) 431-4400 ext. 283 for ticket information.

According to the Center for Women's Business Research, more 218,000 female-owned firms in Pennsylvania employ more than 289,000 people & generate nearly \$41.1 billion in sales!

U.S. Attorney Mary Beth Buchanan is part of a major initiative (\$500 million project) on enforcement & prevention to reduce gun violence in the greater Pittsburgh area over the next 2 years. Stay tuned for more details.

The US Postal Service recently issued the new "Fund the Cure" stamp to help fund breast cancer research. At 40¢, the added 3¢ (if all stamps are sold, will raise \$35 million) going to breast cancer research.

Like to sing? Tryouts for the Nathan Davis Jazz Opera will take place at the Andy Warhol Museum on March 9 & 10 between 6 & 10 P.M. Finals will take place on March 12 at the same place. If you have strong performing skills, apply for an application form, email: oper-athea-terpgh@netscape.net.

Member Barbara Bazron is holding PACE's Master Consultant Showcase March 4 from 10:30 -1:30 P.M. at Two Gateway Center, 4th Floor. It will give participants an opportunity to meet individuals that completed the first session of the Master Consultant Program.

SBA Loans- SBA has announced a new legislative proposal expected to add at least \$3billion in lending authority to the 7(a) loan program this year. If approved, it will remove the lending cap & allow for loans up to \$2million dollars.

Allegheny County Chief Executive Dan Onorato today named Dennis M. Davin Director of Economic Development, formerly director of the S. Western Pa. Office of the Governor's Action Team.

Expansion Management magazine named the Pittsburgh MSA as one of the U.S.' top regions. Pittsburgh was pegged at 28, beating out Boston (29), Charlotte (30) and Washington, DC (31).

CONGRATULATIONS

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

Members Benjamin Butler, Rodd Doss, Mary Coffey, Glen Mahone, Howard Graves, & Howard Slaughter, on being named this year's Trail-Blazers by Renaissance Publication.

Member Carol Foster Allen on receiving the Platinun Andron Epiphanon Faternity Award from the Realtors Assoc. of Metropolitan Pittsburgh.

Corporate Sponsor

Members Cathy Niederberger & Mona Generett elected Chair & Vice Chair, respectively, & James Roy as Secretary of the Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development.

Member Eugene Harris named Diversity Chief for the Bar Association of Allegheny County.

Member Jake Wheatley on receiving the Democratic endorsement for re-election as State Representative for the 19th District.

Member Jackie Dixon has been recommended to attend the African American Leadership Summit in D.C. in April.

Member Ellsworth Brown on *Attaché* Magazine naming the [Carnegie Museum of Natural History](#) as the 4th best natural history museum in the U.S.

Member Kevin McMahon on bringing Walt Disney's performance of THE LION KING to Pittsburgh.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Robert Samuels
RMS Solutions Group

Timothy L. Smith
Affinity Mortgage

Roosevelt Stower
Buttons & More

Armand Wright
Armand Wright
Photography
Associate Members

F. Michael Langley
Allegheny Conference
& Affiliates

Timothy Nettles
Enterprise Rent-A-Car