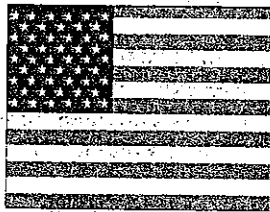


THIS EDITION

- ♦ Changing of the Guard
- ♦ Updated Mission & Vision Statement
- ♦ We're in color
- ♦ Business Institute Application ready
- ♦ Mixers monthly
- ♦ Chamber travels to Wine Country
- ♦ Members in the News
- ♦ Welcome New Members



UPDATED MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the African American Chamber of Commerce of Western Pa. is to continuously improve business & professional opportunities for African American businesses & professionals.

Guided by the core values of equity in opportunity, economic advancement, self-sufficiency & entrepreneurial excellence, we will seek to advance economic parity for the African American Business Community by ensuring full participation in the public & private sectors throughout the region.

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

May 2004

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

The Annual Meeting began with a report about the Chamber services & programs offered. The overwhelming majority said you joined the Chamber for professional networking, professional development & education. Bid & contract opportunities & chamber services are the main reasons for maintaining your membership. Email correspondence, the newsletter, courtesy phone calls, & website access were the services you rated the highest. Chairman Robert Agbede graciously passed the baton to Chairman-Elect Gregory Spencer. He takes office, along with John Laymon-1st Vice Chairman, Delbert Tyler-Treasurer, Loretta Goodwin-Asst. Treasurer, & Edward Diggs-Asst. Secretary. A formal '10th anniversary cake walk' presentation was made at the luncheon to each table for the 300 members & guests in attendance for our speaker, Senator Arlen Specter. He stated job creation is the priority. He also talked about his commitment to small business. Members Terry Collier, Chuck Powell, Grace Robinson, & Sam Stephenson were given a plaque for helping to engage the Chamber when it was first chartered. Chairman-Elect Greg

Spencer presented Chairman Bob Agbede a plaque for his service & leadership to the Chamber. An Annual Report will be mailed to those who could not attend.

The April PowerBreakfast Meeting on doing business with the Pittsburgh Presbytery was informative. Rev. James Mead & Dr. Audrey Murrell talked about their projects & how to become a contractor. A focus group is being planned for members to participate.

The Members Mixer at the Highmark Caring Place was a chance to network & learn about a valuable service for families of grieving children. They are looking for a Director for Outreach & Development for their Foundation.

For Members Only

May 25, 2004

9:00 AM - Noon

Doing Business with Equitable Resources

Four Allegheny Center 9th Floor. This is our follow-up meeting to monitor outcomes within the last six months. If you haven't confirmed your attendance, do so by May 21st. Parking is available at Allegheny Center Mall.

Applications are now available to participate in the Chamber's new Business Institute, a program

designed to provide life-long learning while helping to move your business to the next level of engagement. Call the office to receive an application. The deadline to submit for the first class is July 22nd.

June 22nd

Members Mixer

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

One PNC Plaza

Sponsored by:

PNC Financial Services

Join us to network & meet members of PNC's management team.

June 25th

PowerBreakfast Meeting

7:30 AM Rivers Club

Black Box Corporation

This presentation will be the first one related to services provided through the Business Institute. Richard Somenski, Director Corporate Sales has developed a special Chamber member's card for 24-hour access for technology questions & service. You won't want to miss this.

July 16th

8:00 AM Rivers Club

Special Breakfast

Meeting with

Stephen Steinour,

Presidential Roundtable Member & Chairman of Citizens Bank of Pa.

Steve will be discussing the \$100 million commitment made for the Citizens Job Bank to assist in creating more than 4,000 jobs within five years.

Our website had been updated & is now in full color. Check it out!

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Your Chamber is planning a trip to Wine Country this fall. This four-day trip will include tour of Bates Creek Vineyard, an African American family run business, a private dinner at Dr. Bates' home, & much more. A separate invitational letter will be sent about this unique trip to Napa Valley. We hope you will join us.

In response to your request, we will begin holding our Member Mixers monthly. The emphasis will include how to do business with members.

Some new items have been added to your Business Briefcase, this time from Duquesne University's Small Business Development Center. Check it out at:

www.unitedwaypittsburgh.org/uwac/aaccwp.

Allegheny County announced a new \$500k loan fund to help small business owners gain access to capital. Call Member Ruth Byrd-Smith for details.

The Opera Theater is ready for the world premiere of Jazzopera: 'Just Above My Head', based on a novel by James Baldwin, composed by Nathan Davis. It opens June 9th. For tickets, call: 412- 624-3500.

Ambrose Murry is looking forward to seeing all you golfers at their annual Tee-Off at NevilleWood on June 28th, at noon. Terry Bradshaw is the celebrity Host; Member Milt Washington is the General Chair. Call 412-456-3103 for info

& to register.

The city's Equal Opportunity Review Commission recently announced the city will begin counting suppliers at 60%, and brokers at 10%. Manufacturers will naturally be counted at 100%.

The Mayor's Safety Center has moved to: 312 South Main Street, West End, 412-937-3050; fax: 412-937-3052.

Citizens Bank recently announced the purchase of CharterOne Financial, a \$41 billion bank in Cleveland, Ohio. Citizens will be the 7th largest bank nationwide with 14,000 branches in 13 states with 24,000 employees.

Westmoreland museum of Art's Photo Exhibit, 'Along the Lincoln Highway across the Alleghenies', runs thru May 30th. Call 724-837-1500.

Governor Ed Rendell's Economic Stimulus Package of \$1 billion is to be financed by bonds over a four-year period. It will also create a new state authority to fund programs to fill gaps in economic development, including seed money to support product development; second stage financing to produce those products; funding to redevelop existing sites to host new businesses & to build new facilities; & special help for Pennsylvania's "first" industries -- agriculture & tourism. To better understand the impact of this package, visit www.newPA.com.

The Pirates will have a GospelFest, Saturday, May 22nd at 4:00 PM; the game with the Brewers follows. Tickets start at \$5. Call (412) 325-4967.

The Y is seeking 100 college & professional women to mentor 100 girls ages 11-

13 for their Female Leadership & Mentoring Endeavor Program. Call the Teen Services Dept. @ 412.361.1933.

URS Corp. is looking for a Director Business Development for their business development activities, project & construction management, inspection, & construction disputes. Send your info to: Jim_mcdonald@urscorp.com.

CONGRATULATIONS

Member Ty Alexander & your Chamber President appointed by the Governor to the Pa. Workforce Investment Board.

Member Joy Evans, & Supporting Members Renee Farrow & Cathy McCollom for being honored at this year's 2004 Tribute to Women. Member Jackie Dixon was one of the Co-Chairs.

Member Nick Nichols on a successful PRMPC Awards Luncheon, Members Mary Coffee, Eric Bruce, & Faye Obregon Ritter were honored. Nick & Member Cameil Williams were featured on the cover of Small Business News magazine.

Member Jake Wheatley on being one of the award recipients of Allegheny County's Mental Health Mental Retardation's 2004 Esprit Awards.

Member Tim Stevens on a successful Human Rights Dinner.

Members Esther Bush, Grace Robinson, Toni Silva, Winifred Torbert, Jackie Dixon, Connie Portis, Connie Balthrop, Barbara Bazron, & your Chamber President were recognized as the 2004 New Pittsburgh Courier's 50 Women of Influence!

Member Ruth Byrd-Smith appointed Chairwoman of the Advisory Commission on African-American Affairs by the Governor & recipient of the Ebony & Ivory's Women in Leadership Award.

Presidential Roundtable Member Citizens Bank for their "Outstanding" rating for the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) for 2003.

Associate Member Dr. John Thompson honored by the PRMPC.

Associate Member Dr. Stephen Thomas for a host of activities for Minority Health Month.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Robert D. Rankin
Rankin Property
Management, LLC

Supporting Member

John R. Eaton
Opera Theater

Associate Members

Patricia Fenton
American Heart
Association

Peggy Harris
Three Rivers Youth

Connie Haessler
The Children's Home of
Pittsburgh

Thomas L. Van Kirk
Buchanan Ingersoll PC

