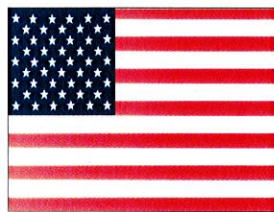


THIS EDITION

- ◆ Chamber going to the Napa Valley
- ◆ Black Box kicks off Business Institute
- ◆ Special rate on Enterprise rentals
- ◆ Members Mixer June 22nd at PNC
- ◆ 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.

Our Vision

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

425 SIXTH AVENUE PITTSBURGH, PA. 15219

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

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DORIS CARSON WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT & CEO

June 2004

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

The Doing Business with Equitable Resources was very productive. The session began with Chairman Murry Gerber welcoming Chamber Members and asking for a performance recap since our last meeting. The new procurement managers, who discussed their roles & vision for increasing minority participation, gave presentations. Thanks to Anne Naqi for coordinating the morning session-full with members interacting with questions about their firm's can do business. The presenters responded with follow up for each person. Program surveys indicated a good to excellent rating. We'll return in November.

June 22nd

Members Mixer

5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

One PNC Plaza

Sponsored by:

PNC Financial Services

There is still time to sign up for the Members Mixer.

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

June 25th

PowerBreakfast Meeting

7:30 AM Rivers Club

Black Box Corporation

Richard Suminski

Director-Corporate Sales

Chamber members will receive a customized card for 24-hour access on

questions on infrastructure services, communications equipment, & technical support. This is the first program presented as part of the Business Institute. You will also receive a program overview. Don't miss it.

July 16th

8:00 AM Rivers Club

Special Breakfast

Meeting Ralph Papa

Presidential Roundtable

Member & President West-

ern Region

Citizens Bank

We just received word our own Ralph Papa will be providing the briefing on Citizens Bank's \$100 million commitment made for the Citizens Job Bank, designed to assist in creating more than 4,000 jobs within five years across the state. Plan to attend & learn more about the economic stimulus package.

September 23 – 27, 2004

**Chamber Travels
to Napa Valley**

The plans are complete for the Chamber's trip to California Wine Country. Take advantage of this unique opportunity to learn about wines, visit African American Vintners, & enjoy San Francisco- at a price that makes this trip affordable. Your brochure should arrive before Friday. Space is limited to 20 participants,

The Chamber's Business Institute is open to members and non-members of the Chamber. Advisory Council will begin reviewing applications in August for the first class of participants, so please get your applications into the office before July 31st. If you know of persons interested in the program, have them call the office to receive an application. The program is designed to provide life-long learning while helping to move your business to the next level of engagement.

The Chamber now has a corporate agreement for all Chamber Members with Member Enterprise rent-a-car, recognized at their 4,800 locations nationwide. Call 1-800-rent-a-car or the local number & give them our ID # 40A9461 for a reduced rate!

We hope you are enjoying the benefits of your personalized Business Briefcase. Contact Member Connie Barren to sign up @ cbarren@uwac.org.

Associate Member Dr. Mary McKinney hopes to see each of you at this year's Entrepreneur's Growth Conference, June 17th at Duquesne University. Member State Rep. Jake Wheatley will be a session speaker. This year's keynote speaker is Lillian Vernon, Founder & CEO of Lillian Vernon Corp. Register online @ www.duq.edu/sbdc.

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xWe are putting together an American Idol type event for the convention during the French Embassy Dinner and we thought you all might have a singer or entertainer from your local area that might want to participate in our event. The event is called the Sizzling Summer Sing-a-long. The contestants do not have to be paid registrants and the prizes are growing as we speak. We want to make this event something that will be remembered for years to come as well as becoming a regular staple for the convention. When you find people who want to participate direct them to call Jon Edwards at 202 466 4917 or kdebow@nationalbcc.org so we can make them official contestant. So please help us recruit some contestants and help make this Sing-a-long something to remember!

The "SHARING THE WEALTH THROUGH PARTICIPATION", A Conference for Technology Businesses Owned by People of Color, will be held on Monday, July 12, 2004 in Harrisburg. Contact Tameka Jackson @ 717-787-9471, or tameka@legislator.com for details.

Still want to be a Regional Opinion

The Redevelopment Authority has set aside \$500,000 for the County's Working Capital Loan Program for women & minority owned firms. On another note, the county has made 57 board appointments: 26% to minorities & 32 % females.

The PA Chamber will hold their Annual Dinner Monday, Sept. 27, 2004 at the Hershey Lodge and Hotel in Hershey, Pa. The keynote speaker will be U.S. Senator & author Bob Dole. The networking is phenomenal at the reception & worth attending. With Pa expected to be a pivotal state in this year's presidential election, the Chamber president is expecting more state & national legislative leaders to attend. You can register on their website at: www.pachamber.org & click on the chamber dinner logo.

Sponsor Partner Allegra McCullough, SBA, has been promoted to Associate Deputy Administrator for General Contracting and Business Development. In other words, she is in charge of SBA's government procurement activities and programs.

Ambrose Murry will still accept registrations for the annual Tee-Off at NevilleWood on June 28th, at noon. Call 412-456-3103.

Continental Developers are already at 15% women and minority participation on the North Shore project for Equitable Resources & Del Monte Foods. As bid information is available on each phase of the project, your Chamber Office will get the RFPs out to you.

Recently, approximately 80 of our business,

community & elected officials traveled to Minnesota to participate in "Building Bridges to Global Competitiveness" - a Pittsburgh and Minneapolis-Saint Paul Leadership Exchange. Led by Presidential Roundtable Member Marty McGuinn, (Chairman of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development) this event served as an important first step toward setting priorities for next year & shaping a new multi-year plan to advance our region's economy and quality of life. You will hear more about the outcomes after our meeting the end of June.

The Three Rivers Workforce Investment Board is happy to release the second edition of "Understanding the Local Labor Market: Promising Career Pathways in Pittsburgh and Allegheny County." The goal of our new series is to get clear, local information about in-demand occupations into the hands of people who work with jobseekers. This edition focuses on administrative support occupations: their job conditions and wages, local supply and demand for workers, and training options. Their website: <http://www.trwib.org/pcp.htm>.

If you're a graduate of a college or university in Southwestern Pa. complete the survey on our region & be entered into a drawing for \$250, at: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=21491417391>.

The National Association of Black Contractors/Black Contractors Association will be hosting a series of workshops from June 16th to the 30th.

There will be a session with PennDot & classes for Contractors & Engineers. Call Linda Couch at 412-247-4822 for details.

The Southwestern Planning Commission has received substantial funding for transportation projects in our region.

View the map of projects in our region along with brief descriptions, @:www.spcregion.org/trans_tep_currproj.shtml.

CONGRATULATIONS

Member Sam Stephenson appointed by the Governor to the Pa. Board of Accountants.

Member Joy Evans, & Supporting Members Renee Farrow & Cathy McCollom honored at this year's 2004 Tribute to Women.

Member Bernard Ott's feature story in the Pittsburgh Courier & for receiving a grant from the PNC Foundation.

Member Esther Bush as one of the three Pacesetters honored by the Executive Service Corps of Western Pa.

Corporate Sponsor Member Bill Strickland on the Humanitarian Award from the B'nai Zion Pittsburgh Region.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Deanna Davis
Coldwell Banker

Yvette Malloy Smith
UMOJA African Arts

Shawn Taylor
BFH, Inc.

Lynn Swann Sheppard
Lynn Swan Florals
& Gifts