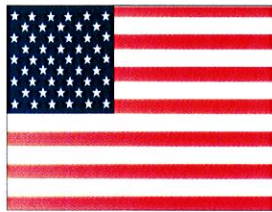


THIS EDITION

- ◆ Business Institute @ Black Box's Campus
- ◆ Salute to Tom Usher
- ◆ The new 'Ask the Expert' Program
- ◆ Thank you for the Internships
- ◆ 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

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DORIS CARSON WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT & CEO

August 2004

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

July's Special Breakfast Meeting provided members & guests with insight into the state's Economic Stimulus Package. Bryce Maretzki, the Governor's Policy Director, discussed the overall approach the new Technical Assistance Team designed to help communities take full advantage of the stimulus package. Presidential Roundtable Member Ralph Papa discussed the commitment of Citizens Bank, now ranked in the top 10 banks in the country & #1 in emerging markets. The bank is providing \$100 million in loans to create more than 4,000 jobs in the state. The program is available for mfg. & industrial firms with a 2½% fixed rate with no fees. The expectation is for every \$25k awarded, one job must be created. The loan program is now available from \$1 - \$10 million.

The Members Mixer, sponsored by Corporate Sponsor Prudential Financial was truly a networking event. Member Steve Marziotti & his team will provide a seminar August 5th at their Forest Hills offices on establishing your own business with Prudential. Call Steve @ 412-247-8070.

Business Institute August 17, 2004

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Lunch Included

Black Box Corp.

Canonsburg, Pa.

You recently received a questionnaire asking what categories of network services & products interest you. If you haven't, please respond ASAP. Mike McCurry, Rich Suminski & their team are planning a tailored program for you. R.S.V.P. by August 13th. A flyer & directions to their campus will be mailed.

September 17th

PowerBreakfast Meeting

7:30 AM Rivers Club

One Oxford Center

Tom Usher &

Ambrose Murry

Presidential Roundtable Member Tom Usher will be presenting on the achievements of the Extra Mile Foundation & how you can get involved. We will also be saluting him for his role in helping to engage the corporate community with the Chamber & his retirement as Chairman of US Steel. We encourage you to attend as we say thank you.

Thank you to those who accepted a Summer Intern thru our partnership with Youth Works on such a short notice. We will begin next year in Spring,

to allow you time to plan.

Corporate Sponsor The Pittsburgh Pirates have invited the Chamber to participate in the **African American Heritage Festival, August 27th** @ PNC Park. Join them for the Pirate vs. St. Louis game. The field box tickets, (originally \$24) are being offered to Chamber members for **just \$12**. Why not bring the family & receive the special Dave Parker statue figurine. Call Brian Lowe at the Pirates 412-325-4967. Let's support our partner.

Beginning on September 2nd, your Chamber office will be offering 'Ask the Expert' program as part of the Business Institute. Each Thursday from 9:00 AM to Noon, we will have an industry expert available for you to speak with & ask questions that will help your business. Simply call the office at 412-232-9444. The first month is on credit & lending.

Mark your calendars The Governor's Commission on African American Affairs will hold a Business Summit at the Convention Center, Tuesday, November 16th. The summit will include a trade show, workshops & plenary sessions. An invitation will be mailed to you. They will also be holding their regional meeting here August 24th at the Hill House; the speaker is the Honorable Dennis Yablonsky.

PAGE 2

Member Jake Wheatley received approval that H.B. 2412 pass. The Wheatley Bill will allow a person with a long-time claim on a property to take ownership thru the 'adverse possession' process after 10 years rather than the current 21 years. Senate confirmation is pending.

House Bill 1996 recently signed into law will allow taxpayers to save millions through his strategic sourcing initiative while expanding a small businesses ability to sell to schools & local governments through state contracts. This compromise legislation between the Rendell Administration & the National Federation of Independent Business. It gives the DGS the authority to create contracts solely for the use of local governments, school districts, higher educational institutions & non-profits. DGS will then create additional contracts whenever it issues a contract thru strategic sourcing, the Governor's initiative to drive down costs by maximizing its leverage with suppliers on volume aggregation. To date, the initiative has saved almost \$75 million annually.

The Governor recently announced the appointment of Francis V. Barnes Ph. D. as the new Secretary of Education for the State- his 2nd Black appointed cabinet member. **Don't** forget, during the month of August there is Jazz in the Park (Highland Park) Saturdays 4-7 P.M.

Join Member Cecelia Griffin Golden for the 135th Anniversary YWCA Benefit Concert Ms. Patti La Belle Thursday, September 30th 7:30 PM Carnegie Music Hall. General Admission \$75.00 VIP Ticket price \$135.00, includes Post reception. Tickets are on sale. Call 412-255-1257, or membership@ywcaphg.org.

Leadership Pittsburgh Inc. is looking for a new President & CEO. View the posting on <http://www.lpinc.org/communitiy.asp?ID=42>.

The County's Dept. of Economic Development is completing the state mandated comprehensive plan. Use the online survey @: <http://www.county.alleghe.ny.pa.us/economic/survey04/> to give your input in helping format public policy that will shape the future of our County.

Associate Member Slippery Rock University is looking for a Director of Executive Leadership in their Lifelong Learning Division. Email: james.lkusher@sru.edu to submit your resume, or call him at 724-738-4480.

The Women's Benchmarks Reports by Dr. Ralph Bangs & his team have been completed for April 2004 – thanks to the The Maurice Falk Fund. Go to www.ucsur.pitt.edu & click on publications to down-load the full document or view the contents. The research information is taken from the 2000 Census data & is quite revealing.

Member Nick Nichols is putting the final touches on PRMPC's 22nd Annual Golf Outing and Dinner August

16th at Nevillewood & Southpointe Golf Clubs. Call Nick at 412-391-4423.

Member Joe McGrath also invites you to his golf outing at Quicksilver Golf Club Monday, August 23rd. Call Lynne Popash for more info @ 412-281-0482 x3149.

If you haven't, please contact Councilmen Hertzberg, Peduto, Riccardi, & Udin, to thank them for their support of the ACT 47 Legislation.

CONGRATULATIONS

Member Scott Brown honored by Citizens Bank for his continuous tenure.

Member Keith Kinard's feature story in the Business Times for the progress he making with minority business opportunities.

Member Stephen Thomas for his participation in the 40th Anniversary of the 1964 Civil Rights Act in Washington, D.C.

Member Carol Neyland as a speaker for the upcoming OWN Onyx Woman Network.

Member Charlene McAbee on her retirement from the state Dept. of Labor.

Members Art Baldwin, Twanda Carlisle, Joe Preston, Valerie McDonald Roberts & Jake Wheatley as part of the County Delegation to the Democratic National Convention.

Member Sylvester Pace on presenting 9 scholarships to students in Uniontown.

Member W.G. Tucker & Associates, Inc on opening an office in Jacksonville, Florida. Retired Army Colonel Horace Tucker, has been appointed V.P. Southern Region.

Members Jim Diggs, Carl Cooper, & Gene Harris for helping move the County Bar Association Agreement on diversity initiatives, de-signed to increase the number of lawyers work-ing in the County.

The University of Pittsburgh Medical Center on being named among the best in 12 of 17 specialty areas in medicine, including ear, nose and throat (6), orthopedics (14) and psychiatry (9).

Member Beth Wainwright for a job well done, as she prepares to enjoy retirement & her first grandchild.

Member Jake Wheatley led the Pledge of Allegiance at the opening session of the Democratic National Convention.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Robert B. Epps, Jr.
Carry Your Cross Clo-
thier

Sharieda Patterson
Progressive1 Enter-
prises LLC

Glenn F. Waters
AFLAC

Lee Willis
Willis Enterprises

Supporting Members

Melvin Pirchesky
Eagle Ventures, Inc.

Frank Polito
COMCAST

**ENJOY THE
REMAINDER OF THE
SUMMER!**