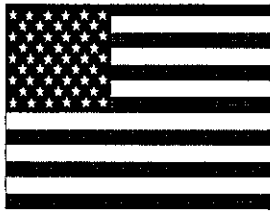


THIS EDITION

- ♦ 'Ask the Expert' is off & running
- ♦ Salute to Tom Usher
- ♦ Free Business Plan Seminar in October
- ♦ Indian Summer Mixer @ ALCOA
- ♦ 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

AFRICAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA
REGIONAL ENTERPRISE TOWER SUITE 1330
425 SIXTH AVENUE PITTSBURGH, PA. 15219
(412) 392-0610 AX (412) 392-0612

Email: information@aaccwp.com.

Website: www.aaccwp.com.

DORIS CARSON WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT & CEO

September 2004

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

August was a busy month for your Chamber. The Black Box Corporation presentation highlighted the value their company offers to Chamber Members. There were tailored programs for each individual's needs. The tour of their manufacturing plant & distribution center offered techniques in shop floor control. We were then treated to an outdoor lunch. It would have been nice if our attendance had been stronger.

The Pirates Baseball Club hosted, members for a 'Mini Mixer' in the World Series Box for before watching the Pirates & Rockies Game. Thanks to Winifred Torbert & Brian Lowe for a special evening.

**September 17, 2004
PowerBreakfast Meeting**
7:30 AM Rivers Club
One Oxford Center
Coro Center for Civic Leadership

Supporting Sponsor:
Pittsburgh Public Schools
Learn about the non-profit educational institute & how you can obtain a Fellow for a special project for your firm or organization. A great resource for your firm, non-profit members in particular should not miss this PowerBreakfast!

**Members Mixer
September 29, 2004
5:00 PM to 7:00 PM
ALCOA-on the Terrace**
201 Isabella Street
North Shore

The Alcoa Foundation
Join us as Alcoa hosts us on their terrace overlooking the Allegheny River during Indian Summer. Bring lots of business card & welcome new Chamber Members & guests. You must RSVP to the Chamber office by September 24th so we can submit your name to their security office.

**October 15, 2004
Please note date change
PowerBreakfast Meeting**
**Tom Usher, Chairman
& CEO U.S. Steel Corp.**

7:30 AM Rivers Club
One Oxford Center
Presidential Roundtable
Member Tom Usher will discuss the Extra Mile Foundation & his role with the Chamber. We will also salute him for his role in engaging the corporate community with you. We wish him well in his upcoming retirement. Help us pack the house!

**October 22, 2004
Business Plan Seminar**
8:30 AM - 10:30 AM
Hope Square
1901-15 Centre Avenue
The Business Institute & the Univ. of Pittsburgh's

Small Business Development Center will hold a free seminar, open to members & the general public. The seminar is designed to help you focus your business for growth. Includes booklet & samples. Info will be sent.

**Members Mixer
October 26, 2004
5:00p.m to 7:00p.m.
YWCA**

**305 Wood Street
Rooms C & D
Our Host & Sponsor:
Member Cecelia Griffin
Golden, Ph.D.**

The pool (co-ed) & exercise room (women only) are available afterwards, compliment of the YWCA.

**November 19, 2004
PowerBreakfast Meeting**
**Jerome Dettore, Acting
Executive Director
Urban Redevelopment
Authority of Pittsburgh**
7:30 AM Rivers Club
One Oxford Center
Jerry will speak about the URA upcoming projects, changes within the Authority, & how you as Chamber members can benefit from business opportunities.

**December 1, 2004
Annual Business
Luncheon**
**12:00 Noon Omni
William Penn Hotel**
**Speaker: Jeffrey Lipton
President & CEO
NOVA Chemicals**

This marks our sixth year having the Chief Executive Officer of a major corporation share his vision

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for our region. At your request, we will open the doors for networking at 11:30 AM. Mark your calendars to begin the holiday season.

The 'Ask the Expert' program is off & running. September is Credit & Lending. Callers asked Corporate Member Dollar Bank's Rebecca MacBlane questions about business & personal credit during the September 2nd debut. Don't forget the hotline is available each Thursday from 9:00 AM to Noon. A host of industry experts will be available to assist you. Call 412-392-0322.

Save the Date

We have been invited to join with the Cleveland Consortium of Minority Businesses & Organizations for a reception & attend the Cleveland Cavaliers VS Toronto Basketball Game, January 30, 2005 at 6:30 PM.; we are in the planning stages & will provide info on the total cost for the evening. Transportation will be included.

Help your Chamber distribute event opportunities to all members. Special events your Chamber is provided are not transferable to non-members. If you sign up & cannot attend, please call the office so members on a wait list can participate. It's appreciated.

Member Nick Nichols has partnered with the Project Management Institute to offer a Introduction to Project Management Seminar on the 18th. Hurry, the deadline to register is

Sept. 10th. For details, call 412-391-4423.

Member Cameil Williams is hosting the Pgh Metropolitan Area Hispanic Chamber's, 'Let's Get Down to Business'

Sept. 28th 6:00 – 8:00 PM @ Dominion Towers. Call her @ 412-628-8394 or email her @ cwilliams@hccwpa.org.

There's still time to join Member Cecelia Griffin Golden for the 135th Anniversary YWCA Benefit Concert featuring Patti La Belle, Sept. 30th 7:30 PM Carnegie Music Hall. Call 412-255-1257 for tickets, or

membership@ywcapgh.org.

Member Rod Doss recently announced Lou Ransom, previously with the Pgh. Tribune Review, as the new Managing Editor for the Pittsburgh Courier. They have an special advertising rate offer you can't refuse. Call 412-481-8302 x128.

Don't forget to allow extra time when traveling aboard or to certain cities in the U.S. USAirways no longer has Pittsburgh as a hub. Northwest Airlines has launched daily service from Pgh to Memphis & Independence Air is the latest added to a growing list of carriers.

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 download or view.

There is a quick easy way to access bids information by the state Dept. General Services online @ www.capitolwire.com. sign up for membership, then go to the procurement page and click on the photo for 'Procurement for

Women & Minority Owned Businesses'. Chief Executive Dan Onorato has Citizens Bank as the first funder for the new County Loan program to promote minority contracting in the county. Corporate Member Ralph Papa has committed \$500,000 & encourages other banks to contribute to the fund. The Chief Exec will be updating us soon.

Member Chris Kush (Pitt's SBDC) has offered Chamber Members a special \$500 scholarship for the upcoming Entrepreneurial Fellows Center Program that begins in January 2005. Call 412-648-1544 for an application & reference your Chamber membership. Currently three members are enrolled, learning about moving from management to the CEO level.

Effective this fall, H.J. Heinz will move to the ARIBA (parent of Free Markets) supplier network. This means the Chamber will begin all requests for proposals, or purchase orders will come to the chamber thru their new system. In this way we can forward to the request directly to members electronically.

Member Mariann Geyer will be leaving the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership & relocating to Move to Salt Lake City in December.

CONGRATULATIONS

Member Scott Brown honored by Citizens Bank for over 20 years continuous tenure.

Member Eric Mann on his groundbreaking ceremony in Homewood.

Members Eric Bruce on being named Supplier of the year; Faye Ritter for Lifetime Achievement & Mary Coffey Executive Director's Award at the SBA Awards Luncheon.

Member Ruth Byrd-Smith on the recent Community Meeting for the Governor's Commission- African American Affairs.

Members Valerie McDonald Roberts & Mona Generett for receiving Special Recognition Awards from the Lincoln Larimer Community Development Corp.

Member Chloe Velasquez on her feature articles in the Post-Gazette & the Pgh. Business Times.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Dara Ware Allen
YouthWorks, Inc.

Garfield Grant
1st Equity Financial
Services, Inc.

Duane Wells
ITI Solutions

William Wesson
Professionals for Hire
The PFHI Group

Supporting Members

Linda Clautti
Northside
Urban Pathways
Public Charter School

Peter Vercilla
Technology Strategies

Chairman's Circle

Odell Jones
Jomar Building Co., Inc.