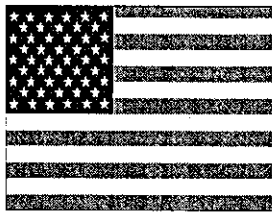


THIS EDITION

- ♦ October Legal Month for 'Ask the Expert' (412-392-0322)
- ♦ Business Luncheon December 1st
- ♦ Salute to Tom Usher
- ♦ Free Business Plan Seminar Offered
- ♦ Fall Mixer @ YWCA
- ♦ 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 FAX (412) 392-0612

Email: information@aaccwp.com.

Website: www.aaccwp.com.

DORIS CARSON WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT & CEO

October 2004

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

October marks the start of fall & your Chamber's busiest season. September's PowerBreakfast featured the Coro Center for Civic Leadership's Associate Director Paul Leger & his team, who shared info about their programs & how it can benefit your firm or organization. Call 412- 258-2672 for info. A

special thanks to the Pittsburgh Public Schools for being a Supporting Sponsor of the Breakfast.

The Members Mixer at ALCOA was outstanding. New members were welcomed with an impressive view of the city while networking. Plans are underway for a 'How to do Business' meeting. Watch for the date.

PowerBreakfast Meeting October 15, 2004

**Tom Usher, Chairman
U.S. Steel Corporation
7:30 AM Rivers Club
One Oxford Center**

Responses are coming in strong to hear the leader of our Chamber's Presidential Roundtable. He'll discuss his role with the Chamber & the Extra Mile Foundation, which he also chairs. Plan to be there.

**Members Mixer
October 26, 2004
5:00- 7:00 P.M.
YWCA
305 Wood Street**

Our Host & Sponsor: Member Cecilia Griffin Golden, Ph.D.

Don't forget: the pool (co-ed) & exercise room (for women only) are open after the Mixer. Confirm attending before the 22nd.

October 22, 2004

**Business Plan Seminar
8:30 AM-10:30 AM
Hope Square**

1901-15 Centre Avenue

Part of the Business Institute, the seminar is open to the public. This hands-on session is designed to help you focus your business plan for growth. It includes a booklet & examples. Raymond Vargo, University of Pittsburgh's Small Business Development Center, will be the Instructor. There are only a few seats left so sign up now. Bring your plan & have it evaluated.

**November 19, 2004
PowerBreakfast Meeting
Jerome Dettore, Acting
Executive Director
Urban Redevelopment
Authority of Pittsburgh
7:30 AM Rivers Club
One Oxford Center**

This is a meeting you should not miss. Jerry will talk about the URA, upcoming projects, & how Chamber members can benefit from business opportunities. An overview of the new Pittsburgh

Minority & Women's Enterprise Fund, along with other loan programs available, will also be presented. Don't miss it!

December 1, 2004

Annual Business

**Luncheon 12:00 Noon
(Doors open @ 11:30)**

Omni William Penn

**Speaker: Jeffrey Lipton,
President & CEO
NOVA Chemicals**

This is our sixth year having a Chief Executive Officer of a major corporation share their vision for the region. There will be a special treat. Call us if you wish to volunteer.

January 21, 2005

**PowerBreakfast Meeting
Allegheny County
Chief Executive
Dan Onorato**

7:30 AM Rivers Club

One Oxford Center

The County Chief Executive will update us on the County's plans for the New Year & business opportunities for members.

The first month of our 'Ask the Expert' program provided callers with valuable information on finance & credit information. Special thanks goes to Dollar Bank, Merrill Lynch, PNC, & Consumer Credit Counseling Services for participating. Callers received help on where to go for credit counseling, preparing for retirement, & small business loans. This theme will be repeated next year. **October is Legal month.**

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The Pittsburgh Pro Bono Partnership between the **H.J. Heinz Company & Kirkpatrick & Lockhart, LLP** will answer the telephones every Thursday in October from 9:00 AM to Noon & respond to your questions. The consortium is comprised of Attorneys who have volunteered to assist you; not to do business. Once you have obtained their counsel, call the office for referrals, or use your Membership Directory & Addendum to find Legal Counsel.

Save the Date
Cleveland Cavaliers
V.S. Milwaukee Bucks
Basketball Game
January 30, 2005
6:30 PM

Gund Arena in Ohio
Join us as we motor by chartered coach to Cleveland for an evening of networking & sports entertainment. You'll be treated to lunch on the bus, then to a reception with Cleveland's Consortium of Minority Business & Organizations. At 6:30 it's *Showtime* (with **Premium Seating**) between the Cavaliers & the Bucks. We'll return home immediately following the game. **Cost:**
\$110 for Members
\$120 for Non-Members
Your Chamber has purchased 40 tickets. Why not make this trip a holiday gift? Call us & reserve your seats.

The American Heart Assoc.
9th African-American
Heart Health Seminar
November 20, 2004
8:00 AM – 3:30 PM
Keynote Speaker:
Dr. Anita Edwards
Pittsburgh Hilton
For more info, call Patricia Fenton @ 412-243-5393.

Member Esther Bush has changed the date for the

Ronald H. Brown Leadership Banquet to December 3rd.

If your company experienced losses as a result of the storm & need help from the business community, call Jennifer Due @ 412-918-4274, or post items @ <http://quickplace.pghtech.org/ivanbusinessrecovery>.

Every Child, Inc. is looking for candidates for their Board of Directors. Call Susan Davis, the Executive Director @ 412-665-0600.

There is a disaster loan fund available for small businesses that have experienced physical damage to their businesses, personal property or homes resulting from Tropical Depression Ivan or Frances. Go to your **Business Briefcase** for details from S.B.A. There is also information for your employees who may have been affected. Save this web address in your company Business Briefcase:

www.unitedwaypittsburgh.org/uwac/aaccwp.

There is a quick easy way to access bid information from the state Dept. General Services online: @ www.capitolwire.com. Sign up for membership, then go to the procurement page & click on the photo for 'Procurement for Women & Minority Owned Businesses'.

The recent passing of Board Member Marimba Milliones' Mother, Dr. Barbara Sizemore, and a true former Leader in the Pittsburgh community saddened us all. A memorial will be held in her honor, Saturday, October 9, 2004 @ 7:00 PM at the University of Pittsburgh.

Member Chris Kush (Pitt's SBDC) is offering 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.

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. This way we can forward to the request directly to members electronically.

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

CONGRATULATIONS

Members Ben Butler & Don Carter on a successful Minority Enterprise Week Program.

Member ACT-1 Group CEO Janice Bryant Howard for appearing on Oprah Winfrey.

Member Elizabeth Bowers presented at the Contractor Training Program @ NAMB/BCA.

Member Carl Cooper, Esq. for hosting the Race & Social Justice in America.

Member Veronica Edwards, a new Leadership Pittsburgh graduate.

Member Barry Lumsden on his Washington, D.C. office.

Member Miramba Milliones on her Diversity Works article in the Pittsburgh Business Times.

Member Nick Nichols & Corporate Sponsor Bob O'Connor for 2nd place trophies at Imhotep's Golf Classic. Members Ted Duncan & Sam Stephenson also participated.

Member Chauncey Smith on being inducted into Who's Who of America.

Member Bill Strickland on Bidwell Training Program's 80% job-placement record among its chemistry graduates.

Member Tim Stevens on the NAACP presenting a plaque to Nate Smith for his pioneering efforts to help minorities enter the trade unions.

Member Charles Toran award, ranking #1 in the Business Times as the fastest growing company in environmental engineering.

Member John Wilds, Ph.D. participating at the Carnegie Library's re-opening in Oakland.

Member Aaron Walton honored by Mt. Ararat Baptist Church & for receiving the Strong Families Award.

Member State Rep. Jake Wheatley on his Community Day Program.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Yvonne Barnes
TravelPros Travel Agency
Richard G. Portis
XX1st. Century Industries

Supporting Members

Patricia Jones
Private Industry Council
Westmoreland /Fayette
Counties

See you on the 15th!