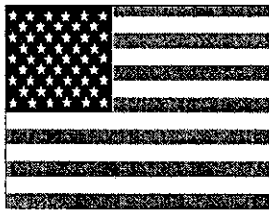


### THIS EDITION

- ◆ November Finance Month for 'Ask the Expert' Program (412-392-0322)
- ◆ Profile forms are due
- ◆ Special Consortium Group Meet the 22<sup>nd</sup>
- ◆ Luncheon on the 1<sup>st</sup>
- ◆ Applaud Chamber Men
- ◆ It's Basketball Time
- ◆ Katz Dean to Lecture
- ◆ 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  
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DORIS CARSON WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT & CEO

November 2004

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

Member Cecilia Griffin Golden is truly to be commended for sponsoring the Members Networking Mixer at the YWCA. People just kept coming & coming. The refreshments were tasty & a good compliment to the intense networking that went on.

Tom Usher gave a very compelling presentation at our October PowerBreakfast Meeting; both on the Chamber & the Extra Mile Foundation. The video of the children was terrific. Thanks for being there to recognize the one who helped engage the corporate community to support your Chamber.

**November 19, 2004**  
**PowerBreakfast Meeting**  
**Jerome Dettore, Acting Executive Director**  
**Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh**  
**7:30 AM Rivers Club**  
Jerry will give an URA overview, talk about their upcoming projects, the new Minority & Women's Enterprise Fund, & how Chamber members can benefit from business opportunities.

**November 22, 2004**  
**Rivers Club Forum**  
**Monday**  
**The Rivers Club**  
**6PM to 8PM**  
**Sponsor: The**  
**Fragasso Group, Inc.**

Your African American Chamber, along with the Allegheny Conference, Amen Corner, Rivers Club, & the World Affairs Council have joined together in a common bond of mutual assistance & dialogue, with objectives to help each other increase business, advance our community & help foster a sense of beneficial interdependence. No matter if you are a business owner, or in a university, college, or hospital-related profession, you can potentially benefit from associating on a regular basis with persons of influence in our region. You are invited to join us for the first of the discussions. Come hear what this initiative may do for you & participate in its shaping. **Reservations are required.** Call 412-391-5227 & refer to the "Rivers Club Forum."

**December 1, 2004**  
**Annual Business Luncheon 12:00 Noon**  
**Omni William Penn**  
**Speaker: Jeffrey Lipton, President & CEO**  
**NOVA Chemicals**  
(Doors will open @ 11:30)  
Mr. Lipton will share his vision for the region & you will receive a special treat. To volunteer, call the office.

**December 10, 2004**  
**Business Institute's**  
**Special Marketing**  
**Lecture**

**8:30 - 12:00 Noon**  
**Dr. Rick Winter, Dean**  
**University of Pittsburgh**  
**Katz Graduate School**  
**of Business**

This lecture is open to the general public. Dean Winter, known as the marketing guru, will cover the principles of marketing, marketing research, & other tips useful for your business. We're confirming the details.

**January 11, 2005**  
**9:00 - 11:30 AM**  
**URA Lending Program**  
**Robert Rubinstein**  
**Acting Director Business Development /URA**  
This program will cover in detail every loan program the URA is involved with, how to access it, & the application process.

**January 21, 2005**  
**PowerBreakfast Meeting**  
**Allegheny County**  
**Chief Executive**  
**Dan Onorato**  
**7:30 AM Rivers Club**  
The Chief Executive will update us on the County's plans for the New Year & business opportunities for members.

**January 26, 2005**  
**Members Mixer**  
**5:00- 7:00 P.M.**  
**Fifth Avenue Place**  
**Sponsor: Highmark**  
This will give you an opportunity to visit retailers in between networking.

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**January 30, 2005  
Cleveland Cavaliers  
v.s. Milwaukee Bucks  
Basketball Game  
Gund Arena in Ohio  
Reception: 5:00 PM  
Game time: 6:30 PM**

We'll depart by bus from Monroeville, be treated to lunch on the bus, then to a reception with Cleveland's Consortium of Minority Business & Organizations. We have **Premium Lower Level Seating** for the game & then return home immediately after.

**Cost \$110 Members;**

**\$120 Non-Members**

Make the trip part of a holiday gift! Call us to reserve your seats.

**Don't forget**, your Membership Profile Form is due. We want to start preparing next year's Directory. Submit your form by December 10<sup>th</sup>.

The Pittsburgh Pro-Bono Partnership between H.J. Heinz Company & Kirkpatrick and Lockhart, P.C. did an outstanding job answering the phones during the 'Ask the Legal Expert' program in October. A wide-range of issues were asked each Thursday: consulting agreements, registering different types of business entities, liability & other issues related to business. The 'legal' series generated a number of financial questions. As a result, the Finance & Credit Month will be repeated this month with Citizens Bank, Consumer Credit Counseling Services, Merrill Lynch, & PNC Financial Services Group for three weeks (we're off Thanksgiving!).

The Business Plan Seminar was filled to capacity & generated a second such session. Ray Vargo, University of Pittsburgh's Small Business Development Center, served as the

Instructor, providing concrete examples. A reference Workbook was given to all who attended.

The National Small Business Week conference is scheduled for April 25<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> 2005. To nominate an outstanding entrepreneur or advocate for the SBA Small Business Awards, call 412-395-6560x104. The deadline is December 17<sup>th</sup>.

Member Neil Barclay said there is still time to join the African American Cultural Center's Fashion Africana on Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at Carnegie Museums' Music Hall Foyer. For tickets, call 412-391-1831 or visit: [www.fashionafricana.com](http://www.fashionafricana.com)

Anyone who has suffered a major property loss due to the Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> flood can submit a catastrophic loss application form to the County. Residents who qualify can receive a reduction in the assessed value of their property. The application forms are available from the Office of Property Assessments by calling 412-350-4600, or go to Room 301 County Office Building, 542 Forbes Ave. You can download the application from the County's website under the "forms" section of the Ivan Disaster Recovery home page at:

<http://www.county.allegheeny.pa.us/emerserv/iforms.asp>. The Chief Executive recently appointed Ramon Rustin as the new Warden of the Allegheny County Jail. Once we learn he is confirmed & settled, he will be invited to address the Chamber.

Supporting Member Michael Flaherty, Ph.D. is co-sponsoring the PA Regional Drug & Alcohol

Training Institutes along with the Dept. of Health November 17-19<sup>th</sup> in Valley Forge, PA. For more info, call Kristine Pond @ 412-258-8569.

Associate Members Pgh Tech. Council & SMC are holding a "Finding Ideas That Make Money" Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> & again on Jan. 27<sup>th</sup>. To register & for more info, call 412-918-4229 or [events@pghtech.org](mailto:events@pghtech.org).

Member Duquesne's SBDC is hosting a number of workshops on QuickBooks, International Sales Markets, to Automated Export Systems, & IRS e-file Seminar. Call 412-396-6233 for more info.

If you are interested in teaching, Slippery Rock University is the place to be. To see the open positions, visit [www.sru.edu](http://www.sru.edu).

### CONGRATULATIONS

Member Esther Bush on a successful Annual Meeting for the Urban League of Pittsburgh. The charter school also placed #1 in the float competition at the Afro-American Heritage Day Parade.

Member Ronnie Bryant on being elected Vice Chairman of the International Economic Development Council.

Members Ben Butler & Don Carter on a successful Minority Enterprise Week Program. The Award Winners were Member Mary Coffey 2004 8(A) Graduate of the Year & Member James Cooper, the Minority Small Business of the Year.

Member Stephen Thomas on receiving the 2004 Racial Justice Award for the Center for Minority Health,

University of Pittsburgh. Member Elizabeth Bowers presented at the Contractor Training for NAMB/BCA.

Corporate Sponsor Mona Generett on being event Co-Chair of the YWCA's 135<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Member Cecelia Griffin Golden as guest speaker for the Success Breakfast & Career Conference.

Member Carl Cooper, Esq. for hosting the Race & Social Justice in America with Harvard Professor Charles Ogletree.

Member Chloe Velasquez on nominating the New Granada Theater as a historic monument, which was passed by city council.

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

Member Stephen Thomas Speaker for the Pgh Assoc. of Human Resource Professionals.

Member Tim Stevens on the NAACP's successful Freedom Sunday presenting a plaque to Nate Smith for his pioneering efforts to help minorities in the trade unions.

Corporate Sponsors rated in the top 30 Best Places to Work in our region are: Citizens Bank (1), Mellon Financial Corp. (6), L. Robert Kimball & Assoc., Inc. (22), Carlow University (8), & Pgh Tech. Inst. (23).

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**Brent N. Taylor**  
Day & Night, Inc.  
**Chad Washington**  
Time Business Solutions  
**Tina Howze**  
Chubb Group of  
Insurance Companies

~  
**Have a wonderful  
Thanksgiving!**