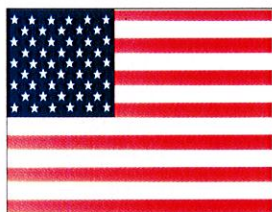


THIS EDITION

- ♦ January, IT Month for 'Ask the Expert' Program (412-392-0322)
- ♦ Members Survey being developed
- ♦ Only 5 seats left for the Cavaliers Game
- ♦ 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

January 2005

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

Your Chamber Office is off to a great start in the New Year.

**January 11, 2005
9:00 – 11:30 AM
200 Ross St. 13th Floor
URA Lending Program
Robert Rubinstein
Acting Director Business Development /URA**

Bob will present each loan program that is offered, including programs in special economic development zones. The application process will also be covered. Please R.S.V.P. to the Chamber office by January 7th.

**January 21, 2005
PowerBreakfast Meeting
Allegheny County
Chief Executive
Dan Onorato
7:30 AM Rivers Club
Sponsor: MJP Enterprises (Al Merritt)**

The Chief Executive will provide us an update on the County's plans for the New Year & business opportunities for members. Confirm you're coming by January 19th.

**January 26, 2005
Members Mixer
5:00- 7:00 P.M.
Fifth Avenue Place
Sponsor: Highmark Standard Property Co.**

Come welcome our new members, network, & visit Member Lydell's Men's Clothier & other retailers.

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

There are only 5 seats left to join the Chamber to Cleveland to see the #1 ranked Cavaliers. We'll leave by chartered bus from Monroeville; have lunch, then to a reception with Cleveland's Consortium of Minority Business & Organizations. Great seating will allow you to see and feel the game's excitement before returning home right after the game. Call the office to reserve your seat.

**Cost \$110 Members;
\$120 Non-Members
February 18, 2005
7:30A.M.
Rivers Club**

**One Oxford Centre
Dr. Laurence Glasco,
Associate Professor
University of Pittsburgh
Department of History**
Dr. Glasco will present "Black Entrepreneurship at the turn of the 20th Century in Pittsburgh". This program is in celebration of Black History Month.

We have completed the draft of the 2005 Membership Directory for layout. We are growing! The 2005 Membership

Directory has been submitted.

Your members survey is being finalized to send to you by the end of the month. We need your input to learn more about your business & how your Chamber can service you in 2005.

Your Chamber & Chamber Choice wish to invite you to a Consumer Driven Health Care Series

**February 17th,
10 AM – Noon
Comfort Inn
699 Rodi Road
Penn Hills**

Topics include: What is a High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP), Who is eligible for a Health Savings Account (HSA), How much money can I save & is it the best choice for my employees and our company. Call 1-800-377-3539 to confirm your attendance.

**February 15, 2005
1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.
PPG Ice Skating Rink**

This is our fourth year on the Ice! Your first cup of Hot Chocolate is on the Chamber! Bring the family for an afternoon of fun. Skate rentals are available.

Did you know every month the Pittsburgh Public Schools holds a meeting in the Administration Building on doing business with the Board of Education? For the date & time, call 412-622-3600. Members Joe Preston & Jake Wheatley, our State

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Representatives are working to prepare a legislative briefing for Chamber Members. The plan is to hold briefings twice a year. We are working to have the first one in mid February. We'll keep you posted.

Corporate Sponsor Bender Consulting Services is offering a three-month internship (part-time 10-15 hour/wk). Call Nathan Gambill at 412-787-8567 or resume@bnderconsult.com

Last month City Council approved the mayor's 2005 budget that included raising the occupation tax from \$10 to \$52 for everyone working in the city & businesses will pay the quarterly 0.55% payroll tax February 28th.

Upcoming Members Events

February 5th
Whitey M. Young
Scouting Dinner
Hilton Hotel.
Call 412-471-2927
to purchase tickets.

February 15-16th
The Alvin Ailey
American Dance Theater
Presented by: The African American Cultural Center & the Dance Council. For tickets call: 412-456-6666.

Jan. 20th – Feb. 20th
"Ain't Misbehavin"
Fats Waller Musical Show
Pittsburgh Public Theater
Call 412-316-1600 for tickets.
Group rates are available.

February 26th 7:00 PM
Pittsburgh Interfaith Impact Network
'Still Pursuing the Dream'
Omni William Penn Hotel
Dr. C.T. Vivian,
Keynote Speaker
Ticket info: 412-621-9230

March 6, 2005 6PM
Jeffrey Osborne
BYHAM THEATRE

For tickets, call 412-456-6666.

March 15th
'Building A World-Class'
Anne Beiler, CEO & Founder of Auntie Anne's Pretzels is the keynote speaker. Mark your calendar for Seton Hill University's National Education Center for Women in Business. Your Chamber is a resource partner. Email icamp-bel@setonhill.edu for more information.

Due to financial constraints, The New Pittsburgh Courier will be published weekly (every Wednesday), rather than twice a week.

Secretary Donald Cunningham released his year-end report on the status of M/WBE participation in the Department of General Services in state contracting. If you would like a hard copy, call the office.

Allegheny County Prothonotary-Michael Lamb has formally announced his candidacy for Mayor of Pittsburgh. Stay tuned as the numbers increase. We will be having a political forum to introduce the candidates.

Supporting Member Michael Langley is looking for an Executive Vice President/CFO for The Allegheny Conference. Email your resume to: dlukus@alleghenyconference.org.

Corporate Sponsor GlaxoSmithKline is recruiting a Planning Analyst & a Financial Analyst. Fax your resume to Linda Guest @ 412-249-4505.

Corporate Sponsor The Pittsburgh Pirates is looking for an Account Executive, Media Sales & a Director of Corporate Partnerships. Send your vita to: darlene@pittsburghpirates.com.

Olszak Management Consulting is looking for a

Public Involvement Specialist & a Public Involvement Assistant: both requiring exceptional organizational and communications skills & has experience working with the public. Email Lisa Olszak at: lolszak@olszak.com. The Pittsburgh Business Times' 2005 Book of Lists, ranked the following Chamber Members:

Growth of revenue over the last 3 years: Ebony Development ranked **#3**; Sci-Teck Environmental Services ranked **#21**. Of the 25 Largest Pittsburgh Area Women-Owned Business (ranked by number of local full-time employees): All Purpose Cleaning Service ranked **#8**. Of the 25 Largest Minority Pittsburgh-Area Minority-Owned Companies (ranked by number of local employees): JRL Enterprises Inc. ranked **#6**; Waller Corp ranked **#15** & TriLogic Corp. ranked **#18**.

We welcome the introduction of Southwest Airlines to Pittsburgh.

CONGRATULATIONS

Member Neil Barclay on his major grant for the African America Cultural Center from the Heinz Endowments.

Member Malik Bankston on his successful fundraiser at the Rivers Club & to Members Ronnie Bryant, Rob Jones, & Ted Roberts who served as Bartenders.

Members Bernard Ott featured recently in the Pittsburgh Courier at the reception honoring Pirate Manager Lloyd McClendon.

Member Irv Williams on his feature article in

The New Pittsburgh Courier.

Corporate Sponsor Kent George on being named Chairman of Airports Council International, the U.S. airport industry voice in dealing with the Bush administration & the plethora of federal agencies that govern aviation-related operations.

Presidential
Roundtable Member Citizen Bank recently matched the County's \$500,000.00 to increase their lending capacity programs funding to \$1,000,000.00 for minority & women owned businesses.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Rev. Henry Billingsley
Zion Baptist Church

Ameen Asad
ASAD Enterprises
International, Inc.

Supporting Members

Carol A. Naumuk
CAM International, Inc.

Janet McCall
Society for
Contemporary Arts

John Durban
John Durban
& Associates

Associate Members
Frank Hamschin
Rivers Club

Corporate Sponsor

Ernestine Harris
GlaxoSmithKline
(upgrade)

Happy New Year!