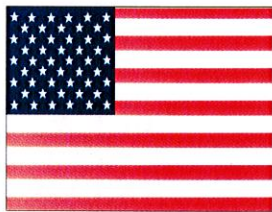


### THIS EDITION

- ◆ February, Tax Month for 'Ask the Expert' Program (412-392-0322)
- ◆ Members Survey ready
- ◆ New City tax change in effect
- ◆ 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](mailto:information@aaccwp.com).

Website: [www.aaccwp.com](http://www.aaccwp.com).

DORIS CARSON WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT & CEO

### February 2005

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

Punxatawney Phil reported we have six more weeks of winter!

Associate Member Bob Rubinstein & his staff presented the various URA Lending Programs to over 35 business owners last month at a special session. An in-depth review of the application process was provided & the special economic development zones were highlighted.

Special thanks to Member Al Merritt-MJP Enterprises for sponsoring our January PowerBreakfast Meeting. Chief Executive Dan Onora to recapped his last year activities to over 100 Chamber Members & guests & shared his vision: Of the 150 appointments made to boards & authorities 30% have been minorities; management of the 9/17 floods & the government assistance provided; the need to develop the infrastructure near the airport; consolidation of the county row offices from 10 to 4 to improve efficiency. Talks are also taking place on merging city & county governments. It would us the 7th largest city & positioned for increased federal funding. The process involves establishing a special committee, That the County Exec stated he will vote on last to insure

the committee is diverse. Thank you to Corporate Sponsor Marty Wood/URS Corporation, who donated 2 tickets to give away for the Steeler playoff game!

The Members Mixer, sponsored by Highmark's Standard Property Corp. was over the top! Members received a \$10 shopping certificate for the retail shops, sample toiletries, box of chocolate covered pretzels, a free & a drawing for a basket of personal items & a 25% off gift certificate to be used at the Added Touch or Member Lydell's Clothier, who at 7:15 PM was still busy at the cash register. Caff  Amante provided the appetizers. Kudos to Bryon Falchetti for making the evening so special.

Our trip to see the Cavaliers vs. Milwaukee Bucks Basketball Game was fun. Over 200 members of the Cleveland's Consortium of Minority Business & Organizations attended a reception before the game & welcomed us. The Gund Arena was packed to cheer their home team to victory.

**February 18, 2005**

**7:30A.M.**

**Rivers Club**

**One Oxford Centre  
Dr. Laurence Glasco,  
Associate Professor**

### University of Pittsburgh Department of History

Sponsors: Members Trilogic Corp (Eric Bruce) & Washington Consulting (Shelia Washington)

Dr. Glasco will present "Black Entrepreneurship at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century in Pittsburgh". Please confirm your attendance for this celebration of Black History Month.

**February 19, 2005**

**1:00 P.M. – 3:00 P.M.**

**PPG Ice Skating Rink**

Please note the correct date! The numbers are growing for those planning to attend what will be an afternoon of fun for the entire family. Skate rentals are available.

**March 18, 2005**

**7:30A.M.**

**Rivers Club**

**One Oxford Centre  
Dorothy Lengyel,  
President**

**Pittsburgh Partnership  
for Neighborhood  
Development (PPND)**

Join us & learn how PPND helps to support the development of diverse mixed income communities in the city & how your firm can participate.

**March 22, 2005**

**5:00 – 7:00 PM**

**Members Mixer**

**Frick Museum**

**Reynolds Street**

**Point Breeze**

**Sponsor: State Farm  
Insurance**

Look for the announcement this month.



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

This session is part of the Consumer Driven Health Care Series & will focus on topics like: 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.

Next week you will receive your Member survey. Please take a few minutes, complete the survey & return it to our office by the requested date. We want to continue to provide quality service to your business. Those who complete & return the survey will receive a complimentary Power-Breakfast on the Chamber.

Don't forget the new tax changes took effect last month: the city & School District of Pittsburgh will no longer levy the Mercantile license & tax, however it will still be collected for prior years. The City will begin to levy a .55% (.0055) on the gross payroll of all city firms and those that have activities that produce revenue within the city. Installments are due the end of February, May, August, & November. The \$10 annual Occupation Tax has been replaced with the Emergency & Municipal Services tax of \$52 a year, deducted monthly. Employees who earn \$12,000 or less are entitled to an Emergency & Municipal Services refund of \$42 from the city.

Did you know Dwelling House Savings & Loan has a book out entitled, 'Trans-

forming story of Dwelling House Savings & Loan-A Pittsburgh Bank's Fight Against Urban Poverty? You can purchase it at Dwelling House for \$39.95 or call: 412-683-5116 (add \$2.45 for postage).

**Member Nick Nichols** will hold the **Senior Leadership Team Summit on Supplier Diversity on: March 16<sup>th</sup>**

**7:30 am – 1:30 pm  
Regional Enterprise  
Tower**

Guest Speakers: Beverly Kukendall – Owner & CEO of Federal & Commercial Contracts, Inc. & Ann Mullen-Director Office of Supplier Diversity for Johnson & Johnson. Call 412-391-4423 for cost information & to register. Click on the announcement below:



brochure-invitation.pdf

**Glenn O. Hawbaker, Inc.** is a federal contractor located in State College, PA. He has a number of job opportunities in the construction area. Click below for information, or if you have any questions, please contact Nicole Thiel at (814) 272-2443.



Construction Employment.pdf

### **Upcoming Members Events**

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

**Jan. 20<sup>th</sup> – Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>  
"Ain't Misbehavin'"**  
Fats Waller Musical Show, Pittsburgh Public Theater.

Call 412-316-1600 for tickets. Group rates available.

**March 6, 2005 6PM  
Jeffrey Osborne**

BYHAM THEATRE Call 412-456-6666 for ticket info. To benefit Family Services of W. PA.

ProArts, an organization for artists & cultural organizations is looking for African Americans to serve on their board. If you have an interest, call Aisha White at 412-661-0469, or email her at: [aisha@pitt.edu](mailto:aisha@pitt.edu).

The Pa. Chamber of Business & Industry has received the results from last year's economic survey. Visit: **2004 Economic Survey** ([www.pachamber.org/AC/economicsurvey.asp](http://www.pachamber.org/AC/economicsurvey.asp))

You will notice that the top of Highmark is lit up in red this month. It is to honor American Heart Association Month.

### **CONGRATULATIONS**

**Member Curtis Aiken** on being a Sports Analyst on FoxSports Network for the Pitt Basketball home games.

**Member Barbara Bazon** will be leaving the end of the month to become the Managing Director of the American Institutes for Research in Washington, D.C.

**Member Russell Bynum**, celebrating 20 years in the Advertising Business.

**Member Darryl Ford Williams** on serving as Co-Chair of the Jack & Jill Biennial Ball.

Corporate Sponsor **Cathy Niederberger** for being featured about

family holiday traditions on WQED.

Chairman Greg Spencer & Member Carl Cooper recognized as Rivers Club Champions.

**Member Carl Knoblock** on SBA's Open House for at their new location.

**Member Robert Lavelle** on his debut on the Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> cover of WORLD magazine: ([www.worldmag.com](http://www.worldmag.com)).

**Member John Laymon** on his feature article in the Business Times.

Supporting Member **Barbara Hafer** for 16 years in state government.

Corporate Sponsor **Milt Washington** as co-host of the final dress rehearsal of Ain't Misbehavin' to benefit the Pittsburgh AIDS Task Force.

### **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

**Herman Jones, Ph.D.**  
Urban Market Research

**Arlinda Moriarty**  
Moriarty Consultants

**Trey Nichols**  
Corporate Express

**Michelle Smith**  
National City Bank of Pa.

### **Associate Members**

**Richard Taylor**  
Macedonia Development Corporation

### **Corporate Sponsor**

**Dr. Stewart Sutin**  
Community College of Allegheny County

