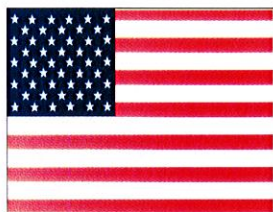


THIS EDITION

- ♦ March, Marketing Month for 'Ask the Expert' Program (412-392-0322)
- ♦ #1 on the Business Briefcase Chart
- ♦ Special Meeting
- ♦ 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

March 2005

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

Thanks to you, we have had an 18% return on our membership survey. Friday (3/11/05) is the last day to return them.

Associate Professor Laurence Glasco was exceptional for Black History Month. He enlightened some, & educated others about the strength & resiliency of Black Business at the turn of the 21st Century. NFTE students from CAPA Carrick, & Westinghouse were present to learn about our entrepreneurial history. A special thanks to Trilogic Corp. (Eric Bruce) & the Washington Consulting Group (Shelia Washington) for being sponsors.

The next day members & guest met at the PPG Ice Skating Rink for an afternoon of hot chocolate & lots of fun. Several suggested we hold the event to kick off the winter season, along with our annual outing. What do you think? **PowerBreakfast Meeting March 18, 2005 7:30A.M. Rivers Club** Dorothy Lengyel, President Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development (PPND)

Sponsor:

Hill District Community Development Corporation. Learn how PPND helps to support developing the city's diverse mixed in

come communities & how your firm can participate.

March 22, 2005

5:00 – 7:00 PM

Members Mixer

Frick Art & Historical Museum

7227 Reynolds Street

Sponsor: *State Farm Insurance*. This is an opportunity to visit this historical museum, network, & experience the venue of our Associate Member.

PowerBreakfast Meeting

April 15, 2005

7:30A.M.

Rivers Club

One Oxford Centre

Legislative Update by PA Chamber of Business & Industry & Members State Reps. Joseph Preston, Jake Wheatley

Sponsor: Randall Enterprises. Jim Welty-V.P., Legislative & Corporate Affairs & Gretchen Ramsey- Mgr. Chamber Relations & Special Projects will provide an update of legislative issues affecting small business. Members Preston & Wheatley will update us on issues impacting women & minorities.

Members Mixer

April 22, 2005

5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Mellon Financial Corp.

One Mellon Center

Our Corporate Sponsor has already begun making

plans to host us. For security purposes, **you must RSVP by April 15th**.

April 22, 2005

4:30 – 6:30 PM

**Candidates Forum
Rivers Club**

Our panel will be the candidates for mayor. An announcement will be sent.

**Special
Breakfast &
Panel Discussion**

May 12, 2005

8:00 AM – 10:30 AM

Duquesne Club

Colleen Barrett, President

Southwest Airlines

Ms Barrett & members of her senior staff will focus on relating the benefit of Southwest coming to our region, share insight into Corporate Efficacy & their specialty: Customer Service. It will include a question & answer period. You will receive a letter.

ANNUAL MEETING

May 19, 2005

Meeting 11:00 AM

Luncheon: 12:00 Noon

Omni William Penn Hotel

Guest Speaker:

Mr. Kwame Jackson,
Celebrity & Star of the
NBC Hit Show,
"The Apprentice"

We learned recently from Chamber Choice & the United Way that we're #1 on Business Briefcase activity & subscribers compared to other Chambers. A total of 68 firms have signed up & found benefit in having the service available. To get your company enrolled, simply email

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Member Connie Barren @ cbarren@uwac.org.

A new bonding program for disadvantaged businesses has been announced, where you can obtain up to \$500,00. The Program is offered thru the National Alliance of Minority Contractors/Black Contractors Association. Call Linda Couch at 412-247-4822, or contact Bonnie Hand at 814-946-9486.

Upcoming Members Events

Chamber Choice Services invites all members to a speech on 'Proactive Marketing' by International Speaker, Keith Powell, 'The Business Revivalist'. March 16th @ 1:30 PM. NO Charge. The session is 30 minutes. Simply call toll free 1-888-476-3752 & enter access code 266785. Space is limited. Call 412-456-7003 to RSVP email: brit-tanne.blouse@hrh.com.

Member Nick Nichols still has seats available for the **Senior Leadership Team Summit on Supplier Diversity, March 16th**

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

Guest Speakers: Beverly Kukendall – Owner & CEO of Federal & Commercial Contracts & Ann Mullen-Director-Office of Supplier Diversity for Johnson & Johnson. To register, call 412-391-4423.

March 19th

2005 Black Extravaganza & Trailblazer Awards Carnegie Museums & Music Hall. Call Member Connie Portis @ 412-391-8208 for tickets.

April 22, 2005

Three Rivers Youth 125th Anniversary 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM Westin Convention Center Member Peggy Harris would love to see you there. Call 412-766-2215 or email contact@threeriversyouth.org.

SMC Business Councils

Golf Outings for 2005

Member Cliff Shannon hosts 4 unique golf outings to help you impress your customers & guests. Courses like Westmoreland, Totteridge, Longue Vue, & Old Stonewall are priced to make the four afternoons affordable. For date & cost info, call Jerry DiFrango at 412-37-1500 x238 or jerry@smc.org.

March 29th – 30th

The Governor's Advisory Commission on African American Affairs presents their 3rd Annual African American Business Summit, entitled: "Building our Economy, Strengthening our Community". This two-day event begins with a networking reception & Business Awards of Excellence Program March 29th from 5:00 PM-8:00 PM at the Rivers Club. Wednesday, March 30th is the Business Summit, convening from 8:00 AM-4:30 PM at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center. The keynote speaker is:

**Don Barden, Chairman
Barden Co., Inc.**

He is the only African American to own 3 Fitzgerald Casinos. Call 1-877-374-0222 to register & obtain more info, or email jkyung@state.pa.us.

Thru April 17th

Westmoreland Museum of Art's Man-Made Quilts his unique exhibits includes evening lectures & quilt demonstrations. For details, call 724-837-1500.

April 7, 2005

**9:30AM – 12:30 PM
Latrobe, Pa.**

How to how to get certified as a MBE/WBE & how to do business with the state. There is not cost but you must register. Call 724-537-4572 or email: sbdc@tvincen.edu

March 30th – April 1st

Associate Member

Dr. Michael Flaherty is hosting the PA Regional Drug & Alcohol Training Institutes at the 4-Points by Sheraton Hotel in Cranberry. Call

412-258-8569 to register.

March 16th 6:00 PM

Carnegie Museum of Art Theater

Associate Member Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation invites you to a lecture: Architecture & Historic Preservation Abroad: Valparaiso, Chile. Call Mary Lu at 412-471-5808 to register.

**City Theatre's
Production of 'Fiction'**

Two successful writers who enjoy the honest give & take of their marriage. Call 412-431-CITY for tickets.

The Homewood Brushton YWCA is looking for a Director. Click below:



Director YWCA
Homewood Brushl

Seton Hill University's National Education Center for Women in Business has an immediate opening for a Manager



Job Description -
Manager.doc

Glenn O. Hawbaker, Inc. a federal contractor located in State College, is ready to retire & sell his specialty Pittsburgh promotion publications business. Firm has a track record of sales & an existing customer base. For more information, call Marilyn Landis @ 412-231-8441.

The PA Minority Business Development Center has scholarships for minority business owners to

attend Tucks Executive Program at Dartmouth. They're looking for firms with high-growth potential to impact PA's job creation & tax revenue. Call 215-895-4032, or email: jhill@pambdc.com.



2005 Program
General Descriptive

CONGRATULATIONS

Members Rod Doss & Greg Spencer awarded the 2005 African American Leadership Awards by Member WQED Multimedia.

Member Lynne Swann Sheppard being featured in the Business Section of the Post-Gazette.

Member Juan Garrett on being elected Treasurer of the Northside Chamber of Commerce.

Member George Miles has been honored both in Richmond VA and in Cleveland OH by Dominion as one of nine leaders chosen for our "Strong Men & Women" series.

Member Bob Agbede, Dr. Frank E. Sessoms, & Irv Williams as Renaissance Trailblazers. 'Lift UP' awardees are Rev. Henry Billingsley, Winifred Torbert, & Richard Newell.

Supporting Member Michael Langley as dinner chairman for Jr. Achievement.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Lisa Geridean-Williams
Millennium Settlement
Services, LLC

William J. Hawthorne

A For The People
Insurance Agency, Inc.

Michael S. Jasper

The Jasper Group

William Clifford Payne
Accessibility Development
Associates, Inc.

Supporting Members

Senator Jim Ferlo
Commonwealth of Pa.