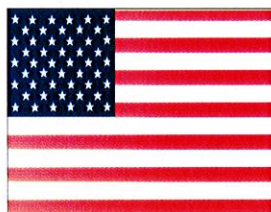


### THIS EDITION

- ◆ April, Media Month for 'Ask the Expert' Program (412-392-0322)
- ◆ We're among the top 10 Chambers
- ◆ Special Meeting with Southwest Airlines President
- ◆ 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

### April 2005

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

We moved our clocks forward, so spring is coming soon!

Member Dorothy Lengyel shared her insight into initiatives Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development gets involved in. She will be working with your Chamber on upcoming opportunities for member engagement. Kudos to Member Hill District Community Development Corp. for sponsoring.

Associate Member Bill Bodine welcomed us & lectured during our Members Mixer at the Frick Art & Historical Museum. Members & guests exchanged business cards, toured the galleries, & enjoyed tasty hors d'oeuvres, thanks to our Corporate Sponsor, B.J. Griffith of State Farm. It was fun!

**PowerBreakfast Meeting  
April 15, 2005  
7:30 A.M.**

**Rivers Club  
Legislative Update**  
PA Chamber of Business & Industry & Members State Reps. Joseph Preston & Jake Wheatley. **Special Guest: Lloyd McClendon Manager, Pittsburgh Pirates.** Breakfast Sponsor: Chamber Chairman Greg Spencer of Randall Enterprises. Our speakers will begin at 7:45 AM. Jim

& Corporate Affairs and Gretchen Ramsey- Mgr. Chamber Relations & Special Projects. They will update us on various legislative issues affecting small business. Members Preston & Wheatley will discuss issues impacting minority business owners. April 15<sup>th</sup> is Jackie Robinson Day @ PNC Park & our special guest will be Lloyd McClendon-Mgr of the Pirates Baseball Team. Join us for what will be a power-packed meeting!

**Members Mixer  
April 25, 2005  
5:00 PM – 7:00 PM  
Mellon Financial Corp.  
One Mellon Center  
Third Floor, Customer  
Reception Center**

For security reasons, **you must confirm your attendance to the Chamber office by April 15<sup>th</sup>**. Representatives from their sourcing department will be joining us.

**Candidates Forum  
April 21, 2005  
4:30 – 6:30 PM  
Rivers Club**

All 5 of the Mayoral candidates have confirmed they will be participating. Member Rod Doss will once again serve as the facilitator. Refreshments served @ 4:30 PM; the forum will begin promptly at 5:00 PM. See you there!

### Special Meeting & Panel Discussion May 12, 2005 8:30 AM – 10:30 AM

**Duquesne Club**

Colleen Barrett, President  
**Southwest Airlines**

A special invitational letter for this interactive meeting will be sent to you. Ms. Barrett & members of her senior staff will share insight into Corporate Efficiency & Customer Service. You will have an opportunity to ask questions.

### **ANNUAL MEETING May 19, 2005**

**Members Meeting 11:00  
Luncheon: 12:00 Noon  
Omni William Penn Hotel**

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

**Sponsor: PNC Financial  
Services Group, Inc.**

The Members Meeting will include a full report on the membership survey results & the election of Board Members. We expect a full house, so please send your reply cards in early (The invitations will be mailed April 15<sup>th</sup>).

The Pittsburgh Business Times published their listing of the Top 25 Chambers of Commerce in our region. We are thrilled to report the African American Chamber of Commerce of Western Pennsylvania is now ranked #10; up from 16<sup>th</sup>! Your continued support made the difference.



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American Water Services in Hilliard, OH is actively soliciting participation from MBE/WBEs & DBEs for the Borough of Bridgeville project. Sub-contractors are needed to assist in construction, lawn restoration/cleanup, point repairs, cleaning sewer lines & other project restoration efforts. You must submit sealed proposals by April 11<sup>th</sup> to Borough of Bridgeville, 425 Bower Hill Road, Bridgeville, PA 15017. Contract documents are also available for viewing @ Gateway Engineers: 412- 921-4030.

The Oakland office of the Government Agency Coordination Office based at California University of PA offers a sign up service for government contracting, (includes market research, writing, presentations, etc.) For a \$10 fee, small businesses can receive RFPs for contracting/ consulting emailed daily/weekly for federal, state, five counties & City of Pittsburgh. Your Chamber office is also scheduling a briefing. For more info email: [gacopso@earthlink.net](mailto:gacopso@earthlink.net).

Leadership Pittsburgh is accepting applications for its 2005-06 Leadership Development Initiative (LDI) & Leadership Pgh (LP) programs, recognized as the premier source of regional leadership. Applications & more information are available online at [www.lpinc.org/programs](http://www.lpinc.org/programs), or call 412-392-4505.

### Upcoming Members Events

Member Bonnie Hand holds a class on the Blair Alliance Bonding Program each month at the Black Contractors Assoc. If you have questions, call her @ 412-381-9097, or email:

[blairbonding@aol.com](mailto:blairbonding@aol.com).

**April 6, 2005**

**Wednesday 7:30 PM**

### Byham Theater

The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust presents "August in April," the annual tribute to Pittsburgh native August Wilson. Tickets, (\$15 & \$20) can be purchased at the Box Office in Theater Square, or call 412-456-6666.

**April 13, 2005**

### Diversity Career Opener

#### PNC Park-Club Level

**9:00 AM – 4:00 PM**

Your Chamber is helping to promote this event; For more info, call: 412-920-9400 x149

**April 17, 2005**

### Westmoreland Museum of Art's Man-Made Quilts

This unique exhibit includes evening lectures & quilt demonstrations. For details, call 724-837-1500.

**April 20, 2005**

The Urban League is helping a major financial services company to recruit professionals. Interviews will be granted if you have a BA degree in Business, Accounting, Finance, or 2+ years management experience; IT background, retail, or customer service experience. Call 412-227-4172 to schedule an interview; then

**April 21, 2005**

**6:30 PM - 9:30 PM**

### Investing for Success Carnegie Science Center

Presenter: Del Stafford, The Vanguard Group  
This Urban League sponsored event will provide you materials for understanding investing. Click below:



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**April 7<sup>th</sup> – May 1<sup>st</sup>**

**City Theatre's Production of 'Ghetto Superstar'** (The Man That I Am), written & performed by former Pittsburgher – Billy Porter. Call 412-431-CITY for tickets.

**April 7, 2005**

**9:30AM – 12:30 PM**

### Latrobe, Pa.

How to get certified as a MBE/WBE & do business with the state. No charge, but you must register. Call 724-537-4572 or email: [sbdc@tvincen.edu](mailto:sbdc@tvincen.edu).

**August 24<sup>th</sup>**

### Chamber Night

#### PNC Park

Let's have a good attendance as we join other Chambers in our region. Our name will appear on the scoreboard during the game, & you can do business-to-business marketing. We'll purchase a block of tickets. A notice will be mailed.

**November 1-3, 2005**

The National Business Leadership Network Conference (Hosted by the PA BLN-Highmark) will hold an employer conference on hiring people with disabilities. Visit [www.blnoipa.org](http://www.blnoipa.org).

The Erie Municipal Airport Authority is accepting resumes for an Airfield Maintenance/Firefighter position. You must have a valid driver's license, a PA Class-B with Air Brake C.D.L. license a plus, but you must be willing to get one. Resumes should be sent to the Erie Municipal Airport Authority 4411 W. 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Erie, PA 16505 Attn: Don Button. Resumes due by April 15<sup>th</sup>.

The Port Authority is seeking an experienced Employee Relations Rep. Email [MRamsey@portauthority.org](mailto:MRamsey@portauthority.org) for more info.

Slippery Rock Univ. is recruiting a Grant Accountant. Application review will begin April 12<sup>th</sup>. Email [nancy.cruikshank@sru.edu](mailto:nancy.cruikshank@sru.edu).

### CONGRATULATIONS

Members Eric Bruce, Grace Robinson, & Andre Young

honored by the Governor's Advisory Commission on African American Affairs.

Associate Member Ralph Horgan on his new position with CMU.

Member Nick Nichols on his Supplier Diversity Business Summit.

Member Sylvester Pace on his recognition of such outstanding students at the NEED Dinner.

Member Connie Portis for this year's Renaissance's Trailblazer Awards Ceremony.

Associate Member Stephen Thomas on programming recognizing April as Minority Health Month.

Member Errol Williams on being elected 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of the African American Alumni Council at the University of Pittsburgh.

Associate Member Arthur Ziegler on electing his new Chairman, Mark Bibro.

Corporate Sponsors Steve Steinour & Ralph Papa on Citizens Bank creating over 1,000 new jobs in our region.

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**David Atkins**

GO4 Design Firm

**Ezuma C. Ngwu**

Ez Consulting Group, Inc.

**Pamela Freeman-Clark**

Leadership 60, Inc.

**Aaron Charles Vector**

Global Crossing

### Supporting Members

**Mary Eifler**

International Academy of Design & Technology

### Associate Members

**Stanley J. Loper**

Professional Mechanical Sales & Service

**Hope to see you on April 15<sup>th</sup> for the PowerBreakfast Meeting!**