

### THIS EDITION

- ◆ Annual Meeting with Kwame Jackson
- ◆ Connections Directory ready for pickup
- ◆ 'Ask the Expert' A successful venture
- ◆ We're among the top 10 Chambers
- ◆ Southwest Airlines Breakfast Meeting
- ◆ Members in the News



### 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**  
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**DORIS CARSON WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT & CEO**

### **May 2005**

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

**May 1<sup>st</sup>**, we hit the ground running!

Members Joe Preston & Jake Wheatley lead the April PowerBreakfast, prior to the Pa. Chamber of Business & Industry. Jim Welty & Gretchen Ramsey followed, giving us a well-rounded view on state legislature activity: stay tuned for more about small group reform. The icing on the cake was our special guest Lloyd McClendon. He received a warm response from the audience & your President read him a letter from the Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center, requesting memorabilia to add to the Sports Center!

The Candidates Forum provided insight on how those running for Mayor would address issues concerning Black & minority business participation. Member Rod Doss, who served as facilitator, asked numerous questions to provide everyone an understanding of their involvement in the Black community. It was a great turnout.

Our Members Mixer, hosted by Mellon Financial Corporation was exceptional. Not only did they have a wonderful re-pass, six of their procurement officers gave presentations on how to do business

in their respective areas. The real highlight was the exchange of business cards and request for follow up meetings. If you did not attend, it was a missed opportunity! There are applications & brochures available in the Chamber office, available upon request.

### **Special Meeting &**

**Panel Discussion  
May 12, 2005**

**8:30 AM – 10:30 AM  
Duquesne Club**

Colleen Barrett, President  
**Southwest Airlines  
Corporate Sponsor:  
Equitable Resources  
Media Sponsor: KDKA**

You still have time to confirm your attendance for what should be an informative exchange. Ms. Barrett & members of her senior staff will share their insight into Corporate Efficacy & 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 be just that: a private meeting for members. You will be asked to sign a certification form before entering. The purpose is for voting & to confirm your membership status. We have a full agenda: a report on the membership survey results, the election of Board Members, & remarks from our speaker: Kwame Jackson. Due to our speaker & the high level of interest, we will have security to provide access to the meeting. We expect a full house, so please send your reply card ASAP.

**PowerBreakfast Meeting  
June 24, 2005**

**7:30 AM Rivers Club**  
Speaker: Joseph McGrath  
Our Member will present the current status of the Convention & Visitors Bureau, activities they are involved in, and opportunities for procurement.

**Members Mixer  
June 30, 2005**

**5:00 PM – 7:00 PM  
Society for**

**Contemporary Arts  
2100 Smallman Street  
Strip District**

Join us for our last event of the summer.

We are thrilled to report your Chamber is now ranked #10; up from 16<sup>th</sup> - of the Top 25 Chambers of Commerce in our region by the Pittsburgh Business Times. Your continued support of the Chamber made the difference.



## PAGE 2

Dave Waters, the Executive Director of PMBDA (Pa. Minority Business Development Authority) recently met with your Chamber to discuss plans to decentralize the lending portion of PMBDA, enabling faster turnaround on loan approvals thru a local organization or financial institution. We'll keep you posted on their progress; it could happen as early as this fall.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Don't forget to visit the Pittsburgh Regional Minority Purchasing Council's Opportunity Fair on May 10<sup>th</sup> at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center. Member Nick Nichlos will be glad to see you.

**May 25, 2005**  
**9:00 AM-12:00 PM**  
**Doing Business with**  
**the Commonwealth**  
**Western Regional Office**  
**700 River Avenue**  
**Suite 234**

Registration is required!  
Call Christina Jumba @  
412-442-5872; e-mail  
[cjumba@state.pa.us](mailto:cjumba@state.pa.us).

**May 20, 2005**  
**11:30 AM – 1:30 PM**  
**SBA's 26th Annual**  
**Small Business Awards**  
**Luncheon**  
**Westin Convention**  
**Center**  
You can still register @:  
[www.pittsburghregion.org](http://www.pittsburghregion.org).

**May 25, 2005**  
**(11:00 AM silent auction)**  
**12 Noon – 1:30 PM**  
**YWCA Tribute to Women**  
**Auction & Luncheon**  
**Hilton Pittsburgh**  
Join Member & CEO  
Cecilia Griffin Golden as  
she honors outstanding  
women in our region.

Register online @  
[attw@ywcaphg.org](mailto:attw@ywcaphg.org).

**May 23<sup>rd</sup> 5:30 PM**  
**Tech Council's EnterPrize**  
**Business Plan Competi-**  
**tion Member Steve Zylstra**  
will begin the competition  
session in preparation for  
the July finalist competition.  
October 20th, category  
leaders will be announced  
at the awards ceremony,  
where we will celebrate  
technology in Southwestern  
Pennsylvania. It's worth you  
sitting in to hear other busi-  
ness plans that have been  
developed; For more info,  
visit their website @  
<http://www.pghtech.org/event/s/enterprizeevents.asp>.

**May 26, 2005**  
**6:30 PM - 8:00 PM**  
**Blair Alliance Bonding**  
**Meeting**  
Member Bonnie Hand will  
hold a class on the Blair Alli-  
ance Bonding Program at  
the Black Contractors  
Assoc., on doing business  
with the Office of Surface  
Mining/Dept. of Interior.  
RSVP to @ 412-381-9097,  
or [Blairbonding@aol.com](mailto:Blairbonding@aol.com).

**May 27<sup>th</sup>**  
**Creative Summit & 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**Anniversary Celebration**  
**Nemacolin Woodlands**  
**Resort & Spa**  
This summit will release the  
power of creativity with  
Bynum Advertising Service.  
For more info & an invitation,  
call 412-471-IDEA (4332).

**UMOJA's 2005**  
**African Arts Gala**  
**May 12, 2005**  
**6:00 PM – 10:00 PM**  
**DeJavu Lounge**  
**2106 Penn Avenue**  
**Strip District**  
The evening will include Afri-  
can dance performances,  
drummers, sogows, & more.  
Call 412-471-1121 or email:  
[umoja@umojacompany.com](mailto:umoja@umojacompany.com)

## August 24<sup>th</sup> Chamber Night PNC Park

Let's have a strong at-  
tendance as we join other  
Chambers in our region.  
Our name will appear on  
the scoreboard during the  
game, & you can do busi-  
ness-to-business  
marketing. Your Chamber  
will purchase a block of  
tickets. A notice will be  
mailed.

## November 1-3, 2005 The National Business Leadership Network November 1-3, 2005 Conference

**Highmark Blue Cross**  
**Blue Shield will host the**  
**PA BLN.** This employer  
conference is designed to  
discuss hiring people with  
disabilities. For more info,  
visit their website at:  
[www.blncpa.org](http://www.blncpa.org).

Campos Inc. is currently  
conducting a paid study  
about Dog Food. You can  
earn \$75.00 for your opin-  
ions if you have: 1 or  
more adult dogs (1 year  
or older) & purchase &  
feed your dogs dry dog  
food. Contact Steven @  
412-471-8484 ext. 480.

The Extra Mile Education  
Foundation's Eighth annual  
golf outing is on Monday,  
May 16th, at the Club at  
Nevillewood Terry Brad-  
shaw is celebrity host.  
Outing includes lunch, golf,  
buffet dinner and program.  
Single golfers: \$400; Four  
some: \$1,500; Dinner/ Pro  
gram only: \$125. Call 412-  
456-3103 for details.

Don't forget that May 17<sup>th</sup>  
is Election Day. We en-  
courage to go to the polls  
& vote. Don't forget the  
referendum on County  
Row Office Reform.

Good luck to Members  
Sala Udin & Jake  
Wheatley on their re-  
election.

### CONGRATULATIONS

Sponsor Member Ty  
Alexander as the guest  
speaker for the CEO  
Forum of Pittsburgh.

Member Russell  
Bynum as he celebrates  
27 years in the advertis-  
ing business.

Member William Haw-  
thorne (A for the People  
Insurance) & Charles  
Sanders (Urban Settle-  
ment Services) on their  
feature articles in the  
Pittsburgh Courier.

Board Member John  
Laymon received the  
Univ. of New Hampshire's  
Distinguished Alumni  
Award from the School of  
Engineering & Physical  
Science!

Corporate Sponsor Lila  
Krause of PNC Bank as  
she transfers to Washing-  
ton, D.C.

Associate Member  
Joseph McGrath for the  
Convention & Visitors  
Bureau raising 506 of  
the 1,104 lbs. raised for  
the NAACP Food Drive.

Associate Member  
Barbara McNees of the  
Greater Pittsburgh  
Chamber selected as  
one of this year's win-  
ners of the Women &  
Girls of Distinction  
Awards presented by the  
Girl Scouts.

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**Prevan L. Roberson**  
RJ'S CP Tax Service

**Peter Cooper**  
Cooper Trading, Inc.