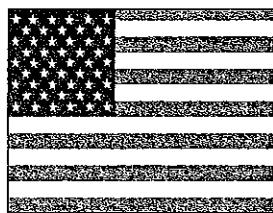


THIS EDITION

- ◆ Ask The Expert: Nov. Info Technology
- ◆ Newsletter goes to Publisher
- ◆ Annual Business Luncheon Dec. 1st
- ◆ Chamber Holds Info-Technology Clinics
- ◆ 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

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

November 2005

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

Join me in welcoming Larry Pickett as the Chamber's new Director of Membership & Program Development. Larry will focus on program implementation & continuing to grow the membership base..

Thank you to those who responded to the membership survey. You will learn about the results & next steps at the Business Luncheon.

We are now entering the changes for the 2006 Membership Directory for production. Thanks for your timely responses.

Ask the Expert
412-392-0322

Thursdays 9:00 - Noon
November: Information Technology Month

Take advantage of this pro-bono expertise! With all the changes happening in technology, this free service is invaluable! Starting November 3rd, CIO Experts from Highmark, ITI Solutions, Pgh Cultural Trust, & Milestone New Media Group will respond to your questions.

Michael Jeannot of MEC PA Racing provided insight into their pending license to build a new facility, & how Chamber Members can be part of the process. Stay tuned for further developments. Everyone enjoyed the

Members Networking Mixer at the Kingsley Association. Member Malik Bankston welcomed us to his new facility. Sponsor Dominion (Rob Jones), could not have been more gracious. Rob shared information on "Rising Gas Costs" with our Dominion customers & partners & the continued support of Member Rep. Joe Presto on this important issue.

Your Chamber recently completed two in-depth 'IT' Clinics, designed to identify the needs of small businesses in the city's Tech Zone areas. Next will be referring consultants to provide technical assistance. Everyone enjoyed the improve their existing technology infrastructure to create a more competitive business environment. We hope to expand this project to include all firms, including Chamber Member, pending funding.

PowerBreakfast
November 18, 2005
7:30 AM Rivers Club
Dr. Stewart Sutin, Pres.
Community College of Allegheny County
Sponsor: Citizens Bank
Dr. Sutin will share his plans on advancing procurement & CCAC's educational programs

for small business owners.

Annual Business Luncheon

December 1, 2005
12:00 Noon

Speaker: Murry Gerber

Chairman President, CEO

Equitable Resources

Incoming Chairman of the Chamber's Presidential Roundtable will share his vision for our region & the role the Chamber will play.

PowerBreakfast
January 20, 2006

7:30 AM Rivers Club
Gayle Nuppau, Mgr.

Govt. Coordination Office, California University of PA &

Dave Waters, Executive Director, (PMBDA)

PA Minority Business Development Authority

Sponsor: Citizens Bank

Learn how you can receive RFPs for government contracts including consulting, market research, presentations & writing-for a \$10 fee. Then Dave Waters will present how PMBDA's loan processing has been upgraded with a faster approval for our region.

PowerBreakfast
February 17, 2006

7:30 AM Rivers Club

'Just Above My Head'

Presented by:

Jonathan Eaton

General & Artistic Director
Opera Theater of Pittsburgh

You don't want to miss this meeting. In celebration of Black History Month, we will show Dr. Nathan Davis's documentary on the life of James Baldwin. I encourage you to sign up early.

<p>PAGE 2</p> <p>Beginning next month, this newsletter will be sent to you in 'Publisher', rather than 'Word'.</p> <p>Pittsburgh City Council voted unanimously in favor of a panhandling ordinance to enhance public safety by addressing the time, place & manner of panhandling in the City of Pittsburgh. Advocated by PDP Director, Associate Member Michael Edwards, it includes provisions for channeling individuals to appropriate medical & social services, as well as penalties for aggressive panhandling. The ordinance permits panhandling in all public areas between sunrise & sunset; non-verbal panhandling is not subject to time restriction. The penalty incorporates evaluations by a social service provider & fines of up to \$300 plus costs & possible community service.</p> <p>By now you have learned the state House & Senate have voted to rescind the pay increase. In addition, the Senate voted to advance the business tax changes by passing <u>H.B. 515</u>. It now goes back to the House for a vote. Governor Rendell has indicated that he is likely to veto this pro-jobs legislation. This raises the Sales Factor ratio for Corporate Net Income Tax (CNI) apportionment to 90 percent; increasing to \$20 million the cap on net operating losses; reducing the CNI to 9.59%; & lowering the Personal Income Tax to 2.98% by 2008 both constructive steps to help all businesses prosper.</p> <p>November 18th Rivers Club Forum Speaker: Glenn Meakem 6:00 – 8:30 PM Cost: \$15 Bob Fragrasso President-The Fragrasso Group, Inc. is sponsoring this forum. Join your Chamber, along</p>	<p>with nine other organizations for an evening of networking, strategy discussions, & fellowship.</p> <p>The Allegheny Conference on Community Development joined regional business & civic leaders in thanking the region's federal legislators for winning legislation that now names the Parkway West & portions of Route 60 to Interstate 376.</p> <p>Campos Market Research has important research projects & are looking for qualified participants. Call 412-471-8484 x 506 if you are currently: (1) Men or women who have been diagnosed for type II diabetes for at least one year, & are currently injecting insulin: (2) Males ages 25-49 who dip, use snuff or chew tobacco & have personally rented a moving truck within the past 6 months.</p> <p>Riverside Center for Innovation is one of the region's premier incubators & has office space available. Call Member Emily Buka at 412-322-3523.</p> <p>December 8, 2005 9:00 am - Noon VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System VA Highland Drive Facility, Bldg #8 Pittsburgh</p> <p>Member Slippery Rock University & The Government Agency Coordination Office (GACO) of California Univ., & The Government Contracting Assistance Center (GCAC) will hold a Free seminar on Federal Construction Contracting. The seminars construction & construction related companies with info on contracting & subcontracting for federal construction projects. Appropriate for firms who can supply new construction, renovation, demolition, roofing, landscaping, HVAC & other services.</p> <p>November 9, 2005 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM</p>	<p>Four Points Sheraton 910 Sheraton Drive Mars, Cranberry Township The Family Enterprise Center of the Institute for Entrepreneurial Excellence: University of Pittsburgh Succession Really is a Joint Venture! A Practical Guide for Every Generation</p> <p>RSVP by Friday, November 4th at 412.624.2271, or email: iee.registration@katz.pitt.edu.</p> <p>November 3, 10 & 17, & December 1 Financial Empowerment Workshops 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. YWCA Homewood 6907 Frankstown Avenue Member YWCA Greater Pittsburgh's Fall Financial Empowerment Classes will be held on Thursday evenings. Fees: \$5 per class. Receive a free copy of your own credit report on November 17th requested by November 10th. Call 412-255-6749 to reserve space & childcare.</p> <p>CONGRATULATIONS Associate Member Esther Bush on a successful State of Black Pittsburgh Seminar & Annual Meeting.</p> <p>Member Nick Nichlos on a successful PRMPC Awards Gala. Honored were the following Members & Corporate Sponsors: Ty Alexander, Singh Ajmani, Eric Bruce, Ben Butler, Warren Baugh, Paula Castleberry, Don Carter, Jim Herring, Carl Knoblock, Suresh Ramanathan, Faye Ritter, Ruth Byrd Smith, Charles Sanders, Vickie White, & Oscar Worthy.</p> <p>Member Neil Barclay on the opening of the 'Women of a New Tribe' exhibit for the African American Cultural Center.</p> <p>Associate Member Carl Knoblock on doubling SBA's loan amounts to minority businesses from \$18 to more than \$37 million, for</p>	<p>the 27 county area.</p> <p>Supporting Member Jim Ferlo for advancing legislation to compensate wrongly imprisoned individuals.</p> <p>Member Chloe Velasquez, & Faye Ritter, on being presenters at the Pittsburgh Area Chamber's Fall Women's Leadership Summit.</p> <p>Member Duane Wells on becoming certified as a Minority Corporation enrolled in the SBA's 8(a).</p> <p>Member Chuck Powell named to the Pa. Industrial Development Authority.</p> <p>Chairman Greg Spencer on being honored by the Boy Scouts of America.</p> <p>Corporate Sponsor Bill Strickland as Co-Chair of the National Advisory Board to re-build the cultural economy of Louisiana, & receiving the International Economic Development Council (IEDC)'s 2005 Citizen Leadership Award.</p> <p>Member Lamonte Wilson on being selected to serve as a Charter Member of the Task Force Advisory Committee of the National Council on Readiness & Preparedness in D.C.</p> <p>Supporting Member Arthur Zeigler on his recent Annual Awards Ceremony & Seminar.</p> <p>WELCOME NEW MEMBERS</p> <p>Judith A. Daniels J. Daniels Associates, LLC</p> <p>Rev. Samuel Ware Building United of S.W. Pa.</p> <p>Associate Members</p> <p>Richard G Portis Robert Morris University Massey Center for Business Innovation</p> <p>Jayne H. Houston Lysona Marshall Seton Hill University</p> <p>DON'T FORGET TO VOTE NOVEMBER 8TH!</p>
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