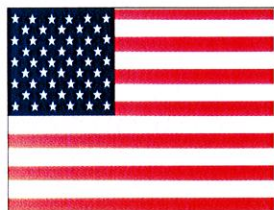


THIS EDITION

- ♦ Ask The Expert: Jan. TAX MONTH
- ♦ Info-Technology Clinics to expand
- ♦ HB 515 passed; Governor may veto
- ♦ 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 Business Owners & 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

December 2005

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

This has been an exciting year for your Chamber. We look forward to 2006.

Thanks for submitting your updates for the 2006 Membership Directory. We should receive a draft within the next week.

Dr. Stewart Sutin gave a compelling presentation at our November PowerBreakfast Meeting on the need to improve efficiency at CCAC. He wants to work with the Chamber to increase business opportunities.

Your participation was greatly appreciated in our Seventh Annual Business Luncheon. Over 350 people heard Murry Gerber, our incoming Chairman of the Presidential Roundtable, plan to help the top 25 corporations double their spend with women & minority businesses over the next three years. Thanks to Highmark for the gift picture frames & to the Drew Matheison Horticultural Center for the orchid centerpieces.

Your Chamber presented outgoing Mayor Tom Murphy a plaque of appreciation for his support of the Chamber's Mission, & welcomed incoming Mayor-Elect Bob O'Connor.

**PowerBreakfast
January 20, 2006
7:30 AM Rivers Club
Gayle Nuppau, Mgr.
California Univ. of PA,
&
Dave Waters, Exec.
Director, (PMBDA) PA
Minority Business Development Authority
Sponsor-Citizens Bank**

This double program will feature how you can receive RFPs weekly on Govt. procurement bids for a fee of \$10. Then a presentation on the enhancements to accessing PMBDA's loan program thru upgraded services in our region. Don't miss it.

**Ask the Expert
412-392-0322**

**Thursdays 9:00 - Noon
January 5th Chamber
Services Corp.
January 12th, 19th, 26th
TAX MONTH**

We have reserved the first Thursday for you to call Chamber Choice regarding membership benefits. We will announce the participants who will respond to your questions on tax matters, beginning January 12th.

**Members Mixer
January 25, 2006
National City Bank
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Come meet our host**

working, meeting new members & exchanging business cards. A nice start for the new year.

**PowerBreakfast
February 17, 2006
7:30 AM Rivers Club
'Just Above My Head'**

Presented by:

Dr. Jonathan Eaton,
General & Artistic Director
Opera Theater of Pittsburgh
Dr. Nathan Davis' documentary on the life of Author James Baldwin will be presented in celebration of Black History Month.

**PowerBreakfast
March 17, 2006
7:30 AM Rivers Club
Allegheny County Chief
Executive Dan Onorato**

Each year we invite the Chief Executive to give us an update on the state of Allegheny County & what his priorities are for the year.

Your January Newsletter will feature both the associate/non-profits, as well as the business owners & professionals' response to the membership survey. Programs are being developed in response to your requests.

Chamber Choice, your service company to obtain healthcare & other benefits, has added Veronica Pollock as the new Account Executive assigned to work with your Chamber. Both will work to help answer your questions or concerns with regard to employee benefits.

PAGE 2

Your Chamber will be expanding the IT Clinics in 2006 to areas that are beyond the State's Tech Zones, thanks in part to the support from Citizens Bank, these 2 hour sessions will help small business owners understand the value of having automated system & use of the information super highway. They.

The House & Senate approved HB515, lowering the personal income tax rate from the current 3.07 percent to 3.05 %. It would also change the formula for figuring the corporate net income tax, currently at 9.99%, the second highest nationally, & based only on sales made within the state. The bill would also gradually lift the \$2 million limit on the amount of net operating losses a company could carry forward and offset against its corporate net income tax liability in future years. We are one of only 3 states to have such a cap. The Governor is threatening to veto the bill, in part because of the projected \$46 million the Treasury Dept. would loose. **Please call Steve Crawford in the Governor's Office to express your opposition to his proposed veto at 717-787-2531. Hurry while there is still time.** Thanks to the hard work of the Compete PA team, in particular our Members - Allegheny Conference & the Technology Council for moving this initiative.

CAMPOS Market Research will pay researchers, including 1.Moms & Dads with children in public school. All participants must be registered voters. They also need:

2.Adult males ages 21-29 who purchase & drink less expensive beer brands* regularly (including Busch, Keystone, Milwaukee's Best, Natural, Old Milwaukee, Pabst), and 3. Female shoppers ages 25-54. Calls will be returned in the evening between 5:00 and 8:45 pm. In your message, please state your full name, mention the topic of the project, & leave a telephone number where you can be reached in the evening.

Upcoming Member Events

**December 19th
6:00- 8:00PM**

Renaissance Pgh Hotel 107 Sixth Street

Join Member Madelyn Toliver & learn how to become an owner of Bank-Blackwell, the nation's 1st African-American Internet Bank. James R. Mundy, CEO, will present the opportunity to invest. Call (877) 226-5229 or info@bankblackwell.com.

Thru January 5, 2005 Carnegie Museum of Art

FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT: RENEWING THE LEGACY

This exhibition brings together two iconic buildings by America's greatest architect of the twentieth century then for:

February 2006

Teenie Harris Research Project (Part II)

The Teenie Harris Archive Project Lunch & Learn Program features Charles "Teenie" Harris photographs of events & daily life in Pittsburgh's African American community between 1936-1975 for the Pittsburgh Courier. Laurence Glasco, University of

Pittsburgh's Associate Professor of History will give a lecture on Harris & the cultural history of the Hill District. Contact Deborah Starling-Pollard at (412) 622-5590 for more info.

~

By now you have all heard about the new Medicare Part D prescription drug program for Seniors. The Department of Insurance has updated their website with some basic information about the new benefit program & links to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Literature from the PA Health Law Project is also posted, along with a list of companies licensed by the state to offer the program. Should help to insure coverage from a reputable company:

<http://www.ins.state.pa.us/ins/cwp/view.asp?a=1274&Q=546311&PM=1>

Olszak Management Consulting, is recruiting a Nonprofit Specialist full-time, & non-exempt to provide direct project support to the Director of Nonprofit Services to provide leadership, direction, & administration for all aspects of internal & client related services: 3-5 years experience with nonprofit or community based projects preferred. Email Kate Sphar ksphar@olszak.com for more details.

As a follow-up to our October PowerBreakfast with Mike Jeannot, Magna, the Canadian horse racing company that owns the Meadows, is selling their horseracing track for \$225 million, contingent upon them securing a slot machine license. This meeting provided insight on

the Gaming Control Board Conference held here on minority participation.

The YWCA has Internship Opportunities available. Call 412-255-6748, or email sbernarini@ywca.pgh.org.

CONGRATULATIONS

Associate Member Esther Bush on a successful Ron Brown Dinner.

Associate Member Nancy Bancroft on the successful American Heart Assoc.'s "Sister to Sister: Take Wellness to Heart" Conference.

Members Esther Bush, Cecilia Griffin Golden, Valerie McDonald Roberts, on attending the Governor's Conference on Women, held in Philadelphia.

Member Barbara McNees named director of the Growth Alliance in her role within the Allegheny Conference.

Corporate Sponsor Ralph Papa honored by Big Brothers & Big Sisters.

Member Irv Williams honored at the Ron Brown Dinner by the Urban League of Pittsburgh.

Member Greg Morris at the Sophisticated Lady Retirement Celebration for his wife Thelma.

Member Peggy Harris for being featured in the Pittsburgh Courier at the Pink Hat Tea.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Riley C. Davis
Star Optical

Carl Harding
Rehook Heating & Air

Madelyn Toliver
Toliver Consulting

Scott Washington
LuxorMedia