

IN THIS EDITION

- ◆ Special Meeting with Allegheny County Exec
- ◆ Bureau's new name: 'Visit Pittsburgh'
- ◆ Associate/Non-Profit Upcoming Program
- ◆ CCAC's Internship Pgm
- ◆ Special Meeting with Secretary Biehler
- ◆ Members in the News
- ◆ Welcome New Members



MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of the African American Chamber of Commerce of Western Pennsylvania is to continuously improve business opportunities for African American businesses and professionals throughout the region. Guided by the core values of equity in opportunity, economic advancement, self-sufficiency and entrepreneurial excellence, we will seek to advance economic parity by ensuring full participation.

AFRICAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

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JUNE 2006

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

May was over the top!

We wish to sincerely thank each member who attended the Annual Meeting. Following a recap of the past year's highlights, members were encouraged to take advantage of the broad base of expertise that is provided from the business community. Our new Banners, designed by GO4 (David Atkins), were presented to the membership. Outgoing Board Members Eric Bruce, Al Merritt, Marimba Millions, & Weida Tucker were honored & presented with a plaque for their contributions to the organization. Chairman Greg Spencer was presented with a plaque & gift for his leadership. Our newly elected Board Members: Chairman-Samuel Stephenson, & New Board Members David Atkins, Herman Jones, & Irvin Williams will take office in September. Mellon Financial Corp., donated copies of There's No Business Like Your Own Business by Pittsburgh's own Gladys Edmunds, to all

members in attendance. Then we moved to the Ballroom of the Renaissance Hotel for lunch. Kudos to Member Barbara McMahon for the lovely printed menus. The Principal Keyboard for the Pittsburgh Symphony Patricia Prattis Jennings, was overwhelmed with her gift of a miniature grand piano, designed by her former classmate, Member Oscar Worthy. Tom Usher & Dick Simmons were each presented a plaque & thanked for helping to establish the Chamber's Presidential Roundtable. Speaker John Surma (Chairman-US Steel) discussed the impact of shifting demographics on the firm's future business plans & the role small business plays.

Our Associate/Non-Profit Members had their first of several workshops, beginning with 'Claiming the Room' presented by Yvonne Campos who shared a succinct, to the point presentation on how to approach business leaders with the proper elevator speech. Members Dolly Ellenberg (VP

Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh) & Lorene Vinski (VP Pittsburgh Cultural Trust) will present the next customized workshop on Fundraising & Evaluation.

PowerBreakfast June 16, 2006

**7:30 AM Rivers Club
Mayor of Pittsburgh
Bob O'Connor**

The Mayor will discuss his vision for the city, the new & upcoming projects, & opportunities for you to do business.

Members Mixer June 27, 2006

**5:00 PM—7:00 PM
Phipps Conservatory
& Botanical Gardens
Sponsor: Turner
Construction**

This should be a fun evening. Come and enjoy the newly renovated space by our sponsor & Corp. Member Turner Construction. Twenty-five people have already registered. Wear your pin!

Special Breakfast Meeting

**Friday July 14, 2006
8:00 AM Rivers Club
Secretary Allen Biehler
PA. Department of
Transportation
Secretary Biehler will
brief us on issues involving transportation, the role it plays in economic development, & upcoming**

ing projects planned.

**PowerBreakfast
September 15, 2006
7:30 AM Rivers Club
Meet the Members of
Pittsburgh City Council
Facilitator: President
Luke Ravenstahl**

This PowerBreakfast will focus on how you can develop a supporting relationship with the members that is mutually beneficial.

Corporate Sponsor Community College of Allegheny County is asking agencies & companies to help place their qualified students in internship positions related to their major. Call Frank Borelli @ 412-237-4659, borelli@ccac.edu. You still have time to submit your application to Leadership Pittsburgh, to learn how to develop civic leadership by connecting leaders to civic issues.

Member Aradhna Dhanda is preparing to wrap up the enrollment process. Applications & info are online at www.lpinc.org-programs-LDI, or call 412.392.4505. The deadline is June 9th.

Your Chamber President met with County Executive Dan Onorato & small business owners to discuss county contract awards for African Americans. This included having RFPs on all professional & service contracts sent to the Chamber. Stay tuned.

H.B. 257 passed the state, increasing the minimum wage rate to \$6.25 effective July 1st. Then, effective July 1, '07, it would increase to \$7.15 an hour, allowing for a 60-day training wage. Employers could then pay less than minimum wage for employees

under age 20. We'll keep you posted on this.

Did you know start-up companies & small businesses account for almost two thirds of the net new jobs in our region?

There is a new web-based regional economic development "magazine," Pittsburgh Future. Access it at <http://pittsburghfuture.blogspot.com>.

**Upcoming Meetings
& Events**

**June 7, 2006
University of Pittsburgh
8:30 AM—10:30AM
Supplier Workshops
Supplier Show
10:30 AM – 1:30 PM
William Pitt Union.**

Hosted by the University of Pittsburgh's Supplier Management Department, workshops for Diversity suppliers, & resources available at their Center for Entrepreneurial Excellence will be held. Over 35 suppliers are invited.

**June 7, 2006
8:00 AM
Raddison Hotel, West
Middlesex: What Moti-
vates Philanthropy?**

Facilitator: Larry Haynes
Community Foundation of
W. Pa. & E. Ohio
Register online at www.mpbcpa.com, or call 814-724-5890.

**June 8, 2006
8:30AM – 12:30PM
Duquesne University
Entrepreneur's Growth
Conference**

Keynote Speaker: Jeff & Rich Sloan, nationally renowned & syndicated entrepreneurship experts & Raul Valdes-Perez, CEO & Co-Founder of Vivisimo, one of the hottest tech companies in the region &

up-and-coming Google™ rival. Call (412) 396-6233, or visit their website at www.egc.dug.edu.

**June 8, 2006
5:30 PM—7:30 PM
Martini Madness
Society for
Contemporary Crafts**
Join Member Julie Farr for a fun evening, enjoying specialty martinis & hors d'oeuvres when purchasing an artist made martini glass!

**June 13, 2006
11:30 AM—2:00 PM
Heinz Hall
2006 Tourism Forum
The Greater Pittsburgh
Convention & Visitors
Bureau, DBA,
'Visit Pittsburgh'**

This meeting & luncheon will focus on how to capture a larger share of the tourism industry for Pittsburgh. Recommended for marketing mgrs., sales directors, & small business owners. Call 412-281-0482 x3170, julie.stevens@gpcvb.org, or www.visitpittsburgh.com.

**June 20, 2006
NAWBO Awards
Banquet
6:00 P.M.
Liberty Belle/Gateway
Clipper Fleet
Station Square
Guest speaker will be
Member Ruth Byrd-Smith.
July 14—23, 2006
Opera Theater
of Pittsburgh
The Pittsburgh Ring
Byham Theater**

Join Member Jonathan Eaton for the internationally acclaimed condensed version of Jonathan Davis' production, hailed by the Tribune Review as a 'thrilling experience, the best operatic staging seen

in Pittsburgh in a long time.' For tickets, call 412-456-6666, or go to www.opera-theater-pittsburgh.org.

CONGRATULATIONS

Member Valerie McDonald Roberts on her run for Lt. Governor. Members Jim & Connie Balthrop featured in the Pittsburgh Courier at the Ebony & Ivory Ball. Member Esther Bush was an honoree. Member Rodd Doss as host for the Robert L. Vann Media Awards. Member M. Gayle Moss on a successful Human Rights Dinner. Members Ruth Byrd-Smith & Richard Portis on being honored at the SBA Luncheon. Member Cecilia Griffin Golden on a successful Tribute to Women Luncheon. Supporting Member Katherine Baker Knoll on her re-election as Lt. Governor. Corporate Sponsor James Mesloh on Dominion's Foundation Scholarship Awards.

**WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS**
Alicia C. Hall
Little People's
Discovery Center
James Ellis
Auto Landscaping, Inc
Marvin Miller
Marvin Miller, Architect
Brian Smith
B. Smith Enterprises
Cheryl Spencer
Rob Chere, Inc. D.B.A
. Jasmine's
**Supporting Member
Andrew Bullard**
Two Men and a Truck
Movers

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