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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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DORIS CARSON WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT & CEO

AUGUST 2006

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

Our Special Breakfast Meeting was truly special! It began with us waving our 'Terrible Towels' to welcome Super Bowl Champion Charlie Batch. He addressed the membership, signed autographs & offered his support. Then Secretary Allen Biehler (PA. Department of Transportation) shared his insight on upcoming local projects & opportunities to access info. Your President asked the Secretary to host a 'Doing Business with Penn DOT' session, to which he agreed. The planning process is underway.

Associate/Non-Profit Members were treated to their third customized workshop on Social Enterprise by Corporate Sponsor Bill Strickland. Bill discussed how he engaged & developed relationships to replicate Manchester Bidwell in six cities. This month, County Councilman Bill Robinson & Scott Baker of Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney will present a customized workshop called 'Connecting the

Political Pipeline,' sponsored by Member McGill Power Bell & Associates.

**PowerBreakfast
September 15, 2006
7:30 AM Rivers Club
Pittsburgh City Council
Facilitator: President-Luke Ravenstahl**

We have spoken with most of the members of city council and they look forward to addressing you, discussing procurement, & developing a mutually beneficial relationship with Chamber Members.

**Members Mixer
September 19, 2006
5:00 PM—7:00 PM
Frick Museum
Sponsor: Prudential Financial Services**

We look forward to having Associate Member Bill Bodine host us and to see their exhibit, Making Dreams: The Art of the Pre-Raphaelites ". Don't forget to RSVP.

**PowerBreakfast
October 20, 2006
7:30 AM Rivers Club
Gregory G. Dell' Omo
President**

Robert Morris Univ.

Our speaker will discuss the many opportunities that you as members will have to do business with RMU, including the building of a medical school.

**Members Mixer
October 25, 2006
5:00 PM—7:00 PM
Fifth Avenue Place
Sponsor: Highmark**

Once again, the shops will be open and special treats presented. It should be fun.

**PowerBreakfast
November 17, 2006
7:30 AM Rivers Club
Dennis Yablonsky
Secretary- Department Community & Economic Development**
This PowerBreakfast Meeting will update you on programs & activities the state is engaged in.

**December 7, 2006
Annual Business Luncheon 12:00 Noon
Omni William Penn
Speaker: James Rohr
Chairman & CEO
PNC Financial Services**
Our annual luncheon will capture the highlights of 2005 & insight from the Chairman of the Allegheny Conference on what is forthcoming.

Interested in sponsoring a Chamber event? Call the office for details.

The new *Chamber-Choice* Wellness Program, "Lifestyle Returns", is the newest benefit of *Chamber-Choice* for all businesses & nonprofit organizations that choose *ChamberChoice*, regardless of the number of employees insured in a Highmark medical plan. Wellness programs, typically offered only for larger companies, will now be available to smaller employers. Stay tuned for more details.

The Mayor has selected A. Fulton Meacham (from Winston Salem, N.C.) as the new Housing Director for the city. We will have him at our next meeting.

Member Joe McGrath announced that Visit-Pittsburgh has appointed Brenda Hill to the position of National Sales Director.

Your Chamber worked with the CompetePA coalition to affect the legislation enacting \$300 million in state business tax relief. This was a unified business community effect.

Don't forget about the County's Working Capital Loan Program ("WCLP"), created in partnership with Citizens Bank. Call Member Ruth Byrd-Smith at 412-350-4309 for details. To review the County's

Bids & Proposals, go to www.county.allegheny.pa.us & the link under the subhead-ing Opportunities, or visit http://www.gsk-us.com/careers/gsk_frame-us.htm.

The Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center is seeking Vietnam Veterans & their families to contribute photos, letters, artifacts, medals, works of art & personal stories to include in an exhibition: "Soul Soldiers: African Americans & the Vietnam Era," to open November 11th. Call Samuel Black 412-454-6391 or email swblack@hwsp.org.

Visit Pittsburgh's is looking for a great photo of Pittsburgh or of the surrounding region that showcases one of the city's many sights and attractions, with visitors or residents included in the shot as well. You could win the Online Photo Contest Grand Prize of \$1,000. Submit via their website to: www.VisitPittsburgh.org. The winner will be chosen in the fall, 2007.

Northside Common Ministries is looking for individuals to serve on the board of directors. A passion for providing services to the hungry & homeless & an interest in the Northside is a plus. Visit www.ncmin.org.

TRWIB, Inc. is recruiting a Mobility & Work-

force Development Specialist. A Bachelor's degree in a related field & strong knowledge of the Pittsburgh area &/or experience in the area of workforce development is required. contact McCrae Holliday, COO, @ mholli-day@trwib.org.

AT&T has informed us you should never dial area codes 809, 284 & 876, for security reasons.

If you want info on the revised Film Production Grant Initiative the Governor signed, download the Grant Application @ www.filminPA.com, or call Jane Saul 717-783-3465; e-mail: info@filminPA.com.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

August 11th
24th Annual Golf Outing & Dinner The Club at Nevillewood If you hurry, you can still call & make reservations for the dinner. Call Member Nick Nichols at the Pittsburgh Regional Minority Purchasing Council: 412-391-4423.

August 19th 1:00PM
The Crowtations Kelly-Strayhorn Theater

The Brewery Puppet Troupes are a quartet of high-flying, high-energy soul-singing puppets use humor & dialogue to offer families an entertaining way to learn about the black experience in America. A hands-on kids workshop will follow the performance. Special Appearance by Mr. McFeely of Mister Rogers Neigh-

borhood! Tickets are \$5. Call 412.258.2694.

August 25th 5:30 –7:30 P.M. Arts Fashion & Jewelry Show

Join Member Julie Farr for an in-store performance with Fiber artist Rae Gold & metalsmiths Talya Baharal & Gene Gnida who will present their fall collections. Call 412-261-7003 x12 for more info.

CONGRATULATIONS

Member Curtis Aiken on being appointed to the ICA Board.

Member Peggy Harris in Whirl magazine.

Member Phil Petite featured on being in the Business Times.

Member Board Member Shelia Washington in Pop City Magazine on Diversity.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Keven Hooper
CSS Transport, Inc.

Sharon Walker
Home Healthcare
Staffing & Services

Supporting Member

Larry Slater
Slater Research
Services

Associate Members

Judith K. Painter
Epilepsy Foundation
Western/Central PA

Chairman's Circle (upgrade)

Sam Stephenson
Terry & Stephenson