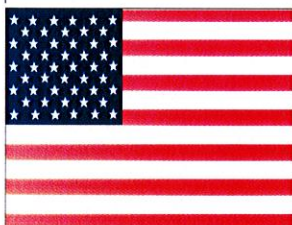


# IN THIS EDITION

- ◆ Don't forget to Vote
- ◆ Chamber at 75% of goal
- ◆ Chamber engaged with DiverseCITY Pittsburgh
- ◆ Continental the General @ Nemacolin
- ◆ Chamber Men of Influence
- ◆ 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

AFRICAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA  
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DORIS CARSON WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT & CEO

## NOVEMBER 2006

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

### Don't forget to vote November 7th.

**The fountain at the point is PINK in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness!**

We appreciate the feedback from all members who attended the workshop on doing business with PennDOT. The evaluations showed several members had immediate follow-up with the speakers. We will keep you posted on their bid process. Dr. Gregory Dell' Omo, President of Robert Morris University expressed his commitment to recruiting & attracting a diverse student & faculty population. Your Chamber will work with his staff on increasing the number of minority firms doing business with the school. The Ask the Expert Credit Program focused on what makes a good credit score, how to boost your credit rating, dispute errors, & show how your credit rating impacts both your personal & professional affairs. The next step is preparing for a loan.

What a fun evening we had at our Members Mixer @ Fifth Avenue Place! Many were able to get their Christmas shopping started (or completed), with the help of the many coupons & gift certificates received. The networking was continuous as we enjoying the refreshments from Café Amante. A special thank you to Byron Falchetti for serving as Highmark's host. It was great!

### **November 14, 2006 IT Clinic**

#### **One Hope Square 1901 Centre Avenue**

This clinic is geared for small business owners who need to sharpen their computer skills, develop a website, & get on the information super highway. You must RSVP to [membership@aaccwp.com](mailto:membership@aaccwp.com).

### **November 16, 2006 Accessing Capital Markets in the Public Sector**

This Ask the Expert Program will feature all public lending sources for working capital & lending programs. RSVP to: [membership@aaccwp.com](mailto:membership@aaccwp.com).

### **December 7, 2006 Annual Business**

### **Luncheon 12:00 Noon Omni William Penn Speaker: James Rohr Chairman & CEO PNC Financial Services**

Your invitation is being mailed this week. Our luncheon has several features as Pittsburgh prepares to celebrate its 250th Anniversary.

Continental Building Systems is the general contractor for the Nemacolin Casino Construction & is looking for subcontractors & suppliers. There are 14 divisions of service needed. An email was sent out to members in each division; interested parties can call Allison Shipley @ 412-464-8933.

Don't forget if you have not returned your Member's Profile Form, please do so ASAP.. we will be going to print in early December.

It was disappointing to learn that for 2006, SBA Pittsburgh District recorded only 118 loans to minority-owned businesses, totaling \$26.5 million. This is a 39% decrease over last year.

Member Carl Knoblock reported a number of firms were holding back on loans due to energy prices & rising interest rates. In addition, of the top 10 lending partner-



ships with SBA, all but one showed a decrease in loan numbers. We will be working jointly on a program to help you be credit-worthy for bank lending. You should also know Ms. Jovita Carranza has been nominated to serve as Deputy Administrator for SBA.

The August Wilson Center for African American Culture is recruiting a Development Associate to manage special events related to prospect cultivation & donor recognition. Salary is competitive & commensurate with experience. Bachelor's degree required & a minimum of 3 years experience in fundraising or non-profit work. Send your resume to the attention of Carmen Ellington, Executive Asst. to the President. Email [cellington@africanaculture.org](mailto:cellington@africanaculture.org).

#### **Upcoming Meetings & Events**

**November 9, 2006  
6:00 PM  
Hill House  
Association  
1835 Centre Avenue**  
Supporting Member State Senator Jim Ferro & Councilwoman Tonya Payne - both Board Members of the Urban Redevelopment Authority Board will moderate this public forum to review URA's progress to date & discuss the challenges & opportunities to increase full participation. For more info, call: 412-255-2134,

412-621-3006, or 412-255-6611.

#### **Saturday, Nov. 11, 2006, the Senator John Heinz Pittsburgh Regional History Center "Soul Soldiers: African Americans & the Vietnam Era"**

This is the most comprehensive exhibition to ever explore the issues of the Vietnam War from an African American perspective. It tells the story of the impact of the Vietnam War on African American life & culture by examining both Vietnam & the Civil Rights Movement. Images from the exhibit are available. Call Ned Schano at 412-454-6382; email him at: [nschano@hswp.org](mailto:nschano@hswp.org).

#### **November 9, 2006 5:00 PM YWCA Annual Meeting Westin Hotel & Convention Center Westmoreland Room 2nd Floor**

Join Member Eric Mann as he highlights their accomplishments of the past year.

#### **CONGRATULATIONS**

Member Neil Barclay on the groundbreaking ceremony for the August Wilson Center for African American Culture, & the Fashion Africana event. Featured was Board Member Loretta Goodwin. Ben Butler on his MEDWEEK Celebration Luncheon. Member Winifred Torbert was named MBE/WBE Advocate of the Year.

Member Esther Bush on the State of Black Pittsburgh report & Annual Meeting & the National Achievers Society Event.

National President Marc Morial came to participate. Member Mona Generett who served on the Steering Committee for the Governor's Conference for women. Member Howard Graves featured in the Courier with Associate Member & Robert Morris President, Dr. Gregory Dell'OMO @ the Power-Breakfast Meeting. Presidential Roundtable Member Dominion on the VITA Awards, held at WQED. Associate Member Cecilia Griffin Golden will be leaving to become President of Volunteers of America for Virginia, Maryland, & D.C. We are proud of Members who were featured in the New Pittsburgh's Courier 50 Men of Influence. They are: Robert Agbede, Malik Bankston, Neil Barclay, Scott Brown, Carl Cooper, Jim Diggs, Evan Frazier, Robert Jones, Billy Jackson, Glenn Mahone, Eric Mann, George Miles, Nick Nichols, Sylvester Pace, Joe Preston, Chuck Sanders, Dr. Frank Sessoms, Greg Spencer, Sam Stephenson, Bill Strickland, Stephen Thomas, Ph.D., Irvin Williams, Robert Lavelle, Robert Hill, J. W. Wallace, Aaron Walton, Jake Wheatley, & Joe Williams. Presidential Roundtable Member John Surma on receiving the Tree of Life Award. Member Nick Nichols' PRMPC's Walk of Excellence Awards Gala. Our members awarded were: Corporation of the Year — Co-Winners Presidential Roundtable Members Highmark, Inc. & University of Pittsburgh Medical Center; Lifetime

Achievement Award-Barbara Fisher of SBA; MBE Advocate of the Year & Supplier of the Year—Charles Sanders of Urban Settlement Services, LLC; MBE Volunteer of the Year - Faye Ritter, The Allegheny Group, Supplier of the Year - Chloe Velasquez; Corporate Advocate of the Year -Ty Alexander, & Corporate Volunteer, Roderick Craighead. Member Dr. Stephen Thomas on his 'Take a Health Professional to the People' Day, Member Lisa Schroeder on the \$25 million grant for Point State Park. Corporate Sponsor Bill Strickland featured in a story on Voice of America. The piece is part of VOA's American Profile series & on Comcast's On Demand. Presidential Roundtable Member Citizens Bank ion being the #1 SBA lender for the 5th consecutive year.

#### **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

**Jada Beaufford**  
Olzak Management Consulting

**Marjorie Mitchell**  
Meadows Bowling Center

**Patricia Archibong**  
McKeesport Medical Equipment & Services

**Chelsea Glover**  
**Mike Logan**  
Fahrenheit 212 Salon

#### **Associate Members**

**David Duessel**  
Maher Duessel, CPA