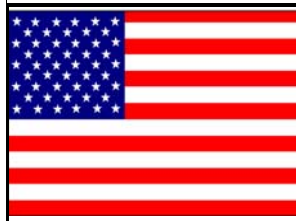


IN THIS EDITION

- ◆ Congratulations to Don Barden
- ◆ Trilogic Best Place to Work
- ◆ Credit Restoration & Repair Program
- ◆ Members in the News
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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

AFRICAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

AFRICAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA
REGIONAL ENTERPRISE TOWER SUITE 1330
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DORIS CARSON WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT & CEO

JANUARY 2007

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

Happy New Year!

Your Chamber wishes to thank everyone for their support during 2006 & for helping to make the Eighth Annual Business Luncheon a success. Presidential Roundtable Member Jim Rohr gave a compelling presentation about the region & how to imagine what can be done here. Thank you to Members Riverside Center for Innovation (Emily Buka) for underwriting the orchids, Urban Settlements Services (Charles Sanders) for the Chamber tree ornaments, & The H.J. Heinz Co. Corp. Sponsor (Chauncey Smith) & the Omni William Penn Hotel as the luncheon sponsors; it was fun.

Our Holiday Celebration at the Andy Warhol Museum was great fun & provided an opportunity to meet many of our new Members. Corporate Sponsor Prudential Financial sponsored the event; Members Cindy Cavallucci & Steve Marziotto were our gracious hosts to the largest attendance yet.

Preparation has begun on the layout for the 2007 Membership Directory. The new Legislative Directory is also in progress. Fifty new Senate & House Members will take office.

We appreciate the feedback on the evaluations on the Doing Business with PennDOT Workshop. They indicated there was immediate follow-up from the speakers.

PowerBreakfast

January 19, 2007

**7:30 AM Rivers Club
Mark Roosevelt, Superintendent**

Pittsburgh Public Schools

Join us for an update on the status of his reorganization plan & his collaboration with the City on developing The Pittsburgh Promise, a college access program & revitalization strategy. Paula Castleberry will also present the 2006 report on minority procurement.

Members Mixer

January 25, 2007

5:00 PM—7:00 PM

PNC Bank

Sponsor: PNC's

EVP—Andrew Russell

We will return to a fun evening of networking & meeting new members &

bank representatives.

Business Institute's Ask the Expert Program

**January 30, 2007
11:30 AM—1:30 PM
Regional Enterprise
Tower 23rd Floor
Credit Restoration &
Credit Repair.**

This program will focus on understanding your credit report score, how to handle discrepancies, & the steps necessary to boost your credit rating. A must if you are planning to apply for a loan!

A special thanks to all who contributed to the Chamber's request to support the fundraiser for the August Wilson Center for African American Culture. We are awaiting the final numbers toward our goal of helping raise \$10k.

Member M. Gayle Moss has reported the NAACP membership is now at 2000 members. Start the year off right by joining. Call 412-471-1024.

Remember, you can obtain the list of contracts processed by Allegheny County's Division of Purchasing & Supplies that are due to expire in 60 - 120 days. Log on to their website, go to the County's Purchasing home page, & click "Reports." It has

the contract name, supplier, the contract buyer & amount & the expiration date. It also shows a 3-4 month lead time, for your follow-up thru their Division of Purchasing & Supplies. The merger of Mellon Financial Corp., & Bank of New York, is expected to create 1,000 -2,000 new jobs locally with headquarters in the city. Also, a new \$80 million Mellon Financial Foundation will be set up for non-profit organizational support in S.W. Pa. The Joint Apprenticeship Program is taking applications for Operating Engineers, January 15 -17th from 9:00 to 3:00 PM. Call 724 -668-2244 for more info.

Upcoming Meetings & Events

January 5th Chatham College Peer Learning

This four-month luncheon program is a roundtable discussion for women business owners. The session will be moderated, with firms paired on the same level in non competitive industries. Sessions will allow for sharing & insight on growing your firm. Go to: www.chatham.edu/ccwe.

**January 9, 2007
5:30-7:30pm**

Duquesne University 101 Rockwell Hall Financial Planning Program Open House

Duquesne University, in partnership with KAPLAN Financial, is offering an Executive Certificate in Financial Planning a good opportunity to become eligible to

take the CFP® Board Exam in only 36 weeks. Classes are taught by CFP® instructors every other Friday evening & Saturday on campus starting January 19th. Call 412-396-5600 to reserve your space or <http://www.leadership.du.edu/home/main.cfm?SID=42&myRefer=/cfp>.

January 12th 7:30-10:00 AM Mechanics of Starting a Small Business University of Pittsburgh 209 Mervis Hall

Offered by the Small Business Development Center, the workshop is FREE & open to the public. To register, call 412-648-1542.

January 15th 10:00 AM Spirit of King Awards Ceremony Kingsley Center 5435 Frankstown Avenue

This year will honor Robert E. 'Pappy' Williams

January 20th 8:00 PM "A Tribute to African American Heroes" Pittsburgh Symphony Heinz Hall

Along with the August Wilson Center, they co-commissioned a piece titled "Pastime" by Richard Danielpour on African American Heroes. There will be a musical tribute to Hank Aaron, Josh Gibson & Jackie Robinson, as well as music by Duke Ellington, & William Grant Still's Afro-American Symphony & much more. The Covenant Church Choir will also perform. For tickets (\$5, \$15 & \$25), call 412-394-4905, or go to

www.pittsburghsymphony.org.

CONGRATULATIONS

The Chamber wishes to congratulate Don Barden on being awarded the Casino license to build on the North Side. We look forward to working with him. Member Eric Bruce on Trilogic named the #1 Best Place to Work in our region by the Business Times! Sponsor Joyce Bender at the reception for the crèche at the US Steel Tower. Associate Member Dr. Stephen Thomas honored by the YWCA. Member Robert Hill on being named Communicator of the Year by the local chapter of PRSA. Associate Member Peggy Harris featured in Pgh Magazine. Member Jennifer Cash Wade featured in the Courier article. Member Dr. Brian K. Johnson of CCAC will become the seventh President of Montgomery College in Rockville, MD. Sponsor Bill Strickland's MCG Jazz up for 2 Grammys. Associate Members Aradhna Dhanda & Dr. Sky Foerster were panelists for the Business Times Power of Positive Press' workshop. Supporting Member Larry Slater's contract to produce a book on the history of Ambridge. Presidential Roundtable Member Dr. Ken Melani on receiving the 2006 Power of Work Award, & Ty Alexander on receiving the U.S. Dept. of Labor's Freedom Initiative Award. Presidential Roundtable Member Jim

Rohr on obtaining the state's \$25 million commitment for Point State Park.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Julius LaRosa
LaRosa Digital Document Center, Inc.

Rkia Hall
Net World Technology

Kenneth A. Mann
Pgh Housing Authority

Ayisha A. Morgan-Lee
Hill Dance Academy
Theatre

Sala Udin
Coro Center for Civic
Leadership

Diane Wells
Dwells Development &
Consulting, LLC

Supporting Members
Patty Jennings
#1 Cochran of Monroeville

Mitch Swain
Greater Pittsburgh Arts
Council

Associate Members

Cindy Hasenjager
3 Rivers Wet Weather
Demonstration Program

Robert C. Hicks
Continental Building Systems

Sandra Phillips
People's Oakland, Inc.

Corporate Supporters
Paul Hennigan
Point Park University

Presidential Roundtable Member

Gregory Babe
Bayer Material Sci-