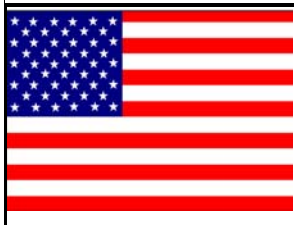


### IN THIS EDITION

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- ◆ Ice Skating Party
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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

AFRICAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

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DORIS CARSON WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT & CEO

LINDSEY NEYLAND, EDITOR

### FEBRUARY 2007

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

### Celebrating our Heritage Nationally!

If you are interested in sponsoring a PowerBreakfast or Members Mixer, please call the office for details.

### Last Month's Events:

Our PowerBreakfast featuring Mark Roosevelt, Superintendent-Pittsburgh Public Schools, drew a great audience. He gave an enlightening yet sobering report on the public school system. Paula Castleberry, Minority Business Coordinator, then presented the 2006 minority procurement statistics for the district.

The Members' Mixer, sponsored by PNC's Andrew Russell, was an enjoyable & productive evening. Special guests Sean Gibson, President of The Josh Gibson Foundation & Tim Adams, Principal Timpanist, & Yu-Ling Cheng, Dir. of Marketing, Pittsburgh Symphony, thanked members for supporting the "Tribute to African American Heroes." Many new business connections were

made & old ones revisited, while we enjoyed the fantastic view from PNC's Executive Dining Room.

### Upcoming Chamber Calendar:

**PowerBreakfast**

**February 16, 2007**

**7:30 AM Rivers Club**

**Honorable**

**Dennis Yablonsky**

**PA Department of Community & Economic Development**

Join us & learn about important initiatives & changes taking place in Community Development, & the positive impact it can have on small businesses owners.

**6th Annual Ice Skate**

**February 24, 2007**

**1:00—3:00 PM**

**PPG Ice Skating Rink**

Join us for an afternoon of fun for the entire family. Your first hot chocolate is on the Chamber!

**PowerBreakfast**

**March 16, 2007**

**7:30 AM Rivers Club**

**Allegheny County Chief Executive Dan Onorato**

We look forward to hearing about the state of our county, the impact of the Governor's budget plans & his vision for the future

for our region.

**Members Mixer**

**March 27, 2007**

**5:00-7:00 PM**

**PNC Park, Monte Cristo Room**

Make new contacts while we enjoy a fun evening of networking sponsored by the Pittsburgh Pirates.

**Candidates Forum**

**April 25, 2007**

**5:00—7:00 PM**

**Rivers Club**

We will invite the candidates for Mayor, County Controller, & District 9 City Council Races. We will keep you informed.

### Other News:

**Effective January 1st,** the minimum wage increased to \$6.25 an hour in PA. On July 1, 2007, the rate will increase to \$7.15.

The 2007 Business Privilege Tax for firms in the city has been lowered from .002 mills to .001 mills, to take effect April 15th. You should receive your forms in the mail this month, or call the city's Taxpayer Services @ 412-255-8821.

The Allegheny County Redevelopment Authority proposed a resolution to increase the amount of Community Development Block Grant funds to \$3 mil to

be used for right-of-way acquisition & construction.

**DiverseCITY** Pittsburgh continues to prepare for the August 16-19th Diversity Festival. To volunteer services, contact the event planners, Butler & Manges, at [mwmanges@aol.com](mailto:mwmanges@aol.com)

#### **Upcoming Member Events**

The photo exhibit, **Pittsburgh Courier Images**, an extraordinary collection of photos from one of the nation's oldest Black newspapers, will run from February 1-26th, (8:00 AM—5:00 PM) at the City-County Building.

**University of Pittsburgh Small Business Development Center** will host two business training seminars this month:

#### **The First Step: Mechanics of Starting a Small Business February 9, 2007 7:30 — 10:00AM.**

Mervis Hall, Room 209  
This workshop is free & open to the public.

#### **The Second Step: Developing a Business Plan**

**February 23, 2007  
7:30 AM-10:00 AM.**  
Mervis Hall, Room 209  
Cost:\$25 (includes parking). Call 412-648-1542 to register for either of the two workshops.

The August Wilson Center for African American Culture presents cartoonist & writer **Aaron McGruder**, creator of the popular "The Boondocks" comic strip, on Saturday, February 17, 2007 at 8:00 PM at

the Byham Theater. Tickets: \$20-\$64; \$64 tickets include a post-show reception & book signing with Aaron McGruder at the August Wilson Center's Gallery 209/9. Call 412-456-6666 or visit [www.pgharts.org](http://www.pgharts.org) or the Box Office at Theater Square on Penn Ave.

Join **Presidential Roundtable Member Duquesne Light & Supporting Member WQED** as they celebrate the **17th Annual Duquesne Light Black History Month Celebration** on Wed., February 21st from 6-8 PM at WQED Studio A. The program features the 2007 African-American Leadership Awards, which will honor **Member Chloe Velasquez**, President & CEO of Sabio Springs, Inc. for her contributions in Business/Government. RSVP by February 15th at 412-622-1514.

On Tues., February 27th, the World Affairs Council of Pittsburgh hosts a Food For Thought Luncheon, "**National Security for a New Era: A Panel Discussion with the U.S. Army War College, Current Affairs Panel.**" The luncheon begins at noon at the Rivers Club. Tickets are \$22 for members & \$27 for non-members. Lunch is included. RSVP by phone at 412-281-7972, by fax at 412-281-1795 or by email: [programs@worldaffairs.pittsburgh.org](mailto:programs@worldaffairs.pittsburgh.org)

Seton Hill University's e-Magnify Program presents the **Tenth Annual Building a World Class Business Conference** on March 20th at the Westin Convention Center. Visit

[www.e-magnify.com](http://www.e-magnify.com) or contact Marlene O'Brien at 724.830.4614 or [info@setonhill.edu](mailto:info@setonhill.edu)

~Save the Date~

#### **Out of Hand! Benefit Saturday, March 31, 2007**

Mark your calendars for this not-to-be-missed event! **SCC** will host its annual benefit to raise funds for an array of exhibitions and educational programs.

The August Wilson Center presents the exhibition, **Drawn In**, January 26-April 28, 2007 at the August Wilson Center Gallery 209/9. **Drawn In** features conceptual architectural drawings that capture architecture as lived-in & social places. Exhibit is free to the public. Gallery hours: Wed., Fri., and Sat. noon to 5 PM and Thurs. noon to 7 PM.

Point Park University presents its **14th Annual Frank Sinatra Pioneer Golf Classic** on Wed., May 23rd, 2007 at the Laurel Valley Golf Club. For more info, contact Jenniffer Burke at 412-392-3991, or [jburke@pointpark.edu](mailto:jburke@pointpark.edu)

#### **CONGRATULATIONS**

Sponsor Member **Andrew Russell** on being honored by Allegheny County Medical Society. Associate Member **George Miles** on receiving a Fredosaurus Rex Friday 13 Dinosaur as a tribute to Fred Rogers. **Member Esther Bush** on the Urban League's partner-

ship with Winchester Thurston School. **Chairman Circle Member Dwight White** on serving as Co-Chair with his wife at the Jack & Jill Ball.

**Member Harlan Ware**, stationed in Baghdad, on being promoted to Lt. Colonel in the US Army. **Member Bob Agbede** on being appointed Chairman of the Board of the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland-Pittsburgh Office. **Presidential Roundtable Member Jim Rohr** on PNC being #1 in the top 50 largest banks in the area. **Members Fulton Meachem & Ralph Falbo** on being featured in the Business Times. **Member Weida Tucker** appointed Chair—W. Pa. Conservancy's Diversity Committee. **Member Toni Silva** on her feature article in the Business Times. **Supporting Members Mike Edwards, Michael Langley, Ralph Falbo & Kevin McMahon** on being recognized by Metropolitan magazine. **Corporate Sponsor Milt Washington** on being featured in Metropolitan Magazine. **Supporting Member VisitPittsburgh's Bob Imperata** on being elected Chair-Elect of PaSAE.

#### **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS Regular Members**

**Dollie Cartlidge**  
Elite People, Inc.

**Ronald Scott**  
RS Supply Company

**John A. Thompson**  
Mayor, Wilkinsburg

#### **Supporting Members**

**Carolyn Pengidore**  
Comperio Energy, LLC