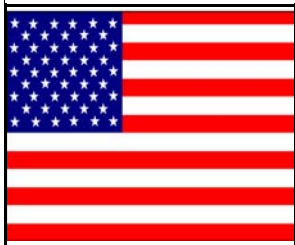


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MISSION STATEMENT

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

LINDSEY NEYLAND, EDITOR

NOVEMBER 2007

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!

We were impressed with Stuart Hoffman's (Senior Vice President & Chief Economist of PNC) wit & style of presenting the '08 economic forecast at October's Power-Breakfast Meeting. State Farm graciously served as the sponsor.

Last month's return to Fifth Avenue Place for our Members' Mixer was a real treat. Hosted by Highmark, we enjoyed the networking, door prizes, & the excellent discounts at Member Lydell's Men's Boutique.

It was standing-room only for the "Doing Business with the Housing Authority" workshop.

Associate Member Fulton Meachem assembled developers who work with the HACP & his staff for an insightful presentation. Of note, are the construction & professional services opportunities available.

Your Chamber hosted the IRS Small Business Forum at Riverside Center for Innovations. You

will receive highlights on recommendation small business owners can benefit from during their tax preparation.

"Holiday Mixer"

November 28, 2007

5:30—7:30 PM

**Dinosaurs In Their Time
Carnegie Museum of
Natural History**

Sponsor: Prudential

Bring a guest & enjoy the world's most comprehensive dinosaur exhibit.

Ninth Annual Business

Luncheon 12:00 PM

December 6, 2007

Omni William Penn

**Speaker: Jeffrey Romoff
President & CEO, UPMC**

Your invitation has been mailed. Come hear from the President of one of our region's largest employers.

Thank you for the **22%** response rate for the Membership Survey for business owners. Associate Members have until November 16th to complete their survey & receive a complimentary Power-Breakfast Meeting.

Members' Events

November 7, 2007

Point Park University

Pittsburgh & Terrorism: How Safe Are We?

**University Center
411 Wood Street**

The reception begins at 6:00 PM; panel presentation at 7:00PM. Call 412-392-4750 to RSVP.

November 8-11, 2007 Lalah Hathaway's Tribute to Shirley Horn & Sarah Vaughan

The Manchester Craftsmen's Guild presents this vocal tribute to two jazz greats. For tickets, call 412-322-0800, or visit www.mcqjazz.org.

**November 13, 2007
2:00 PM**

**YWCA's Bag Lunch & Panel Discussion
305 Wood Street**

Discussion will focus on the "Jena 6." Call Mell Steven Cosnek at 412-255-1466 for details.

Regional Equitable Development Summit November 16, 2007 8:30 AM—12:30 PM Twentieth Century Club, Oakland

Supporting Member Court Gould (Sustainable Pittsburgh) has assembled some of the region's leading champions to discuss their plans to close the racial disparity gap. Author David Rusk is the Keynote Speaker; Member Sala Udin will

moderate. The summit is free & open to the public: call 412-258-6642.

**"Light up Night "
November 16th at
6:00PM**

Associate Member Michael Edwards is looking forward to everyone joining in to launch the holiday season.

**Racial Justice Awards
November 30, 2007
YWCA
6:00 PM**

Omni William Penn Hotel

This marks the 16th year for the YWCA Racial Justice Awards. They honor women, men & organizations who have made contributions to help eliminate racial inequity. Your Chamber President is an honoree. Register @ 412-255-1466 or click on: www.ywca.pgh.org.

*** IMPORTANT***

Harvard University President Lawrence Summers announced graduating high school honor students from families earning less than \$40,000 annually can now attend Harvard Free: no tuition, no student loans! Click on Harvard's financial aid website at: <http://admis.fas.harvard.edu/FAO/in dex.htm>, or 1-617-495-1581.

Members' News

Join the Chamber staff in congratulating Chamber Chairman Sam Stephenson on the recent merger between Terry & Stephenson, PC & Parente Randolph. The new office location is Four Gateway Center. The August Wilson

Center for African American Culture reported MBE participation for the center at 40.7%, of which 40% is African American.

Member Greg Spencer on his recent purchase of City of Bridges Café in the airport air mall.

The Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation has announced a newly formed non-profit corporation to expand their activities in neighborhood revitalization.

The Oct. 2nd Racial Equity & Empowerment Summit attracted over two hundred people. Tim Stevens did a commendable job attracting top notch speakers to present to both Mayor Luke Ravenstahl & Chief Executive Dan Onorato on the status & needs of the African American Community to close the disparity gap.

The CL Fund received \$5 mil to invest in regional small business growth, thanks to PNC Community Partners & National City Community Development Corp.

Support the new *Dinosaurs in Their Time* exhibit by adopting your very own dinosaur bone thru the Adopt-a-Bone program. Own a unique piece of Pittsburgh history. Adoptions (tax-deductible) start at \$25. More details, go to: www.adopta.bone.org.

CONGRATULATIONS

Member Marlene Burks (TADISO) on promoting

'Bosses Day'. Samuel E. Coston Funeral Home, Inc. (Members Roland & Bethany Criswell) were ranked among the top 2% of funeral homes nation-ally, & awarded the National Funeral Directors Association's Best of the Best Award; the first African American firm to ever receive this award.

The University of Pittsburgh's Institute for Entrepreneurial Excellence is recruiting for the 2008 Entrepreneurial Fellows Center Program. Beginning January 2008, classes will be held one half-day per month for 10 months. The Katz Business School faculty & successful entrepreneurs will be instructors for this certificate program. Your Chamber is offering \$500 scholarships to those who qualify. Call Chris Kush for details at: 412-648-1806, or visit their website at: cakush@katz.pitt.edu

Associate Member Kevin McMahon on the spectacular "Down Under" event in the Cultural District.

**Members featured in
the New Pittsburgh
Courier last month
were:**

Member Eric Mann quoted in the "250 & Fit" article. Chairman Circle Member Ron Davenport, Jr. at St. Edmund's Academy Anniversary party. Member M. Gayle Moss for a successful NAACP Freedom Sunday program. Member Sean Gibson featured

about his plans to commission a painting of baseball legends Josh Gibson & Babe Ruth.

Members Jackie Wilson, Ted Roberts, Kenneth Mann & Riley Davis featured at the "Cooking for a Cause", benefiting Three Rivers Adoption Council. Member Nick Nichols for a successful Awards Gala; PRMPC award winners were: Members Roderick Craighead, Benjamin Butler, Milt Washington, Chuck Sanders, John Laymon, Phil Petite, Chuck Powell, & Greg Spencer. Member Jackie Dixon at the Sickel Cell Society. Corporate Sponsor Milton Washington at the City Theatre "Shake It Up" party.

**The following members
were featured in August
in the Pittsburgh Business Times:**

Member Evan Frazier received the Distinguished Alumni Award from Achievement of America.

Welcome New Members:

Regular Members

Kevin Cooper
Mulberry Community Church

Archie & Khristie Kimbrough
Train Up a Child Daycare & Learning Center

Ira D. Ritter, Jr.
I.D. Ritter, Jr. Company

Vernon E. Webb
Express Personnel Services

Happy Thanksgiving!