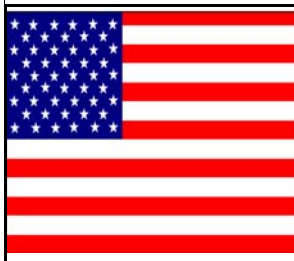


IN THIS EDITION

- ◆ Membership Dues increase for 2008
- ◆ Membership survey results are in
- ◆ Successful Annual Business Luncheon
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- ◆ Members' Events & 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 participation.

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 2008

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

Happy New Year!

Effective January 1st, membership dues increased as a result of higher programming costs. If you have any questions, please call the office.

Our Ninth Annual Business Luncheon featured Presidential Roundtable Member Jeffrey Romoff, President & CEO of UPMC, as our Keynote Speaker. Over 400 guests were present & joined us to give Atty. Wendell Freeland a standing ovation during his surprise tribute.

Vincent Johnson will be the primary point of contact for PNC's Supplier Diversity program (replacing Eunice L. Sykes). He can be contacted at 412-768-1485; email Vincent.johnson@pnc.com.

PowerBreakfast
January 18, 2008
7:30-9:00 AM
Allegheny County
Chief Executive
Dan Onorato

Join us to welcome our re-elected Chief Execu-

tive as he updates us on activities in the County & shares his plans for 2008.

Members Mixer
January 24, 2008
5:00-7:00 PM

Society For Contemporary Craft

Join us to enjoy the unique & artistic ambiance while networking to make connections & new contacts for the New Year. Your invitation has been mailed.

Membership Survey Results

We are thrilled to report that 22% of our business owners & 10% of the non-profits completed the survey; Thank You. Here are some of the responses:

- The value of your Chamber membership is in advocacy, networking, & partnerships to create business opportunities.
- Chamber "Briefings" on business information, statistics, trends & resources can be useful.
- Programs of greatest benefit are:
 1. Annual Meeting & Business Luncheon.
 2. Business Institute Workshops.

3. PowerBreakfasts.

- Suggested workshops include:

- Accessing Capital
- Financial, Legal & Strategic Planning
- Marketing & PR
- Benchmarking & Organization Building
- Managing Programs
- Risk Management.

- Data on our region's economy and business climate would be useful. We will detail the results on our website & provide you a summary via email.

Members' News

UPMC will contribute up to \$100 million over 10 years to the scholarship program for the Pittsburgh Public Schools: Pittsburgh Promise

The Center for Minority Health received a large grant from the National Institute of Health for research in trying to solve the disparity in health-care.

The Pittsburgh Post-Gazette reports that H.J. Heinz has been named #1 in the University of Michigan's American Customer Satisfaction Index.

The PG also reports that the Allegheny Regional Asset District board approved the larg-

est budget in its 14-year history: \$84 million to be distributed to local arts, cultural, & recreational groups in 2008.

VisitPittsburgh recently announced a number of impressive rankings for our city in 2007. Did you know...

- Frommer's designated Pittsburgh one of 2008's 13 top travel domestic & international destinations.

- Pittsburgh ranked 8th in a Bizjournals survey of the most fun cities in America & PNC Park is listed among the Top Ten Best Ballparks in the nation by FoxSports.com.

- Voters at *American Style* magazine have named Pittsburgh the Best Arts Destination in the Country among mid-sized cities.

In September, the Mayo Clinic Center joined the Center for Minority Health at the University of Pittsburgh to launch 'Take a Health Professional to the People Day,' a program that sends health professionals to barber shops & beauty salons in Pittsburgh to deliver life-saving information & health screenings to customers. This collaboration is part of Mayo's Urban Immersion Program, which is designed for students & faculty interested in health disparities research.

Dr. Alex Johnson, former head of Delgado Community College in New

Orleans, has been named President of Community College of Allegheny County.

Members' Events

"A Tribute to African American Heroes" January 15, 2008—8PM Heinz Hall

Join the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra for a special concert honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., composer Harry Burleigh & jazz legends Billy Strayhorn & Duke Ellington. The evening will also include Dvorak's Symphony No.9-known as Dvorak's New World Symphony. For tickets, call 412-392-4900, or visit: www.pittsburghsymphony.org.

CCAC offers Pre-Apprentice Training for the Building Trade Unions, January 23rd – March 31, 2008

The 60-hour course, designed to improve reading comprehension, and math & workplace safety skills, will meet three days per week thru March. Classes will be held at the Allegheny Campus in Byers Hall. For more information or to enroll, contact Member Reginald Overton at 412-788-7351 or visit: www.ProfessionalDevelopment@ccac.edu.

Job Opening:

PolicyLink is looking for candidates to fill three positions currently open in their Oakland office. For a brief description of

each position visit: <http://www.policylink.org>.

CONGRATULATIONS

Members Cheryl & Charlene McAbee at Pittsburgh Magazine's reception to honor B. Smith.

The August Wilson Center for African American Culture received a Community Connections grant, an initiative of Pittsburgh 250 administered by the Sprout Fund. They received \$50,000 for "Civil Rites: Oral Histories of Two Generations of Pittsburgh Artists."

Corporate Sponsor Bill Strickland has been named Pittsburgher of the Year by Pittsburgh Magazine.

Phipps Conservancy & Botanical Gardens was named the 2007 Grand Marketer of the Year.

Members featured in the New Pittsburgh Courier:

Associate Member Esther Bush on the Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh's successful Ron Brown Dinner.

Member Winifred Torbert was a 2007 Achievement Honoree for the Omega Psi Phi Annual Achievement Award Formal; **Member Greg Spencer** served as a program chair for the event.

Corporate Sponsor Mona Generett & Winifred Torbert were featured at a holiday party

for the Pittsburgh Chapter of The Girl-friends. Also present at the event were **Members Frank Torbert, Dr. Edmund Effort, & Corporate Sponsor Glen Mahone.**

Members featured in the Pittsburgh Business Times:

Corporate Sponsor JW Wallace was featured in the Pittsburgh Business Times for his role in helping companies share strategies & best practices in making Pittsburgh more inclusive.

W.G. Tucker & Associates ranked 21st in the list of Largest Pittsburgh Area Executive Search Firms.

Corporate Sponsor Bender Consulting Services, Inc., & Express Personnel Services were ranked 3rd & 20th, respectively, in the Largest Pittsburgh Area Staffing Firms List.

Welcome New Members:

Regular Members

Helen A. Davis
Davis Eye Group

Gregory Spencer
City of Bridges Cafe
