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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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REGIONAL ENTERPRISE TOWER - SUITE 1330

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DORIS CARSON WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT & CEO

### February 2009

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

Your Chamber is again ranked #12 among the 25 Largest Pittsburgh-Area Chambers of Commerce. Chief Executive Dan Onorato discussed his priority to stabilize the county's finances at last month's PowerBreakfast Meeting. He asked our Chamber to continue working to increase the diversity on county contracts. We thanked Chairman Circle Member Chester Engineers (Bob Agbede) for sponsoring the meeting. Our New Year Celebration was a grand way to start networking in 2009. Corporate Sponsor Prudential hosted the evening (Steve Marzotto & Cindy Cavallucci).

Everyone enjoyed the 'Voices' Exhibit & were struck with Pittsburgh's 'Free At Last?' (Slavery in the 18th & 19th centuries in Pittsburgh) Exhibits. Member Robert Hill/Pitt, exhibit producer, distributed the pamphlets to guide you. An exhibit you must see!

**PowerBreakfast**  
February 20, 2009  
7:30 AM Rivers Club  
One Oxford Centre

**Regional Indicator on [www.Pittsburgh.org](http://www.Pittsburgh.org)**

**John Craig, Presenter**

This meeting will highlight where our region's standing & ways you can use the information.

**February 27, 2009**

**5:30-7:30 PM**

**Networking Mixer**

**Heinz Hall**

**Sponsored by: Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra**

Our Associate Members look forward to seeing you. Please note the change in time. With the date change & the 8:00 performance, conductor, Manfred Honeck will not be able to join us. The Symphony is offering discounted tickets at \$25 each to the performance. For tickets, call Erin Lynn at 412-392-3324.

**Ice Skating Party**

**February 28, 2009**

**1:00—3:00 PM**

**PPG Ice Skating Rink**

Join us for this annual event, which is sure to be a lot of fun. Your first cup of hot chocolate is on us!

**'Leed /Green Workshop'**

**March 9, 2009**

**Speaker: Byron Falchetti, Chairman Green Building Alliance & President**

### **Standard Property A Highmark Company**

This workshop is the second of the four-part series. The workshop will focus on the evolution of green design in our region, the levels of certification, & walk you thru the design of Highmark's award winning Silver Certified Data Center in Camp Hill, PA. Important workshop for professionals in legal, finance, business consulting, & construction. Cost: \$15. RSVP to [programs@aaccwp.com](mailto:programs@aaccwp.com) before March 6th.

**PowerBreakfast**  
March 20, 2009  
7:30 AM Rivers Club  
One Oxford Centre  
Pittsburgh Partnership for Neighborhood Development

**Member - President**  
Ellen Kight & her staff will present opportunities for doing business with the organizations they fund that help develop all city neighborhoods .

**Member Events:**  
Sustainability & Smart Growth Forum  
Sustainable Pittsburgh  
February 6, 2009  
11:30 AM—1:00 PM  
Regional Enterprise Tower, 26th Floor  
Davis Room  
The guest speaker is Tom Klevan Coordinator.

<p>Regional Transit Southwestern PA Commission. Just bring a bag lunch; desserts provided. Register @: <a href="mailto:info@sustainablepittsburgh.org">info@sustainablepittsburgh.org</a>.</p> <p><b>Urban League Sunday February 8, 2009 4:00 PM—6:00 PM Bethel AME Church 2720 Webster Ave.</b> Join Associate Member Esther Bush &amp; welcome Rev. Floyd Flake, former Congressman -New York</p> <p><b>FastTrac NewVenture Chatham University Center for Women's Entrepreneurship (Every Thursday from Feb. 12th—April 16th) 6:30—9:30 PM</b></p> <p>This 10-week program assists new firms to develop their business plans &amp; concepts. Cost:\$295/ person. Register online: <a href="http://www.chatham.edu/ccwe">www.chatham.edu/ccwe</a> by February 5th.</p> <p><b>The Pittsburgh Cultural Trust Presents 'Sean Jones With Strings' February 14, 2009 Cabaret Theater Square</b></p> <p>This Trumpeter extraordinaire performs jazz standards &amp; his own compositions using the theme: Love. Call 412-456-6666; or visit: <a href="http://www.pgharts.org">www.pgharts.org</a></p> <p><b>Porgy &amp; Bess Opera Theatre February 14—15, 2009</b></p> <p>The Opera Theater is offering Chamber Members one ticket at half-off when purchasing one regular price at the Theater Square Box Office, or call 412-456-6666 &amp; mentioning the Chamber. Offer good on all performances .</p> <p><b>Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership 2009</b></p>	<p><b>Annual Meeting February 17, 2009 Doubletree Hotel Pittsburgh City Center One Bigelow Square Pittsburgh, PA 15214</b></p> <p><b>Cost: \$25/person</b> (breakfast included ); \$20/person in groups of five or more. Register by phone: 412-566-4190 or email: <a href="mailto:PDP@DowntownPittsburgh.com">PDP@DowntownPittsburgh.com</a> by February 12th.</p> <p><b>Second Annual Business Luncheon Northside Community Development Fund</b></p> <p>Join Member Mark Masterson &amp; learn about their new developments. Call 412-322-0290.</p> <p><b>February 27, 2009 12:00 PM—2:00 PM The Lexus Club-PNC Park Soul Food Dinner &amp; Jazz Night</b></p> <p><b>April 11, 2009 6-10 PM Rivers Club</b></p> <p><b>Early Bird Special: \$35 (paid by Feb. 28th)</b></p> <p><b>Late Bird: \$40</b></p> <p>For reservations &amp; details, call 412-860-8500 &amp; ask for Rob.</p> <p>The PA Chamber &amp; members of the Compete-PA Coalition are calling on state leaders to implement a program that will allow Pennsylvania to retain jobs and stimulate new job creation while weathering the current economic crisis, urging lawmakers to base the Corporate Net Income tax apportionment formula on 100% sales (current formula is 70% of sales;) 15 percent payroll &amp; 15% property. The Single Sales Factor would encourage employers to increase their economic investment in PA plants &amp; equipment. We will keep</p>	<p>you posted.</p> <p>Presidential Round-table Member Highmark will soon open a retail store in the North Hills to help individuals &amp; small businesses choose health insurance plans.</p> <p>Register your cell phone on the "Do Not Call" List by calling 888-382-1222 to avoid telemarketing calls.</p> <p>Associate Member Enterprise Rent-a-Car is offering special rates to Chamber Members. Visit <a href="http://www.enterprise.com">www.enterprise.com</a> for our corporate rate:</p> <p><b>Number: 40A9461.</b></p> <p>Sponsor CCAC announced plans to waive tuition for workers laid off due to the current recession. Only "high-need occupations" are included in the free tuition deal.</p> <p>The PA State Police &amp; the Hill House Association opening of the State Police satellite Recruitment Office in the Hill House. Every 2nd &amp; 4th Tuesday monthly, State Police Recruiters will be on hand to discuss career opportunities from 10 AM—2 PM, Call them at 412-697-4681.</p> <p><b>Did you know?</b></p> <p>The Pittsburgh region is within 500 miles of 60% of the US population.</p> <p><b>CONGRATULATIONS In the New Pittsburgh Courier:</b></p> <p>Member Deborah Lewis honored for her work with the Allegheny County Public Works.</p> <p>Member Harriet Tubman Guild had a successful Annual Queen's Luncheon. Associate Member</p>	<p>WQED Multimedia on 40 Years of "Black Horizons," the longest-running minority affairs program. Member Joseph Preston on serving his 14<sup>th</sup> term as State Representative. He was re-awarded the chairmanship of the Consumer Affairs Committee. Member Sala Udin on CORO's successful MLK Leadership &amp; Diversity Awards event.</p> <p><b>In WHIRL Magazine:</b></p> <p>Member Maurita Bryant at the Parental Stress Center's 33rd Anniversary Family Celebration. Members The Honorable Judge Joseph &amp; Darryl Ford Williams, along with Dr. Edmund &amp; Elaine Effort at the Jack &amp; Jill 2008 Presentation Ball. Member Chauncey Smith &amp; wife Bernice among the "11 Couples Who Make a Difference." Corporate Sponsor Mona Generett &amp; Member Rosa Copeland Miller at the Links' "Jewels of the Nile" Gala. Associate Member Eric Mann at the YMCA Season of Giving Gala. Member Harlan Ware in the Style section.</p> <p><b>Welcome New Members:</b></p> <p><b>Regular Members</b></p> <p><b>Floyd Cephas</b> North Side Christian Health Center</p> <p><b>Supporting Members</b></p> <p><b>Patrick DeCuir</b> The DeCuir Group</p> <p><b>Associate Members</b></p> <p><b>Maurita Bryant</b> Pittsburgh Chapter of National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives</p>
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