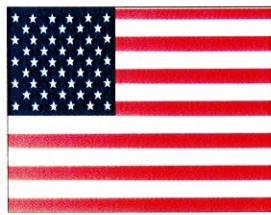


THIS EDITION

- ◆ Last call for Members' Profile forms
- ◆ January, IT Month for 'Ask the Expert' Program (412-392-0322)
- ◆ Applaud Chamber Men
- ◆ It's Basketball Time
- ◆ Members in the News
- ◆ Welcome New Members

**UPDATED
MISSION STATEMENT**

The Mission of the African American Chamber of Commerce of Western Pa. is to continuously improve business & professional opportunities for African American businesses & professionals.

Our Vision

Guided by the core values of equity in opportunity, economic advancement, self-sufficiency & entrepreneurial excellence, we will seek to advance economic parity for the African American Business Community by ensuring full participation in the public & private sectors throughout the region.

AFRICAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

AFRICAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

REGIONAL ENTERPRISE TOWER SUITE 1330

425 SIXTH AVENUE PITTSBURGH, PA. 15219

(412) 392-0610

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Email: information@aaccwp.com.Website: www.aaccwp.com.

DORIS CARSON WILLIAMS, PRESIDENT & CEO

December 2004

This monthly newsletter is prepared solely for members, supporters, & sponsors of the African American Chamber of Commerce of Western Pennsylvania

Thanks to the Allegheny County Bar Association for sponsoring the November PowerBreakfast with Member Jerome Dettore. His team presented their plans with the URA & Chuck Powell highlighted that the URA has approved over \$121 million in loans to Minority & Women Business Enterprise! Carl Knoblock, the new SBA District Administrator, attended & addressed the audience. He is looking forward to working in Pittsburgh.

The support of Chamber members & sponsors was truly appreciated at this year's Annual Business Luncheon. Over 430 people listened attentively to Jeffrey Lipton; President & CEO of NOVA Chemicals as he discussed how Pittsburgh embraced & welcomed his company, then challenged government to expand manufacturing in our region. A special thanks goes to William O'Connor of the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center for underwriting the Nancy Wilson CD- RSVP as a gift. Incidentally, we just received word from MCG that the album, *Rare Songs, Very Personal* has just been nominated for a Grammy Award!

**December 15, 2004
Members Seasonal Celebration**

5:00 – 7:00 PM

Crawford Grill @ Station Square

RSVP by December 13th

January 11, 2005

9:00 – 11:30 AM

**URA Lending Program
Robert Rubinstein
Acting Director Business Development /URA**

Bob will present each loan program that is offered, including programs in special economic development zones. The application process will also be covered. Please R.S.V.P. to the Chamber office by January 7th.

**January 21, 2005
PowerBreakfast Meeting****Allegheny County Chief Executive
Dan Onorato****7:30 AM Rivers Club**

The Chief Executive will address Chamber Member & provide us an update on the County's plans for the New Year & business opportunities for members. An announcement will be mailed to you.

January 26, 2005**Members Mixer**

5:00- 7:00 P.M.

**Fifth Avenue Place
Sponsor: Highmark
Standard Property Company.** You will have an

opportunity to visit their retailers (including our Member - Lydell's) in between networking.

**January 30, 2005
Cleveland Cavaliers vs.
Milwaukee Bucks
Basketball Game
Gund Arena, Ohio**

**Reception: 5:00 PM
Game time: 6:30 PM**

Make the trip part of a holiday gift! Call us to reserve your seats. We will depart by bus from Monroeville, served lunch on the bus, then to a reception with Cleveland's Consortium of Minority Business & Organizations. Our premium seats allow you to capture all the excitement. We'll return home immediately after the game. Reserve your seat.

**Cost \$110 Members;
\$120 Non-Members**

Recognize the efforts of Barbara McNees on getting ACT47 approved.

Your Chamber is quickly approaching the cut-off date for accepting changes for the 2005 Membership Directory. Please send your profile form to the office before December 15th.

Due to the high level of interest in the Business Plan Seminar in October, two additional seminars were held in November.

A Member's survey is being prepared for sending to you by late January. We want to learn more about your interest in the Chamber & how we can

<p>PAGE 2</p> <p>respond to your requests.</p> <p>State Government, as well as both City & County Councils have been busy as this year comes to a close. The state bailout package raises the occupation tax from \$10 to \$52 annually & adds a .55% payroll tax eliminating the business privilege tax in 2010. Meanwhile Member Jake Wheatley continues to ask for diversity on the state's oversight board. On a vote of 9-0, Council approved legislation to implement the deep cost reductions required by the Act 47 plan. We owe a debt of gratitude to those who worked so hard on this issue, in particular Barbara McNees, our Associate Member. Stay tuned for further details.</p> <p>County Council voted 10-4 to approve a referendum that would reduce the number of elected county row offices from ten to four, leaving only the district attorney, controller, treasurer & sheriff as elected row offices. All other county row offices would be eliminated as soon as the office holders' current terms expire.</p> <p>Associate Members Pittsburgh Tech. Council & SMC are having a "Finding Ideas That Make Money" seminar- Jan. 27th. To register & for more info, call 412-918-4229 or email: events@pghtech.org.</p> <p>Member Duquesne's SBDC is hosting a number of workshops on QuickBooks, International Sales Markets, to Automated Export Systems, & IRS e-files. Call 412-396-6233 for more info.</p> <p>M. Gayle Moss is now the President of the NAACP Pittsburgh Branch, unseating Member Tim Stevens in a close race.</p> <p>If you are interested in teaching, Slippery Rock University is the place to be. To see their open positions, visit www.sru.edu.</p>	<p>Corporate Sponsor Bender Consulting Services is offering a three-month internship (part-time 10-15 hour/wk). Call Nathan Gambill at 412-787-8567 or email: resume@bnderxonsult.com.</p> <p>Member Westmoreland Museum of Art's 'An American Marketplace Exhibit will be open thru January 9th.</p> <p>{Why not support all of our members in the Arts this holiday season by shopping in their Museum Shops. You'll find unique & interesting gifts.}</p> <p>Congratulations to the following Chamber Men featured recently as the New Pittsburgh Courier's 50 Men of Influence:</p> <p>Robert Agbede, ATS/ Chester Engineers</p> <p>Tom Burley, Crawford Grill on the Square</p> <p>Alexander Nichols, Minority Purchasing Council</p> <p>George Miles, WQED Multimedia</p> <p>Malik Bankston, Kingsley Association</p> <p>Tim Stevens, NAACP Pittsburgh Branch</p> <p>Milton Washington, AHRCO</p> <p>Scott Brown, Citizens Bank</p> <p>Ronnie Bryant PRA</p> <p>Edward Green, Port Authority of Allegheny</p> <p>Aaron Walton, Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield</p> <p>Sylvester Pace NEED</p> <p>Dr. John Thompson, Pittsburgh Public Schools</p> <p>J.W. Wallace UPMC</p> <p>James C. Diggs Senior, PPG Industries</p> <p>Carl Cooper, Kirkpatrick & Lockhart</p> <p>Glenn Mahone, Reed Smith</p> <p>Dr. Stephen Thomas, Center for Minority Health, GSPH</p> <p>Keith Kinard, Housing Authority Pgh</p>	<p>Jake Wheatley, State Representative</p> <p>Eric Mann Pittsburgh Metropolitan YMCA</p> <p>Gregory Spencer, Randall Enterprises, LLC</p> <p>Irv Williams, Ebony Development.</p> <p>Wow!</p> <p>It is with great sadness that we extend our heartfelt sympathy to Member John Garth, Sr. in the tragic passing of his son.</p> <p>Don't forget Enterprise Rent-A-Car offers special rates to Chamber Members. Call 1-800-rent-a-car, let them know you are a Chamber Members & use our customer number 40A9461, or book out of town reservations online at www.enterprise.com.</p> <p>The Business Institute will be accepting applications for the peer review program & announcing programs in early 2005.</p> <p>CONGRATULATIONS</p> <p>Member Chauncey Smith in the seen column of Whirl Magazine.</p> <p>Members Winifred Torbert, Curtis Aiken & Nick Nichlos, for the reception honoring Pirate Manager Lloyd McClelland. Member Darryl Ford Williams on being named Vice President of Vice President of Production for WQED Multimedia.</p> <p>Supporting Member Michael Langley on the Allegheny Conference's Annual Meeting.</p> <p>Member Esther Bush on the Ronald H. Brown Annual Dinner.</p> <p>Member the Minority and Women Working Capital Program. This program is a venture by the County Executive Office to attract private partners in trying to develop and support minor -</p>	<p>ity & women owned businesses.</p> <p>Citizen Bank recently matched the County's \$500,000.00 to increase their lending capacity programs funding to \$1,000,000.00. Ruth Byrd Smith is the county official responsible for the Advisory Committee.</p> <p>WELCOME NEW MEMBERS</p> <p>Jason Chavis, WTAE-TV</p> <p>Thenisha Gibbs, Victory Management</p> <p>James McDonald, Monaloh Basin Engineers</p> <p>Ronald Shinault, COSH Healthcare, LTD</p> <p>Supporting Members</p> <p>John Durbin, Durbin & Associates, Inc.</p> <p>Lisa Schroeder, RiverLife Task Force</p> <p>Corporate Sponsor</p> <p>Peyton Wagner, IKON Office Solutions</p> <p>Have a wonderful Holiday Season & a prosperous New Year!</p>
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