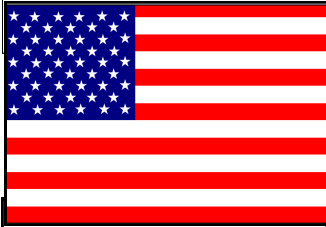


**Important Dates**

**Mark Your Calendars**

- Jan. 11th - How To Do Business With PPG
- Jan. 19th - PowerBreakfast Meeting
- Jan. 24th - How The SBA Can Help Your Business
- Jan. 30th - Members' Orientation
- Members' News & Events
- Welcome New Members



**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

**Koppers Building Suite 2220 436 Seventh Avenue Pittsburgh, PA**  
(412) 392-0610 FAX: (412) 392-0612  
Email: [information@aaccwp.com](mailto:information@aaccwp.com) Website: [www.aaccwp.com](http://www.aaccwp.com)  
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/aaccwp> Facebook: [www.facebook.com/aaccwp](http://www.facebook.com/aaccwp)

**DORIS CARSON WILLIAMS, CCE Chief Executive Officer**

**January 2024**  
This monthly newsletter is prepared solely for Members, Supporters & Sponsors of the African American Chamber of Commerce of Western PA

**Members' Orientation**  
**Tuesday, January 30th**  
**12:00 P.M. - 1:00 P.M.**  
All Members, new and existing, are encouraged to join us for this in-depth look at your Chamber; what makes our organized body unique and what role you play as a Member. We'll also give you an overview of the Chamber Foundation, membership benefits and the structure of programs offered to help you access business opportunities. Don't miss this virtual session. RSVP to: [information@aaccwp.com](mailto:information@aaccwp.com)

*The African American Chamber of Commerce of Western PA wishes each of our members a healthy and prosperous 2024: we're now the 7th largest Chamber in the 10 county region!*

We are excited about this New Year and what it will mean for our Members. Your Chamber remains committed to providing the programs and services that will assist in accessing the business opportunities that will make a difference in business in 2024!

**Another Successful Business Luncheon**  
Your Chamber's Annual Business Luncheon in December was a huge success; thanks to our Guest Speaker, Pennsylvania Governor, the Honorable Josh Shapiro, and to our lead sponsors Highmark Health, JP Morgan Chase, University of Pittsburgh, COMCAST Business, Housing Authority City of Pittsburgh and Pennsylvania American Water. We appreciate our many members and friends for a great event! . It was so good to see everyone and thank you to the Omni William Penn Hotel for their services.

**How To Do Business With PPG**  
Our virtual workshop, designed to introduce you to PPG's procedures for doing business was attended by 30 members. Each one had the opportunity to meet the procurement team and begin the process of building relationships with the decision makers.

**PowerBreakfast Meeting**  
**Friday, January 19th**  
**7:30 AM**  
**Rivers Club**  
**Guest Speaker**  
**Katherine Kelleman**  
Come and welcome our Associate Member and Chief Executive Officer of Pittsburgh Regional Transit (PRT). Katherine Kelleman will update us on activities at the largest transit agency in southwestern PA. You'll also learn how to engage with their procurement department.

**How The U.S. Small Business Administration Can Help Your Business**  
**Wednesday, January 24th**  
**11:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.**  
Join us for this virtual workshop with David Pinkosky, Business Opportunity Specialist with the SBA who will introduce Members to the resources offered by the SBA and how those resources may benefit your business. RSVP to: [information@aaccwp.com](mailto:information@aaccwp.com)

**The Surveys Are In!**  
Thank you for completing the recent survey which we are using to develop our 2024 programs that you said would be most useful. The surveys consisted of four topics, and below are the results that indicate which topics were most requested: **Information Technology** - AI, and Cybersecurity; **Legal Services** - Business Partnerships, and The Differences between Sole Proprietorship, Corporations, Nonprofits, LLC, LLP; **Finance** - How to Prepare and Analyze Financial Statements and Pay Scales and Benefits for My Employees; **Communications and Marketing** - Business Image and Branding, and Marketing In A Digital World. You will be receiving announcements on the programs.  
**Consider Sponsoring a Chamber Program in 2024**  
Members interested in

sponsoring a Chamber Business Institute program or series of programs can learn more about this opportunity to showcase your business. For more information call us at 412-392-0610 or email your Chamber office at: [information@aaccwp.com](mailto:information@aaccwp.com)

### **'Good News'**

Our 'Good News' Member this month is Dr. Quintin Bullock, President, CCAC. The school's new Center for Education, Innovation and Training (CEIT) is open for classes this month. The new 60,000-square-foot CEIT offers programs in high-demand and emerging fields including Cybersecurity Support and Software Development, Culinary programs and Skilled Trades programs. Learn more at: [www.ccac.edu/academics/center-for-education-innovation-and-training](http://www.ccac.edu/academics/center-for-education-innovation-and-training)

Your Chamber wants to share your 'Good News' with our members and sponsors. Email your 'Good News' to [information@aaccwp.com](mailto:information@aaccwp.com)

### **CHAMBER INQUIRIES**

Effective immediately, our new President Barāta Bey, will be responsible for programming, membership, and general inquiries for the Chamber. Direct your emails to: [barata@aaccwp.com](mailto:barata@aaccwp.com)

### **Members' News & Events**

**Now through April 15th  
Carnegie Science Center  
presents**

### **TITANIC: The Artifact Exhibition**

Embark on a captivating voyage back in time to the era of Titanic, where the stories of passengers and crew come to life through a curated collection of more than 154 artifacts. For more information and exhibit hours go to: [carnegiesciencecenter.org](http://carnegiesciencecenter.org)

**Kick Off 2024  
With A Visit to  
The Pop District**  
A new district for the

people of Pittsburgh! Multi-block public art initiative, youth-focused, creative economy workforce program, flagship live event & performance venue. Kick off the New Year with a visit to a transformation of Pittsburgh's eastern North Shore through the power of arts, creativity, and economic development — led by The Andy Warhol Museum. Learn all about it at: [thepopdistrict.org](http://thepopdistrict.org) and follow the Warhol: [@warholmuseum](http://@warholmuseum)

### **'Get In The Game' at the Heinz History Center Sports Museum Daily**

**10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Heinz History Center  
1212 Smallman St.  
Strip District**

The Western Pennsylvania Sports Museum tells the stories of Pittsburghers who became champions and champions who became Pittsburghers. Take a look at what's happening at the History Center. Go to: [heinzhistorycenter.org](http://heinzhistorycenter.org)

### **August Wilson African American Cultural Center Presents Free and Open Exhibits**

Gather the family and spend the afternoon enjoying The Writer's Landscape, the first-ever permanent exhibition dedicated to the life and works of Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright August Wilson. The exhibits are free and open to the public - registration is required. Learn about all the activities at the August Willson Center @ [awaacc.org](http://awaacc.org)

### **Only A Few Spots Left Entrepreneurial Fellows Class 2024 Enrollment**

The University of Pittsburgh Institute for Entrepreneurial Excellence EFC is advanced and continued business education to help you reach organizational goals. For information on the program and application process contact Rhonda Carson Leach at [rleach@innovation.pitt.edu](mailto:rleach@innovation.pitt.edu)

### **Get Better at Small Business**

**Entrepreneurs Forever** brings owners together to bond, learn, and get real about what it takes to build a thriving small business. Each meeting is facilitated by a successful small business owner. Online meetings are just 2 hours each month, and it's free to join! Register for a virtual Info-Session to learn more at [entrepreneursforever.org](http://entrepreneursforever.org)

### **CONGRATULATIONS**

Member Curtis Aiken is now serving on the Board of Trustees for the University of Pittsburgh. Newly elected Allegheny County Executive Sara Innamorato; Member Dr. Kathi Elliott, have been honored with the prestigious 2023 Inspire Change Changemaker Award by the Pittsburgh Steelers! Dr. Elliott is the driving force behind Gwen's Girls.

Pittsburgh Chapter of The Links, Inc. celebrates 75 years of service.

### **KUDOS**

Allegheny County, UPMC, UPMC Health Plan and Partner4Work are collaborating on a project that will pay internships for individuals going into certain jobs and health care.

### **FYI**

### **Unemployment High Note!**

The Pittsburgh area finished 2023 with record low unemployment while the number of jobs rose. The seasonally adjusted jobless rate in the seven-county Pittsburgh Metro area was unchanged in November at a record low 3.5% for the third consecutive month. The Pittsburgh area's unemployment rate was 1 percentage point below the November 2022 level of 4.5% according to state data.

### **Managing Your Employees' Benefits**

Member My Benefit Advisor will help you find your solution to managing employee benefits including voluntary offerings, Flexible Work Arrangements, Paid Parental Leave, On-Site or Subsidized

### **Did You Know**

Member Koppers Holdings Inc. has promoted its COO James A. Sullivan to the role of president of the Pittsburgh-based company with former president Leroy M. Ball remaining CEO.

### **County Wage Increase**

Newly elected Allegheny County Executive Sara Innamorato has announced changes to county employee wages; the minimum wage for full time county employees will increase to \$18/hour, and the minimum wage for part-time employees will increase to \$15/hour.

### **CAREER OPPORTUNITIES**

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is seeking State Police Cadets for Non-Civil Service Permanent Full-time positions. Learn more at: [www.patrooper.com](http://www.patrooper.com)

### **In The News**

### **The New Pittsburgh Courier**

- African American Chamber of Commerce announces new president Barāta Bey; Doris Carson Williams will remain CEO.

### **Pittsburgh Business Times**

- **SBA Sees Surge In Microloans** (the SBA's largest loan program); **Members Richard Witherspoon/Hill District Federal Credit Union and Geoffrey Walsh/J.P. Morgan Chase named among the Business Times "Twenty To Know In Banking"**; Member Kevin Walker/Duquesne Light featured in **"CEO sees bright future for region's energy"**.

### **Welcome New Members**

### **Regular Member**

**Louis Douglas Ransaw**  
Embroidery Vector Solutions

**Don't forget!  
Renew Your**

**Chamber Membership at:**  
[information@aaccwp.com!](mailto:information@aaccwp.com)

**Visit your Chamber at:**  
[www.aaccwp.com](http://www.aaccwp.com)

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[@aaccwp.com](https://www.facebook.com/aaccwp.com)

