

FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Dear Colleagues,

HAPPY NEW YEAR! 2001 has come to a close and the Chamber is embarking on its sixth year of service. It's hard not to wonder what this year will have in store for minority firms. In the wake of September 11th and the recession, it is important that minority firms stay focused and not panic. There are a number of resource agencies in Westchester and Rockland prepared to assist minority firms. Both counties Department of Planning and IDA offices have print and online resource guides designed to assist county firms.

This is a time to implement the philosophy of "Working Smarter - Not Harder". It's a time to make sure the infrastructure of your firm is secure. Business plans should be in place and strategic plans worked with precision. Again, it's a time to **WORK SMARTER**.

In addition to the work minority firms must do to maintain a business, M/WBE's must work to maintain the law that protects supplier diversity. In less than two years Bill 15A, the law which governs minority supplier diversity, will sunset in NY State. Minority firms must begin to write letters to the candidates running for Governor, Assembly and Senate members to let them know we want them to begin the process for the extension and expansion of the Bill.

As we look toward the new year, the Chamber has plans to expand the number of networking receptions, workshops and expositions, giving participants an opportunity to network with the corporate community and with each other.

We look forward to a fantastic year and invite you to join us by becoming a member.

Sincerely,

Robin L. Douglas

FIFTH ANNUAL DINNER

On Thursday, October 18, 2001 the Chamber hosted its 5th Annual Awards and Scholarship Dinner at the Greentree Country Club in New Rochelle, NY. This year, 300 guests were enthralled by author/international commentator, Tavis Smiley, who delivered the keynote address. News Anchor/Reporter, Ann Tripp, served as the Celebrity Mistress of Ceremony.

The 2001 Honorees were: Political Leader of the Year: Hon. H. Carl McCall, NYS Comptroller; Business Leader of the Year: Wittnauer International; Elected Officials of the Year: The Hon. Ernest McFadden, Westchester Elected Official of the Year and the Hon. George Darden, Rockland Elected Official of the Year; Businessperson of the Year: Saylor and Johnson, CPA, Westchester County Businessperson of the Year and Ms Rose Jackson Rockland County Businessperson of the Year.

The dinner was chaired by Underwriting Chair Robin Flowers of AT&T; Silver Co-chairs Robert Kaplan of Philip Morris International, Inc. and Herbierto Barbot Jr., Esq. of Aetna; Bronze Co-chairs Patti Jean Pitt of Bermuda Tourism and Charles Watkins of Wittnauer, Supporting Co-chairs Black Enterprise Magazine, T. Daniel Tearno of Heineken USA, Barry Stemlicht of Starwood Hotels, Ellen Tower of Citibank, Debra White of NY Power Authority, George Woody of Coca Cola and James Wright of AXA Advisors.

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For meeting and event information call: (914) 699-4749

UP AND COMING !!

2002 !!!

ANNUAL GOLF INVITATIONAL

On Monday, August 13, 2001, the Chamber and Title Sponsor AETna US Health Care hosted the Inaugural Golf Invitational at the Salem Golf Club in North Salem, NY. Eighty golfers participated in the all day networking opportunity for budding and experienced golfers.

NBC News Anchor Maurice DuBois served as host and Honorary Co-chair of the event along with retired NY Knick Herb Williams. Mr. Pete McDaniel, author of "Uneven Lies...The Historic Story of African Americans in Golf" (forward by Tiger Woods) and a number of individuals, who's lives were chronicled in the book, were on hand to sign copies of the book. Additionally, among the players were a number of county politicians and a contingency from Bermuda: the Hon. Nelson B.A. Bascome Jr., Minister of Health; the Hon. K.H. Randolph Horton, Minister Without a Portfolio and Dr. Ewart F. Brown, Minister of Transportation.

On August 7, 2001 the Chamber and AETna US Health Care presented Mayor Ernest D. Davis with 10 sets of youth golf clubs. The clubs are to be used by the city to assist in the Mayor's youth golf program. (The clubs were presented before the Golf Invitational so that the 30 children from the community, who also attended the Invitational, could break them in). "We are extremely grateful to the Chamber and AETna for providing the ten sets of golf clubs so that our children may learn how to play this exciting and challenging sport", said Mayor Davis. "With the ascension of Tiger Woods and other young golfers, this sport is continually in the limelight. Given the opportunity of learning how to play, I am confident that one day we will be seeing one of Mount Vernon's own on the pro circuit", concluded the Mayor.

"AETna is proud to serve as a title sponsor of the Chamber's Inaugural Golf Invitational," said Herb Barbot, Director of Emerging Markets for AETna's Northeast region. "The Chamber's commitment to the African American community has served to strengthen African American owned businesses in Westchester and Rockland Counties. We are delighted to partner with the Chamber and champion their mission to promote access and further opportunities for African American business owners".



(From Left to Right): **Herb Williams** (retired NY Knick); **James Haywood** (BoWood Negro League memorabilia); **Maurice DuBois** (NBC Anchor); and **Fran Charles** (NBC Sportscaster).

ANNUAL GOLF INVITATIONAL CONT..



(Left and Right): **Ministers from Bermuda**; (center): **Vito Pinto** (County Legislator);

AFRICAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WESTCHESTER & ROCKLAND COUNTIES INC.



Monthly
Breakfast Club



Thursday
March 27, 2002

Crowne Plaza Hotel
66 Hale Avenue
White Plains, NY

7:00am - 9:00am

This event will start on time and end on time.

The Breakfast Club gives business professionals an opportunity to network before 9:00am.

What a way to start the day !!

Note:

On September 10th, my mother (Mrs. Gussie Douglas) passed away. I would like to thank all of you who called, came by, sent cards or flowers. Your gestures of sympathy were a comfort to my family and me.

Thank You.

2002 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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JANUARY...

- * **Membership Reception** - Thursday, January 10th, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, White Plains, NY 6:00pm - 9:00pm

FEBRUARY...

- * **NYS Legislative Weekend and Reception**
Albany, NY - 2/14th - 18th
Reception: 2/16th at 5:00pm Reception co-host: Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce; Jamaica Business Development Center & AMENYJ
Sponsored by: Heineken USA and Casa Lapostolle Wines.

MARCH...

- * **Annual Women's History Month Luncheon - Speaker**, the Hon. Mary O. Donohue, Lieutenant Governor of NYS - Wednesday, March 27th - **Seminars:** 7:00am - 11:30am; **Reception:** 11:30am - 12:30pm; **Luncheon:** 12:30pm - 2:00pm.
- * **Breakfast Roundtable** - March 27th - Crowne Plaza Hotel, White Plains, NY - 7:00am - 9:am - Speakers TBD.
The information will be on the website.
- * **After Hours Reception** - March 21st - 5:00pm - 7:00pm at the Hudson River Museum, Yonkers, NY; for all members of The County Chamber of Commerce, Inc.; The African American Chamber of Commerce and The Hispanic Chamber of Commerce - Sponsored by: **Informaton Methods Inc.** and **USA Payroll**; Product Sponsor: **Heineken USA**
RSVP: by March 15th - FREE - (914) 948-0122

APRIL...

- * **Black Chips Casino Night** - Friday, April 19th at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in White Plains, NY 7:00pm - until
- * **Membership Reception** - Thursday, April 25th - Location TBD.
- * **'02 Business-to-Business Directory available.**
- * **Breakfast Roundtable** - Dates and Speakers TBD. - the information will be on the website.

MAY...

- * **Breakfast Roundtable** - Dates and Speakers TBD. - the information will be on the website.

JUNE...

- * **Juneteenth Celebration 2002** - June 17th thru June 23rd. Events to be announced.
- * **NY/NJ Minority Purchasing Council Procurement Development Conference** - Date TBD.
- * **Chipping '02** - Group golf lessons and networking reception - Location TBD and details available in 02/02.
- * **Breakfast Roundtable** - Dates and Speakers TBD. - the information will be on the website.

JULY...

- * **Chipping '02** - Location TBD.
- * **African Family Day** - in Mt. Vernon *[volunteers are needed for the booth]*.
- * **Membership Reception** - Thursday, July 25th - Location TBD.
- * **Breakfast Roundtable** - Dates and Speakers TBD. - the information will be on the website.

AUGUST...

- * **Chipping '02** - Location TBD.
- * **Community Festival** - Date TBA - Yonkers, NY *[volunteers are needed for the booth and to march in the parade]*.
- * **Golf Invitational** - Monday, August 12th, 2002 at the Salem Golf Club in North Salem, NY

SEPTEMBER...

- * **Congressional Black Caucus** - Washington, D.C. Sept. 11th thru 14th.
- * **MED Week 2002** - Washington, D.C.
- * **Membership Reception** - TBD
- * **Breakfast Roundtable** - Dates and Speakers TBD. - the information will be on the website.

OCTOBER...

- * **Chamber's 6th Annual Awards Dinner** - Thursday, October 17th
- * **Breakfast Roundtable** - Dates and Speakers TBD. - the information will be on the website.

NOVEMBER...

- * **Breakfast Roundtable** - Dates and Speakers TBD. - the information will be on the website.

DECEMBER...

- * **Holiday Toy Drive** - and networking reception with the Westchester Black Bar Assoc. - Date TBD.
 - * **Breakfast Roundtable** - Dates and Speakers TBD. - the information will be on the website.
- 2002 - Job Fair** - Date and Location TBD.
2002 - Trade Show - Details TBA.
2002 - MTA/PDP - TBD.

- * **THE ENTREPRENEUR** - will be published in January, March, May, July, September & November.
Additional information will be made available by mid February 2002
www.africanamericanchamberofcommercenys.org

If you have any questions about the Chamber (membership, upcoming events, and submitting articles) or for placing advertising, please contact:

THE ENTREPRENEUR
The AACCW, Inc.,

TEL: (914) 699-9050 FAX: (914) 699-6279

www.africanamericanchamberofcommercenys.org

AFRICAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

WESTCHESTER & ROCKLAND COUNTIES INC.

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IN THIS ISSUE... UP AND COMING 2002 !!!!

THE ENTREPRENEUR... Newsletter Advertising Contract March Issue of the Entrepreneur

Please insert our advertisement into the AACCW's Spring issue of the Entrepreneur.

Contract enclosed.

(All contributions are tax deductible to the extent of the law)

NAME: _____

COMPANY NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NO.: _____

FAX NO.: _____ E-MAIL: _____

Payment and camera-ready copy are due by **February 20, 2002**
(We will not be able to accommodate requests received after this date)

I/We hereby contribute \$ _____ for a business card page ad in the AACCW Inc's Newsletter.

Please make checks payable to: African American Chamber of Commerce of Westchester and Rockland Counties, Inc.) AACCW, INC.)

SAVE THE DATE !

The Executive Committee of the African American Chamber of Commerce of Westchester and Rockland Counties, Inc. invites you to attend an evening of high stakes networking at the annual



Friday, April 19, 2002

at the
CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL
White Plains, NY

Evening Hosts: Players from the NFL and the NBA (TBD)

Entertainment: TBD.

Cocktail reception 7:00pm

Gaming, Dinner and Deserts 8:00pm until

All attendees will receive paying chips valued at \$250.00

Open Bar

After Five Attire

Event Cost: \$85.00 p/p - 2002 Chamber members
\$95.00 p/p - non-Chamber members