

FROM THE PRESIDENT

THE
AUGUST
ENTREPRENEUR
OF WESTCHESTER AND ROCKLAND COUNTIES

Dear Colleagues,

On Sunday, November 10, 2002 the NY Times featured the article entitled "A New Law Places Curbs on Predatory Loans" (section 11- page 2). Strangely, predatory lending and assisted fraud is not uncommon in the minority community. Most people are not aware of how easy it is for a family member or stranger to transfer ownership of ones home.

Recently, I became aware of an elderly couple whose home ownership was unknowingly transferred from the couple to their son. The son and an agent of the title company signed the parent's names on a quick claim deed and a power of attorney, which gave the son authority over the parent's affairs.

I'm sure you would think upon discovery of the fraud and the admission from the son that the ordeal would clear up quickly. Well you're wrong. Strangely the laws are more in the favor of the thief and lenders than the senior citizen couple. The son was able to hire a lawyer in the county who is a sitting judge. The son's attorney tried to use his influence to have the charges dropped on the son. The bank wants the senior citizens to assign their half of the home over to them. They want to sell the home and give the couple what's left over after the sale and legal fees. The drama of this unwarranted ordeal goes from bad to worse.

What's mind boggling to me! very few political figures have tried to tackle the process or the laws surrounding predatory lending. It's easier to regulate who's dancing or smoking in a bar then to engage in protecting communities from predators. Senior citizens should be assured that society would not allow predators (family or friends) to feel its ok to pray on them because they are old and weak. From my observation of the lack of action on this issue, I guess the son is right when he stated.... " Who cares that I took the house... they'll be dead soon".

As I'm observing this couples ordeal, it dawned on me that a rotten child has not only victimized them but the lawyers, accountant, the title company and a host of others who the couple had to pay and trusted to protect their interest are allowed by law to assist in a fraud with no penalty; victimizing them over and over again.

If you think predatory lending is an issue that should be looked into, please write your local officials. Remember, if lucky we all will get old someday.

Sincerely,
Robin L. Douglas
President/CEO/Founder

SPRING MEETING

Mr. Ronald N. Langston, National Director of the US Department of Commerce's Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) made a historic visit to the Hudson Valley and served as the keynote speaker of the Chamber's Spring Meeting on Thursday, April 10, 2003. The 2003 Meeting was chaired by Westchester County Board of Legislator's Majority Leader & Chair of Minority Affairs the Hon. Clinton I. Young who presented the Director with a county proclamation.

The Spring Meeting was designed to give business professionals throughout the Hudson Valley an opportunity to network and learn of the numerous procurement opportunities available within the federal government and the corporate community. Mr. Heywood Davenport, MBDA Regional Director was in attendance and informed the attendees of how to become a vendor for the federal government.

SAVE THE DATE !!



MONDAY, AUGUST 11, 2003

**AT
THE RYE GOLF CLUB**

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

Schumer Supports Minority Business Aid

RYE — U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., told a black business group yesterday that he would set up a meeting between regional minority business organizations and the Lower Manhattan Development Corp. to clarify the awarding of World Trade Center reconstruction contracts to minority businesses.

Schumer also spoke in support of a Democratic alternative to President Bush's tax cut plan as a means of reviving the lagging economy. He met for about a half-hour with about 40 members of the African-American Chamber of Commerce of Westchester and Rockland at a luncheon at Consolidated Edison offices in Rye.

Chamber President and Chief Executive Officer Robin L. Douglas estimated about 150 local minority businesses would benefit from contracts for rebuilding the office complex that was destroyed in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

But the Lower Manhattan Development Corp., which oversees the development, has not announced how the share of construction contracts for minority businesses will be awarded, Douglas said. She added that she was concerned that local businesses would be excluded from bidding on the work if the contracts were "bundled" in a way that would make them competitive only for much larger companies.

Schumer said he shared her concern.

"Bundling hurts all small-business people," he said. "Since small-business is such a wellspring of growth in America and New York, we have to avoid that."

He described the economy as "squishy soft," yet he said he was optimistic about its long-term prospects. Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan has said businesses have used only about 25 percent of the productivity gains of the 1990s, Schumer said. Growth through 2010 will outpace that of the past decade as businesses exploit the remainder of that productivity, the senator said.

In the meantime, the country needs a policy that will pick up the slack. Schumer said he endorses a plan that would eliminate Social Security and Medicare taxes on the first \$20,000 of income over a one-year period.

The tax cut would have an immediate impact for both businesses and workers, who share Social Security and Medicare taxes, he said. It would not worsen the federal deficit and it would benefit a broader economic spectrum of taxpayers, he said. Schumer said he also supports a bill that would provide \$40 billion in aid to states and localities, arguing that income tax cuts won't help taxpayers if their local tax bills continue to climb.

By JERRY GLEESON, THE JOURNAL NEWS
(Original publication: May 10, 2003)



(Left to right) - Robin L. Douglas, Ernest McFadden, Sandy Miller and Senator Charles Schumer at the AACCCWR business luncheon at Con Edison in Rye, NY.

BUSINESS-TO-BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT DAY & WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH LUNCHEON

The Chamber hosted its fourth annual Women's History Month Luncheon and business development day seminars on Thursday, March 20, 2003. The program was designed to assist MBE's in their ability to take a hard look at current economic issues facing minority business professionals. Participating corporations and business development organizations were given crucial information to aid minority firms as they develop strategies to support their ability to "Keep It All Together In The Wake Of Disaster". The Fourth Annual Women's History Month Luncheon followed the seminars.

TV journalist and author Tony Brown delivered opening remarks. Concurrent seminars ran throughout the morning. Seminar speakers included: Helen Daniels from Empire State Development Corp.; Heyward B. Davenport, Regional Director of MBDA; Alvin B. Goode, Director of the Entrepreneurial Assistance; Linda Ireland, President of NY/NJ Minority Purchasing Council and Ann Janiak, Director of the Women's Enterprise Development Center. Corporate speakers include: Michael Clay, Director of the Dormitory Authority NYS; Patricia Mulqueen, Supplier Diversity Administrator for Con Edison, Ana Molinedo Vice President of Diversity for Starwood Hotels & Resort and Debra J. White, Supplier Diversity Program Administrator for the NY Power Authority. Event Sponsors: Black Enterprise Magazine, The Journal News, Citibank, The Dormitory Authority of NY, The Bank of NY and Verizon.

The 4th Annual Women's History Month Luncheon followed the business development day seminars and the B-2-B boutique & reception. Ladies and gentlemen who attended the B-2-B boutique & reception say, "It's the place to be if you understand how to shop till you drop". Vendors include: individuals who provide financial services, real estate, massage therapy, furs, make-up artists and gift baskets and much...much more. During lunch the Chamber saluted local community leaders like the Honorable Lois Bronz from Westchester and Mrs. Rosa Bennette from Rockland. Journalist/economist/ author Dr. Julianne Malveaux delivered the luncheon keynote address.

Each attendee was asked to donate a laundered women's item. The items were given to a local women's shelter for their Welfare-to-Work program.



April 10th Spring Dinner Meeting .Alan Innam, John Savage Esq., Robin Douglas, Hon. Ron Langston, Dr. Chuck Smith.



Women's History Month Keynote Speaker Dr. Julianne Malveaux

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

THE ENTREPRENEUR
The AACCCWR, Inc.,

TEL: (914) 699-9050 FAX: (914) 699-6279
www.africanamericanchamberofcommercenys.org

2003 CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Cordially Invites You To Become A Member

..JOIN THE CHAMBER !!

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ACTIVE EFFECTIVE REWARDING

ORGANIZATION PROVIDING BUSINESS SERVICES TO MBE'S

2003 CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

- JULY 22ND "HOW TO SUCCESSFULLY DO BUSINESS WITH THE GOVERNMENT"
CUNY Graduate Center, 365 5th Avenue, New York, NY
- AUGUST 11TH GOLF INVITATIONAL
Rye Golf Club, Rye, New York
- SEPTEMBER 15TH FALL JOB FAIR
Westchester Marriott, Tarrytown, New York
- OCTOBER 16RD ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP & AWARDS DINNER

100 Stevens Ave., Suite 202, Mt. Vernon, NY 10550



PROUDLY PRESENTS.....

"HOW TO SUCCESSFULLY DO BUSINESS WITH THE GOVERNMENT"

DID YOU KNOW....

The Federal Government is the largest buyer of goods and services in the United States? In 2002, the Federal Government spent over \$235 billion for various commodities and services with more than \$50 Billion going to small businesses. Here's your chance to learn how your business can successfully compete and close government contracts!

TUESDAY, JULY 22, 2003
CUNY GRADUATE CENTER
 365 5TH AVE., NEW YORK, NY
 8:30am - 12:30pm
 8:30am - 9:00am
 (Registration & continental breakfast)

Cost: \$50.00 in advance (by Friday, July 18, 2003) \$75.00 at the door

SAVE THE DATE !



BUSINESS-TO-BUSINESS EXPO
" STRATEGIES FOR GROWTH IN A GLOBAL ECONOMY "
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2003

BREAKFAST SPEAKER:
SENATOR HILLARY RODHAM-CLINTON
AT: HILTON TARRYTOWN HOTEL

SAVE THE DATE !

THE SEVENTH ANNUAL
*Awards & Scholarship
 Dinner*

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16TH At HILTON TARRYTOWN

JULY

- **BUSINESS SEMINAR** - Tuesday, 7/22ND
CUNY Graduate Center, 365 5th Ave., New York, NY
8:30am - 12:30pm

AUGUST

- **GOLF INVITATIONAL** - Monday, 8/11
Rye Golf Club, Rye, New York

SEPTEMBER

- **FALL JOB FAIR** - Monday, 9/15TH
Westchester Marriott, Tarrytown, NY - 9am - 4pm
- **CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS** - 9/24-27
Washington, D.C.
- **NATIONAL MED WEEK** - Washington, D.C.
9/28th -10/01st

OCTOBER

- **CHAMBER'S 7TH ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER**
Thursday, 10/16TH
- **NMSDC CONFERENCE** - Chicago, Ill. Oct. 26th - 29th
(212) 944-2430

NOVEMBER

- **B-2-B SEMINAR: STRATEGIES FOR GROWTH IN A GLOBAL ECONOMY**
Guest Speaker: **Senator Hillary Rodham-Clinton**
Monday, Nov. 10TH , Hilton Tarrytown Hotel

DECEMBER

- **HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE AND NETWORKING RECEPTION**
with the Westchester Black Bar Assoc. - Date TBD
- **2003 MTA HUDSON VALLEY PREP -**
Course for Entrepreneurs - Fall Session TBD

September 11 Fund Small Business Loans

Do you have an existing business or startup in the Hudson Valley?

Has your business been negatively affected by the events of September 11 and related economic downturn?

The Empire State Development Corporation is funding the Westchester Enterprise Fund & Women's Enterprise Development Center to provide small loans and technical assistance to businesses affected directly or indirectly by the events of September 11, 2001.

Minority & Women owned business enterprises are encouraged to apply.

Application Deadline: June 15, 2003

Westchester Enterprise Fund
14 Saw Mill River Road, Suite 3

Phone: 914-592-3244
 Fax: 914-592-2549
 Email: tlu@bestweb.net

AFRICAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

WESTCHESTER & ROCKLAND COUNTIES INC.

100 STEVENS AVENUE * SUITE 202
MOUNT VERNON, NY 10550
www.africanamericanchamberofcommercenys.org

IN THIS ISSUE... **SAVE THE DATES AND MORE !!!!**

THE ENTREPRENEUR...

Newsletter Advertising Contract
January Issue of the Entrepreneur

Please insert our advertisement into the AACWR's Winter issue of the Entrepreneur.

(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 **August 20, 2003**

(We will not be able to accommodate requests received after this date)

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

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

Mail to: African American Chamber of Commerce of Westchester & Rockland Counties, Inc. (AACWR, Inc.) * 100 Stevens Avenue Suite 202 * Mount Vernon, NY 10550



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