



AFRICAN AMERICAN
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
WESTCHESTER & ROCKLAND COUNTIES INC.



ANNUAL REPORT 2007 - 2008





Mission Statement

The African American Chamber of Commerce of Westchester and Rockland Counties, Inc. (Chamber or AACCW/R) was established June 28, 1996 as an independent not-for-profit agency to aid, counsel and protect the interests of African American businesses. Our mission is to preserve competitive enterprise and to maintain and strengthen the overall economy of Westchester and Rockland Counties.

Robin L. Douglas, President/CEO/Founder

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JULY 2007**July 28 – August 18, 2007****AFRICAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND THE MTA CONDUCT WORKSHOPS FOR DISADVANTAGED, MINORITY, OR WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES (PREP)**

African American Chamber of Commerce of Westchester and Rockland Counties and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) are working together to present workshops for disadvantaged, minority, or women-owned businesses beginning in July 28, 2007 thru August 18, 2007. The four-day, 32-hour program has been successfully launched in other areas of the state to help business owners compete successfully for contracts with the MTA and other government agencies. Historically, 76% of participants are awarded contracts.

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"We are excited about bringing this opportunity to local businesses," said Robin Douglas of the African American Chamber of Commerce. "There are millions of dollars worth of contracts out there subject to competitive bidding, and these workshops help people find the keys to success in winning those contracts," she said. The MTA and other government agencies purchase a variety of services ranging from computers to landscaping, and printing to uniforms.

The program's corporate and community sponsors include: The MTA and the African American Chamber of Commerce of Westchester and Rockland Counties, Inc.

AUGUST 2007**SEPTEMBER 2007 September 2007 – June 2008****MONTHLY BREAKFAST ROUNDTABLE**

The African American Chamber of Commerce of Westchester and Rockland Counties, Inc. (Chamber) will host its monthly Breakfast Roundtable beginning Sept 2008. During the months of July and August the meetings are not held resume in September.

The Breakfast Roundtable is designed to provide attendees with an opportunity to do valuable networking.

Chamber members are invited to participate as speakers. The Breakfast Roundtable gives members an opportunity to present their services to the attendees.

The Breakfast Roundtable will take place at the Chamber office located at 100 Stevens Avenue, Suite 202 in Mount Vernon, NY. Registration will begin at 8:00am. The monthly

Roundtable is free to 2008 Chamber members at a cost of \$25.00 per person in advance; and \$35.00 at the door for non-members.

The Breakfast Roundtable meeting begins at 8:30am sharp with networking and a continental breakfast, followed by an invited speaker. Information about the speaker is made available on the chamber's website at www.aaccnys.org.

The Breakfast Roundtable is just one of the many examples of the Chambers' commitment and dedication to promoting and enhancing the development of the Westchester business community.

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

AFRICAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HOST ANNUAL GOLF INVITATIONAL AT THE DORAL ARROWWOOD RESORT

On Tuesday, September 25, 2007 the *African American Chamber of Commerce* hosted its **Annual Golf Invitational (GI)** at the **Doral Arrowwood Resort** in Rye Brook, NY.

The Chamber's GI is an all day networking opportunity for budding and experienced golfers. Non-golfers were invited to participate and was able to use the state of the art gym, swim in the luxurious pool, play bid whist, play tennis or have a spa treatment.

The Chamber's **Golf Invitational** is designed to give new exposure and networking opportunities to members of the Chamber, local businesses and corporate partners in a relaxed and entertaining atmosphere.

NY State Assemblyman James Gary Pretlow served as host and Honorary Chair of the event.

The 2007 outing was sponsored by Entergy, Washington Mutual Bank, Bermuda Tourism and African American Golfer Digest

Prizes for the 2007 invitational included: A Hole-in-One prize and a sports memorabilia silent auction.

Invitational attendees will received: Refreshments served on the course, Bermuda Tourism gift bag, Golf Invitational fedora, a welcome lunch, club house games – bid whist, etc., 19th hole reception and cigars, dinner and awards, a silent auction, a one year paid subscription to African American Golfers Digest and live Jazz.

The '07 GI's celebrity guests included: CBS News Anchor **Maurice DuBois** and retired Basketball player **Rick Burton**. Visit our website at www.aaccnys.org to keep up with GI highlights and celebrity attendees.

September 24, 2007

CONGRESSMAN JOSÉ E. SERRANO HOSTED SMALL BUSINESS TAX FORUM

Congressman José E. Serrano in association with the Internal Revenue Service, U.S. Department of Labor and community based organizations invited members of the business community to a free **Small Business Tax Forum** for Small Business Owners, Employers, and Not-for-Profits. The event took place Monday, September 24, 2007, 8:00

AM – 11:30 AM at Hostos Community College, 120 E. 149th Street (at Walton Avenue), Room 202, Bronx, New York 10451.

Topics for the seminar included:

Stay out of trouble ... learn about these topics and more ...

- Employment tax returns
- Filing individual taxes
- Getting caught up
- Installment payment plans
- Getting help from the Local Taxpayer Advocate
- Importance of ID numbers: ITINs and SSNs
- IRS restrictions on sharing tax information with other agencies
- Labor law protections and requirements

PARTICIPATING CITY AND GOVERNMENT-AFFILIATED AGENCIES INCLUDED:

Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation (BOEDC) • NYC Business Solutions
Bronx Office • Small Business Development Center

OCTOBER 2007

October 3, 2007

**ANNUAL AFRICAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESENTS
HOW TO BECOME A CERTIFIED M/WBE SEMINAR**

Individuals from the office of New York City Department of Small Business Services were on hand to assist small and minority firms understand the application.

The FREE morning seminar was designed to assist firms with the STEP-BY-STEP process of becoming a certified Minority – and Women-Owned Business Enterprise (M/WBE).

Member of the M/WBE community were asked to join us...Ask any and all questions...Meet key personnel ...and get certified so that their company can do business with NYC and NYS government agencies.

October 18, 2007

**BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS HONORED AT 11th ANNUAL AFRICAN
AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AWARDS DINNER**

The African American Chamber of Commerce of Westchester and Rockland Counties host edits 11th Annual Awards Dinner Thursday, October 18, 2007 in White Plains, NY. The evening began at 6:00 pm with a cocktail reception followed by the awards and dinner at 7:00 pm. Local political and business leaders in six categories were honored for their contributions to the African American small business community.

“We are thrilled to honor such exemplary community and business leaders in Westchester and Rockland County who continue to serve as role models not only in the minority community but the business community as a whole” said Robin Douglass, President of the Chamber.

The 2007 dinner honorees included: Mr. Lebohang Morake aka Lebo M ,Producer of the Lion King is this year’s Business Leader of the Year and was scheduled to deliver the 11th Annual Awards Dinner Keynote; the Hon. Kenneth W. Jenkins, Westchester County Legislator received the Westchester Political Leader of the Year award; the Hon. Noramie F.

Jasmin, Deputy Mayor, Village of Spring Valley received the Rockland Political Leader of the Year and Mr. Leonardo L. Fabio, President/CEO of LLF Construction received the Westchester Business Leader of the Year. *Jacqueline J. Warner, Esq.* author, *The Mini Legal Toolbox for Entrepreneurs and Small Business Owners* served as mistress of ceremony.

2007 honorary co-chairs included: Lt. Governor David A. Paterson, County Legislator Lois Bronz, Westchester DA Janet DiFiore, Empire State Development Corporation Down State Chair Patrick J. Foye, County Legislator Ken Jenkins, Dir. Division of M/WBE Michael H. Jones-Bey, Assemblyman George Latimer, Senator Vincent Leibell, Assemblywoman Amy Paulin, County Legislator George Oros, Chair of the Westchester County Board of Legislators William J. Ryan, Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Minority Leader Senator Malcolm Smith and County Legislator Clinton I. Young Jr. .

The 2007 dinner was sponsored by: Golden Sponsor, Black Enterprise Magazine; Silver Sponsor Commerce Bank; Supporting Sponsors Starwoods Hotels, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Macys, Con Edison, PepsiCo, NY Life and Verizon.

October 24, 2007

**REVOLVING LOAN FUND PROGRAM
FOR MINORITY OR WOMEN OWNED BUSINESSES**

A seminar was hosted for qualified business owners doing business in Westchester and Rockland Counties, or prospective business owners interested in setting up in Westchester and Rockland Counties, were asked to call the African American Chamber of Commerce of Westchester and Rockland Counties (914-699-4749) to request a loan application. There is no processing fee. In order to apply, start-ups will need to submit a complete business plan, including a description of the business, market analysis and projections, marketing plan and uses for the proposed loan. Existing businesses will need two years of financials, along with a summary business plan detailing their current operations and need for the loan.

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Loan fund applications are available on line at the Chamber's website at ww.aaccnys.org.

NOVEMBER 2007

DECEMBER 2007

JANUARY 2008

FEBRUARY 2008 February 16, 2008

**BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS PARTNER TO SALUTE THE MEMBERS OF THE NYS
BLACK AND PUERTO RICAN LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS**

The Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc. & the African American Chamber of Commerce Of Westchester and Rockland Counties, Inc. along with Community Partners: 100 Black Men, Inc., the Jamaica Business Resource Center, the NYS Chapter of the National Assoc. of Minority Contractors, the Association of Minority Enterprises of NY, Inc. and the Harlem Business Alliance invited the attendees of the

Caucus to its 10th annual business networking reception and saluted to the members of the NYS Black and Puerto Rican Legislative Caucus, for their tireless pursuit of fairness for minority business persons and minority business development.

The event took place at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Albany, NY Saturday, February 16, 2008 from 5:00pm until 7:00pm. SPONSORED BY: HEINEKEN USA, NYC SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY

MARCH 2008

March 25- 26, 2008

EMPIRE STATE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION PARTNER'S WITH THE CHAMBER AT THE 9TH ANNUAL M/WBE BUSINESS-TO-BUSINESS EXCHANGE.

The African American Chamber of Commerce of Westchester and Rockland Counties and presenting partner, Empire State Development Corporation's division of Minority Business, invited small/minority and women owned businesses to join them at the 9th Annual Business-to-Business Exchange...**"TURNING PARTNERSHIPS INTO PROFIT"**. The Business-to-Business Exchange held March 25–26, 2008, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in White Plains, New York, was designed to deliver up-to-date information on minority business and direct links between state agencies, corporate America and businesses from this sector. The Exchange brings businesses, state agencies and the corporate community together, creating the perfect environment to foster MBE-to-state agencies, MBE-to-corporate or MBE-to-MBE relationships.

The 2008 Exchange was coupled with the **9th Annual Women's History Month Luncheon** and our third **Town Hall Meeting**. The two-day Exchange began with the opening reception and Town Hall Meeting, where significant leaders in the world of minority business will discuss next steps for minorities and women. Day two of the Exchange featured a continental breakfast and informative speaker followed by a morning of seminars, a business-to-business boutique reception and luncheon, and an afternoon at the Interactive Information Center (in the Expo Hall), concluding with a networking reception.

APRIL 2008

April 12 – May 10, 2008

AFRICAN AMERICAN CHAMBER AND THE MTA IN WORKSHOPS FOR DISADVANTAGED/MINORITY/WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES

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JUNE 2008

June 19- 21 2008

AFRICAN AMERICAN CHAMBER HOST THE 9TH ANNUAL OFFICIAL JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

The Annual Juneteenth Celebration for Westchester County, sponsored by The African American Chamber of Commerce of Westchester and Rockland Counties, Inc. (Chamber), took place June 19 through June 22, 2008. The theme was From Sharecroppers to Share Holders (a quote by Dorothy Pittman-Hughes). The first event was a Business to Business Reception honoring The Ten Influential Blacks at Crystal Bay Restaurant in Peekskill on Thursday, June 19th beginning at 6:00pm.

On Friday, June 20th there was Jazz with the Stars, hosted by Duke Jones, owner of Baseline, site of the event, a new Jazz Club in Mount Vernon. Hank "Perk" Perkins, owner of Perks restaurant in Harlem was co-host. Music was provided by Duke Jones and Friends.

The crowning event of the Celebration was the Annual Celebrity Salute to the Players of the Negro Baseball League Games, featuring teams made up of local celebrities and anyone else who wanted to come out and have a good time playing ball. This event took place, Saturday, June 21st at Brush Park in Mount Vernon. Everyone was invited to sign on as players/sponsors/spectators. A portion of the proceeds from the games was used to fund a scholarship for the Mount Vernon Little League Program, directed by Ms. Lucille Jenkins.

The weekend culminated with a worship service at Trinity Church, 335 So. Fourth Avenue in Mount Vernon where Rev. Dr. Joel Nafume is the pastor.

The Juneteenth Celebration commemorates the date – June 19, 1865 – when the slaves in Galveston, TX first received the word of the Emancipation Proclamation abolishing slavery which was originally issued by Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863. Today, Juneteenth is a celebration of freedom which emphasizes education and achievement. Resolutions have been unanimously passed in the United States House of Representative and in the Senate encouraging the observance of Juneteenth with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs across the country, and asking that President Bush issue a Juneteenth Independence Day Proclamation.

Other major sponsors are Colgate Palmolive Co., WBLS Radio, The Westchester Business Journal and Avatar Foundation, newly created to promote the arts in Westchester County.

**June 19, 2008
NEW YORK POWER AUTHORITY
18TH ANNUAL PURCHASING EXCHANGE**

Thursday, June 19, 2008 the NEW YORK POWER AUTHORITY hosted its 18th Annual Purchasing Exchange at 123 Main Street – Jaguar Center, White Plains, NY 10601 from 12:00 Noon – 4:00 p.m.

A goal of the Authority's Supplier Diversity Program is to encourage an effective collaboration between qualified minority and women owned suppliers and large buying organizations. The Purchasing Exchange is an exciting and effective means which has produced significant contacts and contracts.

For 18 years the Purchasing Exchange has provided an excellent environment for suppliers to gather and exchange information and procurement opportunities with each other and pursue contract opportunities with purchasing representatives from NYPA, other utilities, Trade Associations, State Agencies and Authorities, and from corporate entities. Participants include such notables as Hertz, MTA, Colgate Palmolive, JP Morgan/Chase, KeySpan, Con Edison, LIPA, HHC, Bovis Lend Lease, Jacob Javits, IBM, PEPSI, NJ Transit, DOT, Dormitory and Port Authorities. We expect them and many, many more!

The exchange has proven to be a powerful networking event and all are encouraged to attend. There is no fee associated with this event.

**June 29, 2008
THE AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE CELEBRATION
AT THE KENSICO DAM PLAZA**

The African American Heritage Celebration Coalition, Inc. hosted its annual Heritage Day Celebration on Sunday, June 29, 2008 at the Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla, N.Y. As usual, the event was well attended. Keeping with the spirit of KWANZAA, which was developed by Dr. Maulana Karenga, the '08 theme was the seventh principal:

“CELEBRATING OUR IMANI (FAITH)”