

"THE TIME IS NOW!!! Black chambers are important because they give communities more opportunities to unite and develop not only their personal economic growth, but also their self-worth. Moreover, people of color, particularly African Americans, have been born without luxuries such as old money and legacies to endow their children. Black chambers encourage individuals to think outside of the box. That includes thinking about subsequent generations instead of themselves. Black chambers are educating others that the future is "not just for me," it's for my family and your family. "Cast down your bucket where you are;"  
Strengthen the roots around you and begin to grow and build economically as high as you can, but never forget that you must consider those around you during your production of wealth. Strength comes in numbers. Wake up and smell the coffee!"  
Thomas Alford  
Founder  
Christine's Coffee

"In less than two years the Wisconsin Black Chamber of Commerce has been recognized at the state and local levels for the work it has been doing. Promoting a system that is designed to unite the black business community at every level. The Wisconsin Black Chamber of Commerce now has business contacts in the ten (10) largest cities in the State of Wisconsin. In the past year the Wisconsin Black Chamber of Commerce has grown to 42 members, it is the fastest growing black chamber in the state."  
Ruben Hopkins  
President/CEO  
Wisconsin Black Chamber of Commerce, Inc.

"The Georgia Black Chamber's major accomplishment is knowing that our mission and vision has been met. When members express how the GBCC have opened closed doors and provided resources and connections that positively impact their businesses bottom line, we have done our job to help African American businesses".  
Theresa Walker  
Executive Director  
Georgia Black Chamber of Commerce

"Our fierce economic and public policy advocacy has fostered new partnerships with the

four new aldermen that serve our community. These new partnerships will help lead our community in driving economic development, business and housing ownership along with wealth creation. This is a new day in the community&quot;.

Arness Dancy

President/ CEO

Englewood Black Chamber of Commerce, Inc.

&quot;Special Thanks to The National Black Chamber and supporting Black Chambers across the

country for a successful conference in February 2007: We Are Better Together. We are currently working with two other Black Chambers in New Jersey to establish a statewide organization.&quot;

John Harmon

President/ CEO

Metro Trenton African American Chamber of Commerce, Inc.

&quot;In our formative months, the Utah Black Chamber of Commerce has established essential

partnerships with various local agencies that will expand programs for small business growth.

We have supported an initiative to form a consortium of five ethnic chambers and two

Economic/business development enterprises to be known as United 4 Economic

Development,

which the executive director of the Utah Black Chamber was elected chairperson on March 2007. In addition, this unified group campaigned to appoint the executive director of the Utah Black Chamber to be a board member on the State of Utah, Governor's Office of Economic Development Board; effective May 2007.&quot;

Stanley Ellington

President/ CEO

Utah Black Chamber of Commerce

&quot;The Suncoast African American Chamber of Commerce has recently partnered with the City

of Tampa and their Adopt a Park program and is now responsible for the beautification of that park.&quot;

Carlton Lewis

President/ CEO

Suncoast African American Chamber of Commerce, Tampa

"The Florida Black Chamber chartered five new local chambers, with five additional in development. Year end goal is twenty National Black Chamber affiliates, currently have 15 operating. Established the Florida State Black Tourism Center, including ten local tourism centers, and helped establish the Florida African American Heritage Preservation Network that has received over \$500,000 to preserve Black Museum Artifacts in the State of Florida. Working to bring to fruition three Essential Housing Programs for devastated Gulf Coast."  
Gene Franklin  
Executive Director,  
Florida Black Chamber of Commerce.

"In the face of Proposition 209 banning affirmative action in California, the San Francisco African American Chamber of Commerce (SFAACC) has been able to establish "set-a-side" for Black businesses with City agencies, University of California, SF and others. Also the Chamber initiated California Governor Schwarzenegger's Executive Order for a goal of 25% small business and 10% minority business on behalf of the National Black Chamber.

Because the San Francisco Black community has the highest predatory loan rate in the US, SFAACC filed with the Federal Reserve Board to block the merger of two major banks doing business in San Francisco. SFAACC's biggest event to date this year has been the Juneteenth Luncheon to celebrate "African American Independence Day," when the last group of slaves were freed in Texas on June 19, 1865."

Frederick Jordan, PE, President  
San Francisco African American Chamber of Commerce

"I've been with the Baton Rouge Black Chamber of Commerce since November 27, 2006, and there have been several accomplishments for us. Membership has increased over 75%, Mayor Kip Holden's Office appropriated \$85,000 for us to continue our economic development efforts, and we played a vital role in bringing National Conferences to our city, (i.e.), National Conference of Black Mayors and the National African American School Board Summit. We are moving forward to position our members for upcoming emerging opportunities, but in the meantime we are sticking with our core values, which are to educate, mentor, unite and empower."  
Kathy Fletcher  
Executive Director  
Baton Rouge Black Chamber of Commerce

"We are working to develop a long term strategy for the MBCC. Over the last year we have had mild progress: However, we did manage to complete our Memorandum of Understanding to build an Entrepreneur Institute with Tougaloo College, a private HBCU; they will also provide office space free for the Chamber. Secondly, we championed the cause for Jackson Public School System to adopt buy Jackson first pledge. Since City of Jackson is over 65% black, and the school board just approved a \$150mm school bond issue for new schools and renovations this will put a lot of money back into our community. We have met with the Governor's people and Toyota representatives to help ensure minorities are a part of the new Toyota plant being built in Northeast Mississippi. In November we will have our first annual Economic Symposium in conjunction with the MS Expo."

J. R. Jones  
Executive Director  
Mississippi Black Chamber of Commerce.

"As an African American community we have exceptional buying power in today's marketplace. In saying this, African Americans rarely capitalize on that fact. We need chambers of commerce, throughout the country, to help black business owners profit from the ever growing American economy. We cannot hesitate or waiver in our efforts to blossom as individuals and as a community. We MUST ACT NOW in order to secure a bright tomorrow for our children and our children's children. The tools are at your disposal, and with the help of African American Chambers of Commerce we can all follow the right path to economic success."

Jon Edwards  
Special Assistant to the Founders  
National Black Chamber of Commerce

"It is essential that we, as African Americans, have a Black Chamber of Commerce because our rights and civil liberties have been infringed upon for far too long. A middle ground is imperative for networking and communication in order to organize a successful, promising future. Black Chambers of Commerce spread nationally across this seemingly infinite capitalistic society could only strengthen a case for security and and substantial economic growth."

Harry C. Alford  
Sports Clothing Importer

"The Kansas State Black Chamber sponsored the KPRS 103.3 Soul Food tour to

increase traffic

at black establishments like Mama's House and Charlie D's. KBCC also sponsored the Kansas Conference on Poverty advocating an increase of \$2.65 to the current minimum per hour wage and increasing the number of black businesses that employ staff."

Frank Clay Jr.

Chairman

Kansas State Black Chamber.

"The County President tried to steamroll a tax increase on the users of cell phones. Our chamber alerted the County Council that this would be an onerous tax on every individual using a cell phone (man, woman and child). The tax increase was unanimously defeated. In fact, the County Commission will not approve any tax increase or Tax Incremental Funding, TIF, without consulting first with the Black Chamber. Just another reason for a Black Chamber of Commerce."

Morris "Mike" Little

Chairman Emeritus

Prince George's County Black Chamber of Commerce.