



HAITIAN
AMERICAN
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE
OF FLORIDA

CHAMBER NEWSLETTER

2017 JANUARY | FEBRUARY | MARCH

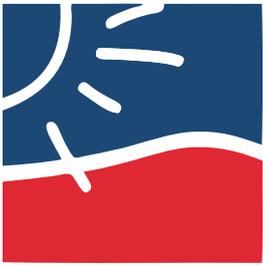


INSIDE

HAITIAN AMERICAN
BUSINESS SUMMIT

2ND ANNUAL
YOPRO PRESIDENTIAL GALA

Building Strong Community Partnerships



**HAITIAN
AMERICAN
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE
OF FLORIDA**

The Haitian-American Chamber of Commerce Of Florida, (HACCOF) was established as a catalyst for change.

Our Mission: To serve as a resource for its members, partners and businesses, dedicated to serving their needs and the economic development of the broader Haitian-American community.

HACCOF is the leading organization to bring businesses together and acts as an advocate for Haitian and Haitian-American enterprises. We are the premier voice for the business community to the public, the media and government entities.

HACCOF mobilizes concerned entrepreneurs across Florida, the U.S. and Haiti when important legislation and regulations are planned or debated that may potentially affect the broader Haitian business community.

HACCOF promotes partnerships and alliances within communities throughout Florida and Haiti to build healthy business climates, foster investment opportunities, create employment growth, and encourage public and private sector collaboration.

Continued on Page 3

IN THIS ISSUE

Mission & Objectives

Message from Board Chairman

Welcome New Members

January Meet & Greet: Business After Hours

Member Renewals

Article: Limitations of a B1, Temporary Business Visa

February Meet & Greet

Article: Entrepreneurs Need a Business - First Banking Mentality

Annual Member's Meeting & YoPro Mixer

Become a Member!

Thank you Sponsors

Chamber Information:

1125 NE125th Street, Suite 208

North Miami, FL33161

Phone: (305) 733 -9066 E-mail: info@haccof.com

Website: www.haccof.com

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A Message from our Board Chairman

Dear Chamber Members & Friends,

The Haitian American Chamber of Commerce of Florida (HACCOF) and the Office of Miami-Dade Commissioner Jean Monestime will host the Haitian American Business Summit (HABS) on June 16-17, 2017 in Miami, FL. This summit will provide an opportunity to evaluate and assess the current level of diaspora involvement in Haiti and explore new methods of interaction. HABS-Miami 2017 will serve as a platform for Haitian American organizations throughout the United States, professional associations along with public & private sectors of Haiti to exchange ideas and establish a working plan toward greater cooperation. HABS- Miami 2017 will provide the arena for the Haitian American community to connect, engage and explore opportunities to invest in Haiti.

HABS- Miami 2017 will focus on 3 areas with aims to: CONNECT, ENGAGE and INVEST. Through the CONNECT panel sessions, discussions will focus on the current state of the millennial generation's interaction and diaspora tourism. Haitian Americans are the largest group of visitors traveling to Haiti whose tourism potential has yet to be capitalized on. The ultimate goal is to craft a strategic marketing effort calling for Haitian Americans to "Come Back to Haiti" or as it's said in creole, "An Nou Tounen Lakay."

The ENGAGE panel sessions will explore opportunities for Haitian American professionals to engage in Haiti's public & private sectors through professional exchange programs and to engage in a dialogue between municipal elected officials and the diaspora. This session will explore the ways in which Diaspora engagement can be more strategic in order to address specific needs and priorities of the Haiti private or public sector.

In the INVEST session topics will include "How to Invest in Haiti," "Business Opportunities" and the "Diaspora Investment Club." Speakers will be from the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Commerce and Industries, Centre de Facilitation & d' Investissement (CFI), Association des Industries d' Haiti (ADIH), the Chambers of Commerce and the Central Bank of Haiti. The summit will conclude with a general session focusing on opportunities for the diaspora to INVEST in the economic development of Haiti.

HABS-Miami 2017 is a unique opportunity for local, national and international companies to showcase products and services through our designated promotional spaces. Moreover, HABS-Miami 2017 will feature keynote speakers such as United States Elected Officials.

To conclude, on Saturday, June 17th during the closing ceremony, HACCOF will honor the second annual Top 20 under 40 Haitian American Young Professionals (YOPRO).

Please join us on June 16-17, 2017, where your presence and interaction will surely enhance our CONNECT – ENGAGE – INVEST objectives.

Sincerely,



Jeff Lozama
Board Chairman

Continued from Page 1

Chamber Objectives...

Our Objectives:

- ⊙ Promoting business & economic development interest in our members.
- ⊙ Promoting and facilitating business, professional and social relations and cooperation among our members.
- ⊙ Forming alliances with members, business and civic leaders, other chambers, associations, agencies, government officials and foreign dignitaries to accomplish its goals.
- ⊙ Promoting educational seminars and conferences for the improvement of our members and the betterment of our community.
- ⊙ Hosting educational, local and international trade forums.
- ⊙ Organize and facilitate networking programs.
- ⊙ Engaging in dialogue, cooperation and understanding within Haitian communities.

In keeping with our objectives, HACCOF serves as the advocate for the Haitian-American community as well as a resource for consumers and businesses dedicated to serving the needs of our members and the economic development of our community.

Congratulations



Fanm Ayisyen Nan Miyami hosted its Annual Fundraising Gala on Saturday, March 11, 2017. We proudly congratulate our Board Treasurer, Paola Pierre, proud recipient of The Marie Claire Heureuse Leadership Award.



Congratulations
to our Board Treasurer Paola Pierre on being honored by The City of North Miami on National Women's History Month

Welcome Our New Chamber Members

New Members: January – March 2017

Corporate

- ★ **Mariott Port-au-Prince Hotel**
- ★ **Tseng Consulting Group, Inc**
- ★ **Haitian American Leadership Organization**

Standard

- ★ **Alfonso Brooks, AFRIKIN**
- ★ **Magda S. Saltzman, Unique Internet Realty, Inc.**
- ★ **Fredrick Goldfeder, Sterigo Group, Inc.**
- ★ **Gladson Sainfort, Colonial Life and Accident Insurance**
- ★ **Lixon Nelson, Alliance Community & Employment Services, Inc.**
- ★ **Patrice Benjamin, CP Tech Group, LLC**

Professional

- ★ **Jeffy Mondesir**
- ★ **Ketia Pierre**
- ★ **Shirley Plantin**
- ★ **Volma Volcy**



Lody Jean, Esq.
ATTORNEY AT LAW

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777 Brickell Avenue
Suite 640
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January Meet & Greet

Date: : January 19, 2017

Sponsors: Greater North Miami Chamber of Commerce and Haitian American Chamber of Commerce of Florida, Hosted by FIU | Kovens Conference Center



Cont. January Meet & Greet: Business After Hours



BUSINESS SUMMIT MIAMI FL 2017



Banque de la République d'Haïti

Office of Commissioner
& Jean Monestime



CONNECT / ENGAGE / INVEST
FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
KOVENS CONFERENCE CENTER
FRIDAY JUNE 16TH

SPONSORS



SUPPORTED BY



Renewals

January - March 2017

Standard

- ★ Andre Pierre, Law Office of Andre Pierre, P.A.
- ★ Lydia Fils Charles, Law Offices of Lydia Charles, LLC

Professional

- ★ Patricia Elizee, Esq.
- ★ Herve Bony
- ★ Laurie Stemm
- ★ Matthew Smoorenburg
- ★ Elberg M. Gelin

STAY IN TOUCH!



www.twitter.com/haccofl



www.facebook.com/haccofl

Member Opportunity



Do you have a special offer to announce? Upcoming event you'd like us to promote for you?

Advertising in the Chamber Newsletter is an easy way to **PROMOTE** your business or upcoming events. For advertising opportunities contact us at: info@haccof.com.

Corporate & Preferred Members: Contact us for **FREE** advertising opportunities available to you through your membership

Limitations of a B1, Temporary Business Visa.

By Patricia Elizee, Esq.

B1 visas are commonly issued to foreign business people. Unlike a B2, tourist visa, a B1 visa is issued to allow foreigners to complete business-related tasks that do not required actually working in the U.S.

Factors to be used in determining entitlement to Temporary Visitor Classification are as follows: whether the applicants: (a) Have a residence in a foreign country, which they do not intend to abandon; (b) Intend to enter the United States for a period of specifically limited duration; and (c) Seek admission for the sole purpose of engaging in legitimate activities relating to business or pleasure.

Aliens should be classified B-1 visitors for business, if otherwise eligible, if they are traveling to the United States to: (1) Engage in commercial transactions, which do not involve gainful employment in the United States (such as a merchant who takes orders for goods manufactured abroad); (2) Negotiate contracts; (3) Consult with business associates; (4) Litigate; (5) Participate in scientific, educational, professional, or business conventions, conferences, or seminars; or (6) Undertake independent research.

An alien who is a member of the board of directors of a U.S. corporation seeking to enter the United States to attend a meeting of the board or to perform other functions resulting from membership on the board.

A nonimmigrant in B-1 status may not receive a salary from a U.S. source for services rendered in connection with his or her activities in the United States. A U.S. source, however, may provide the alien with an expense allowance or reimbursement for expenses incidental to the temporary stay. Inci-

dental expenses may not exceed the actual reasonable expenses the alien will incur in traveling to and from the event, together with living expenses the alien reasonably can be expected to incur for meals, lodging, laundry, and other basic services.

The length of time that is issued for the visa depends on the reciprocity agreement between the United States and the foreigner's home country. For example, a B1 visa issued to an Indian citizen may be valid for up to 120 months, while an B1 visa issued to a Haitian citizen may be valid for up to 60 months.

If you are interested in obtaining a B1 visa, please take into consideration that you may also apply for a B2 visa to enter the US for tourism purposes. The consulate will issue a B1/B2 visa which will allow you to travel for both business and tourism purposes.

Patricia Elizee is the managing partner of Elizee Law Firm, P.A. She may be reached at 1110 Brickell Avenue, Suite 315, Miami, Florida 33131 or (305)371-8846.

February Meet & Greet

Date: February 16, 2017, Held at Cafe Creme

Sponsors: The City of North Miami Featuring: MDC, Small Business Education Program and new author, Kara Vaval Ferrier, " 28,000 Days...Make Yours Count!"



Cont. February Meet & Greet





The Haitian-American
Chamber of Commerce
of Florida will be recognizing the

Top 20 Under 40
Young Haitian -American Professionals in South Florida

20

UNDER

40

Young Professionals

Apply or nominate a young
Haitian-American professional
under 40 who has excelled in
their profession, community
oriented and a proven leader.

Apply On or Before

April 7, 2017

Visit: WWW.HACCOF.COM/YOPRO

Date

Saturday

June 17, 2017

Venue

JW Marriott Miami

1109 Brickell Ave, Miami, FL 33131

RSVP to join us

WWW.HACCOF.COM/YOPRO



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Nous parlons Français. Nous parle Kreyol.

Entrepreneurs Need a Business-First Banking Mentality

Owning a small business offers undeniable perks – flexible hours, the ability to control your own professional destiny, even the option to work in your pajamas from home. But many business owners underestimate important aspects of operating their own company – especially when it comes to finances.

Whether you're funding a startup or sustaining an existing enterprise, money management is a critical aspect of successfully running your home-based business. However, many first-time entrepreneurs make the mistake of treating their small business finances similarly to their personal accounts. In the long run, though, this can be a costly mistake.

Checking accounts are the most popular financial products for small businesses, but a recent TD Bank survey found that 57 percent of small business owners are using the same account for business and personal use.

An important first step is to understand the distinctions between a business checking account and a personal checking account, and why the former is a safer bet for your business. Business checking accounts allow small business owners to:

1. Efficiently manage cash flow. Small business owners have better cash flow management and more advanced payment capabilities when they choose business banking over personal banking for business.

2. Build your business brand. Having a business checking, business debit card or business credit card with your company name on it can help establish an identity around your

business. Having a credit card in your company's name also can help build your business' credit profile, which is useful if you envision expanding in the future. In addition, customers might feel more comfortable writing a check to a business instead of a personal account – it feels more professional.

3. Simplify your accounting and bookkeeping. Having a personal checking account and using it for your small business means you aren't separating your business and personal finances. And that can make accounting, bookkeeping and even tax time more complicated.

In many cases, business accounts also afford a different level of protection and security than personal checking accounts.

Choosing the right bank can also help you better achieve financial success. A bank that offers diverse account options, from business checking and lines of credit to loans, savings and credit options, can prepare you to tackle any number of financial scenarios that arise as you build your business.

With proper financial guidance and a strong banking partner, small business owners can confidently focus on bringing their entrepreneurial visions to life.

For additional information to help assess your small business banking needs, visit

https://www.tdbank.com/net/small_business.aspx.

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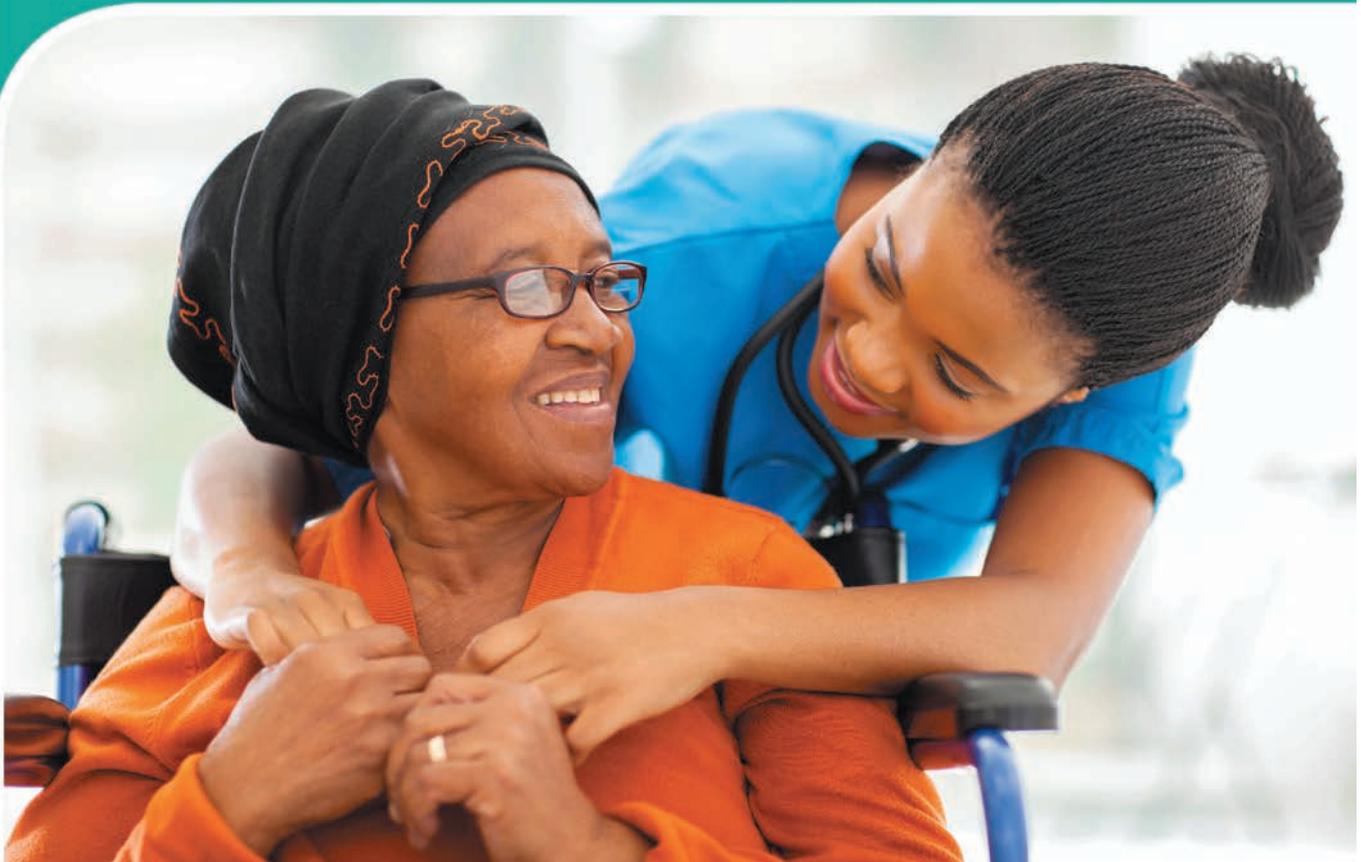
Source: TD Bank



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Annual Member's Meeting & YoPro Mixer

Date: March 16, 2017

Sponsors: One Click Industries and Dr. George S. Tseng, Ph.D, PE / Tseng Consulting Group, Inc.



Cont. Annual Member's Meeting & YoPro Mixer





BECOME

A

CHAMBER

MEMBER

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Corporate Membership - \$750.00

- Business card size advertisement on the Chamber's Website
- Link from the Chamber's website to the corporation's website
- A Technical Assistance visit per year (per request)
- Free listing in the Chamber's annual publication
- Advertisement in the Chamber's Newsletter
- Listing in Chamber's Directory
- Membership certificate
- Chamber-to-Chamber discount programs
- Invitation to the chamber's Functions
- Quarterly newsletter

Preferred Membership - \$450.00

- A free referral /visit to a specialized firm (i.e. CPA/Attorney / IT, HR - per request or availability)
- Free listing in chamber's annual publication
- Advertisement in Chamber's newsletter
- Listing in Chamber's directory
- Membership Certificate
- Chamber-to- Chamber Discount Program.
- Invitation to the Chamber's functions.
- Quarterly newsletter

Standard Membership - \$200.00

- A one-on-one consultation a year (per request)
- Listing in Chamber's Directory
- Membership Certificate
- Chamber-to-Chamber Discount Program
- Invitation to the chamber's functions
- Quarterly newsletter

Professional Individual Membership - \$100.00

(only for individuals)

- ! Listing in Chamber's Directory
- ! Membership Certificate
- ! Invitation to the Chamber's functions

Building Strong Community Partnerships

1125 NE 125th Street, Suite 208, North Miami, FL 33161

Phone: 305-733-9066

info@haccof.com / www.haccof.com



Application Form

(Please print clearly)

Your annual membership dues allow you to participate in all Chamber activities. Your company will receive a membership certificate as well as any benefits available.

Annual Membership Schedule

- Professional \$100.00 Individual Standard \$200.00 Preferred \$450.00 Corporate \$750.00

How to compute your membership investment

Check above for Investment Amount: \$ _____

Add first-year, one-time administrative fee: \$50.00

Total amount due with application: \$ _____

Please complete this form and return to HACCOF with membership investment

Company Name			
President/Owner			
Contact Person		Title	
Telephone		Cell Phone	
Company Address		State / Zip	
City			
Telephone		Fax	
E-mail		Website	
Type of Business		Year Established	

Business References (Business Name, Contact Person, Telephone and E-mail) Referred By: _____

1. _____

2. _____

I hereby make application for membership in the Haitian American Chamber of Commerce of Florida. When accepted, I will abide by the Chamber's by-laws, support the Chamber's objectives and pay the prescribed annual membership dues until such time as I may desire to terminate by formal written notification. All Applications are subject to Board approval.

Signature _____ **Date** _____

Membership Investment Amount: \$ _____ Payment: Check # _____

Credit Card: Visa: _____ Mastercard: _____ Amex: _____

Name on Card: _____ Credit Card # _____

Exp. Date _____ Security Code _____

Your cancelled check is your receipt. Please complete and sign the application form and attach your check made payable to: Haitian American Chamber of Commerce of Florida. **Tax ID 20-2373322**

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A special ***THANK YOU*** to our sponsors and supporters

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Interested in sponsoring a **Networking Event?**

Gain exposure by introducing yourself & your business to our friends & members at one of our monthly **“Meet & Greet”** events.



Contact us at:
info@haccof.com

For more information on this and other great chamber events, partnerships and Collaborations.

Haitian-American Chamber of Commerce of Florida

1125 NE 125th Street, Suite 208
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Chamber Member

Phone: (305) 733-9066 - E-mail: info@haccof.com - Website: www.haccof.com