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**2015 AABE 38th Annual National Conference**

**ENERGY: Empowering a Generation Today, Tomorrow & Beyond**

**AGENDA**

**Tuesday, May 05, 2015**

**11:00am – 4:00 pm Conference Registration**

**9:00 am – 10:30 am Exhibits Open**

**9:00 am – 4:00 pm Youth Energy Academy**

The Youth Energy Academy is a one day interactive workshop designed to introduce high school students to dynamic careers throughout the energy field. Through hands-on experiments and engaging discussion sessions students will learn about leadership development, craft & technical fields, and STEM related careers to increase their awareness of the energy industry.

**12:00 pm – 1:30 pm Break**

**1:00pm – 5:00pm Entrepreneurs Session**

**1:00pm – 4:00pm Chapter Presidents Meeting (Symphony V & VI)**

**4:30 pm – 6:00 pm First Time attendees Sessions**

**Float**

**9:00pm- 1:00am Hospitality Suite – The Float Room**

**Wednesday, May 06, 2015**

**8:00 am – 5:00 pm Conference Registration**

**9:00 am – 11:00 am Board of Directors Meeting (Mecklenburg Ballroom)**

**1:00 pm – 1:45 pm Opening Session (Symphony Ballroom)**

Welcome & Remarks

*Paula Jackson, President & CEO, American Association of Blacks in Energy*

*The Honorable Daniel Clodfelter, Mayor, City of Charlotte*

*Hilda Pinnix-Ragland, Vice President Corporate Public Affairs, Duke Energy*

*Eric Arnold*

*LaQuisha Parks, Manager Business Excellence, Duke Energy*

**State of Energy in Black America**

*George Williams, President & CEO, PMI Energy Solutions and Chairman of the Board, American Association of Blacks in Energy*

**1:45 pm – 2:15 pm Key Note Address Energy: Empowering a Generation (Symphony Ballroom)**

**2:15 pm – 2:30 pm Break**

**2:30 pm – 3:15 pm Forecast 2030 Clean Energy, Sustainability and Diversity (Symphony Ballroom)**

What are the future sources of energy in the next several decades/years? Will fracking and LNG become even more dominant players? How does nuclear factor in? How diverse will the energy generation mix need to be in the coming years – including renewables? How will new environmental regulation affect future generation mix? How will the industry find the talent and skills necessary to overcome the unprecedented change that is facing the energy industry?

*Speaker: Stephen A. Byrne, Executive Vice President, SCANA Corporation & Chief Operating Officer and President, Generation and Transmission, South Carolina Electric & Gas Company*

**3:15 pm – 4:15 pm All Energy is Local**

Hear from local legislators and policy makers about how they implement energy policy to better serve their communities. **(Symphony Ballroom)**

**4:15 pm- 4:30 pm Break**

**4:30 pm – 5:15 pm Today, Tomorrow, Beyond: A Discussion on Distributed Generation (Symphony Ballroom)**

The advance of distributed generation technologies in both the residential and commercial markets is expected to promote change and challenges. This panel discussion will focus on the trends associated with distributed generation, the challenges and the impacts to business and communities.

**6:00 pm – 10:00 pm Chairman’s Reception (BB&T Ball Park)**

**9:00pm-1:00am Hospitality Suite – The Float Room**

**Thursday, May 07, 2015**

**8:00 am – 5:00pm Registration**

**8:00 am – 9:00 am Networking Breakfast**

**Carolina Ballroom C**

**9:00 am – 10:15am Exhibits Open**

**9:00 am – 10:15 am Legislative Crossfire (Symphony Ballroom)**

**10:15am – 10:30am Break**

**10:30am – 11:45am “Women in Power” (Symphony Ballroom)**

**Dynamics are shifting throughout the energy industry. Trailblazing females have been chosen to lead positions that traditionally have only seated males. Please join us for the Women in Power session, to hear from an ethnically diverse panel of female executives who are lighting the way through the Energy Industry.**

*Panelists:*

*Melody Birmingham-Byrd, Senior Vice President of Midwest Delivery Operations, Duke Energy*

*Leslie Sibert, Vice President of Distribution, Georgia Power*

*Crystal Ashby – BP EVP Government and Public Affairs, BP America (invited)*

*Beth Reese, President, Nicor Gas (Invited)*

*Moderator: Julia Johnson, President, NetCommunications LLC*

**12:00pm – 1:30pm Scholarship Luncheon (Carolina A, C, D, & E)**

*Speaker: Calvin Williams, Chief of the Planning and Real Estate Branch in the Facilities Engineering and Real Property Division, NASA*

**Concurrent Sessions I**

**1:45pm – 3:00pm “Balancing the Workforce - Recruitment and Retention Addressing Generational Differences” (Symphony VII)**

New technologies and newer equipment will require highly-experienced, highly-skilled technical professionals to run them. The never-ending search for such a specific group of people continues to be an issue. How are we cultivating the skillsets today to meet the demands of the future? Will new technologies be enough to attract and retain Generation X, Y and Millennial minorities?

**Panelists:**

*Randy Cobb – Atlanta Gas & Light – exact title to be provided*

*Steve Hightower, President & CEO, Hightowers Petroleum*

*John Amos - Director of Siemens Onshore Wind Power Americas Customer Order Engineering*

**Moderator:**

*LaTonya King, Director, Diversity & Inclusion, Duke Energy*

**1:45pm – 3:00 pm Strategic Transactions in Energy (Symphony V & VI)**

**3:00pm-3:15pm Break**

**3:15 pm – 5:00 pm**

**Concurrent Sessions II**

**3:15pm – 5:00pm Entrepreneur Connection Workshop (Symphony V&VI)**

**3:15pm – 5:00pm “Beyond the Meter, Non-Regulated Service Offerings” (Symphony VII)**

How can the non-regulated utility industry increase revenue given the dramatic changes to the energy landscape? Utility companies are offering products/services to customers that extend “beyond the meter”.

**Panelists:**

*Felicia Rhue-Howard, Vice President, Gas Operations, South Carolina Electric & Gas*

*Ron Via, Independent Consultant*

**9:00pm-1:00am Hospitality Suite – The Float Room**

**Friday, May 08, 2015**

**8:30am – 9:30am C-Suite Conversation Panel (Symphony Ballroom)**

What keeps our leadership up at night? – The future of policy, people and company. Stock pricing, technology, LNG, energy resources, etc.

**9:30am – 10:30am A SIT DOWN WITH THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS (Symphony Ballroom)**

**The perspectives and experiences of African Americans serving on the Boards of the top companies in the country.**

**10:30am -10:45am Break**

**10:45am-12:00pm Concurrent Session III**

**10:45am – 12:00pm Rising Stars in Energy Under 40: “Leading People, Processes, and Technology” (Symphony V & VI)**

As Baby Boomers exit the workplace who will be the ones to carry the torch? Come hear from a diverse panel of young professionals who represent our next generation of energy leaders. We have often heard that success happens when preparation meets opportunity. Find out from them what it takes to succeed in the energy sector, and what are the lessons that they have learned so far. Partake in this engaging dialogue as we hear from some of the industries rising stars.

**Panelists:**

*Kevin Wren, Distributor Customer Relations-Tennessee Valley Authority*

*Keiana McMichael, Program Manager for Field Mobility & Technology-Consumers Energy*

*John Cornelius Jr., Area Manager-Southern Company*

*Gilbert Campbell, Volt Energy*

*The Honorable Sherina Maye- Commissioner, Illinois Commerce Commission (invited)*

**10:45am – 12:00pm LNG and Crude Oil: To export or not export? (Symphony VII)**

**With US production of liquefied natural gas at its highest levels, is now the time to talk exports?**

**12:00pm – 12:30pm AABE Talks (Symphony Ballroom)**

*Dr. Christopher Emdin*

*Associate Professor, Department of Mathematics, Science and Technology, Teachers College, Columbia University (invited)*

**12:30pm-1:45pm Entrepreneur Luncheon (Carolina Ballroom)**

“Entrepreneurial Leadership”

**1:45pm – 2:00pm BREAK**

**2:00pm-3:00pm AABE General Body Meeting (Symphony Ballroom)**

**7:00 pm – 11:00 pm James T. Stewart Awards Gala**

**11:00 pm –2:00 am Hospitality Suite – The Float Room**