

**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF  
BLACKS IN ENERGY**

**BIENNIAL REPORT 2009/2010**



**Energy Knowledge for  
Our Community,  
Our People and Our  
Tomorrow.**



AAPE<sup>®</sup>



## ABOUT US

The American Association of Blacks in Energy (AABE<sup>®</sup>) is a national association of energy professionals founded and dedicated to ensure the input of African Americans and other minorities into the discussions and developments of energy policies, regulations, R&D technologies, and environmental issues.

Our membership of energy professionals represents every sector of the industry. We utilize the expertise of our members to analyze energy policy and serve as a resource for community leaders, consumers, policymakers and regulators on the impact that these policies have on underrepresented communities. We are committed to building a cadre of young African American leaders for the energy industry. Through their scholarship programs, AABE chapters support students who plan to major in science, technology, engineering or mathematics disciplines and intend to pursue careers in the energy industry. Our chapters also provide their members with professional development opportunities at chapter meetings as well as at regional and national conferences.

*The founding members from left to right are: Rufus McKinney, Thomas Hart, Linda Taliaferro, Clarke Watson and Robert Bates.*

## HISTORY

The American Association of Blacks in Energy was formed in 1977 partly in response to our nation's energy crisis. Shortly after the 1976 presidential election, the new administration established a special task force to develop recommendations to address the difficulties resulting from the 1973 oil embargo and to protect the nation from any future such issue. However, absent from the task force were persons of color who could represent the interests of African Americans and other minorities. A number of Blacks, many of whom had extensive experience in energy issues and understood the strong correlation between energy resource development and economic growth, were very concerned about this lack of representation. This group of African American professionals formed the American Association of Blacks in Energy to ensure that minorities who had knowledge and understanding of U.S. energy issues could bring their thinking to bear on the development of energy and environmental policy. Today, this association still holds to that same mission, to ensure that African Americans and other minorities have a voice in ongoing energy policy debates. With more than forty chapters around the country, the organization hosts events to educate people about energy issues and the impact that energy policies has on our communities.

we're looking for your  
kind of energy

innovative  
progressive  
energy  
performance-driven  
environmental

we're changing  
the face of energy



## WHAT WE DO



The AABE offers policy decision makers on national, state, and local levels the information they need to better understand the impacts of energy policy on minority and low income communities. We participate in the dialogue and provide input to the process. By not only expounding our views, but understanding the concerns and perspectives of all the vested parties at the table, we build coalitions with other organizations and share our expertise with them. Through these coalitions, we increase our visibility, recognition, and impact on the public policy process.

The AABE serves not just African Americans but all economically challenged people. We work to educate our constituents on energy policy, how it is evolving, and how it affects them in their daily lives at work and at home.

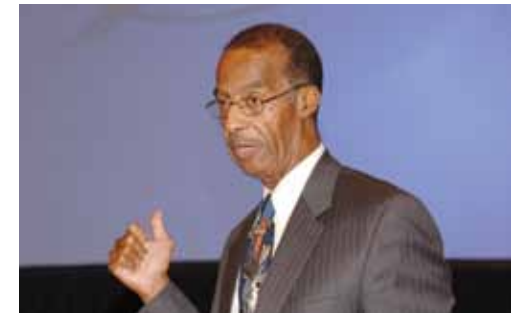
“Addressing the need for a national energy policy remains at the top of both our environmental and business agendas. We are here to see to it that those policies consider the needs of all of our citizens. Because the administration clearly appreciates the importance of energy policy to vulnerable communities, the AABE has had a number of opportunities to work directly with our federal leaders, and we are happy to have those opportunities.”

*Frank M. Stewart  
President and CEO, AABE*



The AABE reaches out to national, state, and local governmental agencies involved in energy policy and regulation. As a reliable and trusted source of information and expertise, we ensure that agencies are sensitive to the impact new rules and regulations have on low income people.

Through our national conferences and local chapter activities, we provide professional development opportunities to our members, which benefit them personally, the companies and organizations they work for, and the energy industry as a whole. Additionally, the AABE is a significant supporter of new technologies and of the African American entrepreneurs who are capitalizing on those opportunities. We strive to ensure that the economic opportunities new technologies create are made available to the people we represent.





**CHAIRMAN'S LETTER TO OUR MEMBERS:**

Over the last two years, our association has been a part of arguably one of the most significant periods in our history. As the first African American was elected President of the most powerful country in the world, the impact of energy and energy policy was elevated to unprecedented importance. When President Barack Obama gave his first State of the Union address he outlined for the entire nation why energy and a strong energy policy was so important. Energy is at the backbone of our country's economic growth. And it is under that backdrop that the AABE would have an opportunity to provide input into energy policies that is fair and equitable for all Americans.



The past two years has been an important landmark in AABE history. We have achieved one of our most important goals of having a place at the table of policy discussion. The association has had unprecedented access to our political leaders, providing input on the impact that energy policy has on communities of color, low and fixed income consumers. Through the formation of partnerships with industry organizations and traditional civil rights and business organizations such as the National Urban League and the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, we are forging new alliances and speaking with a collective voice. We are asked to speak around the country to legislative leaders about issues of energy equity and to keep them informed of the potential impacts of their decisions.

As our access and recognition as a national resource continues to grow, so does the importance of our mission. We continue to expand our presence nationally and globally and our organization remains relevant and focused on what is most important. Even though tough economic times have made the disparities between the "haves and have nots" even greater, the AABE continues to fight for equity when it comes to energy legislation and energy programs. We know that to have the greatest significance we must provide leadership, ideas and solutions that lead to the creation of jobs and wealth in our communities.

I thank you for your support and commitment to this association. Our work continues because there is still so much left to be done.

Warmest regards,

*Daniel F. Packer*  
Chairman

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Letter to our Members:

For the past thirty-four (34) years, our association has worked to get a “seat at the table.” Our founders would be proud to see that we are finally on the guest list and that every day there is more opportunity for us to educate our leaders about the impacts that energy policy has on communities of color around this nation. At the same time we recognize that success doesn’t happen without partnership. Our organization continues to collaborate with industry and other organizations to find common ground.



We have seen significant growth in the national organization from our members to our outreach. Our chapter count is now at 43, with new chapters established in Northern Ohio and Virginia in the last year. At the same time, our membership has grown not just in numbers, but also in industry representation with more than 2000 members. Our chapters continue to reach out to their communities educating them on the impacts of public policy and providing information about energy efficiency and programs that will help to reduce their energy costs.

The last two years have been historic and full of promise. These years have seen the organization establish Memoranda of Understanding with Bennett College for Women, North Carolina A&T State University and Morehouse College. The establishment of these partnerships with the AABE Institute allows us to continue to have a positive impact on people of color around the globe. We have participated in the U.S. South Africa Power Partnership Program, bringing together our entrepreneurs with government and business leadership in South Africa so that we can work with them as they continue to expand their energy infrastructure. Through the work of the Institute we will continue to do our part to ensure that those in the developing world can share in the opportunities offered by newer energy technologies that will lead to significant economic growth.

It has been an exciting time at AABE and we know the work has just begun. Through your support, we are meeting the missions and goals that our founders developed 34 years ago. We are grateful that you recognize the importance and significance of this work.

Warmest regards,

*Frank M. Stewart*  
*President and CEO*

**WHERE WE'VE BEEN**

2009 to 2010 has been an exciting and eventful period for our association. We've launched a number of exciting initiatives, established and maintained strategic relationships with various institutions and agencies and, in general, strengthened the reputation of the AABE organization while moving our agenda forward.

The AABE has worked closely with the program and policy leaders at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Department of Energy (DOE) and Department of Interior (DOI). We worked diligently to continue to offer our analyses of key energy issues to members of the House and Senate. In every case, the messages were the same: that energy policy should be sensitive to the impact of energy costs on those who could least afford to pay them; that federal assistance should include financial assistance and home energy efficiency support to help low income families; and job creation in the energy sector should be an important national goal.

**“AABE established some new partnerships, improved the conversation about the impact of energy policies in our communities, and enlivened our membership to recognize that there are a lot of issues of importance affecting our communities and that AABE has a vital voice in those discussions.”**



*David K. Owens  
Executive Vice President of Business Operations  
Edison Electric Institute*

This past year we hosted an Energy and Climate Change Summit which brought together the leaders of organizations from the African American community, the Hispanic American community and leaders from other civil society organizations to discuss energy and environmental issues and how we can work together so that our nation's most needy families are not disproportionately impacted by those policies and that they receive the benefits of lower energy bills and job growth in our communities.



We expanded our vision to encompass energy and environmental concerns of less affluent nations around the world. We have initiated and participated in discussions with energy leaders from a number of African countries as they seek to secure the advantages of newer energy and environmental technologies for their populations.





ALC 07 Congressional  
Black Caucus  
Foundation, Inc.

37th



**WHERE WE'RE GOING**



The immediate future for the AABE promises new opportunities and new responsibilities greater than at any other time in our history. We have a federal administration that is both willing to allow us to participate in the policy making process and receptive to our perspective. The AABE is focused on the task of working closely with federal agencies while, simultaneously, helping our membership understand the implication of public policy developments related to energy, the environment, technological advancement, and economic development.

The AABE chapters will continue to be focused on the professional development of our members, which means understanding the industry in the broadest terms. The better educated our members are, the better they are prepared to help their organizations adapt to policy and technological changes and move in the right direction at the right time. That's the leadership the AABE members bring with them to their jobs every day.

**“The future of the AABE is right now. It's in our hands.”**

*Hilda Pinnix-Ragland*

*Vice President, Corporate Public Affairs, Progress Energy*



The AABE believes that technological change stimulates economic development and creates jobs. We have a vital interest in supporting the evolution of these technologies and the young entrepreneurs who are trying to capitalize on them. At the same time, we will continue to educate our communities about these new technologies and help our constituents use them to lower energy consumption and cost while protecting the environment.

The AABE realizes that energy and the environment are global, not just domestic issues. We are continuing the dialogue already established with a number of African nations, helping them assimilate new technologies and gain a better understanding of the impact of energy policy on the well being of their citizens.



CHAPTERS OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF  
BLACKS IN ENERGY



The AABE currently has over 40 chapters across the country. The training and expertise of their members and the positions they hold in the energy industry uniquely qualify them to serve their local communities in a variety of ways.

**Community Outreach**

Each chapter conducts a tailored outreach program to inform community members about key energy issues, advise them on means to manage their energy bills and get from them those concerns that should be put before state, regional and national decision makers. Some communicate energy policies and programs to help people manage their energy consumption and reduce their monthly bills. Some serve their communities more broadly, such as ensuring that everyone is counted in the census. Many have created innovative collaborations with schools to help students at all levels to not only succeed but to seriously consider energy as a career choice.



For example, the South Carolina Chapter of AABE (SCAABE) mentors students at several elementary, middle and high schools throughout the state. At Burton Park Elementary School chapter members work with students on their social skills, act as math tutors and are lunch buddies. Understanding that “it takes a village,” the chapter was also actively involved in the SC Cares Mentoring Movement. In 2010 the SCAABE was recognized by WIS-TV in Columbia, South Carolina, for the chapter’s participation in its Awareness program.

The New York Metropolitan Area Chapter, in partnership with Polytechnic Institute of New York University, Con Edison, and National Grid, offers the Summer Energy Academy for middle school students. The six-week program introduces students to careers in the energy industry. In 2010, academy participants formed teams to research clean energy technologies, develop projects for selected cities, determine the beneficial effects of their plans and create plans to communicate their ideas.

**Youth Development**

The AABE Scholarship Program continues to be a hallmark of the association’s commitment to promote education and encourage students to study science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) at the



Each October, AABE chapters celebrate Black Energy Awareness Month by hosting interactive learning activities, where local students can broaden their knowledge about the energy industry, new technologies, and the many varied career opportunities available within the energy field.

collegiate level. Each year the national organization and its chapters provides hundreds of thousands of dollars to more than 100 well deserving students around the country. For the years 2009 and 2010, the AABE organization presented more than \$300,000 in scholarships to more than 250 students.

### **Professional Development**

Professional development is another important part of each chapter's annual program. Our members look to the AABE to keep them up to date on many pressing issues. Our chapters host monthly meetings where they bring in industry experts. The national headquarters hosts webinars as well as the national conference to ensure our members get to hear from the leading thinkers on the most important issues.

Chapter meetings are an opportunity for members to learn from industry experts and to network. Our members get the opportunity to broaden their knowledge beyond their day to day professional activities but gain a better understanding about how these issues impact their companies and their communities. Most chapters tailor their annual program to the needs of their state or region and attempt to capitalize on specific opportunities related to the AABE mission.

In 2009 and 2010, the AABE webinars covered such topics as the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act; House Bill 2454: The American Clean Energy and Security Act and Smart Grid.

The services provided by chapter organizations of the AABE are critical to our mission of reaching out and helping our local communities understand energy policies, manage energy consumption, and develop the next generation of energy professionals.





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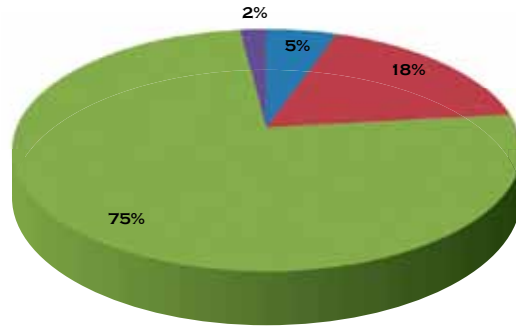
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**2009 INCOME**

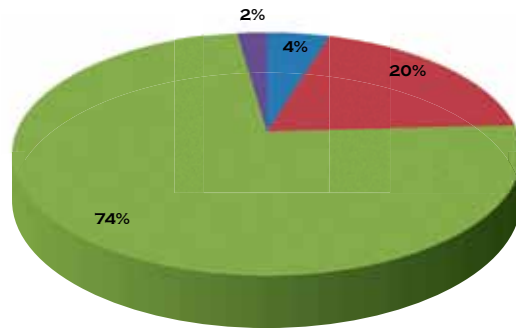
- Contributions
- Membership Fees
- Conference Revenue
- Other Income



**\$1,089,410**

**2010 INCOME**

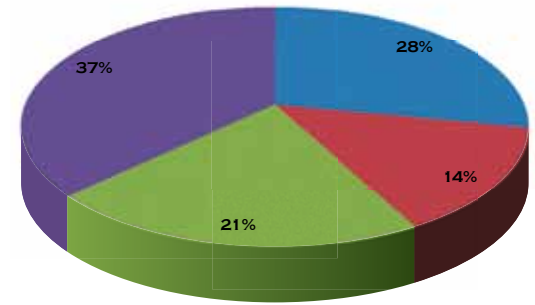
- Contributions
- Membership Fees
- Conference Revenue
- Other Income



**\$1,001,947**

**2009 EXPENSES**

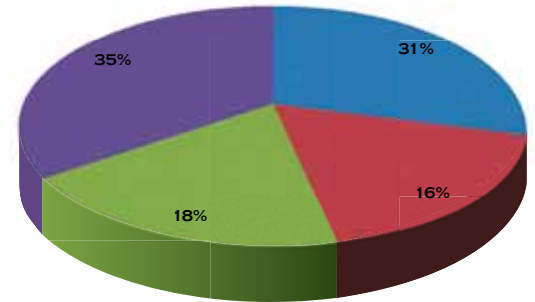
- Conferences
- Programs
- Administration
- Member Services



**\$1,048,015**

**2010 EXPENSES**

- Conferences
- Programs
- Administration
- Member Services



**\$987,241**

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BLACKS IN ENERGY**

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### **IN MEMORIAM RUFUS GLADNEY**

AABE Assistant Treasurer Rufus Gladney passed away in August, 2011. A longtime member of the AABE family, Rufus was a mentor and a friend to many. It was his vision for the association that inspired us, fostered our growth and refined our role. Rufus provided invaluable guidance to our chapters and our board. He will be missed.



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