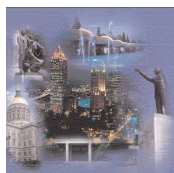


# AABE®

## All ABout Energy

*The American Association of Blacks in Energy® – Atlanta Chapter*  
*Vol. 3, Issue 4 ♦ April 2008*  
<http://aabe.org/atlanta>



### AABE ATLANTA CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS:

#### AABE March Program



The AABE Atlanta Chapter monthly meeting focused on “*The Economic Impact of Today’s Housing Market on the Utility Industry.*” The meeting was held on March 13<sup>th</sup> at GPC and featured **Kenneth Shiver**, Costing, Forecasting & Pricing Manager for Southern Company Services and **Dominic Popielski**, Director of Marketing Analysis for Atlanta Gas Light Company (pictured left to right).

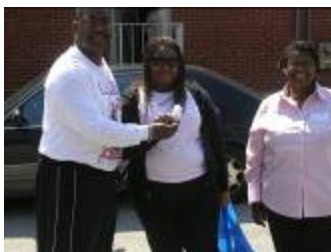
Dominic provided a national economic overview which highlighted sub-prime loan defaults and how they accounted for over half of home foreclosures since 2006. There is a huge inventory of vacant homes, including over 100,000 in Atlanta, GA, FL, CA, NV, AZ, MI and OH average 10,000 foreclosures per state a month. Home builders have cut back on housing units and it is foreseen that there will be reductions in capital spending in the next few years.

Ken discussed the current economic outlook and defined what it means to be in a recession, two or more consecutive quarters in a decline of gross domestic product. It is measured in 3 categories: depth (how far did we fall?), duration (how long did it last?), and dispersion (how wide spread are the impacts?). He also talked about foreign investments, unemployment and the rise in energy prices (\$100/barrel of oil and \$4/gallon of gasoline).

Fewer people are buying things and consumer confidence continues to fail. Approximately 6% of household budgets are for electricity, natural gas and gasoline and if the prices stay high for 3 to 6 months, people’s spending habits will dramatically change.

The History Maker presentation was conducted by **Mary Cantrell** (GE). Mary profiled **Valerie Thomas**, who on October 21, 1980 patented the illusion transmitter. Valerie’s biography is provided at the end of this newsletter.

#### Light Swap 2008



BlackEnergy, along with the Atlanta Chapter of AABE, the Concerned Black Clergy, Georgia Interfaith Power & Light, and presenting sponsor the ChicoBag Company distributed free energy-saving compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) during “Light Swap 2008,” an annual event developed to introduce a cost-effective way of “Going Green” to the African-American community. The event took place on Saturday, March 22, 2008 at True Light Baptist Church located at 47 Anderson Avenue NW, Atlanta, GA.

Volunteers from AABE included **President Cordell Carter** (AGL), **Eric Duncan** (GPC), **Shelby Hall** (GPC-CCC) and **Latunya Goodwin** (GPC). Each person visited homes and changed out incandescent light bulbs for equivalent CFLs. Consumers also stopped by True Light Baptist Church to exchange their bulbs and receive information on energy-saving tips they can try at home from Georgia Interfaith and the Georgia Conservancy’s Mothers & Others project. Each participant also received a ChicoBag, a reusable grocery bag that replaces plastic grocery bags. The day culminated with blackEnergy’s donation of four cases of CFLs to **Pastor Darrell D. Elligan**, of True Light and President of Concerned Black Clergy, for distribution to Beulah Baptist Church and Mt. Gilead Baptist Church in Vine City. Both churches sustained damage

during the tornado that struck downtown Atlanta on March 14<sup>th</sup>.

The goal of the program was to educate consumers on the importance of saving energy and resources for the next generation. "By participating in the light bulb exchange the African American community played an important role in conservation of precious non-renewable energy sources like oil and natural gas," stated **Sonja Ebron**, CEO of blackEnergy. "It's as easy as Each One, Change One!"

#### **AABE Atlanta April Meeting**

Please join us on a special date, Wednesday April 2<sup>nd</sup> for our monthly meeting. The theme of the meeting is "*The AABE Energy Principles*." The meeting will discuss and promote AABE's official recommendations on energy efficiency, climate change, renewable energy and technology.

The program will include guest speakers such as **Frank Stewart**, AABE National President and Chief Operating Officer; **David Owens** (DC-EED), AABE National Legislative Issues and Public Policy (LIPP) Chairperson; **Carolyn Green** (Philadelphia-Sunoco), AABE National 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chair; and **Morry Davis** (SMSI-Peabody Energy), AABE LIPP Committee Leader for Energy Efficiency.

This monumental event will be held at the AGL Resources Auditorium, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 10 Peachtree Place, from 11:30AM to 1:00PM. For more information, please contact **Mickey Wade** (AGL), AABE Atlanta Chapter Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Chairperson at [mwade@aglresources.com](mailto:mwade@aglresources.com).

Each month the Chapter conducts a *Black History Maker* presentation during our general meetings. We are seeking individuals that will help present pioneers in the energy industry.

To volunteer, please contact the Atlanta Chapter Assistant Treasurer, **Olivia Parks-Woods** (SCS) at [opwoods@southernco.com](mailto:opwoods@southernco.com).

#### **Free Minority Scholarships**

Click [BlackExcel.org](http://BlackExcel.org) to view over two hundred links for scholarships that are available to qualifying students.

#### **Career Day at Redan HS**

Redan High School in Stone Mountain is seeking volunteers from AABE to speak to students on Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. Presenters will rotate between classes of 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders, depending on your availability that morning. Presentations will last about 15-30 minutes and will cover your education, work experiences and career choices. To volunteer, please contact Atlanta Chapter Treasurer **Cherryl Harris** (GPC) at [cmharris@southernco.com](mailto:cmharris@southernco.com).

#### **Support UNCF**

AABE Board member **Ralph Cleveland** (AGL) is leading the charge to support the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) within AABE. The UNCF wishes to select qualified minority college graduates for recruitment in the ranks of AABE member companies. For more information about the partnership, please contact **Maurice E. Jenkins**, SVP for UNCF at [Maurice.Jenkins@uncf.org](mailto:Maurice.Jenkins@uncf.org). Donations to UNCF can be made to their website, [www.uncf.org](http://www.uncf.org).

#### **AABE Atlanta 6th Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament**



The Atlanta Chapter is proud to host the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual **James K. Davis Scholarship Golf Outing** on May 16<sup>th</sup> at the Summer Grove Golf Club. This event welcomes all AABE and non-AABE members to play four men, best ball (scramble) a round of golf sponsoring our student scholarships. Executive sponsorships are also available and are tax deductible. The early bird entry fee is \$135/person (\$540/team of 4). The early bird registration deadline is April 25<sup>th</sup>. The club is located at 353 Summer Grove Parkway in Newnan, GA 30265.

This event is named after the late **Jim Davis** (GPC), founder of the AABE Atlanta Chapter. For an application, please visit the [Golf Outing](http://GolfOuting) webpage or contact the Fundraising Committee Chairpersons, **Charmaine Caruth** (GPC) at [cacaruth@southernco.com](mailto:cacaruth@southernco.com) and **Jerrold Hill** (AGL) at [jhill@aglresources.com](mailto:jhill@aglresources.com).

#### **AABE ATL Membership Drive**

Professionals in the energy industry located in the Northern Georgia areas of Atlanta, Macon, Augusta, Henry County and surrounding regions who wish to participate in AABE related events can apply new or renew their membership for 2008. General membership dues are \$150. Student chapter dues are \$20. All membership dues are tax-deductible and normally paid for by energy-related businesses.

To download membership applications please click the [website](http://website) or contact AABE Atlanta Chapter Membership Committee Chairperson, **Tarece Johnson-Hassell** (AGL) at [thassell@aglresources.com](mailto:thassell@aglresources.com).

### New Secretary Announcement



The Atlanta Chapter is proud to announce that **Valerie Harris** (GPC-CCC) has accepted the position as AABE Atlanta Chapter Secretary for the 2008 – 2009 term of office. Valerie currently is employed as a Senior Secretary at the Georgia Power Customer Care Center. Please welcome Valerie in her new leadership position within AABE.

### Charity Drives

Please send a donation to the following AABE members as a sign of commitment to eliminating major health problems within our community. **Cherryl Harris** (GPC) will join the Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Walk on April 12<sup>th</sup> at Stone Mountain Park. **Fanchester Henry** (GPC-CCC) is taking action against cancer at the American Cancer Society Relay for Life of Henry County on May 2<sup>nd</sup> in McDonough. **Linda Scales** (GPC) is also participating on a team through **Sisters By Choice**. Each person needs your financial support!

### Support AID Atlanta



Did you know that 69% of all Georgia AIDS cases are in the Atlanta region? Atlanta has the 5<sup>th</sup> highest AIDS rate among all US cities and is more than double the national average. AIDS impacts not only individuals; it harms families and disproportionately affects

African-Americans more than all other races.

Help us to end the threat of AIDS. Get yourself tested for HIV and AIDS. Donate time and money towards education and prevention. Through your support of AID Atlanta, they are able to support 7,000 clients each year, provide 100,000 educational contacts to local schools, women, gay and ethnic programs, and offer HIV testing to 4,000 individuals each year.

Your financial support makes a tremendous difference. You may contribute to AID Atlanta in a variety of ways; by cash or check, by credit card, online giving, or even appreciated stock or other real property. For more information on how to donate, please visit the [AID Atlanta](http://www.AIDAtlanta.org) website.

### GEORGIA NEWS:

#### Promotions

Oglethorpe Power Corporation has named **Brian M. Prevost** Vice President and Controller.

#### Lights out Atlanta

Earth Hour, a local energy event in Atlanta, took place on Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. Over 160,000 residents, municipalities and businesses in the city participated in switching off all lights for one hour. The World Wildlife Fund partnered with **Mayor Shirley Franklin**, the City of Atlanta and other civic leaders to help make history and celebrate the night the lights go out in Georgia. Dozens of major landmark buildings in Downtown, Midtown, Atlantic Station and Buckhead went dark in honor of the event—as did neighborhoods throughout the area. The event hoped to educate the public about climate change and what each person can do

about reducing their carbon footprint.

### AABE NATIONAL NEWS:

#### Our Condolences

We regret to inform you of the passing of AABE Southeast Regional Coordinator, **Corlene Williams'** (BHM-SNG) father, **Hyman Teague**. Mr. Teague's homecoming was on March 12<sup>th</sup>. Please keep Corlene's family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

### AABE National Conference



The AABE 31<sup>st</sup> annual AABE National Conference will be held at the Houston Americas Hotel, 1600 Lamar Street in downtown Houston, Texas from Tuesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> to Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. The AABE Houston Chapter is hosting its 1<sup>st</sup> annual scholarship golf tournament at Gleanloch Pines Golf Club in Spring, Texas on Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>.

The theme of the conference is *"Advancing the Understanding of Energy ... from local to global"* and hosted by the AABE Southwest Region Chapters of Houston, Dallas/Ft. Worth, Oklahoma, University of Tulsa, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas and Central SW Louisiana. The keynote speakers are **Peter Robertson**, Vice-Chairman of Chevron and **Dr. Randal Pinkett**, (pictured) winner of NBC's *The Apprentice – Season 4*. Confirmed speakers from our chapter include **Chris Womack** (GPC), **Jo Holliman** (GPC-CCC), **Wayne Young**



(Honeywell) and **Ralph Cleveland** (AGL).

Don't forget to support the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Silent Auction during the conference on Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. AABE will auction off memorabilia, artwork, tickets and prizes, etc. to members in attendance that bid on such items. Donations of these kinds of items are needed for the event. To make donations, please contact **Heidi Boykin** (GPC) at [hboykin@southernco.com](mailto:hboykin@southernco.com) or (404) 506-2565.

Volunteers are needed for the 2009 Southeast Reception held on Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Southeast Regional Coordinator **Corlene Williams** (SNG/EIPaso) at [Corlene.williams@elpaso.com](mailto:Corlene.williams@elpaso.com).

Registration for AABE members is now \$750 and available online at <http://aabe.org>. For more information, please contact the AABE Director of Member Services, **Lakeesha Wilson**, at [lwilson@aabe.org](mailto:lwilson@aabe.org).

### **Nominations & Elections**

Candidates for the 2008 – 2010 Officer positions on the AABE National Board of Directors were announced at the December Board meeting in Houston on December 8, 2007.

The nominees include:

**Carolyn Green** (Sunoco – Philadelphia) as AABE National Chairperson,

**Robert Holmes** (APC – Birmingham) as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairperson,

**Warner Williams** (Chevron – Southern California) as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairperson,

**Sabrina Campbell** (AEP – DC) as Treasurer,

**Dot Harris** (GE Energy – ATL) as Secretary,

**Rufus Gladney** (CMS – MI) as Assistant Treasurer, and

**Gilda Joseph** (Chevron – Houston) as Assistant Secretary.

Candidates for six 2-year board member seats that were up for renewal are **Derrick Freeman**, **David Owens** (EEI – DC), **Calvin Talley** (CMS - Midwest Regional Coordinator – MI), **Polly Rosemond** (Entergy – LA), **Stephanie Hickman** (Chicago), and **Joyce Hayes-Giles** (DTE – MI). AABE National Central, Southwest and Northeast Regional Coordinator positions are open and will be appointed by the new chairperson.

The AABE National Nominations & Elections Committee Chairperson is Board Member **Frank Johnson** (CMS - MI). Elections will be held via email or by proxy. The election and installation ceremony will be held during the AABE General Membership Meeting and **James E. Stewart** Gala at the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual AABE National Conference in Houston, Texas on Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations go out to Dot for representing the Atlanta Chapter as a National Board Officer.

### **U.S. ENERGY NEWS:**

#### **DOE Announces New Standards for Washing Machines and CFLs – (DOE Press Release 3/08)**

The Department of Energy (DOE) announced that more stringent requirements are being put in place for all washing machines under the Energy Star label. By July 1, 2009, all qualifying Energy Star washing machines will have to be at least 43% more efficient than the current federal energy efficiency standards and have a maximum water factor (WF) of 7.5; that is, each load will use 7.5 gallons of water per cubic foot of capacity. By January 1, 2011, all Energy

Star washing machines will be 59% more efficient than mandated energy standards and will have a maximum WF of 6.0. The 2011 criteria are expected to save consumers \$120 million on annual utility bills while saving 11.2 billion gallons of water and 659 million kilowatt hours of electricity. Energy Star is a joint program of DOE and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The DOE also announced more stringent Energy Star requirements for compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs.) As of November 2008, CFLs must be tested by an independent third party, and as of December 2, 2008, all Energy Star CFLs will be required to contain less than 5 milligrams of mercury per bulb and to meet more stringent lamp color requirements. CFLs with reflectors, such as spotlights, will have to meet new high-heat testing requirements. The criteria will also be expanded to include CFLs with a smaller screw-in base, called a "candelabra" base. See the [DOE press release](#) and the Energy Star Web pages on the [clothes washer](#) and [CFL](#) revisions.

#### **US Presidential Candidates' Energy Positions**

For a description of each Democratic and Republican candidate's policy on energy and environmental issues, please click on the [Grist.org website link](#).

#### **Philips Builds New Lighting Plant in Africa – (Philips Press Release – 3/27/08)**

Royal Philips Electronics, known as Philips in the USA, announced it plans to participate in a joint venture to set up a manufacturing facility, as well as a recycling plant, for energy saving Compact Fluorescent Lamp (CFL) light bulbs in Lesotho, Southern Africa. The facility will be set up jointly with CEF which is a

private company held by the State of South Africa that focuses on opportunities in the energy sector in the region, and Karebo Systems, a privately owned company specialized in energy efficiency programs in the lighting and energy sectors. Philips holds a 40% stake, while CEF and Karebo Systems each hold a 30% in the joint venture.

This joint venture is a result of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development's mission to seek new business activities that will fuel economic growth in this region. With this joint venture Philips will be able to help stimulate economic growth while accelerating the uptake of energy-efficient light bulbs in general.

The market for CFL energy-saving bulbs is growing rapidly globally and is expected to accelerate in the South African region through the efforts of the national government to significantly reduce energy consumption. Its intention is to replace 80% of incandescent bulbs with CFL energy-saving bulbs within the next four to six years. However, Philips expects to reduce this timeframe to approximately three years with the establishment of the Lesotho production facility. CFLs save 80% energy compared to incandescent bulbs and will help overcome energy shortages now being experienced in the region.

The production facility in Lesotho will be run by local management, and is planned to be officially open for business in September 2008. The facility is scheduled to produce up to 15 million CFL energy-saving lamps per year. The joint venture will initially start with the assembly of CFLs, followed by the production of burners for CFLs and with the establishment of a recycling plant, and potentially, to

gradually include the production of components.

#### **Florida Airport Tests Hydrogen Engines - (By Marsha Walton, CNN – 3/19/08)**

Orlando International Airport is testing four Ford shuttle vans equipped with internal combustion engines modified to run on hydrogen instead of gasoline.

The modified engines aboard the Ford E-450 shuttle buses are 6.8 liter V-10s. The airport's fleet also includes three gas-electric hybrid vehicles and 24 biodiesel buses. The facility also powers its maintenance equipment, such as lawnmowers and tractors, with biodiesel.

The Orlando project has several goals: To get average consumers acquainted with hydrogen and to acquire data on the buses' performance in a setting where they are in use almost nonstop.

At the Boggy Creek Hydrogen Fueling Station in Orlando, the hydrogen is produced on-site. "We are doing a process called steam methane re-forming, which is natural gas to hydrogen," said **Puneet Verma**, manager of biofuels and hydrogen at Chevron Technology Ventures, one of the players involved in the project.

During a careful fueling process, technicians check for leaks of the highly flammable hydrogen -- leaks both in the bus and the fuel pump.

Because a fossil fuel, methane, is used to make the hydrogen, the buses are about 12 percent cleaner than gasoline or diesel when their entire carbon footprint is measured.

The Orlando hydrogen test project also includes the Greater

Orlando Aviation Authority, Ford Motor Company, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Progress Energy and SeaWorld.

Hydrogen buses began shuttling SeaWorld employees in February from the park's outer parking lots to their workplaces.

Special Note: Orlando is the site of the 2009 AABE National Conference!

#### **Employment Opportunities**

General Electric Company, parent company of GE Energy, has openings for 3,078 skilled workers in the US. For a complete description of open positions, visit [GE's career web site](http://www.ge.com/career).

#### **AABE ATL INFORMATION:**

#### **What is AABE®?**

*"The American Association of Blacks in Energy™ is dedicated to ensuring the input of minorities into the developments of energy policy, R&D technologies, and environmental issues."*

Visit AABE's National website at <http://www.aabe.org> for more information.

#### **Atlanta Chapter 2008-2009 Officers**

**Cordell Carter**, President (AGL)  
**Eric Arnold**, Vice President (GPC)  
**Cherryl Harris**, Treasurer (GPC)  
**Olivia Parks-Woods**, Assistant Treasurer (SCS)  
**Valerie Harris**, Secretary (GPC – CCC)  
**Jennifer Henson**, Assistant Secretary (GPC – CCC)

**Tiffany Callaway-Ferrell**,  
Parliamentarian (AGL)  
**Shelby Hall**, Chapter  
Coordinator (GPC – CCC)

**Board of Directors**

**Ralph Cleveland**, AGL  
**Dot Harris**, GE Energy  
**Richard Holmes**, GPC

**Southeast Region Coordinator**

**L. Corlene Williams**,  
Birmingham Chapter  
(ElPaso/SNG)

**AABE Atlanta Chapter 2008  
Program Schedule (Tentative)**

1/16 – MLK Jr. Program (GPC)  
1/26 – AABE 31<sup>st</sup> Conference  
Planning Meeting (Houston, TX)  
1/31 – Career Day Expo  
(Clarkston HS)  
2/14 – Black History Month  
Program (AGL)  
2/21 – AABE NC Chapter  
Energy & Environment  
Conference (Greensboro, NC)  
3/13 – General Meeting (GPC)  
3/15 – AABE 31<sup>st</sup> Conference  
Planning Meeting (Houston, TX)  
3/22 – Light Swap 2008 Event  
3/24 – AABE Scholarship  
Applications Due  
4/2 – AABE Energy Principles  
Meeting (AGL)  
4/24 – General Meeting (CCC)  
4/15 to 4/18 – AABE 31<sup>st</sup> Annual  
Conference (Houston, TX)  
4/25 – Career Day Program  
(Redan HS)  
5/8 – Scholarship Banquet (GPC)  
5/16 – Golf Tournament  
(Summer Grove Golf Club)  
6/6 to 6/7 – AABE Board of  
Directors Meeting (Kansas City,  
KS)  
6/12 – AABE/AAF Meeting (GE)  
7/10 – General Meeting (TBD)  
7/28 – AABE 32<sup>nd</sup> National  
Conference Planning Meeting  
(Orlando)  
8/1 – Town Hall Meetings  
(various)  
8/14 – General Meeting (GPC)  
9/11 – General Meeting (AGL)  
9/25 to 9/27 – Board of Directors  
Meeting/Congressional Black  
Caucus (Washington, DC)  
10/9 – BEAM Program (various)

10/12 – AABE 32<sup>nd</sup> National  
Conference Planning Meeting  
(Orlando)  
11/1 – CCC TOUCH Program  
11/13 – AABE/AAF Mtg (GE)  
11/29 – Town Hall Meetings  
(various)  
12/1 – CCC TOUCH Program  
12/5 to 12/6 – AABE Board of  
Directors Meeting (Orlando, FL)  
12/11 – End of Year Program  
(GPC)

AABE Atlanta Chapter General  
Membership meetings are held on  
the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the Month.  
Executive Committee Meetings  
are held during the last week of  
the month. Dates may change  
when necessary.

**Atlanta Chapter Address:**

AABE – Atlanta Chapter  
P.O. Box 55216  
Atlanta, GA 30308-5216

**Atlanta Chapter Website:**

<http://aabe.org/atlanta>

**Atlanta Chapter Committees  
and Chairpersons:**

**BEAM (Black Energy  
Awareness Month)**

**Kimberly Bryant** (GPC) and  
**Blake O’Farrow** (AGL  
Resources)

**Communications/ Public  
Relations & Technology**

**Wayne Young** (Honeywell) and  
**Valerie Harris** (GPC-CCC)  
Open Co-Chair position available

**Fundraising**

**Charmaine Caruth** (GPC) and  
**Jerrold Hill** (Atlanta Gas Light)

**Membership**

**Tarece Johnson-Hassell** (AGL  
Resources)  
Open Co-Chair position available

**Programs**

**Fanchester Henry** (GPC-CCC)  
and **Faye Adeniran** (GPC)

**Scholarship**

**Valerie Searcy** (GPC) and  
**Earnestine Young** (GPC-CCC)

**2009 Conference Planning**

**L. Corlene Williams** (ElPaso  
Corp. / Southern Natural Gas -  
Birmingham Chapter) and  
**Gregory Owens** (Jacksonville  
Electric Authority - Florida  
Chapter)

**Taking Our Unbroken  
Commitment Home (TOUCH)  
Mentoring**

**Nevada Weatherspoon** (GPC)  
Open Co-Chair position available

**TOUCH  
Philanthropic/Charitable**  
**Pauline Harriott** (SCS) and  
**Capucine Pansy** (AGL  
Resources)

**TOUCH Energy Education**  
**Sonja Ebron** (blackEnergy)  
Open Co-Chair position available

**Legislative & Regulatory  
Affairs**  
**Mickey Wade** (AGL Resources)  
and **LaTunya Goodwin** (GPC)

**Student Chapter**  
**Ralph Cleveland** (AGL  
Resources) and **Dr. Comas  
Haynes** (GaTech)

**Atlanta Chapter Goals (2008-  
2009):**

- Raise Community Profile;
- Increase Membership Recruitment and Retention by 5%;
- Financial Governance;
- Increase Scholarships by 5%;
- Establish Student Chapters;
- Create a Membership Directory;
- Establish a Foundation to Fund Scholarships;
- Update the Chapter By-Laws.

**Member Company Websites:**  
[www.aabe.org](http://www.aabe.org)

[www.atlantagaslight.com](http://www.atlantagaslight.com)  
[www.aglresources.com](http://www.aglresources.com)  
[www.blackenergy.com](http://www.blackenergy.com)  
[www.ch2m.com](http://www.ch2m.com)  
[www.gas-south.com](http://www.gas-south.com)  
[www.gasoc.com](http://www.gasoc.com)  
[www.gepower.com](http://www.gepower.com)  
[www.georgianaturalgas.com](http://www.georgianaturalgas.com)  
[www.georgiapower.com](http://www.georgiapower.com)  
[www.greystonepower.com](http://www.greystonepower.com)  
[www.heatga.org](http://www.heatga.org)  
[www.honeywell.com](http://www.honeywell.com)  
[www.htsenterprise.com](http://www.htsenterprise.com)  
[www.mirant.com](http://www.mirant.com)  
[www.opc.com](http://www.opc.com)  
[www.psc.state.ga.us](http://www.psc.state.ga.us)  
[www.scanaenergy.com](http://www.scanaenergy.com)  
[www.slking.com](http://www.slking.com)  
[www.southerncompany.com](http://www.southerncompany.com)  
[www.southstarenergy.com](http://www.southstarenergy.com)  
[www.snpo.org](http://www.snpo.org)  
[www.thinkenergygroup.com](http://www.thinkenergygroup.com)  
[www.willyoujoinus.com](http://www.willyoujoinus.com)

### **GOT NEWS?**

Please send  
 all comments,  
 suggestions,  
 AABE  
 information, energy-related news  
 and announcements to AABE  
 Atlanta Chapter  
 Communications, Public  
 Relations and Technology  
 Committee Chair **Wayne X.  
 Young** (Honeywell) at  
[wayne.young2@honeywell.com](mailto:wayne.young2@honeywell.com).  
 The deadline for the next monthly  
 newsletter is **Monday, March  
 28<sup>th</sup>**.



### **Black History Energy Moments**

April 5, 1856 – **Booker T.  
 Washington** is born.

April 8, 1990 – **Percy Julian** and  
**George Washington Carver** are  
 the first black inventors admitted  
 into the National Inventors Hall  
 of Fame.

April 11, 1996 – 43 African  
 nations sign the *African Nuclear  
 Weapons Free Zone Treaty*,  
 pledging not to build, bury,  
 stockpile or test nuclear weapons.

April 13, 1926 – **Hassel  
 Robinson** patents directional  
 signals for automobiles.

April 15, 1928 – **Norma  
 Merrick-Sklarek**, first licensed  
 female architect in the US, was  
 born in New York City.

April 23, 1856 – **Granville T.  
 Woods**, inventor of the steam  
 boiler and automobile air brakes,  
 is born.

### **HISTORY MAKER BIOGRAPHY –**

#### **VALERIE THOMAS**



As a child, **Valerie Thomas**  
 became fascinated with the  
 mysteries of technology,  
 tinkering with electronics with  
 her father and reading books on  
 electronics written for adolescent  
 boys. The likelihood of her  
 enjoying a career in science  
 seemed bleak, as her all-girls high  
 school did not push her to take  
 advanced science or math classes  
 or encourage her in that direction.  
 Nonetheless, her curiosity was  
 piqued and upon her graduation  
 from high school, she set out on  
 the path to become a scientist.

Thomas enrolled at Morgan State  
 University and performed  
 exceedingly well as a student,  
 graduating with a degree in  
 physics (one of only two women  
 in her class to do so). She  
 accepted a position with the  
 National Aeronautics and Space  
 Administration (NASA), serving  
 as a data analyst. After

establishing herself within the  
 agency, she was asked to manage  
 the "Landsat" project, an image  
 processing system that would  
 allow a satellite to transmit  
 images from space.

In 1977 she began experimenting  
 with flat mirrors and concave  
 mirrors. Flat mirrors, of course,  
 provide a reflection of an object  
 which appears to lie behind the  
 glass surface. A concave mirror,  
 on the other hand, presents a  
 reflection that appears to exist in  
 front of the glass, thereby  
 providing the illusion that they  
 exist in a three-dimensional  
 manner. Thomas believed that  
 images, presented in this way  
 could provide a more accurate, if  
 not more interesting, manner of  
 representing video data. She not  
 only viewed the process as a  
 potential breakthrough for  
 commercial television, but also as  
 scientific tool for NASA and its  
 image delivery system.

Thomas applied for a patent for  
 her process on December 28,  
 1978 and the patent was issued on  
 October 21, 1980.

**Valerie Thomas** continued  
 working for NASA until 1995  
 when she retired. In addition to  
 her work with the Illusion  
 Transmitter she designed  
 programs to research Halley's  
 Comet and ozone holes. She  
 received numerous awards for her  
 service, including the GSFC  
 Award of Merit and the NASA  
 Equal Opportunity Medal. In her  
 career, she showed that the magic  
 of fascination can often lead to  
 concrete scientific applications  
 for real-world problem-solving.