

## SPECIAL BEAMS OF LIGHT:

- New Regional Coordinators
- AABE Board Meeting in DC
- Trademark Guidelines
- New Website is Launched
- Environmental Justice Issues
- LIHEAP is Fully Funded
- Winter Heating Update

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

AABE National News 1

AABE Committees' News 3

AABE Chapters' News 10

Energy & Environment News 17

AABE Public Information 18

Calendar of Events 18

AABE Photo Gallery 19

# AABE ENERGY NEWS

## AABE Directors Address Energy Issues with the CBC

The Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) Foundation's 38th Annual Legislative Conference hosted its Energy Braintrust on September 26th at the **Walter E. Washington** Convention Center in Washington, DC. The forum was moderated by **Texas Representative Sheila Jackson-Lee** (pictured) and featured the participation of members of the AABE National Board of Directors.



The session hoped to "transform dialogue into action" and "bolster the relationships between the energy in-

dustry and African-American community." The event focused on public policy barriers that prevented the exploration, production and delivery of energy resources to much needed areas in the US. Panelists also expressed the need for more minority-owned businesses in the energy field. Representative Jackson-Lee also gave a heartfelt speech about the affect recent hurricanes had on the residents and industries within her state.

The CBC also held several meetings on energy and environmental issues during the conference.

**Michigan Representative Carolyn C. Kilpatrick** hosted a forum on "The New Green: A Climate Change for Environmental Justice."

**South Carolina Representative James Clyburn** moderated the Environmental Braintrust and focused on "Securing Our Future - The Nuclear Alternative."

During the CBC conference, The CBC introduced AVOICE, their new digital archive exhibit showcasing the impact of black lawmakers in the environmental justice movement. The exhibit is online at [www.avoiceline.org](http://www.avoiceline.org). ☀

## The AABE Board of Directors Presidents Meet in DC

The AABE leadership held their quarterly meeting at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel in DC that coincided with the CBC annual conference from September 25-27.

The program focused on the future of the organization which featured presentations on energy policy, international relations and

entrepreneurial opportunities. The Board of Directors and Chapter Presidents participated in discussions on National Committee initiatives such as the *Energy Principles*, *Building the Pipeline* and the upcoming 2009-2010 national conferences.

Members in attendance were also treated to a luncheon discussing

corporate responsibility, a forum on African energy assistance and a reception hosted by the Southern California Chapter.

Highlights of these events and committee updates are provided within this newsletter. The next board meeting will be held from December 5-6 at the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort in Orlando, Florida. ☀

# National Office Report 3rd Quarter 2008



## Chairpersons of AABE National Committees:

Assessment - Gilda Joseph

By-Laws - Paul White

Communications - Hilda Pinnix-  
Ragland

Conference Planning - Richard  
Holmes

Energy Entrepreneurs - Dot Harris

Finance - Sabrina Campbell

Legislative Issues & Public Policy -  
David Owens

Membership & Chapter  
Development - Robert Holmes

Nominations & Elections - Rufus  
Gladney

Personnel & Administration -  
Warner Williams

Scholarship - Gerald Dawes

Strategic Planning - Carolyn Green

Technology Development - George  
Williams

Training Institute - Luddy Hayden

The AABE National Office presented the following report during the September Board Meeting in Washington, DC.

We are pleased to report that as of September 1st, paid membership has exceeded **1,400**, the largest in our history. We congratulate several chapters who have seen their memberships increase over the past year. The top 10 largest chapters in our organization are Atlanta (164), South Carolina (120), New York (105), Gulf Coast (83), Columbus (83), Florida (66), Birmingham (66), DC (64), Tennessee (52) and Houston (38). These numbers are subject to change. During the board meeting, 1st Vice Chair **Robert Holmes** (APC-Birmingham Chapter) provided a strategy for membership and chapter development. His metrics include increasing the membership growth rate, which included incentives to Chapter Presidents and Regional Coordinators such as leadership awards, training and a timeline to meet the top 10 needs of every chapter.

At the suggestion of individual chapters, the Office met with a black-owned commodities firm and with Florida Power & Light regarding the availability of renewable energy credits (REC). Both companies expressed an eagerness to work with or through our organization to make RECs available. One firm participated

in a public hearing in New Orleans to provide information about the degree to which they could assist in providing RECs to the market.

The National Office provided *Black Engineer* magazine extensive information on the role of African-Americans in the energy industry. We offered a number of suggestions of persons they might want to interview for an extended article that will be published in the Fall.

On July 23rd, **AABE President & COO Frank Stewart** was the closing speaker for the University of Delaware's summer session on university based advanced energy research. The program included Nobel Laureate **Dr. John Byrne**, Director of the university's Center for Energy and Environmental Policy. The event was attended by representatives of various educational institutions including NC A&T, Fisk University and Hampton Institute.

From July 28th to the 29th, the National Office participated in discussions with the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies Commission to engage African-Americans on climate change. Our organization has been asked to serve as a member of the commission's planning team.

On August 8th, the Office served as one of three principal speakers at the National Association of Real Estate Brokers convention. The overall topic was home ownership in minority communities.

The National Office and the Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Human Capital Solutions held a series of meetings to explore ways that the DOE can increase their recruitment efforts. The DOE is looking to hire 1,000 college students to fill positions at their national laboratories across the country. The DOE has promised to award us **\$245K** to develop career expos in several areas of the US including Southern California in the spring of 2009.

The National Office received a letter from the African Union Ambassador advising that **President Kikwete of Tanzania** has requested that our organization assist his nation in specific renewable energy areas. These areas include: solar energy, biofuels, biomass brickquetting, geothermal, hydroelectric generation, etc. The Office, DOE and the Embassy of Tanzania have begun discussions regarding our role in this project. ☀

## New AABE Regional Coordinators Appointed in 3 Regions

Our organization is proud to announce the appointment of three new AABE Regional Coordinators effective immediately. Chairperson **Carolyn Green** (Sunoco-Philadelphia Chapter) selected new coordinators to serve on the AABE National Board of Directors to fill vacancies in several regions. Former Regional Coordinators **Gilda Joseph** (Chevron-Houston Chapter), **Calvin Talley** (Consumers Energy-Michigan) and **Sabrina Campbell** (American Electric Power-Washington, DC Area Chapter) were elected to board positions during the 2008 National Conference in Houston, Texas this past April.

Regional Coordinators (RCs) are responsible for organizing existing chapters within a designated region, advising the board on the activities of all chartered chapters within that region, and serving as an advisor to any local chapters which may be eligible to be chartered in our organization.

**W. Noble Bilingsley** is the new Midwest Regional Coordinator responsible for 12 chapters in the region. Noble is the Manager of Customer Services for Consumers



Energy in Michigan. He has been an AABE member since 1992.



**Telisa N. Toliver** is the new Southwest Regional Coordinator responsible for 9 chapters in the region. Telisa is the Vice-President of Commercial Development for Chevron Global Power Company in Houston, Texas.



**Dianne P. Oliver** is the new Mid-Atlantic Regional Coordinator responsible for 5 chapters in the region. Dianne is an Energy Supply Analyst at PEPCO Holdings, Inc., in Washington, DC.

These new coordinators will join the 3 existing RCs to cover six regions within our organization. The Southeast Regional Coordinator is **L. Corlene**

**Williams** (El Paso/Southern Natural Gas-Birmingham Chapter). There are 11 chapters in the Southeast. The Western Regional Coordinator is **R. Kirsten Watts** (Bonneville Power Authority-Washington/Oregon Chapter). There are 6 chapters in the West. **Rodney O. Powell** (Western Massachusetts Electric Company-Connecticut Chapter) is the Northeast Regional Coordinator covering 4 chapters.

There are 47 Chapters within 6 regions of the organization that includes 33 general Chapters, 6 Student Chapters and 8 inactive Chapters. Congratulations go out to these AABE members on their new RC leadership positions. ☀



Left to Right: Board members **Corlene Williams**, **Derrick Freeman** and **Telisa Toliver**.

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
The AABE National Chairperson appoints Regional Coordinators to serve the Chapters.

## Election Time in 2009 for AABE Board of Directors

The National Board of Directors will once again hold elections for six open positions for the 2009-2010 term of office.

Board members **Tracie Boutte** (Entergy New Orleans-Louisiana Chapter), **Ralph Cleveland** (AGL Resources-Atlanta Chapter), **Gerald Dawes** (ConEdison/AGA-New York Metropolitan Area

Chapter), **Richard Holmes** (Georgia Power Company-Atlanta Chapter), **Dan Packer** (retired Entergy New Orleans-Louisiana Chapter) and **George Williams** (Exelon Corp./ComEd-Chicago Chapter) are eligible for re-election. Two additional members have expressed interest in serving on the board.

**Rufus Gladney** (Consumers Energy-Michigan Chapter) is Chair of the AABE National Nominations & Elections Committee. He will provide information regarding the procedure and process for the election of new board members this December. The election process will take place during the 2009 National Conference in Orlando, Florida. ☀



AABE Board of Directors at DC Board Meeting



**Carolyn Green, AABE National Chair, at the December Board Meeting Climate Change Presentation in DC.**

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

**The AABE National Strategy includes: Influencing Energy Policy, Building the Talent Pipeline, Branding, and Expanding the Black Presence.**

**The September Board Meeting runs concurrent with the CBC Annual Legislative Conference in Washington, DC**



## **AABE Trademark and Grammar Guidelines**

The following rules demonstrate the necessary principles of trademark grammar, as established by federal statutory and case law. If these rules are not followed, trademark rights may be lost.

### **Maxim No. 1. Never use the AABE trademark as a noun.**

**Improper Use:** AABE is a wonderful organization.

**Proper Use:** The AABE organization is growing at a steady pace.

### **Maxim No. 2. Never use AABE trademark as a verb.**

**Improper Use:** AABE your way to a wonderful job in Washington.

**Proper Use:** One of the services provided to the AABE membership is access to employment opportunities from across the country.

### **Maxim No. 3. Never use the AABE trademark as a plural.**

**Improper Use:** There are a number of local AABEs in the United States.

**Proper Use:** There are a number of local AABE chapters in the United States.

### **Maxim No. 4. Never use the AABE trademark as a possessive.**

**Improper Use:** There are many individuals who are committed to AABE's strategic goals.

**Proper Use:** The AABE organization is committed to participating in the formation of national energy policies and programs.

### **Maxim No. 5. Never use the AABE trademark in any form other than the designated form.**

The integrity of the AABE trademark should always be maintained. Modifications to the color, stripping or font of the characters, and/or spelling changes are not permitted. An electronic and camera ready version of the AABE logo is available from the National Office.

### **Maxim No. 6. Always use the AABE trademark as an adjective.**

**Improper Use:** Please join AABE.

**Proper Use:** Please join the AABE organization.

### **Maxim No. 7. Always use the AABE trademark distinctively.**

The trademark is a valuable business asset. Always set forth the trademark in all capital letters. In all printed materials make the trademark stand out from the rest of the words in the text: "AABE®" should be used and not "Aabe."

### **Maxim No. 8. Always use the TM designation.**

Anyone who claims rights in a mark may use the TM (trademark) or SM (service mark) designation with the mark to alert the public to the claim. The registration symbol, ®, may only be used when the mark is registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office. It is improper to use this symbol at any point before the registration issues.

### **Maxim No. 9. Do not asso-**

**ciate the AABE trademark with any service that is unrelated to:**

"Association services, namely providing a forum for African American and other minorities to participate in the development of energy policies, regulations, R&D technologies and environmental issues."

Accordingly, the AABE trademark should not be used in conjunction with caps, sweats, bodysuits, fitness tops, headbands, jackets, caps, pants, shirts, shorts, socks, tights, t-shirts, and warm-ups or any other good or product whatsoever because this improper use undermines its value and legal validity. If this maxim is not followed, trademark rights may be lost.

**Maxim No. 10. Reproduction of the AABE trademark should only be in black, burgundy or gray.**

**AABE**

These guidelines were prepared and updated by the AABE General Counsel, **Paul White** (National Renewable Energy Laboratories-Denver Area Chapter). All chapters and members should follow these rules when developing programs, policies and events related to the AABE organization. If you have any questions regarding these procedures, please email him at [paul\\_white@nrel.gov](mailto:paul_white@nrel.gov). ☀

**AABE®**



## Africa Energy Roundtable: Addressing Africa's Energy Challenges

On Thursday, September 25th, the organization convened an Energy Roundtable as part of the Constituency for Africa's (CFA) 4th Annual **Ronald H. Brown** African Affairs Series. This Roundtable, entitled "Addressing Africa's Energy Challenges: The Role of the African Diaspora," brought together high-level officials from the US, African governments, and representatives from various sectors for a meaningful discussion on US-Africa energy development. It also identified how the African-American community can and should positively impact this issue and create business opportunities for US and African businesses and women-owned firms.

Invited guest speakers included the **Honorable Katharine A. Fredriksen**, Acting Assistant Secretary for the Office of Policy & International Affairs for the Department of Energy (DOE). Assistant-Secretary Fredriksen established how important it was to maintain this dialogue to encourage development of attractive transparent markets between the AABE organization, Africa, public and private sectors. She also mentioned that the DOE will continue their partnership through the AABE Training Institute Initiative.

The **Honorable Alemayehu Tegen**, Minister of Mines & Energy, Research Energy Production, for the Republic of Ethiopia gave a presentation on energy issues in the country. Since 1991, the economic reform strategy was to improve productivity in Ethiopia. In May 1994, a national energy policy was created that included capacity reform, exploration, industrial development, universal electric access and renewables such as biofuels, solar and hydroelectricity. With 70% of the land licensed, Ethiopia hopes to find oil in its country very soon. Another 4 million hectares of land is invested for biofuel planting technology.

The panel discussion included **George L. Person, Jr.**, DOE Director for the Office of African & Middle Eastern Affairs, **Subramaniam V. Iyer**, African Region Energy Group Manager for the World Bank, and two representatives from the nations of Tanzania and Nigeria. The panel's moderator was **Luddy Hayden**, Director of the AABE Training Institute. Luddy asked the panel several questions including: (1) How would you rank your energy needs for transportation fuel, rural/domestic fuel and power for industrial development?; (2) What is

the role of the African Union and regional economic development in Africa?; (3) Do the energy rich nations of Africa have any role or responsibility in developing other countries?; (4) How do you think the US government can help with energy development in Africa?; (5) How would you ask the next US Administration to support energy development in Africa?; and (6) How can we help fund development in Africa? Responses to these questions included increasing response times, dedicating resources to look at the natural markets and increase trade amongst African countries. The panel expressed a need to get all the African countries engaged in dialogue. Priorities depend on the economic situation of each country. They should unblock political issues to establish pipelines, increase transportation, and share best practices. More support from African-Americans and the commercial business sector was expressed.

The Roundtable included remarks by AABE President & COO **Frank Stewart**, AABE National Chair **Carolyn Green** and **Melvin Foote**, President of the CFA. **John Q. Moaning**, CEO of Blue Diamond Ventures (Houston) helped organize the event. ☀



**The Africa Energy Roundtable Panel**

### DID YOU KNOW?

**The AABE Training Institute was founded in 2004 with the assistance of the Department of Energy**

## New AABE National Scholarship Guidelines

For 2009, the AABE National Scholarship Committee has established **Friday, February 6, 2009** as the deadline date. Local Chapters will submit their top 3 candidates to the Committee by **Friday, March 13, 2009**. This date will not be publicly posted. Candidates in areas or states where a Chapter is inactive or does not exist should submit their applications to the Chap-

ter in the next adjoining state.

The committee intends to partner with national scholarship funding organizations such as UNCF and the **Benjamin Banneker** Institute to establish an Energy Scholars Program and INROADS to develop a Cooperative Corporate Internship Program. The committee also proposes to support energy pro-

grams in universities and colleges. They also intend to provide considerable support to the AABE Black Energy Awareness Month (BEAM) initiative and develop more student summer programs for high school juniors. For more information, please contact the Scholarship Chair **Gerald Dawes** (AGA/ConEd - NYMAC) at [gdawes@aga.org](mailto:gdawes@aga.org). ☀



# Climate Change is a Major Issue



David Owens and the panel for the Corporate Readiness for a Carbon Constrained Environment luncheon meeting

**AABE's National Energy Policy Principles include strategies on Climate Change, Renewables Technology, and Energy Efficiency.**

Robert Clayton addresses training and workforce development issues in the industry



On September 25, 2008, the AABE National Legislative Issues & Public Policy (LIPP) Committee held two meetings on climate change. Board member and LIPP Chair **David Owens** (EEI-DC Chapter) led in discussion on "Climate Change: A Transformational Issue - What Others Think!"

He first discussed the costs associated with capitalization and price components of fuel. The percentage of Green House Gas (GHG) emissions by sector identified electricity generation (32%), transportation (28%) and industry (19%) as the top 3 GHG producers. Congress currently has 12 bills pending aimed at reducing GHG emissions.

Key elements in the GHG debate include a full suite of technologies such as advanced clean coal with carbon capture storage and deployment of nuclear plants. Compliance dates and technology availability needs to be harmonized. An effective cost containment mechanism that will avoid economic disruption needs to be developed. Robust domestic and international offsets

need to be included to low costs and promote effectiveness. The debate should also require that developing countries like China and India be involved in the discussion.

The program included a speech by **Senator Rodney Ellis**. Presidential candidates' positions on climate change were also discussed. Other documents and recent studies on the issue were provided by **Senator Jeff Bingaman** (D-NM), **Senator Bill Vasey** (D-WY), several Democrats, the Joint Center for Political & Economic Studies, American Lung Association and the Congress on Racial Equality (CORE).

David also moderated the luncheon program, "Are You Ready for Some Football? Corporate Readiness for a Carbon Constrained Environment." Featured speakers included American Electric Power (AEP), **Robert Clayton**, **Chavin Proctor** and **Benjamin Wilson** of Beveridge & Diamond. The meeting focused on green job growth, workforce development of minorities in that industry, risk

assessment and environmental justice issues.

In the year 2012, the US will lose 50% of its plant managers and 40% of its engineers & line workers as a result of the Liebermann-Warner legislation. By 2014, there will be an 850,000 annual net job loss. In 2030, the effect of job losses could result between \$151-\$210 billion reduction in the gross domestic product (GDP). In 2020, we can lose 1-5 million jobs. By 2030, it can increase to 3-4 million. These vacancies need to be addressed by the minority community. Existing workforce development systems specific to renewable and nuclear energy should be explored to encourage enrollment by African-Americans.

There is cause for concern that the current cap and trade policy is harming minority populations. Higher energy costs and climate offset projects have created local pollution "hotspots" in disadvantaged neighborhoods. We seek to rectify these issues. ☀

## A New Communications Plan Moves Forward

The AABE Communications Committee has developed a new plan to promote the organization and its mission.

The committee will create a standard press kit for the media that will include our *Energy Principles*, mission statement and brochures. They also plan to solicit the membership to develop a national slogan.

A new "elevator speech" about the organization is also under development. This new brand marketing strategy is led by members **Delithia Morrow-Coles** (GE Energy-Atlanta Chapter), **Toni Cunningham** (AEP-Columbus Chapter), **Al-ice Gordon** (APC-Birmingham Chapter), **Paula Jackson** and members of various chapters.

The committee also premiered the new promotional video "Now Is The Time." The organization also plans to create a library of AABE documents and white papers.

The Communications Committee is chaired by **Hilda Pinnix-Ragland** (Progress Energy-North Carolina Chapter). ☀

# AABE Announces New “Building The Pipeline Initiative”

The Baby Boom generation is nearing retirement age. The energy industry is concerned about vacancies in critical areas of operation in the near future. The nuclear industry is heavily recruiting Minorities to fill projected demand. The renewables sector is also seeking individuals to create new businesses in the industry.

Are African-Americans taking advantage of these opportunities? In April 2008, The Education Sector, a non-profit organization dedicated to improving US education policies, released a report entitled “Graduation Rate Watch: Making Minority Student Success a Priority.” The report claims that since the beginning of the new millennium,

Black students enrolling in college were **70% more likely not to graduate** with a degree within six years.

The AABE mission includes encouraging African-American students to pursue careers in energy related fields. AABE National Chair **Carolyn Green** (Sunoco - Philadelphia) and board member **Ralph Cleveland** (AGL Resources - Atlanta) have created the new “Building the Pipeline Initiative” to ensure the next generation of Minority energy professionals’ needs are addressed.

The Initiative will work closely with 2 National Committees (Scholarship and Membership &

Chapter Development) as well as the Chapter Presidents, Regional Coordinators, National Office and Board of Directors.

The Initiative’s goals are to create and maintain additional AABE Student Chapters at HBCUs and other accredited institutions across the country. Volunteers are needed to provide mentoring, part-time & full-time employment opportunities, and track professional development of our AABE scholarship recipients and other Minority students interested in the fields of energy & the environment. Both the organization and the students are expected to benefit from this partnership. To assist in this program, please contact [rcleve@aglresources.com](mailto:rcleve@aglresources.com). ☀



**AABE Members at Atlanta Chapter Meeting in Georgia**



## AABE website instructions for paid members:

Click on [www.aabe.org](http://www.aabe.org) and select **LOGIN**. Type your Email Address as your **USERNAME**. Click on **FORGOT YOUR PASSWORD?** An email with your new password will be generated. Sign in, update your profile and start using the site!

# Sign On to the New AABE Website NOW!!!

During the Board meeting,, the AABE National Technical Development Committee (TDC) was proud to present the new AABE website. The website has been online and active since September 10th.

The key objectives of the TDC were to enhance internal and external communication, increase chap-

ter autonomy and maintain organizational cohesion. The website offers opportunities for outside firms to solicit for employees through our career center. Private forums were created to conduct internal AABE committee business.

Members can chat, send emails and upload resumes or photos. The

website includes a directory of all **1,400** paid members. To activate your existing membership, please sign-in by using your work email address and request a password. Any new members can register online and pay via credit card.

All **47** chapter websites will be fully functional by November 1st. ☀

**All AABE chapter websites will promote local news, upcoming events and committee information.**



Energy Entrepreneur

Anita Graham

Opportunity Capital

Partners

## Apply now for AABE's *Entrepreneur of the Year*

The American Association of Blacks in Energy (AABE) is looking for entrepreneurial leaders and visionaries - men and women who create market-leading businesses in the field of energy, contribute to the strength of their communities and the economy, and help raise the bar of business excellence.

The *Energy Entrepreneur of the Year* award acknowledges individuals who have broken new ground or developed a unique method of conducting business

in the energy field. Supporting data must be documented in an essay submitted with a completed application. The application form and additional information can be found on the AABE website. Entries must be received by November 30, 2008.

To be eligible for the award the nominee must meet the following criteria:

The business is 51% African-American owned.

The business has been in exis-

tence for a minimum 3 years and employs a minimum of 3 employees.

Have an annual minimum revenue is \$250K with a pattern of increasing revenues.

We encourage entrepreneur's to self-nominate.

For more information, please contact the Energy Entrepreneurs Committee Co-Chairs, **Dot Harris** (GE - Atlanta) at dot.harris@ge.com and **Tonja Wicks** (DC) at TWICKS50@aol.com. ☀

*The AABE National Board of Directors hears reports from all National Committees at the Quarterly Board Meeting in DC this past September*

## AABE Entrepreneurs Get Energized

The Energy Entrepreneurs Committee was given extra time on the Agenda for both the Board Retreat meeting on Wednesday, September 24th and during the Board meeting on Saturday, September 27th to outline its *Proposed Strategy for African American Entrepreneurs in the Energy Industry*.

The team has done an outstanding job in developing this plan in conjunction with key business leaders, legislative leaders, capital investment firms, and very excited entrepreneurs. This clearly takes our focus on investment and the creation of wealth in our African American communities to a new level for the group.

The plan is based on four major premises:

1. Strengthen Economic Outlook of Energy Companies while Building Greater Black Community Relations Through Business and Employment Opportunities;
2. Meet Energy Efficiency Objectives by Engaging the Black Community;

3. Obtain the benefits of State/Federal Legislative and Regulatory initiatives that provide a critical opening for African American Entrepreneurs (AAEs) to assist major corporations with their product and service needs;

4. Leverage AAEs to address multi-cultural needs in meeting local content requirement driven by increased international sourcing.

This Committee under the leadership of board member **Dot Harris** (GE Energy-Atlanta Chapter), Chair has re-engaged many of our entrepreneurs back into the AABE organization, as well as, boosted new membership. ☀





# Join AABE in Orlando for 2009 National Conference

FL/AABE is proud to host the 2009 AABE 32nd Annual National Conference in Orlando, Florida. The event will take place at the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort, 9939 Universal Blvd, from April 14th to the 17th. The theme is "Sustainable Energy For A New Economy."

The AABE Southeast Region (SE) Chapters of Florida (FL/AABE), Atlanta, Birmingham, FVSU, Georgia Tech, Gulf Coast, North Carolina, NC A&T, South Carolina (SCCAABE), Savannah and Tennessee will hold planning meetings on July 28th, October 12th and December 5th in 2008 at the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort, the site of the

conference.

FL/AABE Chapter President **Greg Owens** (JEA-Florida), Board Member & National Conference Committee Chair **Richard Holmes** (GPC-Atlanta) and SE Region Coordinator **Corlene Williams** (EIPaso/SNG-Birmingham) are the Conference Co-Chairs.

Volunteers are needed to help create the conference. Subcommittees include administration, agenda planning, college symposium/career fair, computer support, distribution, entrepreneur's forum, finance, 1st time attendees session, fundraising, gifts/souvenirs, program booklet,

logistics, exhibits, publicity/promotions, silent auction, entertainment, training/workshops, transportation, volunteers and youth forum.

You can register online for the conference at [www.aabe.org](http://www.aabe.org) and reserve hotel rooms at [www.rosenshinglecreek.com](http://www.rosenshinglecreek.com). To volunteer for a sub-committee, please contact Corlene at [Corlene.williams@elpaso.com](mailto:Corlene.williams@elpaso.com). ☀

**American Association  
of Blacks in Energy**  
**AABE®**

**32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference**  
April 14-17, 2009  
Rosen Shingle Creek Hotel • Orlando, FL  
1-866-996-9939 ask for the AABE block

*"Sustainable Energy For a New Economy"*

**. SAVE THE DATE .**



Brought to you by the Southeast Regional Chapters:  
Atlanta • Birmingham • Florida • Gulf Coast • Mississippi  
North Carolina • Savannah • South Carolina • Tennessee

## Ralph Cleveland Promoted on NAESB Board

**Ralph Cleveland**, AABE board member and AGL Resources' Senior Vice President of Engineering & Operations (Atlanta Chapter) was elected to serve as Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors for the North American Energy Standards Board (NAESB) in October.

Ralph is a member of the Retail Gas Quadrant's Distributors Segment of NAESB's board. The North American Energy Standards Board serves as an industry forum for the development and promotion of standards which will lead to a

seamless marketplace for wholesale and retail natural gas and electricity, as recognized by its customers, business community, participants, and regulatory entities.

Other past and present AABE board members that are on the NAESB Board of Directors include **David Owens** (Edison Electric Institute-DC Chapter), **Alonzo Weaver** (Memphis Light, Gas & Water Division-Tennessee Chapter) and **Frank Johnson** (Consumers Energy-Michigan

Chapter). Please congratulate Ralph on his new position. ☀



(left to right) AABE Connecticut Chapter President Lorenzo Marshall and L. Leslie at the Chapter Scholarship Reception



Ralph Cleveland of AGL Resources, Inc. has served on the AABE Board of Directors since 2005 and is eligible for re-election during the 2009 Annual Conference in Orlando this April.

# AABE Chapters' Quarterly News



**Helen Butler at the AABE Atlanta Chapter Legislative & Regulatory Affairs Committee program**



**AABE Birmingham Chapter Energy Forum Panelists**



**AABE Cincinnati Chapter partners with Boys/Girls Hope**

## Atlanta Chapter

The Chapter's Legislative & Regulatory Affairs Committee (L&RA) prepared a dynamic meeting for the membership on October 9th at Mary Mac's Tea Room in downtown Atlanta. The "AABE Energy Scorecard: Candidates Speak, YOU Decide" program featured representatives from both Republican and Democratic parties running for elected positions this November.

The meeting began with the "Vote First" campaign sponsored by **Helen Butler** (pictured), Executive Director for the Georgia Coalition for the People's Agenda. She shared voter registration information and encouraged us to vote early. For more election information, please call 1-888-265-1115.

Other speakers in attendance included **GA Senator Ross Tolleson**, **Dr. Deborah Honeycutt**, **Mrs. Joan Martin** (wife of candidate **Jim Martin**), **Eric Hubbard** (on behalf of **Congressman Hank Johnson, Jr.**), **Representative Billy Horne** of District 71, **Representative Tony Collins** of Forsyth County and **Representative Randal Mangham** of District 9C. ☀

## Birmingham Chapter

Students joined community leaders and the chapter for an energy panel discussion Tuesday, August 19th at historic Miles College. The Birmingham Chapter was joined by a distinguished panel consisting of **Frank Stewart** (President & COO, AABE National Board), **Carolyn Green** (Chair, AABE National Board), **Janice Hamilton** (Energy Division Director, Alabama Public Service Commission), **Moanica Coaston** (VP of External Affairs & General Counsel at Southern

Nuclear), and **Chip Bivens** (Vice President, Audit & Compliance, Energen Corp). The event was moderated by Alabama Power's **Keisa Sharpe**.

The discussion covered several areas, with panelists looking at how a global energy crisis would affect our country and state. Other topics included the importance of environmental education, the future of nuclear energy and viable alternative energy sources (including wind and solar power). Panelists challenged audience members to not only educate themselves concerning energy issues, but also stressed the importance of communicating with their lawmakers concerning energy legislation.

As a result of the energy forum at Miles College, the Birmingham Chapter will be working with the college to establish an AABE student chapter.

The Birmingham Chapter had an outstanding meeting on the topic of "New Nuclear" during its September meeting. **Dale Lloyd**, Director in the Nuclear Development Department of Southern Nuclear addressed the group. Dale spoke on the design, licensing and construction of the 2 new nuclear units that will be constructed at the Plant Vogtle site, as well as the technical, regulatory, administrative and external activities involved in the licensing and design of the new units. ☀

## Cincinnati Chapter

The AABE Cincinnati Chapter lives by the credo "Each One, Reach One." In the spirit of reaching out, the Cincinnati Chapter has entered into a partnership with Boys Hope Girls Hope of Greater Cincinnati to provide mentorship

opportunities to their young scholars.

Boys Hope Girls Hope fits a unique niche within the community. They serve talented youth with the ability to succeed, but whose environment does not allow them to reach their full potential. Key components of their program include providing a family-like residential environment, academic rigor, mentorship opportunities and support through college.

Real life experience illustrates that young people can really excel under quality guidance and through mentorship. Chapter President, **Chuck Session** (Duke Energy) says, "We are pleased that our membership led by **Rick Mack** "stepped up" to volunteer time and resources to assist these gifted scholars. One of our guiding principles is to develop future leaders for our industry and communities. We feel the partnership with Boys Hope/Girls Hope, along with the relationships we develop with the young scholars will make a lasting impact with achieving that goal."

This year marks the 10-year anniversary of the AABE Cincinnati Chapter. In December, our chapter will host an anniversary dinner/celebration at the Historic Vernon Manor Hotel. This event will include remarks from founding members, scholarship winners who have benefited from the AABE scholarships, and the keynote speaker will be the AABE National Chairperson, **Carolyn Green** (Sunoco-Philadelphia). We are excited about celebrating our accomplishments over the last 10 years with present and past members, and anyone who supported us for such an extended amount of time. Invitations have been submitted to the Columbus, Indiana, and Regional Chapters as well. ☀

# AABE Chapters' News continued.

## Columbus Chapter

The AABE Columbus, Ohio Chapter was asked to partner with AEP Ohio, a unit of American Electric Power, to assist with recruiting participants to attend a series of community outreach events focused on sharing AEP Ohio as an employer within the community. The events are designed to give attendees an overview of AEP Ohio, as well as to expose them to the different business operations and how they might be able to find employment within the energy industry. Columbus Chapter President **Toni Cunningham** is a part of the Diversity Outreach and Talent Development Team, which is the strategic team within AEP Ohio that is sponsoring this initiative. "Recognizing the importance of creating a diverse workforce, and the strength that it brings to the organization, AEP Ohio has shown that they are committed to reaching out by hosting these events," said Toni, "Given our goal of bringing more minorities into the industry, the Columbus Chapter is the perfect organization to partner with AEP Ohio on this endeavor."

AEP Ohio is sponsoring four (4) community outreach events in strategic areas throughout the Columbus area. The events are held on Saturday mornings, and participants are invited to enjoy a continental breakfast and executive boxed lunch, while learning about the opportunities and benefits of working for AEP Ohio. Attendees also have the opportunity to learn about resume writing and interviewing tips, as well as to network with members of the AABE local chapter and other company representatives one-on-one. The AABE members assisted with recruiting attendees by reaching out to family, friends, and neighbors. In addition, announcements were also placed in churches and community centers. All of the members of the Columbus Chapter, including those from other companies such as Columbia Gas of Ohio and PJM participated in this initiative. This outreach effort is being

piloted in the Columbus area with plans to eventually expand the program throughout the entire AEP Ohio service territory. ☀

## Connecticut Chapter

At its recent Scholarship Reception the AABE Connecticut Chapter awarded five **\$2,500** scholarships to students seeking careers in energy, business and science. Energy executives representing The United Illuminating Company, Northeast Utilities, and Connecticut Light & Power were on hand to make the scholarship presentation to the exceptional candidates.

To date, the chapter has awarded a total of **28** scholarships totaling **\$70,000**. This is a record that the chapter can truly take pride in achieving. "Our scholarship program is a great example of the partnership we have forged with Connecticut energy companies coupled with the hard work of our chapter members", stated **Lorenzo Marshall**, CT Chapter President. ☀

## Denver Area Chapter

The Democratic National Convention (DNC) held in Denver, Colorado, August 25th-28th, saw Denver Area Chapter (DAC) members taking part in this historic event, and they share a few comments.

**Landri Taylor**, Forest City Stapleton and DAC officer, said "It seems as though it was yesterday that Black people could not vote or even register to vote in our country. I'm glad to be a part of the 'I Have a Dream' generation!" Taylor, also a member of the DNC Planning Committee, points out that:

For the first time an African American was the Presidential nominee for a major party, and **Senator Barack Obama** spoke before the largest crowd in DNC history. His acceptance speech came exactly 40 years to the date of the 'I Have a Dream' speech by **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.** in Washington, DC. It was exactly 100 years since the last convention was held in Denver.

Xcel Energy executive and DAC member **Helena Haynes-Carter**

reflecting on the regular televised convention program and other events hosted by local corporate and government officials said. "The DNC was a wonderful time to network with colleagues and individuals from all over the country."

**Syl Morgan-Smith**, a founding member of AABE in Denver 31 years ago, beamed with pride as she commented:

"As a product of the segregated south, it was a once in a lifetime thrill for me to attend each of the official sessions and most of the special DNC events. For the past two presidential elections I voted in the Electoral College, and five times served as a delegate to national republican conventions. But, this was the most memorable and treasured experience due to what it means to our next three generations. Imagine not only an African American president, but also a poised Harvard educated beautiful Black woman as the First Lady and international image of the American woman. W-O-W, a confident First Lady who is 100 percent Black and looks like my mother and grand children. From the Dream to Reality, and to God be the glory!"

I witnessed a spirit of hope and change that culminated with that Senator Obama's awesome speech. I pray that every eligible person will vote knowing that we stand on the strong, faithful shoulders that got us here. ☀

## Florida Chapter (FL/AABE)

The Florida Chapter will host the AABE National Board of Directors and Chapter Presidents quarterly meeting from December 5th to 6th in Orlando. The purpose of the meeting will be to provide an end-of-year update about the organization and continue formal planning for the 2009



**AABE Columbus Chapter member Dalene Harris** talks to a potential candidate at the AABE/AEP recruiting event.

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

**The AABE Birmingham Chapter** is planning to create a student chapter at Miles College as part of the "Building the Pipeline Initiative."

**FL/AABE article continued on page 12.**



# AABE Chapters' News continued.



**AABE Gulf Coast Chapter's Women in Energy panelists.**

## Florida Chapter Cont.

National Conference. The meeting will be held at the Rosen Center Shingle Creek Hotel, 9939 Universal Boulevard in Orlando, Florida. For reservation information, please contact the AABE National Office at (202) 371-9530 or email [info@aabe.org](mailto:info@aabe.org). ☀

## FVSU Student Chapter

A program that sharpens the professional skills of tomorrow's business leaders was recently launched at Fort Valley State University (FVSU). The new Business Executive Training (BET) Program, is modeled after FVSU's Cooperative Developmental Energy Program (CDEP). "We're trying to link our business students with the best that the industry has to offer," said **Dr. Isaac J. Crumbly**, Vice President of Career and Collaborative Programs, AABE FVSU Chapter Coordinator and CDEP Founder.

Thirty students in the business department who maintain a 3.0 average or higher and have earned 30 credit hours will participate. Crumbly stated that "We want to expose the banking and finance community to FVSU's top business and economics students. We'd also like to have our students work with these industries, as well. It's a win-win situation. It's similar to the model used in the '80s to connect CDEP students to the energy industry. One of the best ways of forging excellent relationships is to have your students work as interns." ☀

## Gulf Coast Chapter

On July 19th, AABE Gulf Coast Chapter held its 3rd annual Energy fair in Mobile, AL at the Colonial Bel-Air Mall. We had 11 companies to participate and 14 different displays, in-

cluding a Kid's Corner. The companies that participated were: Mississippi Power Company, Alabama Power Company, Naman's Catering, Chevron, Honda, Mobile Area Water and Sewer, Star Service, Inc., Sam's Club, Mobile Sheriff's Department, Mobile Police Department, and Bubbles the Clown. During the fair each company provided energy conservation tips along with general company information to their audiences. Overall the fair was a great success, teaching adults and kids alike more about energy, and having a fun time while doing so.

On September 18th, the Gulf Coast Chapter presented its 2nd Annual *Women in Energy Forum*. The forum was presented with an open-panel discussion. The panel consisted of **Marsha Johnson**, Senior VP of Human Resources & Chief Diversity Officer, Georgia Power; **Aline Ward**, Regional CIO, Mississippi Power; **Vernita Hilliard**, Assistant to Executive VP, Customer Service Organization, Georgia Power; **Marilyn Sefton**, VP of Human Resources, Coast Electric.

The concept of forum focused on the theme "*Embracing Change: Affects of the Economy Surrounding the Businesses We Work For*". The panel was asked challenging questions by facilitator, **Cindy Webb**, Corporate Information Manager, Mississippi Power, in reference to the affects of the economy on our businesses. Among the topics covered were, the shortage of skilled labor, how the economy decline effects on company and employees, philosophy on personal development, and the issues with communicating as a woman. ☀

## Houston Chapter

On July 24th, 2008 the Houston Chapter of AABE hosted a wine tasting event at the Museum of Fine Arts with the purpose of networking and educating attendees about AABE. We were honored to host over 30 local area Energy enthusiasts of which 80% had never been exposed to AABE and it's mission.

## Xchelsia Bledsoe (GE)

AABE Houston Chapter President, gave an overview of AABE's purpose and mission as well as discussed recent activities of the local chapter and upcoming events. ☀

## Indiana Chapter

The Indiana Chapter of The American Association of Blacks in Energy (AABE) hosted an informational booth at the Citizens Energy Group "Be Winter Wise" Energy Fair on Saturday, September 20th. This is the 3rd year that the Indiana AABE organization has partnered with the local gas utility to interact with community members, and provide useful information concerning energy conservation and safety.

In addition to sharing valuable information, organization members offered coloring books for kids, and a drawing for 9 home energy conservation kits including a variety of the following: shower timers, oxygenating showerheads, aerating faucet attachments, energy efficient light bulbs, furnace filter alarms, weather stripping and insulation materials, conservation stickers, etc. All winners were elated to receive their packages. The AABE Indiana Chapter also plans to participate in energy fairs in other areas including Gary, South Bend and Ft. Wayne. ☀



**AABE Houston Chapter networking event**

**AABE Indiana Chapter energy booth volunteers**





# AABE Chapters' News continued.

## Kansas-Missouri Chapter



The AABE Kansas-Missouri Chapter held its Career Expo Series on October 15th at Screenland in Kansas City, MO. Past AABE Board member **Barrett Hatches**, President & CEO of Swope Health Services and COO of Swope Community Services, discussed the value of finding a career mentor. ☀

## Michigan Chapter

The AABE Michigan Chapter is proud to announce the election of new officers for the 2008-2010 term. **Darrell White** is the new President of the Chapter. Darrell is the Manager of the Southwest Region of DTE Energy. The Michigan Chapter Vice President is **Sheila Patterson** (CMS Energy). The Chapter Treasurer is **Rheami Littleton** (CMS Energy) and Assistant Treasurer is **Lori Lafleur-Todd** (DTE Energy). The Secretary is **Keiana McMichael** (CMS Energy) and Assistant Secretary is **Brenda Lee** (CMS Energy). Congratulations to all on their new positions. ☀

## New Jersey Chapter

The AABE NJ Chapter will hold its 4th Annual Black Tie Gala on Friday, November 14th. The theme of the event will be "Economics and Energy: How it Affects You" with **Reverend Raquel A. St. Clair, PhD**. The gala will take place at Snuffy's Pan-tagis Renaissance in Scotch Plains. Tickets are \$75/person and available by contacting **Gwen Ratliff** at (732) 764-3080. ☀

## New York Metropolitan Area Chapter (NYMAC)

AABE-NYMAC held its 18th Annual Scholarship Reception on Wednesday, May 21, 2008. The Scholarship Reception was held in the auditorium of Con Edison's headquarters at 4 Irving Place in Manhattan.

The event was attended by **Dennis M. Walcott** who serves as New York City's Deputy Mayor of Education & Community Development and by **Barrett Hatches** who is President & CEO of SWOPE Health Services. Mr. Hatches delivered the keynote address for the occasion. Four students were awarded AABE Scholarships and recognized for their outstanding academic achievements as well as their involvement in numerous community projects.

The 2008 scholarship recipients are: **Linda Fraser**: Linda is a graduate of **Medgar Evers College High School** where she completed 32 credits of college prep courses in subjects such as Calculus I -3, English, Biology, Physics, and Linear Algebra. For the fall, Linda was accepted at Columbia University where she has made plans to major in Chemistry and Physics.

**Priscilla Agyemang**: Priscilla is a graduate of **Fiorello LaGuardia High School** where in addition to being an excellent student who received numerous awards, she volunteered at a math tutor at **Medgar Evers College**. She was also captain of high school's girls track and field team and the cross country team. For the fall semester, Priscilla has decided to attend Boston University.

**Natasha Pollard**: Natasha is a graduate of North Rockland High School where she was named to the National Honor Society for Math, Foreign Language, Science, Social Studies, and English. Natasha is the recipient of numerous other academic awards and participated in many community projects where she took on leadership roles. This fall she made plans to attend Columbia University where she will major in Chemistry and Math.

**Peter Boyce II**: Peter is a graduate of Stuyvesant High School where he became a mentor for students taking exams for specialized High Schools.

He also volunteered to work in the school's library where he also fixed computers and worked as the network administrator. While still in High School, Peter took classes at Columbia University and he successfully completed several AP courses with distinction. This fall Peter will attend Harvard University. ☀

## NC A&T University Student Chapter

On August 28th, the AABE National Office along with **Luddy Hayden** and **Robert Powell** of the North Carolina Chapter met with **Robert Clay**, Chief of Staff to the Chancellor of NC A&T University to discuss the plans for the student chapter and the AABE Training Institute. Mr. Clay was very supportive and asked for various timelines of efforts & activities; a signing ceremony that would involve the Chancellor to announce this collaboration; and an agreement to assist in hosting a meeting of international dignitaries this fall.

Future Renewable Electric Energy Delivery and Management Systems Center (FREEDM) awarded three **\$1,500** AABE scholarships to NC State University students **James Hill**, **William Credle**, and **Lamar Hill**. All three students are majoring in computer and electrical engineering. ☀

**ConEdison's Lou Rana, AABE NYMAC members and scholarship winners.**



**Below: FREEDM/ AABE Scholarship winners James Hill, William Credle and Lamar Hill.**



# AABE Chapters' News continued.



AABE NC Chapter  
Youth Day Participants



SCCAABE  
Professional  
Development  
Seminar attendees



AABE Southern California  
Chapter Officers

## North Carolina Chapter

On October 7th, the NC Chapter elected new Officers for the 2008-2010 term. The new NC Chapter President is **Sherrie Duncan** of Progress Energy. **Tiffany Cox** (Progress Energy) is the Chapter Vice President. **Vermelle Wilson** (Raleigh Area Development Authority) was elected Treasurer. **Julia Wright** of PSNC is Secretary and **Alicia Lyon** of Progress Energy became NC Chapter Historian. Congratulations go out to all newly elected officials.

The Chapter's Youth Day event in September focused on "Powering Your Future." Local high school students were treated to an interactive "car of the future" design session that enhanced their developmental skills. The keynote speaker was **Superior Court Judge Michael Morgan**. ☀

## Philadelphia Chapter

The AABE Philadelphia Chapter's Black Energy Awareness Month (BEAM) program featured a career workshop for high school students. Entitled "Bring Light to the Future," the event was held on October 25th at the PECO Energy building that featured career development and professional growth opportunities. ☀

## Southern California Chapter

Earlier this year, the AABE Southern California Chapter elected a new Board of Officers. **Afarah Board**, President; **David Ford**, Vice President; **Patricia Click**, Treasurer; and **Debbie Lumpkin**, Secretary. Since then, the Chapter has been on the move to expand and grow. Some recent activities include a joint partnership with the Altadena Chapter of the NAACP during a Home Loan and Energy Fair. The AABE Southern California

Chapter presented information on "How to Avoid Utility Disconnections."

The Chapter also recently hosted two receptions: Membership Drive and Scholarship Reception in Los Angeles, and another during the AABE Board of Directors meeting and Congressional Black Caucus Conference that as held in Washington, DC. ☀

## South Carolina Chapter (SCCAABE)

The South Carolina Chapter of the American Association of Blacks in Energy hosted its annual Professional Development seminar appropriately themed "Energy: Charting Your Future." The seminar was held in the Marriott Hotel in Columbia, S.C. from Oct. 1-2. The seminar was designed to acclimate all participants with a wide range of topics in the energy industry, chart career paths in the industry and to clearly outline career opportunities within the business units of SCANA.

The seminar started with a great program on Wednesday night, Oct. 1st, with keynote speakers **James Bennett** and **Hilda Pinnix-Ragland**. Bennett is the Executive Vice President and Director of Public Affairs at First Citizens Bank and also sits on the SCANA Board of Directors. Pinnix-Ragland is Vice President- North Region, Progress Energy. She also serves on the AABE Board of Directors and is a former National Chair. Bennett's presentation was entitled "Five Tools for Fueling Your Career in the Energy Industry." Bennett's message encouraged us to 1) be prepared and stay abreast of energy trends, 2) network for success, 3) take professional risks, 4) seek out a strong mentor and network of mentors, and 5) give back as

a mentor. Pinnix-Ragland's presentation was entitled "Sustaining a Successful Energy Future." The message allowed us to consider the benefits of 1) education – staying up to date on energy 'realities' and increasing our financial acumen, 2) know your business and know it well, 3) people – standing ready to hold people up when times are tough, 4) be competent, have confidence, and courage, and 5) do not sacrifice your honor or integrity for anyone. The festive evening also included a formal dinner in the Columbia Marriott Ballroom.

The seminar continued on Thursday, Oct 2nd at the Columbia Marriott with a host of speakers (local and national), as well as SCANA executives. **Bill Timmerman**, the Chairman of the Board, President and CEO of SCANA presented the topic "Nuclear Power Is Your Future."

Timmerman highlighted the activity surrounding the construction of two nuclear units and the many career opportunities staffing such facilities would entail. **Kevin Marsh**, President and Chief Operating Officer, SCE&G, presented "Energy: Charting Your Future, But What Road Should I Take?" Marsh highlighted that new opportunities abound because of 1) workforce issues, 2) new technologies, 3) New Regulations, and 4) New Nuclear.

**George Williams**, Sr. Vice President, Operations, Commonwealth Edison and who serves on the AABE Board of Directors was the keynote speaker and presented the topic "Engineering Career Control." Williams took us through his personal journey as a demonstrated roadmap of achieving our career goals. (Continued on next page)

# AABE Chapters' Quarterly News continued.

## **South Carolina Chapter (SCCAABE) continued**

He made it clear that it is important to be flexible, take risks, persevere and perform. We should differentiate ourselves and be willing to deal with change and also to introduce change. **Dukes Scott**, Executive Director, SC Office of Regulatory Staff, presented an overview of the regulatory process highlighting his responsibility, along with the Public Service Commission, to protect the public, ensure economic development for job retention and growth, and also to preserve the financial integrity of the utility so that it can continue to provide customer service.

The program also included a huge segment of presentations by the following SCANA business units with special emphasis on defining the business function, identifying growth opportunities and challenges and identifying career opportunities currently and in the future:

Wires Group – **Keller Kissam** (Vice President, SCE&G)  
 Gas – **Michael Greene** (General Manager, Systems Integrity, SCE&G)  
 Information Technology – **Martha Bode** (IT Director, SCANA Services)  
 Fuel Procurement/Asset Management – **Sarena Burch** (SVP, SCANA)  
 Carolina Gas Transmission – **Gary Alexander** (Manager, Customer Service/New Business Development)  
 Employee Organizational Development – **Liz Michael** (Senior Organizational Development Specialist)  
 Fossil Hydro Generation – **Jim Landreth** (VP, SCE&G)  
 Current and New Nuclear – **Jeff Archie** (VP, Nuclear Operations, SCE&G)  
 Financial – **Casey Coffey** (Assistant Controller, SCANA)  
 Demand Side Management – **Felicia Howard** (Director DSM, SCE&G)  
 Marketing and Trading – **Marcus Harris** (Director, Power Marketing)

The seminar ended with a presentation from the United Way by **Kathy Hill** and **Eric Roberts**. The presentation included Leadership Opportunities for group involvement with such programs as the "Young Leader Society" and the "African American Leadership Initiative".

The seminar included the following "points of emphasis" during the 1.5 day seminar for professional development:

- Be prepared
- Stay abreast of energy trends
- Network for success
- Take professional risks even when change is unsettling
- Trust yourself
- Seek advice
- Choose a job that will challenge your current skill set
- Seek a strong mentor and network of mentors
- FIDO – Forget It and Drive On
- Be competent. Have confidence. Have the courage to diversify your skill sets
- Know your business
- Nuclear Power is the future
- Appreciate your organization
- Share common ideas
- Reason together about obstacles to overcome
- Attrition within SCANA in employees and leadership will be huge in the next 10 years
- SCANA does not want employees to fail
- Be willing to accept new assignments
- Be flexible
- Persevere
- Be able to perform
- Hands reflect a laborer; hands & mind reflect a craftsman; hand, mind & heart reflect an artist
- Don't be afraid to pioneer
- Plan the path; Work the path
- Be a bet worth investing in
- Differentiate yourself

- Know your strengths and weaknesses
- Plants are shaped by cultivation; men/women are shaped by education
- Innovate
- Collaborate
- Know the level of personal satisfaction you are seeking
- Be organized and focused on what you want to achieve
- No whining
- Develop a business acumen
- Be open to constructive feedback
- Learn to develop a broad strategical vision
- Education is not a destination
- Make your career interests known to those in position to make a difference
- Keep God in your life

The program ended with a festive social and networking hour also in the Columbia Marriott ballroom. ☀

## **Southeastern Missouri-Southern Illinois Chapter (SMSI)**

The St. Louis County chapter of the NAACP honored **Richard Mark**, SVP of Missouri Energy Delivery, AmerenUE, with its 2008 Freedom Award at its annual Freedom Fund Dinner. Mark is being honored for his contributions to the NAACP and his overall involvement and support in the community. Mark served as co-chair of the event last year.

"I am honored to be recognized by the NAACP, and I share this honor with AmerenUE for supporting my efforts with steadfast commitment to diversity and inclusion," Mark says.

On October 14th, AABE Board Treasurer **Sabrina Campbell** (AEP) presented an overview of AABE to the SMSI membership during their recruitment meeting. ☀



**SCCAABE Professional Development Program Guest Speaker AABE Board Member George Williams of Exelon**

## ***DID YOU KNOW?***

***The organization is electing six members to the AABE National Board of Directors at the National Conference in Orlando, Florida***



**State Rep. Esther Haywood, center, and Emily Pitts present Richard Mark, SVP of Missouri Energy Delivery, AmerenUE, with the 2008 St. Louis County Freedom Award.**



# AABE Chapters' Quarterly News continued.



**AABE TN Chapter  
Scholarship Winner**

## DID YOU KNOW?

**Western Region**

**Chapters involved in  
planning the 2010  
conference include  
Alaska, California  
Central Valley, Denver,  
Northern California,  
Southern California and  
Washington-Oregon.**



**Students attending the  
NABGG Conference**

### Tennessee Chapter

The AABE National President, **Frank Stewart** joined some of our leading professionals in the energy and environmental fields for a discussion called, "Energy is Everybody's Business." He was joined on the panel by **Laura Campbell**, Assistant Manager of Energy Resources at MLGW and **Bob Rogers**, Technical Director of the Memphis Shelby County Health Department. The session was moderated by **Jozelle Booker**, Manager of Procurement and Contracts at Memphis Light Gas and Water Division.

**Stan Burton**, Financial Analyst, Global Sourcing- Energy International Paper and **Gary H. Harris, CEM**, General Manager of Customer Service with Tennessee Valley Authority also addressed the crowd of over one hundred attendees. The workshop was informative and inspiring to the energy professionals and community leaders in attendance. ☀

### Washington, DC Metropolitan Area Chapter

Elections will take place for DC Chapter Officers on October 27th. Candidates for office are **Derek A. Dyson** as President, **David Arthur** as Vice President, **Vincent Orange** as Vice President, **Presley Reed, Jr.** as Secretary and **Sonya Baskerville** as Treasurer.

On October 9th, the DC Chapter hosted African Union (AU) **Ambassador Amina Salum Ali** and **Dr. Elham Mahmoud Ahmed Ibrahim**, AU Commissioner, in a discussion on electric transmission infrastructure issues in the

continent. On September 30th, **Russ Sullivan**, Majority Staff Director for the Senate Finance Committee, addressed the Chapter about his perspective on energy taxes.

Correction to 3rd Quarter Newsletter: The Washington, DC Chapter awarded four \$2,500 scholarships AND a \$5,000 scholarship at their June scholarship awards event. The speaker was Dr. George W. Reid, Assistant Secretary for Planning and Academic Affairs, Maryland Higher Education Commission. ☀

### Washington-Oregon Chapter (WAOR)

The WAOR Chapter and the Western Region Chapters have decided on Seattle, Washington as the site for the April 2010 33rd Annual AABE National Conference. Planning and preliminary budgets are currently under development.

The WAOR Chapter also welcomes **Bill Dickens** to the Seattle-Tacoma area. Bill was a FL/AABE member who recently accepted a position as Senior Utilities Economist for Tacoma Power. ☀

### Black Energy Awareness Month (BEAM) Programs

The AABE organization provides an interactive learning environment for high school students to broaden their knowledge about the energy industry and new technology, as well as enhance their exposure to various career opportunities within the energy field.

The Black Energy Awareness Month (BEAM) program is an annual career day event hosted by all Chapters during the months of October and November. AABE members who participate in BEAM will provide their job experiences and education background to eager young students interested in math and sciences. AABE National Scholarship applications will also be handed out to all participants.

Volunteers are needed to serve in these programs throughout every Chapter. To apply, please view the Chapter BEAM Committee pages on the new AABE website. ☀

### AABE Membership

**General Chapters:** There are 33 Chapters active in the organization. These Chapters hold monthly, quarterly and annual programs on issues related to the overall AABE Mission.

**Student Chapters:** There are 6 Student Chapters at accredited institutions across the country. Additional Chapters are under development in our "Building the Pipeline Initiative."

**Inactive or New Chapters:** There are 8 Chapters currently being revitalized. To establish an inactive or new Chapter please contact the appropriate Regional Coordinator.

**Dues:** Dues are paid on an annual basis. Membership dues vary across each Chapter. Visit [www.aabe.org](http://www.aabe.org) to learn more about our Chapters, Committees and Mission. ☀



# Energy and Environment News

## **LIHEAP is Fully Funded**

On Wednesday, September 30, 2008, the President signed into law HR 2638, The Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act 2009 which provides \$5.1 billion for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) for FY 2009. \$4.51 Billion is directed to block grant funding, with \$590 million allocated to contingency funds. Additionally, states can increase eligibility to 75% of state median income (the current eligibility ceiling is 150% of poverty or 60% of state median income).

This is the first time in LIHEAP's 27-year history that the program will be fully funded. It is important that the funding go to valuable programs so that an effective case can be made for full funding in the next Congress. ☀

## **NABGG Conference**

The NABGG (National Association of Black Geologists and Geophysicists) 2008 Technology Conference was convened in Atlanta, Georgia on September 24th.

This was the 27th Annual Technology Conference of the organization and the first time that the NABGG has visited the US southeastern region. This venue was an excellent locale in which to share new developments in the areas of geoscience education, energy, diversity, and mentorship.

The conference theme this year was "Advancing the Geosciences – The Next Generation." This was an appropriate theme of this year's conference, and underscored the forward movement of the organization and the need to continue to advance and propel our next generation of geoscientists into leadership

and professional development. The NABGG continues to hold to a positive view of its future role in shaping and mentoring new geoscientists and "advancing new generations" into the earth sciences.

The NABGG is a member society of the GSA (Geological Society of America), AGI (American Geological Institute), and AAPG (American Association of Petroleum Geologists). The NABGG also has a seat on the NPC (National Petroleum Council). The NABGG has a diverse membership and provides membership and scholarship opportunities to all ethnic groups. Past AABE board member **Garry Harris**, CEO of HTS Enterprise, helped sponsor this event. ☀

## **US Financial Bailout Plan**

HR 1424, the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 was passed by the US House of Representatives & Congress and signed into law by **President George W. Bush** on October 3rd. The rescue package lets the government spend billions of dollars to buy bad mortgage-related securities and other devalued assets held by troubled financial institutions. If successful, advocates say, that would allow frozen credit to begin flowing again and prevent a deep recession.

Congress gave a huge boost to solar, wind and clean-energy projects in tax legislation, but an unlikely industry is also quietly cashing in on the tax breaks: coal.

The bill makes alternative jet fuel made from liquefied coal eligible for the first time for a 50-cents-a-gallon tax credit. It creates a new tax credit for waste coal that is recovered and reused in the manufacture of coke, a key ingredient in steel.

For more details on the plan, please visit the House Financial Services Committee website: <http://www.financialservices.house.gov>. ☀

## **AGA Winter Heating Update**

The American Gas Association (AGA), which represents 202 local natural gas utilities across the nation, held a press conference on the 2008-2009 winter heating season and its projected impact on the nearly 70 million natural gas customers in the United States who rely on natural gas to meet their daily energy needs. AGA executives explained that while current production activity and storage figures remain strong, several factors will contribute to a likely 10 – 30 percent increase in home-heating costs this winter.

"While natural gas prices have declined substantially since reaching their all-time highs in early July, they are still higher than they were at this time last year," said **Chris McGill**, AGA's managing director for policy analysis. "Because utilities purchase natural gas from suppliers throughout the year and store it in underground facilities for winter delivery, much of the natural gas utilities will deliver to households this year was purchased when prices were at or near these historic highs."

Other factors, including colder-than-normal winter temperatures, can also affect the demand for, and price of, natural gas. America's local natural gas utilities are committed to offering customers every means of assistance possible to help keep their homes warm without hurting their pocketbook.

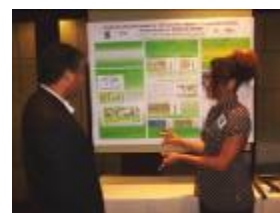
For more information on energy-saving tips and financial assistance please visit [www.aga.org](http://www.aga.org). ☀



## **NABGG Conference Presentations in Atlanta, GA**

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
Please Vote on  
November 4th! Find  
out US Presidential  
Candidates'  
positions on the  
economy, energy  
issues and  
environmental  
justice in  
[www.grist.org](http://www.grist.org).

## **NABGG Conference Presentations in Atlanta, GA**





## The American Association of Blacks in Energy (AABE®)

AABE National Office and Headquarters

1625 K Street

Suite 405

Washington, DC 20006

Phone: 202-371-9530

Fax: 202-371-9528

E-mail: [info@aabe.org](mailto:info@aabe.org)

Website: <http://www.aabe.org>

**Frank Stewart** - President & COO

**LaKeesha Wilson** - Director of Member Services

**Kyle Elliott** - Research Assistant

**Pauline St. Cyr** - Office Assistant

### AABE® Mission Statement

The American Association of Blacks in Energy (AABE) is a national association of energy professionals founded in 1977 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.

The purposes of AABE are the following:

- To serve as a resource for policy discussion of the economic, social and political impact of environmental and energy policies on African Americans and other minorities.
- To ensure involvement of African Americans in governmental energy policymaking by recommending capable sensitive and informed personnel to appropriate officials.
- To encourage both the public and private sectors to be responsive to the problems, goals and aspirations of African Americans in energy-related fields.
- To encourage African American students to pursue careers in energy-related fields and to provide scholarships and other financial aid for such students.

AABE was founded in 1977 and is largely comprised of African-American professionals in energy-related careers. AABE is a not-for-profit organization with 47 chapters across the country and over 1,600 members. ☼

## Upcoming AABE Events

### AABE Board of Directors & Chapter Presidents Meetings

December 5-6: Rosen Shingle Creek Resort, Orlando, Florida

January 19, 2009: MLK Day of Service

April 14-17, 2009: 32nd Annual AABE National Conference, Rosen Shingle Creek Resort, Orlando, Florida ☼

### Upcoming AABE Chapter Golf Tournaments in 2008

December 6: Florida Chapter 4th Annual Scholarship Golf Classic, Rosen Shingle Creek Resort, Orlando, FL ☼

### Black Energy Awareness Month (BEAM) Programs

Various Chapters' events occur between the months of October and November. Please visit the AABE website for more information. ☼

### AABE Energy News Article Submissions Deadlines

News items from AABE members or outside sources are welcome. Reprints of articles must have permissions from the source of the document. Events announcements must be provided at least 3 months in advance. Word documents, emails, Adobe files and pictures (.GIF, .JPEG and .JPG extensions only) are requested.

Deadline: **Monday, January 5, 2009**

Editor: **Wayne X. Young**, AABE Communications Committee (Atlanta Chapter - Honeywell International)  
Email: [wayne.young2@honeywell.com](mailto:wayne.young2@honeywell.com)

☼

### AABE Communications Committee Members & Contributors

**Hilda Pinnix Ragland** Chair (NC Chapter - Progress Energy)  
**Alice Gordon** (Birmingham Chapter - Alabama Power Company)  
**Carin Burwell** (NJ Chapter - PSE&G)

**Bill Dickens** (WAOR Chapter - Tacoma Power)

**Mike Ferguson** (SCCAABE - SCANA Corporation)

**LaKeesha Wilson** (AABE National Office Staff)

**Delithia Morrow-Coles** (Atlanta Chapter - GE Energy)

**Margo Jackson** (Connecticut Chapter - Northeast Utilities)

**Joyce Hayes -Giles** (Michigan Chapter - DTE Energy)

**Dot Harris** (Atlanta Chapter - GE Energy)

**Paula Jackson**

**Charlotte King** (Atlanta Chapter - Snowden & King Communications)

**TaKeysha Cheney** (Columbus Chapter - AEP)

**Jessica Whitaker** (NC Chapter - Progress Energy)

**Toni Cunningham** (Columbus Chapter - AEP)

**LaQuisha Parks** - (NC Chapter - Progress Energy)

**Paul White** - (DAC - NREL)

☼

**AABE PHOTO GALLERY**

