

AABE®

All ABout Energy

American Association of Blacks in Energy® – Atlanta Chapter

Vol. 9 ♦ November 2007

<http://aabe.org/atlanta>



OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS:

Atlanta Chapter BEAM Events

The Black Energy Awareness Month (BEAM) Committee sponsored two special events last month... presenting interactive educational programs to 50 students at Redan High School in Stone Mountain, and at South Atlanta High School in Atlanta. Redan's program was held October 11th and South Atlanta's program was held October 18th.



The students learned about the nuclear, electric and natural gas industry, as well as careers in various energy fields, such as engineering, finance, national accounts, and industrial hygiene. Tough questions were asked about solar energy, water power, storing nuclear waste, and college and career choices. The panelists also stressed the necessity of hard work, dedication and commitment to be successful. The students were attentive and very much engaged in the discussions, and were presented with BEAM t-shirts, pens and other trinkets to remember the experience.



Additional pictures of the programs are provided on page 7 of this newsletter.

Presenters and volunteers were: BEAM Chairperson **Gregory Kendrick** (SCS), President **Eric Duncan** (GPC), **Cherryl Harris** (GPC), **Eric Arnold** (GPC), **Clint Lowery** (GPC), **Kendra Cowan** (GPC), **Tyrone Hylick** (GPC), **Tequila Smith** (GPC), **Blake O'Farrow** (AGL), **Allen Spivey** (AGL), **Anthony Moore** (GPC), **LaTunya Goodwin** (GPC), **John Moore** (GPC) and **Kadeon Reid** (GE).

Kudos and congratulations to all the presenters and volunteers for implementing two successful and beneficial programs.

ATLANTA CHAPTER NEWS:

November Monthly Meeting

For November's monthly meeting, Atlanta Chapter is joining GE Energy's Hispanic Forum and GE's African American Forum for a lunch-n-learn session featuring AABE member and Georgia Power's Vice President of Diversity, **Frank McCloskey**. Frank will

discuss career planning best practices, Southern Co's diversity/ethics initiatives and message to energy services. The event will be held on November 8, 2007, at GE's Atlanta campus, located at 4200 Wildwood Parkway in Marietta, GA. Seats are limited, so RSVPs are necessary by Monday, Nov. 5th and can be sent to Cherryl Harris at cmharris@southernco.com.

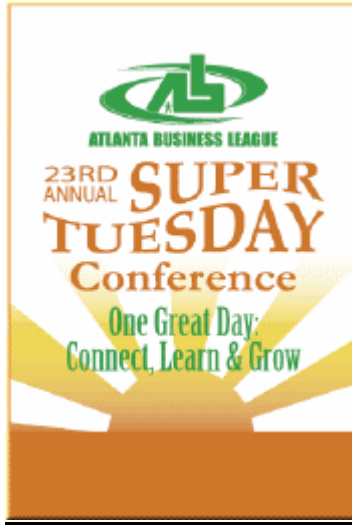
25th Anniversary Gala

2007 marks the 25th (Silver) Anniversary of Atlanta Chapter's founding. The chapter will celebrate with an end-of-year extravaganza open to the entire membership. "**Energized by the Past...Empowered for the Future**" is the theme of the dinner event. Guest speakers include AMR inventor **Clayton Webb** and **AABE National Chairman Wilton Cedeno** (Con Ed – NY Chapter). **Harriette Watkins** (Spelman College) will serve as emcee.

The event will be held in Georgia Power's auditorium on Friday, November 30th, with a reception from 5:00-5:45pm and the dinner program from 6:00-8:00pm. Dress is business attire, and there is no cost for members to attend this event.

RSVPs are required by November 5th to 404-506-7808, or to: aabe25th@yahoo.com. For additional information, contact event chair **Olivia Woods** (GPC) at opwoods@southernco.com.

ABL Honors blackEnergy



Sonja Ebron, CEO of blackEnergy, was honored with the 2007 "Non-Traditional Business Enterprise" award by the Atlanta Business League at its 23rd Annual Super Tuesday Conference on September 25, 2007. The Super Tuesday Conference is ABL's signature event, designed to recognize and celebrate African American business women.

The non-traditional business award was presented to Ebron, a PhD electrical engineer, for her pioneering efforts to make deregulated energy work for households and other small consumers. Through a program of GasKey, a certificated natural gas marketer, blackEnergy helps consumers support black communities using their utility bills while lowering their natural gas rates through cooperative buying. The company also distributes energy conservation products nationally through its e-commerce storefront at www.blackenergy.com.

"We appreciate Sonja for showing us all how to do well by doing good," said **Leona Barr-Davenport**, President of the Atlanta Business League.

For over 70 years, the Atlanta Business League, an affiliate of

the National Business League, has served as a business developer and advocate for minority-owned businesses. **Dr. Booker T. Washington** founded the National Business League on principles of self-help and self-sufficiency with a commitment to reinvesting community money within the community.

"This recognition from the Atlanta Business League is very special because we have the same essential mission -- to demonstrate the power of self-help in Black communities," said Ebron.

AABE Atlanta Chapter is honored to have her as a member and extends our congratulations. Sonja is the featured History-maker this month. Her profile appears at the end of this newsletter.

JaQuetta Garrison, President & CEO of GNC Electrical Construction, LLC and **Leslie McNeal**, President of McNeal Professional Services were also honored at the event.

MEMBER NEWS:



It's a boy! A new bundle of joy has entered the AABE family.

Tarece Johnson Hassell, Manager of Supplier Diversity at AGL Resources, had a healthy baby boy on Tuesday, October 23, at 4:30pm. **Nile Cordell Octavis Hassell** weighed in at 6 lbs, 15 ounces and 19 inches long. Mother and baby are doing well. Congratulations and well wishes Tarece and the Hassell family!

REMEMBER to FALL BACK –
Daylight Savings Time ends
November 4th

Wayne Young, Atlanta Chapter's PR/Communications Chair, will co-chair the National Communications Committee and publish a quarterly newsletter for AABE.

Wayne is also representing Honeywell and AABE at a Georgia Energy Services Coalition forum on November 2nd at the GEFA offices in Atlanta. The purpose of the forum is to provide information about the state's intention to use performance contracting for energy improvement work.

Kudos to these members for their work in planning the 2008 national convention... **Tiffany Ferrell** is developing the Economics of Energy session, and **Wayne Young** is planning the Nanotechnology session.

From **Dorothy Herring...**

Hosea Feed the Hungry & Homeless is holding a Benefit Auction of high end furniture on



Saturday, November 3, 2007 from 10am-4pm at The Care Center located at 1035 Donnelly Avenue in Atlanta (404-755-3353). All proceeds benefit the holiday dinner event series. Please consider helping this very worthy cause.

GEORGIA NEWS:

100 YEAR HISTORIC DROUGHT CONDITIONS IN GEORGIA



The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) has issued an exceptional drought response level four (the highest level) for the northern third of the state. Outdoor residential water use is prohibited in 61 counties including the cities of Atlanta, Rome, Athens and Columbus. A level two (severe) restriction applies to the cities of Macon and Augusta in which alternate evening watering hours are available to odd and even numbered addresses. Georgia's average annual rainfall has been 16 inches below normal and projects a mild, warm winter.

Water levels at Georgia Reservoirs Lake Allatoona and Lake Lanier along with local river basins are projected to be dry in three months or less. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Game & Wildlife Reserve release 1.9 billion gallons per day of water from these lakes to protect endangered species such as mussels and sturgeon downstream in Alabama and Florida. The release also keeps water quality levels high as it treats raw sewage dumped in our rivers. Water from the Chattahoochee River also cools turbines at Southern Nuclear's Plant Farley in Dothan, Alabama. Georgia **Governor Sonny Perdue** has filed legal action to persuade the Corps to slow releases. The governor also wants the President to declare Georgia a natural disaster area. Alabama and Florida governors are opposed to this effort. Most critics say the drought is caused by excessive population growth and poor planning. The Atlanta Regional Commission and other environmental advisers claim that climate change, the increase in CO₂ emissions, is the cause of this drought. A bioenergy conference was held in Atlanta on October 17th to discuss opportunities for businesses to combat climate change.

The biggest users of water in North Georgia are power plants. Water is used to cool down steam generators and approximately 93% of water is recycled and sent back into the rivers. Oglethorpe Power Corporation's Floyd County plants use three billion gallons per day. Georgia Power plants in Cobb and Coweta Counties use 400 to 700 million gallons/day. In Clark County, Fall Line Hydro uses 533 million gallons/day at the Tallassee Shoals Hydroelectric Project. The Governor has ordered public utilities to cut demand by 10%.

Other states such as California, Kentucky, Idaho, North Carolina, Alabama and Tennessee are also in levels 3 (extreme) and 4 (exceptional) drought conditions. Businesses are exempt from restrictions but that may change soon.

Overall, 55% of average water use is consumed by Residential customers. Commercial customers use 21% and unbilled water use (leaks) is 18%. Public facilities such as water parks and pools use 3%. Industrial customers also use 3% of water. Approximately 60% of all household water use in the summer months is applied to watering lawns and plants for landscape purposes. Tankless water heaters such as Rinnai or Titan reduce storage capacity and are eligible for a \$300 tax credit. Indoor and outdoor water saving tips for homes and businesses can be found on the AABE Atlanta Chapter website under *Energy Education*.

Top 100 Private Companies

The October 12th issue of *Atlanta Business Chronicle* (ABC) presented the top 100 most profitable private companies in Atlanta. Within this list, the following energy related companies were showcased:
3. RaceTrac Petroleum, Inc.
4. Southwire Co.

10. Oglethorpe Power Corp.
15. Colonial Pipeline Co.
24. MACTEC Inc.
30. H.J. Russell & Co.
49. Winter Co.
53. Georgia Transmission Corp.
58. PS Energy Group, Inc.
81. Cape Environmental Management Inc.

U.S. ENERGY NEWS:



AEP Settles Lawsuit

On October 9th, American Electric Power (AEP) settled the largest single environmental lawsuit in history with the U.S. Department of Justice. Headquartered in Columbus, Ohio, AEP plans to spend over \$1 billion to cut air emissions by 813,000 tons/year, pay a civil penalty of \$15 million, and pay \$60 million on environmental mitigation. AEP operates the largest amount of coal-fired plants in the US and intends to make improvements through 2019. Sixteen plants in Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, Virginia and West Virginia will be affected. In 1999, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), eight states and fourteen organizations filed a suit stating that AEP failed to make plant emissions modifications as required by the *New Source Review* (NSR) provisions in the *Clean Air Act*.

GE Promotions



As reported in the November issue of *Black Enterprise*, General Electric (GE) recently

hired **Dean Seavers** as its President & CEO of GE Security. Headquartered in Bradenton, Florida, this division of GE provides electronic security, CCTV, and fire solutions for physical and online environments. Dean is responsible for business development for the \$1.8 billion security systems division worldwide. Dean is the former President of SimplexGrinnell, a \$2 billion fire detection products subsidiary of Tyco, Inc.

Lights Out in San Francisco

The city of San Francisco, California went dark for an hour in a city-wide event promoting energy conservation. On October 20th, residents, businesses and landmarks such as the Golden Gate Bridge and Alcatraz shut off their non-essential lights from 8pm to 9pm. San Francisco residents participated in a "lights out" event on March 29th. Fifteen percent of total energy consumed on a Saturday night was saved during this hour.

GE Energy's Wind Projects

Atlanta-based GE Energy, a subsidiary of General Electric, has announced a \$400 million contract with Sky-Power Corp. to provide 200 wind turbines for projects in Canada and the U.S. The turbines will provide 300 megawatts of electricity to over 100,000 households.

Progress Energy CEO Dies



We are sad to announce that Progress Energy Chairman & CEO **Robert McGehee** passed away from a sudden stroke on October 7th,

while traveling on company business in London. McGehee came to NC based Progress Energy predecessor Carolina Power & Light in 1997 as Senior Vice President and General Counsel. He held a number of executive positions with the company, including President and Chief Operating Officer from 2002 to 2004. He was named CEO in March 2004 and Chairman of the Board in May 2004.

The Progress Energy Board of Directors has named **William Johnson** to replace McGehee as its Chairman & CEO.

Gore Wins Nobel Prize



The Norwegian Nobel Committee has decided that the Nobel Peace Prize for 2007 is to be shared, in two equal parts, between the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and former **U.S. Vice President Al Gore Jr.** for their efforts to build up and disseminate greater knowledge about man-made climate change, and to lay the foundations for the measures that are needed to counteract such change.

AABE NATIONAL NEWS:

AABE Moving Day!

The AABE National office is relocating to a brand new headquarters this month. The new address is 1625 K Street, Suite 405, Washington, DC 20005.

AABE/Energy Bar Association Meeting on Climate Change

AABE's DC Chapter will co-sponsor a primer meeting with the Energy Bar Association (EBA) focusing on climate change and renewable energy resources. Tackling one of the most pressing issues facing energy policymakers and practitioners today, this primer will provide an introduction to Climate Change Issues with sessions focusing on potential carbon regulation methods (cap-and-trade) of greenhouse gas emissions, an introduction to renewable energy resources, an overview of energy efficiency developments, and a case study of how a renewable energy project is financed.

AABE Board member and Chair of the AABE Legislative Issues and Public Policy (LIPP) Committee **David Owens** (EEI – DC Chapter) is a panelist during the renewable portfolio standards session. The meeting will take place from November 29 – 30 at the **Ronald Reagan Building & International Trade Center**, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, in Washington, DC from 8AM to 3:30PM. Registration fees for non EBA members are \$595. Please contact AABE DC Chapter President, **Sabrina Campbell**, at svcampbell@aep.com for more information.

AABE New Jersey Chapter Black Tie Gala

The NJ Chapter of AABE will host its 3rd annual Black Tie Gala event on Friday, November 16, 2007 at L'Affaire Fine Catering in Mountainside, NJ from 8PM to midnight.

The theme of the event is "*Clean Energy, the New Green Power*" and the guest speaker is **Rick Thigpen**, VP of Governmental Affairs at PSE&G.

National Quarterly Meeting

The next AABE Chapter Presidents and Board of Directors meeting will be held December 7-

8, 2007. Thirteen AABE National Committees will hold planning sessions with its members. The meeting will take place at the Hilton Americas Hotel, 1600 Lamar Street in Houston, Texas. For more information please contact AABE National Executive Assistant, **Lakeesha Wilson** at lwilson@aabe.org.

AABE National Conference Planning Committees

Volunteers are needed to serve on subcommittees for two AABE National Conference Planning Committees:

AABE 31st Annual Conference

Theme: *"Advancing the Understanding of Energy...from Local to Global"*

Dates: April 15 – 19, 2008

Location: Hilton Americas, 1600 Lamar St., Houston, TX

The Conference is hosted by the AABE Southwest Region Chapters: Houston (host chapter), Dallas/Ft. Worth, Arkansas, Louisiana, Central South West Louisiana, Mississippi and Oklahoma.

Keynote speakers include **Peter Robertson**, Vice Chairman of the Board for the Chevron Corporation, **Michael Williams**, Texas Railroad Commissioner, **Dr. Julianne Malveaux**, President of Bennett College, **Dr. Mae Jemison** of NASA, and **Dr. Randal Pinkett**, CEO of BCT Partners and Season 4 winner of **Donald Trump's The Apprentice**.

The conference will provide energy related sessions, an entrepreneur's forum, Lean Sigma training session, golf tournament, health & career fairs, young adult forum and scholarship & **James E. Stewart** awards banquets.

2008 Conference Chairpersons:
Gilda Joseph (SW Regional Coordinator – Chevron, Houston

Chapter) and **Sheila Wright** (Arkansas Chapter).

Email contact info:

gjoseph05@yahoo.com and swright@entergy.com

AABE 32nd Annual Conference

Date: April 2009

Location: Orlando, Florida

The Conference is hosted by the AABE Southeast Region Chapters: Florida (host chapter), Birmingham, Atlanta, Gulf Coast, Savannah, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee.

2009 Conference Co-Chairpersons:

Dates: April 2009

Corlene Williams (SE Regional Coordinator – El Paso/Southern Natural Gas, Birmingham Chapter) and **Gregory Owens** (Florida Chapter President - JEA)

Email contact info:

corlene.williams@elpaso.com and oweng@jea.com.

Volunteers from AABE are needed for both conferences' subcommittees to serve in development and planning. AABE members do not necessarily need to belong to each region in order to serve.

Subcommittees include:

- Finance;
- Volunteer;
- Publicity, Promotion & Marketing;
- Computer Support Specialists;
- Administration & Correspondence;
- Graphics & Program Booklet;
- Fundraising;
- Gifts & Souvenirs;
- Conference Program;
- Hotel Logistics;
- Special Events & Entertainment;
- Youth Forum;
- Exhibits, Career Fair & Healthcare Forum;
- Transportation;
- First Time Attendees Reception;

- And any miscellaneous duties.

For more information, please contact the conference chairpersons or the AABE Board Member and National Conference Planning Committee Chairperson, **Polly Rosemond** (BOD – Entergy-NO, Louisiana Chapter) at prosemo@entergy.com.

HIGHER EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES:

The PhD Project™

The PhD Project is an alliance of foundations, corporations, universities, professional and academic organizations dedicated to increasing minority representation in the business world. Since 1994, the PhD Project has increased the number of minority business professors from 294 to 842 and has 380 minority doctoral students in the pipeline. For more information, visit: www.phdproject.org.

Employment Opportunities:

Energy-Related Job Search Engines and Websites

www.live.aabe.org
www.careerbuilder.com
www.diversejobs.net
www.energyvortex.com
www.energycentraljobs.com
www.energyjobsnetwork.com
www.energyjobsportal.com
www.ecojobs.com
www.greenengineeringjobs.com
www.globalenergyjobs.com
www.sustainablebusiness.com/jobs/
www.monster.com
www.powermarketers.com
www.utilityjobsonline.com

ATLANTA CHAPTER COMMITTEES:

Volunteers are needed to support the following AABE committees in 2008 - 2009:

BEAM – (Black Energy Awareness Month) Manage the Career Day event for high school students.

Communication – Preparation of the *All About Energy* newsletter & website.

Fundraising – Development of our golf tournament to finance our scholarships.

Membership – Recruitment of new members.

Program – Creating quality monthly meetings.

Scholarship – Selection of qualified high school seniors for the annual **James K. Davis** energy awards.

Conference Planning – Serve on subcommittees to plan the 2009 32nd Annual AABE National Conference in Orlando, Florida.

Mentoring – CHOICES: Monthly peer advice for 8th graders.

Philanthropic/Charitable – Donations for needy families.

Energy Education – Enlighten the community about energy.

Legislative & Regulatory Affairs – Lobby AABE's agenda with governmental agencies.

Please contact AABE Secretary **Cherryl Harris** (GPC) at cmharris@southernco.com for more information.

MEMBER COMPANY WEBSITES:

www.aabe.org
www.atlantagaslight.com
www.aglresources.com
www.blackenergy.com
www.ch2m.com
www.gas-south.com
www.gasoc.com
www.gepower.com
www.georgianaturalgas.com
www.georgiapower.com
www.greenpoweremc.com
www.greystonepower.com
www.heatga.org
www.honeywell.com
www.htsenterprise.com
www.mirant.com
www.opc.com
www.psc.state.ga.us
www.scana.com
www.slking.com
www.southerncompany.com
www.southstarenergy.com
www.snpco.org
www.thinkenergygroup.com
www.willyoujoinus.com

Will You Join Us?

Participate in Chevron's online energy debate at www.willyoujoinus.com.

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 info.

Atlanta Chapter 2006-2007 Officers

Eric Duncan, President
Cordell Carter, Vice President
Olivia Woods, Treasurer
Tiffany Ferrell, Asst. Treasurer
Cherryl M. Harris, Secretary
Monica Reese, Asst. Secretary
Tanya Ligons, Parliamentarian
Jennifer Henson, Chapter Coordinator

SouthEast Region Coordinator

Corlene Williams
(@ Southern Natural Gas)
(205) 325-3559

Atlanta Chapter Address:

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

Atlanta Chapter Website:

<http://aabe.org/atlanta>

Thoughts to ponder...

"Positive energy activates constant elevation."

-Author unknown

"Our strengths are shown in the things we stand for. Our weakness is shown in the things we fall for."

-Author unknown

GOT NEWS?



Please send all comments, suggestions, AABE information, energy-related news and announcements to Communications Committee Chair **Wayne X. Young** at wayne.young2@honeywell.com. The deadline for the next monthly newsletter is **Monday, Nov. 26th**.

HISTORY MAKER BIOGRAPHY –

Sonja Ebron, PhD



Sonja Ebron is the CEO of blackEnergy, a national distributor of energy conservation products and an organizer of energy buying groups that help people use their utility bills to support Black communities. Wherever suppliers compete for household utility accounts, blackEnergy forms energy cooperatives, negotiates low rates for member households, and channels a portion of their energy dollars to local nonprofit groups working in Black communities.

blackEnergy is Black-owned, -operated, -controlled, and -conceived.

Sonja studied electrical engineering at North Carolina State University, earning bachelors and masters degrees with a focus on electric power. She earned a doctorate from the University of Florida, specializing in power system reliability. She has published research articles in such areas as high-impedance faults, artificial intelligence in power systems, renewable distributed generation, and innovative teaching methods. She has held academic positions with the Florida Institute of Technology, Norfolk State University and Hampton University, where she taught energy systems and other electrical engineering subjects. Her professional background has also included employment with Carolina Power & Light and Gainesville Regional Utilities, where she held positions in distribution operations, strategic planning, and customer relations.

Sonja is a former director of the American Association of Blacks in Energy (2002 – 2006) and is listed in the 2005 and 2006 editions of *Who's Who in Black Atlanta*. *Ms. Magazine* recently labeled Sonja a change agent for "the belief that environmental and social consciousness can create satisfaction in the soul and the wallet." She is the only utilities expert listed at SheSource.org, an online braintrust of female experts on diverse topics designed to assist journalists and producers who need female guests and sources. Sonja is the recipient of the Atlanta Business League's 2007 Super Tuesday Award for Non-Traditional Business.

November Black History Energy Moments:

Nov. 1, 1945 – **John H. Johnson** publishes the first issue of *Ebony* magazine.

Nov. 2, 1983 – **President Ronald Reagan** signs into law the 3rd

Monday in January as **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day**.

Nov. 4, 1974 – **Harold Ford Sr.** is elected US congressman from Tennessee.

Nov. 4, 1992 – **Carol Moseley Braun** becomes the first African American woman elected to the US Senate.

Nov. 7 1989 – **Douglas Wilder** of Virginia becomes the first Black governor in the US since Reconstruction.

Nov. 8, 1938 – **Crystal Bird Fauset** of Pennsylvania becomes the first African-American woman to be elected to a state legislature.

Nov. 9, 1731 – **Benjamin Banneker** is born in Ellicott City, Maryland.

Nov. 11, 1989 – The Civil Rights Memorial in Montgomery, Alabama is dedicated.

Nov. 21, 1893 – **Granville T. Woods** patents the Electric Railway Conduit.

Nov. 25, 1955 – The Interstate Commerce bans segregation in interstate travel.

Nov. 29, 1908 – Congressman **Adam Clayton Powell Jr.** is born in New Haven, Connecticut.

Nov. 30, 1924 – Congresswoman and Presidential nominee **Shirley Chisholm** is born.

More BEAM Photos



South Atlanta H.S. Students



BEAM Panelists



BEAM Panelists Q&A Session

From Redan High School –

