



December 2014 • Membership eNewsletter

## POWER TO OUR PEOPLE



## The holiday season is upon us and it's time to give and say thanks to you.

The American Association of Blacks in Energy is pleased to give thanks for all of the support given on the many issues and events supported by our chapter leaders, policy supporters and friends. With the big weather chill impacting many around the country, the topic of energy savings and policy matters are elevated.

We are excited to continue developing a strategic approach to working through the important conversations around energy policy on how energy related issues continue impacting our daily lives.

To fully showcase the many facets of our organizations, here is my list of the Top 5 items that I am thankful for:

1. Thanks for the dedicated team of professionals who held a successful National Conference in Houston, Texas earlier this year. Registration is now open for the 2015 National Conference to be held in Charlotte, North Carolina, May 5-8, 2015. Sign up as soon as possible.
2. More than 1,000 business and community leaders convened during the 8-city tour for the Energizing Conversations in the cities from coast to coast. The engagement and dialogue led to impactful sessions on why and how minorities and women can take advantage of the vast career opportunities in the energy industry, specifically the oil and gas industry. Stay tuned for more details on the next steps with the Energizing sessions.
3. I am thankful for our committed and dedicated Board of Directors who encourages innovation, use of technology and metrics to measure our success in membership enhancement, operational support and the development of alliance partners. We are working on ways to continue enhancing our many outreach efforts.
4. Earlier this year, we doubled our office space to accommodate our new leadership team members here at the Washington office. We are exploring ways to maximum and develop the best use of our new floor plan to benefit our members.
5. Lastly, I am thankful to the AABE National staff, (LaKeesha Wilson, Tracey Woods, Marc Morgan and Pauline St. Cyr), strong Chapter Presidents, Regional Directions and our nearly 2,000 members who make us what we are today.

This is my special Thanksgiving list! Don't forget to make plans to attend the two-day AABE Public Policy Forum from February 26-27, 2015 in Washington, D.C.

Enjoy time with our family and friends during the Christmas season.

*Becca*  
All the Best

**Paula R. Jackson**  
President  
American Association of Blacks in Energy



Follow Paula on Twitter: [@prjackson](#)

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A Community Conversation about Energy, Opportunity, and Workforce Readiness

### A Message from Your Member Services Department

Dear AABE Membership,

The BEAM celebrations went well in October. We are very excited that many chapters participated and were vigilant in sending updates to the National Office.

As we transition into the season of Thanksgiving, we at the AABE organization are thankful for the support and dedication of our members. Fall also brings our renewal period.

If you haven't already renewed your membership for 2015, visit our website at [www.aabe.org](#) to renew.

Thank and have a great Holiday Season.



LaKeesha Wilson  
AABE Member Services  
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phone: (202) 371-9530



MAY 5 - 8 • CHARLOTTE, NC  
**2015 NATIONAL CONFERENCE**  
EMPOWERING A GENERATION TODAY, TOMORROW, & BEYOND

## SEWW Energy Named to President's Advisory Council on Doing Business in Africa

Charlotte based energy entity **SEWW Energy** President and CEO, Kevon Makell has been named to the President's Advisory Council on Doing Business in Africa (PAC-DBIA). The newly formed committee will advise President Barack Obama on strengthening commercial engagement between the United States and Africa. SEWW Energy is one of 15 companies that were selected to participate in the initiative.



The PAC-DBIA is part of an executive order signed earlier this year by the President during the first-ever U.S.-Africa business forum.

The event was co-hosted by the U.S. Department of Commerce and Bloomberg Philanthropies and brought together hundreds of American and African CEOs with nearly every African head of state to spur more trade and investment between the United States and Africa. The PAC-DBIA will provide information, analysis, and recommendations on U.S.-Africa trade and investment priorities, including U.S. and Africa job creation; developing and strengthening commercial partnerships to increase U.S. public and private sector financing in Africa; and analyzing the effect of policies in the United States and Africa on U.S. trade and investment interests in Africa.

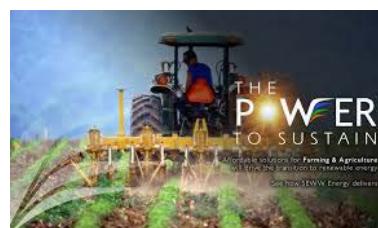
"SEWW Energy is excited to take part in this unique opportunity. I am certain that our diverse background will serve as an invaluable asset to President Obama and the Department of Commerce in their efforts to increase the presence of American businesses in Africa," Makell said. "At our company, we believe we are a conduit for empowering and changing lives and our contributions to PAC-DBIA will further solidify our role as a global company equipped to transform Africa. We are also proud to be a member of the American Association of Blacks in Energy and hold the power to transform lives through innovation and electrification."



SEWW Energy has already been engaged in various projects in Africa including a \$25 million Energy Project with the Electricity Company of Ghana (ECG) that was announced earlier this year.

Through the deal, SEWW was tapped to lead an upgrade and expansion project in the Greater Accra Region. The project will span seven years and includes efforts to improve the transmission and distribution of electricity in the West African Nation.

The company is perched at just the right elevation to assist in exponentially transitioning Africa in 3 key areas: providing electricity in rural communities, significantly engaging the Ebola crisis through its Medical Mobile Health Care Unit powered by self-contained microgrids, and the design of Micro Grid electrical infrastructures which are mini power supply units that the company designs, which rely on natural renewable resources (sun, wind, water as power sources).



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## Getting Down to Business: AABE Commands Attention During the Quarterly Board Meeting

Smiles, embraces and a dose of pats on the back are what one would find at a gathering of the leadership of the American Association of Blacks in Energy. The 37-year old non-profit organization was founded by a circle of dedicated professionals who were focused on a single mission – to serve as a voice on critical issues impacting minorities on key energy policies, research and development.

The mood is generally light at the beginning of the meeting and feels more like a warm gathering of friends, however, the attendees quickly come to order and get right down to business. One of the many requirements is that Board members lead committees, offer input, direction and leadership. The servant leadership principle can be seen in many of the meetings and discussions.



Development, planning, strategy are keen areas of focus at a normal board meeting. Results are really the critical elements for a normal American Association of Blacks in Energy Board meeting. The non-profit organization meets four times per year where the governing body convenes for a 2-3 day session filled with executive sessions, committee meetings and plenty of time to catch up over group luncheons and mini refreshment breaks.

Committee chairs each have a full agenda and conduct the sessions with a combination of in person and conference calls for attendees. AABE Board Chairman George Williams and President and CEO Paula Jackson prepare detailed presentations and discuss upcoming concerns with the Regional Directors and Chapter leadership.

Items covered during the Sept. meeting included governance, non-profit status, fundraising and a recap on the successful 2014 Houston Conference. In addition, the following items were also on the agenda:

- Planning for the 2015 Conference
- The Charter of 4 New Chapters (Alamo Region, Greater Boston, Gator Chapter and NYU-Poly Student Chapter)
- Entrepreneur Committee
- Legislative and Public Policy Update
- Chapter Presidents Meeting

As part of the program, there are numerous items put before the group. This year AABE celebrates and focuses its mission on helping to bring together like-minded professionals to the National Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina, May 2015 and at the Dec. 4-5 Board Meeting.



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## 2015 American Association of Blacks in Energy National Conference set for May 5-8, Charlotte, NC targets Energy Leaders, Entrepreneurs & Members

Every summer, the American Association of Blacks in Energy (AABE®), welcomes nearly 600 energy professional, entrepreneurs and members from its 46 chapters to the National Conference.

The theme for the 38th Annual National Conference is Empowering a Generation Today, Tomorrow & Beyond. The nearly 500 attendees will make their way to the energy hub of Charlotte, North Carolina kicking off Tues, May 5-8, 2015.

Everyone is invited to attend. Past attendees include energy industry and community leaders who provide access to innovative energy solutions and experts, visionaries, corporate and small business leaders from across the nation.

Conference registration is now open. Go to [www.aabeconferences.org](http://www.aabeconferences.org) and register today. The Sheraton Charlotte located at 555 S. McDowell Street, Charlotte, NC is the host hotel and has a special conference rate.

This year's conference will feature corporate exhibits, college student engagement, CEO sessions, a gala celebration and the following sessions:

**“Women in Power:”** Dynamics are shifting throughout the energy industry. Trailblazing females have been chosen to lead positions that traditionally have only seated males. The Women in Power session will bring together a diverse panel of female executives who are lighting the way through the Energy Industry.

**“C-Suite Conversation Panel – CEOs & Executives “Leadership Lessons – What are the top 10 leadership lessons? What is the profile of a great leader? Who are some of the great leaders of the 21st century? In this panel discussion executives from energy companies across the country examine their own top ten lessons learned while in leadership positions, discuss what they look for when succession planning, and share their personal opinions about who some of the great leaders are today and why.**

**Legislative Crossfire –** This session will feature a duel between top political minds on the circuit today. This session is highly anticipated and serves as a spark for the rest of the conference. You don't want to miss it.

For more information and to register for the 2015 AABE National Conference, visit <http://aabeconferences.org>



[Click Here to Register](#)

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## Latest Energy Industry and Scholarship News

### DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY:

#### **DOE launches LANTERN LIVE app for power outages, other energy emergencies**

The Department of Energy launched a mobile app called Lantern Live that helps consumers quickly find and share critical information about nearby gas stations and power outages during energy emergencies. The app builds on the Obama Administration's commitment to improve national energy preparedness in the face of extreme weather and other events that can result in power disruptions.

[Learn More >>](#)

### BROOKINGS INSTITUTE:

#### **America's Fragmented Water Systems**

The severe drought gripping the Western United States has put a national spotlight on America's relationship to water. Indeed, the changing landscape of our nation's water supply necessarily demands a critical look at our water sector and at opportunities to improve the way we regulate, price, and consume water. In this post, we explore the current state of the U.S. water sector and the challenges of a de-centralized system.

[Learn more>>](#)

### CNN MONEY:

#### **Hackers attacked the U.S. energy grid 79 times this year**

The nation's energy grid is constantly under attack by hackers. In fiscal year 2014, there were 79 hacking incidents at energy companies that were investigated by the Computer Emergency Readiness Team, a division of the Department of Homeland Security. There were 145 incidents the previous year.

[Learn More >>](#)

### NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC:

#### **4 Ways Election Results Could Intensify U.S. Energy Battles**

The Republican takeover of the U.S. Senate, the result of Tuesday's election, may alter the nation's posture on energy and the environment. The power shift could put a climate change denier in charge of a key environment panel, pave the way for the Keystone XL pipeline, and lift a four-decade U.S. ban on crude oil exports.

[Learn More >>](#)

### Tell Us Something Good

Send us your news or let us know about your latest activity, event or special notice you would like to share with AABE members.

e-mail us at [news@aabe.org](mailto:news@aabe.org) and we'll be in contact to help get your posting inserted in our next newsletter.

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## Members and Chapters on the Move

### New AABE Regional Directors

AABE is delighted to introduce the newest members of the AABE Leadership Team steering the direction of three regions. We proudly introduce our newest Regional Directors.



Eddie Melton is the Mid-West Regional Director and has served as a member of AABE for four years.

He is currently the Manager of Government and Community Relations at Nipco subsidiary of NISOURCE. Eddie's areas include the Mid-West Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Missouri and Ohio.



Demetric Mercadel is serving as the Regional Director for the Southwest Region. She is the Senior Associate Analyst for Entergy New Orleans, Inc., where she has worked since 1981. She attended Xavier and Tulane universities and serves on many professional and civic associations.



Eric Arnold is now the Regional Director for the Southeast Region. Eric is the Residential Segment Manager at Georgia Power Company. His team is responsible for hosting the AABE National Conference in Charlotte, in May 2015.

In addition, William Suggs leads the Northeast Region, Afarah Board is in the Western Region and Nancy Mifflin is in the Mid-Atlantic Region.



### Upcoming AABE Events

- December 11, 2014 AABE Atlanta: The Year in Review
- December 12, 2014 AABE Denver Area Chapter Energize High U
- December 12, 2014 2014 Holiday Mixer hosted by the Kansas-Missouri Chapter
- May 5, 2015 2015 National Conference

### Members AABE Stories Wanted – We Want to Feature YOU

If you have been an AABE Member for any length of time, you might have heard rousing stories of how the member was introduced to the organization. It could have been via an email introduction, perusal of the AABE website, attendance at a local meeting or national conference. These stories are woven into our tapestry and are often funny, heartwarming and memorable.

As we introduce "My AABE Story," we would like to hear your story. Tell us how AABE has helped you professional and personally or how it came to your attention.

To share your interesting story, please send in 2-3 short paragraphs along with a snapshot that could be featured on the website or on in the newsletter.

All stories can be sent to [lwilson@aabe.org](mailto:lwilson@aabe.org) or [info@skyeconnect.com](mailto:info@skyeconnect.com) and might be edited for clarity and length.

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