

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF BLACKS IN ENERGY (AABE®)

**SPECIAL BEAMS OF LIGHT:**

- Obama Inauguration
- New Chapter Presidents
- Bankeker Award
- Board of Directors in the News
- Economic Stimulus Plan
- Greenest Vehicles
- MLK Day of Energy Service

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# AABE ENERGY NEWS

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

1ST QUARTER 2009

## Save the Date for the 32nd Annual AABE Conference

The American Association of Blacks in Energy (AABE) is proud to announce its annual national conference and celebrate 32 years as an advocate for minority involvement in energy issues, policies and new technologies.

“Sustainable Energy for a New Economy” is the theme of the conference. The event will examine the Obama Administration’s US energy policies, the national energy crisis, and explore opportunities going forward in the industry across the world. The future of generation, oil and fossil fuels, environmental policy, renewables and smart technology are featured discussions in our energy sessions. The conference will also offer professional development and financial programs focusing on today’s turbulent economy.



Network with key executives as they share business advice and opportunities in our Officer’s Roundtable and Energy Entrepreneurs Forum. Help shape future leaders of America in our Youth and Scholarship Award

programs. Celebrate champions in our community during the **James. E. Stewart Awards Gala**.

Featured speakers include Chairmen, Presidents and CEOs in the industry such as **David Ratcliffe** of Southern Company, **John Rowe** of Exelon and **Mike Morris** of American Electric Power.

The conference will be held from April 14th to the 17th at the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort in Orlando, Florida. The conference is hosted by the AABE Southeast Region Chapters of Florida (FL/AABE), Atlanta, Birmingham, Gulf Coast, Savannah, North Carolina, South Carolina (SCCAABE), Tennessee and the new student chapters of NC State, Georgia Tech and Fort Valley State University.

Register now at [www.aabe.org](http://www.aabe.org)!

## AABE Leadership Meets with Energy Transition Team

On Tuesday, December 9, nine representatives of the American Association of Blacks in Energy met with the President-elect’s energy Transition Team. **Vicky Bailey, Tom Graham, Steve Hightower, Dan Packer, and President Frank Stewart** attended the meeting in the Department of Energy’s For-

restal Building. **Rod West, Brett Carter, Lloyd Yates, and Michael Harness** participated by telephone. Transition Team Co-Chairs **Dr. Susan Tierney** and **Elgie Holstein** attended as well as **Chairperson Carolyn L. Green, Rose McKinney-James** and **Cynthia Quartermain**.

The meeting featured a broad rang-

ing discussion that covered energy economics, fossil fuel production and regulations, climate change and the needs of low-income consumers. The members of the Transition Team encouraged the AABE representatives to provide any other thoughts or concerns in writing and promised to give them a careful, expedited review.



Her Excellency  
Amina Salum Ali

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

Training Institute - Luddy Hayden

## National Office Report 4th Quarter 2008

The AABE National Office presented the following report during the December Board Meeting in Orlando, Florida.

Membership to the organization is reported at **1,455** by the end of the calendar year.

The Office met with Joe Lucas, VP of Communications and **Stephen Miller**, President of the American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity (ACCCE), to discuss the potential for collaborative support of minority youth in the energy industry. Both the ACCCE and **Bill Holmberg** of the American Council on Renewable Energy (ACORE) have pledged their support of a one-day conference in Greensboro, NC.

The Office met with staff of the US DOE to hold a Science Exposition and Job Fair. It has been agreed that the event will be in the Los Angeles, CA area on April 1st.

The Office has continued to work with the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies through the Commission to Engage African-Americans on Climate Change. The Commission has considered supporting a series of documents to go to the Federal Transition Teams regarding policy positions related to climate change.

As a member of the Board of Directors of the National Low Income Energy Coalition (NLIEC), the staff of the National Office met with the leadership of the NLIEC to

discuss their plans for calendar year 2009. At this meeting, AABE was elected to another term on the Board.

On November 13th, **AABE President & COO Frank Stewart** was recognized by **Stephen Johnson**, Administrator of the EPA, with a plaque noting the contributions to the work of the National Advisory Council of Environmental Policies and Technologies.

The American Association of Blacks in Energy and the African Union have prepared a Memorandum of Intent (MOI) to work together on capacity building as critical to increasing the ability of African nations to make sustainable contributions to energy security. **Her Excellency Amina Salum Ali**, African Union Ambassador to the US, and **Dr. Ibrahim**, African Union Commissioner for Energy and Infrastructure, have asked for the AABE organization to assist in the development of the power infrastructure across fifty-four nations on the African Continent.

**Carolyn Haylock** of the US DOE asked the National Office to meet with **Onyeabo Chukwukeme**, the Political Minister of the Nigerian Embassy. He wants us to identify US companies that would be available to develop a coal fired power plant in Nigeria. They are interested in working with a construction company that has a strong diversity program.

The AABE organization has also developed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund. This organization represents some 25,000 Black farmers and thirteen credit unions throughout South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi. The Federation is eager to work with the AABE organization in supporting a role for minority farmers and landholders in energy production and carbon credit marketing.

The AABE organization and North Carolina A&T State University have approved a MOU to establish an Activity Coordination Center at NC A&T that will support the goals and strategies of the NC A&T Center for Energy Research and Technology (CERT) and the AABE NC A&T Student Chapter. Both entities have agreed to work in partnership to develop programs, sustainable business relationships and projects reflecting the goals of wise energy development within the African Diaspora. They will also support Human Capacity Development in energy policies and technologies with governmental and higher education communities in the Caribbean and in Africa. ☀



# They've Got The Power - Members Highlighted in Major Magazines



**Vicky Bailey**  
Principal -  
BHMM  
Energy  
Services

The AABE National Office, Board of Directors and several members of the organization were recently featured in several affluent African-American publications.

The National Office held an extensive interview with *Diversity Magazine* for their upcoming issue on minorities in the energy industry. The issue is scheduled for publication early in the year. ☀

The February 2009 issue of *Black Enterprise* features the "100 Most Powerful Executives in Corporate America." The criteria for choosing the top 100 were positions, influence and revenue generating capability in large publicly traded companies and international corporations.

In this article, the following members and non-members were profiled for their leadership in the energy field: **James H. Degraffenreidt, Jr.**, Chairman & CEO of WGL Holdings, Inc.; **Craig Arnold**, CEO of Fluid Power Group; **Frank M. Clark**, Chairman & CEO of ComEd; **Dean Seavers**, President & CEO of GE Security; **Adriane M. Brown**, President & CEO of Honeywell Transportation Systems; **Roderick K. West**, President & CEO of Entergy New Orleans; **Lloyd Yates**, President & CEO of Progress Energy Carolinas; **Samuel Combs III**, President of ONEOK Distribution Companies; **James A. Bell**, EVP & CFO of

Boeing; **Linda Gooden**, EVP of Lockheed Martin; **Wayne M. Hewett**, VP of GE Supply Chain & Operations; and **Jesse Tyson**, Director at ExxonMobil. ☀

The Fall 2008 issue of *US Black Engineer Information Technology Magazine's* (USBIE) cover story was entitled, "They've Got the Power." Several African-American men and women discuss their roles in the energy industry and express the need for more Blacks to become energy experts. The article mentions how **Lewis Latimer**, inventor of the carbon filament, is honored as the "Black connection to energy production in the United States." Since that time, most Black inventors and innovations have gone unnoticed. The report also encourages all Americans to get more involved in the energy industry to combat the recent energy crisis.

"It is more important than ever for Black Americans to get involved in the debate. Seventy percent of African-American households earn less than \$50K annually and they spend 25% or more of their income on energy-a higher percentage than they pay for health care or education." exclaimed **AABE President Frank Stewart**. He also added, "Energy and environment issues are central to economic development, education, job opportunities and, in the end, our survival. Highlighting the role minorities play in these areas is important, because it tells young people that they can have a viable, exciting, rewarding career. If ever there was a time when we were looking at the potential for major change and enormous business opportunities then it is the current period of energy."

The USBIE article provides readers with leadership and educational profiles of several AABE members and other African-Americans currently employed in the energy industry. These men and women include: **Ralph Cleveland**, EVP at AGL Resources; **Darryl A. Stokes**, VP at Baltimore Gas & Electric; **Vicky A. Bailey**, Principal at BHMM Energy Services, LLC; **George Williams**, SVP at ComEd; **Jolecia Marigny**, Managing Director at Constellation Energy; **Craig Ivey**, SVP of Dominion Virginia Power; **David K. Owens** EVP of Edison Electric Institute; **Sherri L. Winslow**, VP at Entergy; **Warren Washington**, Sr. Scientist at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR); **Kevin C. Greenaugh**, Director at the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA); **Frances Keel**, Sr. Program Manager at NNSA; **Thomas H. Graham**, President of PEPCO; **Lloyd Yates**, President & CEO of Progress Energy Carolinas; **AABE National Chair Carolyn L. Green**, VP at Sunoco; **Roxanne Lamb**, Geologist & Cartographer at the US Geological Survey; and **Victor M. McCree**, Deputy Regional Administrator at the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission. ☀

Who's Who Publishing Co., LLC, has released their annual *Who's Who in Black Cites* books in 26 different areas across the country. Who's Who Publishing Company publishes books that highlight the achievements of African-Americans across the country. Several AABE members are featured for their accomplishments and community involvement in the past year. These books can be purchased at major bookstores or online at [www.whoswhopublishing.com](http://www.whoswhopublishing.com). ☀



**Roderick K. West**  
President & CEO  
Entergy  
New Orleans

**"It is more important than ever for Black Americans to get involved in the energy debate." - AABE National President Frank Stewart**



**Lloyd Yates**  
President & CEO  
Progress Energy  
Carolinas

# AABE Members Share Inauguration Stories



The First Family of the US - President Barack Obama, First Lady Michelle, Malia and Sasha.

## DID YOU KNOW?

The AABE Slogan is

“AABE: Energy

knowledge for our

Community, our People,

and our Tomorrow.”

The 2 million plus crowd cheer during the inauguration ceremony in Washington, DC on Jan 20



## *The Adventure of the Inauguration of Barack Obama* by **Charles Miller**

Along with my wife Gwen and 8 year old daughter Helena, I attended the historic Inauguration in Washington D.C. We drove down from New Jersey with little traffic Monday morning to our hotel in Arlington VA just a few miles from the National Mall. That Monday the Mall was very lively with visitors from around the country sight-seeing and attending inauguration parties throughout the Capital. While we did not attend any of those festivities we did go visit our local **Congressman Donald Payne** in the Rayburn Building right next to the west side of the Capital Building. We were lucky to get tickets to the inauguration.

On Tuesday Inauguration Day we took the Metro into D.C. The trains were so packed there was barely room to breathe! There were so many people trying to get to the Mall that a few train stations were closed. We were forced to arrive at the far end of the Mall around 8:00 am which was four hours before the ceremony. The Mall was already packed. Everybody was excited and thrilled to be there. The energy of the crowd almost made us forget about the freezing 20 degree weather and nearly being stuck in a corral of people away from the Mall. We tried valiantly to get to our ticketed area but so many cross streets and areas were closed off that we were very fortunate to find a spot in near a one of the big screens to watch the event. There were cheers (**Michelle Obama**) and boos (**George W. Bush**) from the crowd depending on who was

shown. The cheers were deafening when Barack finally came out and walked down the red carpeted steps. Everybody we could see was taking pictures or filming as Barack took the oath of office. Just looking around while he delivered his speech you could tell that people were taking his message to heart. After the inauguration we managed to go back to the Rayburn building and attended a few receptions and watched the parade. The impression Barack made when he got out of the car with Michelle and walked several blocks was huge.

The next day my wife Gwen attended the church service at the National Cathedral and sat relatively close to our new president. She even was able to shake **Bill Clinton's** hand! The whole experience in D.C. was simply awesome and something we will cherish forever. ☀

## *The Inauguration of Barack Hussein Obama* by **Carin Burwell**

It was cold, but I went, It was really cold, but I saw and it was FREEZING and I watched on January 20, 2009 then President Elect Obama take the Oath of Office to become the FIRST African American President of these United States.

The Day History was made...

I arose at 3am the morning of January 20, 2009, mumbling to myself, that I must be out of my mind. It was 17 degrees outside with a wind chill factor of 8; but I like so many others prepared to go the National Mall in Washington DC to see now **President Barack Hussein Obama** take the Oath of Office to become the 44th President of the United States of America.

The excitement on that day is something that you had to experience and the PEOPLE, there were so many, in wheelchairs with walkers and canes; did I mention the PEOPLE? I have never in my life been anywhere and seen that many people all together for one cause. Now I know something of what it felt like in DC on August 28, 1963 when the late **Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.** gave the historic “I have a Dream” speech, I was 8 years old at the time.

Well around 8:15am in 8 degree temperature, my partners and I decided that it was just to cold to stand for another 4 hrs and we bid the National Mall goodbye. As we left people were being treated for frostbite, the lines to get into the Smithsonian were about a ½ mile long and tears of some of the children were frozen on their faces, but we didn't stop. We went back the way we came, thru the tunnel to Union Station caught 2 trains and a cab back to our hotel in time to sit in front of a 42inch screen, a blazing fire sipping hot chocolate to see now President Barack Hussein Obama, the 44th President of these United States take the Oath of Office.

I went, I saw and it was FREEZING but I didn't say that I left. So we all clapped, hugged, cried like everyone else did.

It was the excitement of being there and I was...☀

**Charles Miller** (PSEG) is Treasurer and **Carin Burwell** (PSEG) is Co-Chair of the Communications Committee for the AABE NJ Chapter. ☀

# AABE Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Energy Service Programs

As part of our commitment to the legacy of **Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**, several AABE Chapters across the country celebrated the King holiday as part of the National Day of Service. The national organization issued the "MLK Day of Energy Service" resolution last year and the Chapters have enthusiastically held events with the emphasis on commitment to community service. In Atlanta, the Chapter and Georgia Power (GPC) celebrated their 10 year anniversary in partnership with the national day of service. About 800 GPC employees, including AABE Atlanta Chapter members, performed civic duties such as restoration, home building, providing food and clothing to shelters across the state of Georgia. On January 21st at GPC headquarters, AABE Board member **Richard Holmes** (GPC), member **Lamont Houston** (GPC), Chapter VP **Eric Arnold** (GPC) and GPC President **Mike Garrett** shared their experiences with the audience of how the inauguration of President Obama fulfills the dream of Dr. King. The speeches encouraged each one of us to become leaders by having a willingness to serve the community. The AABE New York Metropolitan

Area Chapter (NYMAC) participated in the 25th Annual **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr** Ambassadorial Reception and Awards Dinner, "Living the Dream 2009," organized by the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), that was held Monday, January 19th, at the Sheraton Hotel in New York City. This event also celebrated the next-day inauguration of **President -Elect Barack Obama**, the first African-American to hold the highest office in the U.S.A. and leader of the free world.



**Roy Innis**, (pictured above center) National Chairman of CORE, **Niger Innis**, National Chairperson and Master of Ceremonies, and **Pat Boone** were speakers at the event. AABE-NYMAC members who attended were **Ameen Shakirat**, **Yolande Dempster**, **Sam** and **Sonja Millington** (pictured right). AABE-NYMAC members pledged their support to continue the

pursuit of civil rights for all people and to participate in CORE's lobby for affordable energy in underprivileged neighborhoods. ☀



**Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**  
(1929 - 1968)



**DID YOU KNOW?**  
The AABE Board of Directors recognized the MLK holiday as a Day of Energy Service in 2008.



The MLK holiday was celebrated nationally on January 19, 2009, one day before the inauguration of US President Barack Hussein Obama.

# AABE Organization Wins Banneker Legacy Award

The AABE National Organization was chosen as one of the winners of the **Benjamin Banneker** Legacy Awards at their annual Awards Gala on Friday, November 21, 2008. The event was held at the historic Capitol Hilton Hotel in Washington, DC. We received the award for outstanding contributions to increasing

the number of African Americans involved in STEM professions and fields of study through our Scholarship Committee. As pictured, the award was presented by AABE Board Member David Owens (Edison Electric Institute - DC Chapter) and accepted by the AABE Mid-Atlantic Regional Coordinator **Dianne Oliver** (Pepco - DC Chapter).

Other award winners included the following: National Association of Black Geologist and Geophysicists, National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemist and Chemical Engineers, National Society of Black Engineers and in the Youth Membership Organization category, Maryland MESA (Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement). ☀





**Dr. Steven Chu, Ph.D.**  
Is the  
**12th United States  
Secretary of Energy**

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



**Paula R. Jackson**  
**AABE National  
Communications Director**

## AABE LIPPC is Focused on Obama Stimulus Plan

The AABE National Legislative Issues and Public Policy Committee (LIPP) recently provided a glimpse of the Obama Administration's Energy and Environmental Policies on January 26th in Washington, DC. Previously, the LIPP Committee along with key executives met with the Obama Energy Transition Team on December 9th, to discuss various energy and environmental issues pertaining to African-Americans and other minorities. The Team encouraged the LIPP Committee to continue the dialogue on an ongoing basis.

The Committee pledged to continue their relationship with the new Secretary of Energy, **Dr. Steven Chu**. Prior to the election, Dr. Chu was a Professor of Physics, Molecular & Cellular Biology at the University of California, Berkeley and Director at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, where he studied biological systems at the single molecule level.

The LIPP Committee is focused on four key areas with the Obama Administration.

The AABE Action Plan includes creating a CEO/President Advisory Council; having summits with key administration leaders & other energy organizations; developing new coalitions; and sustaining outreach & input with the new administration. Key focus areas include the White House, Cabinet and federal agencies such as the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the Securities & Exchange Commission (SEC).

President Obama's new energy and environmental policies include an Economic Stimulus Package, comprehensive energy legislation and national climate change control initiatives.

The Obama Economic Stimulus Plan includes immediate action to create new jobs in America by partnering with US Automakers to build clean vehicles in America. The Plan also provides a rapid and aggressive response to the financial crisis. The Plan will boost development of renewable technologies and create 5

million new green energy jobs.

The Plan will also increase funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) to counteract high utility costs during peak heating and cooling months. The plan provides support to homeowners who fell victim to bad mortgage loans.

The Plan proposes \$31B in grants, loans, rebates and tax credits towards energy efficiency. Another \$2.2B will cover advancements in electric transportation projects.

The Administration proposes to invest another \$11B in development of the Smart Grid. The Smart Grid Investment Program aims to modernize the electricity grid making it more efficient, secure and reliable. New transmission lines will be constructed to support the load of renewable energy resources onto the system.

President Obama has since announced the overhaul of energy efficiency codes, renewable portfolio standards and an 80% reduction in carbon emissions by 2050. ☀

## Paula Jackson becomes Communications Director

The organization is proud to announce that one of its' influential members, **Paula Jackson**, has been hired as AABE National Communications Director in December 2008.

Paula will be responsible for developing communications material for the organization such as brochures, videos and career fairs. Paula is also Chair

of the AABE National Communications' Public Relations Subcommittee.

Paula is a former executive from United Illuminating Company in Connecticut and past regional director of the YMCA. She was also a past AABE Connecticut Chapter President and member of the AABE National Board of Directors.

Paula commutes regularly between Georgia and DC. She recently moved her family to Atlanta in 2008 and joined the Chapter in December. To contact Paula, please email her at [pjackson@aabe.org](mailto:pjackson@aabe.org). We congratulate Paula in her new position and wish her success with these initiatives. ☀

# AABE Board Members Executive Leadership Announcements



On December 10th, AGL Resources Board of Directors elected **Ralph Cleveland**

(Atlanta Chapter), Executive Vice President of Engineering and Operations for the company. Ralph previously served as Chief Engineer & Senior Vice President of Engineering and Operations. This promotion reflects his new responsibility for Pivotal Energy Development as well as his valuable leadership and contributions to the business.

Ralph brings more than 20 years of technical, managerial and executive

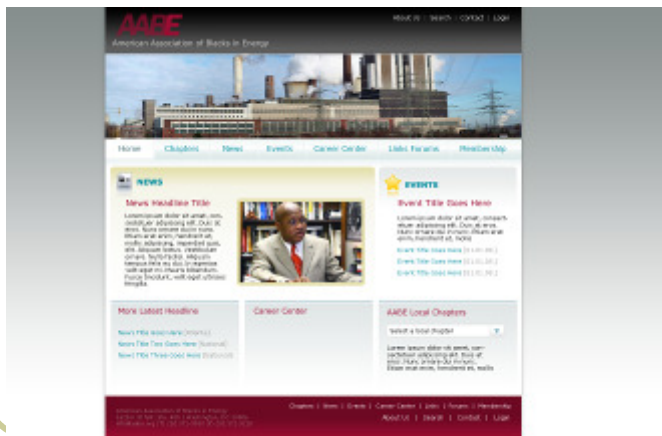
experience in energy and the natural gas industry to his new position. At AGL Resources, he serves on several corporate and investment oversight committees including the Policy Committee. In the community, he serves on numerous boards such as Vice-Chair of the North American Energy Standards Board (NAESB), Board member of the American Association of Blacks in Energy (AABE), Board member of the American Institute for Managing Diversity, local Board member of Teach for America (Atlanta), local Board member for the American Red Cross (Atlanta) and President/ Founder of the Capital Formation and Enterprise Development Foundation. ☀

AABE Board member and Past Chairman, retired Entergy-New Orleans President & CEO **Dan Packer** (Louisiana Chapter), is being considered for an open seat on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Board.

"They were looking at me as a potential NRC commission member and possibly its Chairman. I don't want to say any more about it. I know those things can come pretty quick and end pretty quick," said Packer, whose entire career before coming to Entergy revolved around nuclear energy. "The last I heard was that they would be giving me a call back. That was last week (1/20) sometime." ☀



**Daniel Packer Chairman of AABE Board of Directors (1998-2000)**



## AABE website instructions for paid members:

**Click on [www.aabe.org](http://www.aabe.org) and select LOGIN. Type in your corporate 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!**

# Renew Your Membership - Sign Up Online NOW!!!

Its that time of year again to renew your membership to the AABE organization. Members who apply online via the AABE website, [www.aabe.org](http://www.aabe.org), will now be able to view the features of the new website and receive updated information on local chapter events & national news.

Members can chat, send emails and upload resumes or photos. The website includes a directory of all **1,455** 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. Registration for the AABE 32nd Annual

National Conference is also provided on our website. The website is maintained by the National Communications Committee and local Chapter Webmasters.

Membership is effective for 12 months from the date you subscribe. National & local Chapter dues must be paid simultaneously.☀

**All AABE Chapter websites provide local news, upcoming events and committee information.**

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Ask for a copy of the AABE promotional video "This is AABE, Now is the Time" by contacting Lakesha Wilson, Director of Member Services at [lwilson@aabe.org](mailto:lwilson@aabe.org) or call (202) 371-9530.

Garry Harris, President and CEO of HTS Enterprise, LLC and SBA Georgia District Director Terri Denison



## Join the AABE Energy Entrepreneurs

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.

The AABE Energy Entrepreneur Forum will include representatives of capital financing communities and feature matchmaking sessions. These sessions will connect energy companies, financial lenders and entrepreneurs interested in featuring their businesses

and service offerings.

The AABE National Energy Entrepreneurs Committee is led by **Dot Harris** (GE Energy - Atlanta Chapter) and **Tonja Wicks** (FPL - FL Chapter). The Forum will be held on Thursday, April 16th and the award will be presented on Friday, April 17th during the 32nd Annual AABE National Conference at the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort in Orlando, Florida. To register for the conference, please visit [www.aabe.org](http://www.aabe.org). ☀

## US SBA Graduates HTS Enterprise

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) recognized a group of inner-city small businesses on January 6th in a graduation ceremony for their completion of the SBA's Emerging 200 initiative. The initiative, which was carried out in Atlanta and nine other cities last year, focused on helping owners of small businesses achieve their full potential in the face of economic challengers and low growth rates.

Starting last Spring, Atlanta and the other cities had to identify 200 inner-city businesses across the country that showed a high potential for growth—and to provide them the training, resources and motivation required to build a sustainable business of size and scale within a designated inner-city geographic location.

The Chief Executive Officers and small business owners

who graduated from the program have produced a three-year strategic growth plan with benchmarks and performance targets. They were trained further to target their business strategies to accelerate growth, explore financing, diversify markets and expand their networking.

Besides Atlanta, the Emerging 200 initiative, dubbed "e200" for short, was held in Albuquerque, Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Des Moines, Memphis, Milwaukee, New Orleans, and Philadelphia. The initiative focused on 14 small companies in Atlanta that have the potential for rapid expansion and job creation. Companies selected for the initiative were those with a minimum of approximately \$400,000 in annual revenues and an operational track record of at least three years.

The program, offered at no

cost, provided nearly 80 hours of advanced training, focusing on financials, marketing, human resources, exporting, government contracting and capital access. Through their course work, the participants worked with CPAs, bankers and other business professionals.

"Bottom line, it helped us to develop a bona fide growth plan for the company," added AABE Atlanta Chapter member and past National Board member **Garry Harris**, President & CEO of HTS Enterprise, LLC, an energy engineering and consulting firm. HTS was one of the 14 companies that graduated from the SBA program. "The course helped us take a close look at some critical areas of our company, including finance, marketing and human resources." ☀



# Planning is Underway for the 2010 National Conference

As we welcome your participation at the 2009 Conference this April in Florida, we also want you to start thinking ahead about 2010. The AABE Washington-Oregon Chapter (WAOR) is proud to host the 2010 AABE 33rd Annual National Conference in Seattle, Washington.

The AABE Western Region Chapters of Washington-Oregon (WAOR), Denver, Southern California, California Central Valley, Alaska, and Northern California Chapters will hold quarterly planning meetings in 2009.

WAOR Chapter President **Steve Hatcher** (City of Tacoma), Board

Member & National Conference Committee Chair **Richard Holmes** (GPC-Atlanta) and Western Region Coordinator **Kirsten Watts** (BPA-WAOR) 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.

Help make each conference a success. You can register online for the 2009 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 2010 National Conference sub-committee, please contact Kirsten at [rkwatts@bpa.gov](mailto:rkwatts@bpa.gov).



**R. Kirsten Watts is an Account Executive with the Bonneville Power Administration**

## FL/AABE 4th Annual Scholarship Golf Classic

The Florida Chapter of the American Association of Blacks in Energy (FL/AABE) is hosting their 4th Annual Scholarship Golf Classic during the AABE 32nd Annual National Conference.

Individual golfers can pay \$125 to enter the event. Foursomes are \$500. Sponsorships are also available ranging from \$200 per hole; \$1,000 for Silver; \$1,500 for Gold; and \$3,000 for Platinum. Entry fees include green and cart fees, complementary valet parking, GPS yardage system, range practice balls, goody bag, lunch and awards buffet.

The tournament will be held on Saturday, April 18 at the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort, 9939 Universal Blvd., in Orlando, Florida. Registration begins at 7AM and the awards ceremony is at 1PM.

Registration forms can be found online at [www.aabe.org](http://www.aabe.org) (Florida Chapter website) or by contacting Florida Chapter Treasurer **Nona C. Jones** (Gainesville Regional Utility) at [jonesnc@gru.com](mailto:jonesnc@gru.com). All proceeds from the golf tournament will benefit deserving high school seniors who plan on pursuing careers in the energy

industry. FL/AABE is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization. All contributions are tax deductible.



### DID YOU KNOW?

There are eight nominees for six positions on the AABE National Board of Directors. The slate of potential board members will be presented during the general meeting on Friday, April 17th at the 32nd National Conference in Orlando, Florida.



Golf registration forms can be found at the FL/AABE Chapter website via [www.aabe.org](http://www.aabe.org). Make checks payable to: FL/AABE Golf Tournament Attn: Nona C. Jones P.O. Box 147117 Station A134 Gainesville, Florida 32614

# AABE Chapters' Quarterly News



**AABE First Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors**  
**Robert Holmes**  
is SVP of Ethics and Corporate Concerns at Alabama Power Company



**AABE Board Member**  
**Stephanie Hickman**  
President & CEO of Trice Construction Company

**White House Social Secretary**  
**Desiree Rodgers**



## Atlanta Chapter

On December 11th, the Chapter held its year-end celebration with a luncheon mixer and awards ceremony at Georgia Power Company (GPC) headquarters.

The meeting began with a motivational speech by AABE Board of Directors 1st Vice Chairman, **Robert Holmes** (pictured - Birmingham Chapter), SVP of Alabama Power. Mr. Holmes spoke about leadership and urged all members to help grow the organization across the country. He thanked those in attendance for leading the way in developing ourselves as the top outstanding Chapter for the past few years.

The Program Committee Co-Chairs **Fanchester Henry** (GPC-CCC) and **Lillie Battle** (GPC) presented special awards to members **Jo Holliman** (GPC-CCC) and **Garry Harris** (HTS) for their exemplary community service activities throughout the year. **Jensia Belt** (GPC) also won an award for the member who attended the most Chapter programs in 2008. Chapter VP **Eric Arnold** (GPC) solicited for volunteers for the AABE National Conference. Treasurer **Cherryl Harris** (GPC) provided fun networking activities and raffled off prizes. Toys received at the event were delivered to the Families First and Child Spring International charities.



Chapter Coordinator **Shelby Hall** (GPC-CCC) delivered winter coats donated by the membership to the **Hosea Williams** Foundation for the Homeless. These coats were distributed at the Foundation's annual MLK Day

of Service Feed the Hungry program.

The Chapter will also celebrate its 27 year anniversary on February 19th. ☀

## Birmingham Chapter



The **A.G. Gaston** Conference is celebrating its 5th year and expected to bring hundreds of black business owners together in Birmingham. This year's conference will feature **John Sibley Butler Ph.D.**, Director for the Center for Entrepreneurship and the Institute for Innovation and Creativity in Austin, TX.

There will also be a community forum featuring black business owners who will discuss the impact of economic, political and social issues on emerging black businesses. The conference will be held from February 17th to 18th at the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex. The conference is named after **Arthur George Gaston**, who was a breakthrough Black entrepreneur in Birmingham during the 20th century. For more information, please visit <http://www.aggastonexpo.com>. ☀

## Chicago Chapter

The Chicago Chapter of the American Association of Blacks in Energy congratulates **Desiree Rodgers** on her appointment as White House Social Secretary. Rodgers who was formally President of People's Natural Gas in Illinois is a former AABE Chicago Chapter member and friend to the organization. In her new role, she is responsible for planning

all social functions at the White House. Please join us in congratulating her. ☀

## Cincinnati Chapter

On December 12th, our Chapter hosted our 10 year anniversary dinner/celebration at the Historic Vernon Manor Hotel. This event, entitled "Energy Conservation, What's Your 1-3-5?" included remarks from founding members, scholarship winners who have benefited from the AABE scholarships, and the keynote speaker AABE National Chairperson, **Carolyn Green** (Sunoco-Philadelphia). ☀

## Columbus Chapter

The AABE Columbus Chapter's Professional Development Committee hosted a financial awareness meeting on December 9th. Entitled "Creating Your Safety Net," the program featured guest speaker and AABE Board member **Stephanie Hickman**, President of Trice Construction Company (Chicago Chapter). ☀

## Connecticut Chapter

Over 70 middle school and high school students from Connecticut and Massachusetts participated in the Connecticut Chapter of the American Association of Blacks in Energy (AABE) 2nd Annual Energy Awareness and Career Exploration Program. The event was held on Wednesday, November 19, 2008 at Northeast Utilities (NU) Headquarters in Berlin, CT.

One of the highlights of the event was the exhibit of the New England East West Solutions Project which was set-up and manned by NU's Transmission staff. Students and guests were able to tour the project display and speak with key engineers and scientist on issues concerning electric magnetic fields, conservation and generation.

# AABE Chapters' News continued.

## Connecticut Chapter (Cont.)



**Rodney Powell**, Western Massachusetts Electric Company, President & CEO; **Theresa Hopkins-Staten**, Transmission, Director, Project Community Relations; **Laurie Shuckerow**, HR, Consultant and **Lynn Loveland**, HR, Consultant provided remarks to the group of over 120 students, parents, chaperones, and AABE members attending.

Students were also provided an opportunity to meet energy professionals and learn about industry related careers. Approximately 25 NU/CL&P and United Illuminating employees attended and served as career representatives.

Some of the careers represented included: Engineers/Technicians; Communications/Public Affairs/Community Relations; Line Workers; Legal/Governmental Affairs; Customer Service; Human Resources, Finance; Information & Technology; and Marketing. ☀

## Denver Area Chapter (DAC)

DAC President **Sheila Terry**, received the National Renewable Energy Laboratories (NREL) Employee of the Month Award in November.

Sheila's nomination included the following report from a co-worker, "I have worked with Sheila over the past 5 years in conjunction with the NREL Fellows and the LDRD Programs, and had always recognized her enthusiasm, communication abilities, persistence and organizational skills. However,

this past year cemented my admiration of her many talents.

The Fellows share responsibility for chairing the LDRD technical review committee process, and this past year was my turn. Sheila normally provides all the planning, administrative, and logistical support for this activity, but this year she had to deal with an unusually number of difficulties. Even during a normal year, the LDRD process is complex and lengthy, because of the concern by both the Fellows and management that with a limited budget, the process be fair from a technical perspective and at the same time support NREL mission and laboratory strategic needs.

However, this past year was unusual in that there were severe scheduling problems because of the increased amount of travel during critical periods of the review process by both the Fellows and upper management, the complicating situation of the NREL contract renewal submission was occurring during the LDRD review process, the huge number proposals to evaluate, and the inclusion of 5 newly elected Fellows part way into the process.

Through all these challenges dealing with all of the above, which must have been quite frustrating, Sheila maintained a positive, diplomatic, goal-oriented demeanor, while keeping the process on schedule as best possible and facilitating reaching the final goal. Her sage advice, attention to detail, and accurate follow-up to resolve issues as they arose went far beyond her job description and was essential to the successful completion of the process. In the end Sheila deserves the Award not only because of the above, but just because she can successfully deal with 9 Fellows and all of the ADs simultaneously." ☀

## Florida Chapter (FL/AABE)

The Florida Chapter elected new Officers for the 2009-2010 term of office in January. FL/AABE Chapter

President is **Malcolm Barnes** (Progress Energy), VP is **McHenry Cornell** (Florida Power & Light), Treasurer is **Nona Jones** (GRU) and Secretary is **Tanya Middleton** (Jacksonville Electric Authority). Congratulations goes out to all FL/AABE newly elected leadership. ☀

## Fort Valley State University (FVSU) Student Chapter



The FVSU Student Chapter held its first meeting of the new year on January 28th. Led by FVSU Chapter President **Anthony Gardener** and Chapter Advisor **Dr. Isaac Crumbly**, the meeting featured the AABE promotional video "This is AABE, Now is the Time" and presentations by **Wayne Young** (Honeywell - Atlanta Chapter) and Atlanta Chapter President **Cordell Carter** (AGL Resources). Wayne talked about internships, interviewing skills and resume writing techniques. Cordell focused on developing a mentoring program with the Chapter. The FVSU Student Chapter is located on campus in Fort Valley, GA and had 20 members in attendance at the meeting. ☀

## Georgia Institute of Technology Student Chapter (GA Tech)

The GA Tech Student Chapter held an interest meeting on February 2nd on the campus in Atlanta, GA. This Chapter, led by President **Dimitri Hughes** and Advisor **Dr. Comas Haynes, Ph.D.**, is comprised of 15 graduate students in the fields of engineering and renewable energy technologies. The meeting focused on leadership and entrepreneurial opportunities in the energy industry as presented by guest speaker **Wayne Young** (Honeywell). ☀



**AABE Connecticut Chapter member Helen Taylor talks to middle school students about electricity transmission.**



**Dr. Comas Haynes Ph.D  
GA Tech Student Chapter Advisor**

# AABE Chapters' News continued.



**Antonio M. Terry**  
AABE Gulf Coast  
Chapter President

## Gulf Coast Chapter

The AABE Gulf Coast Chapter elected new Officers for the 2009-2010 term of office in January. AABE Gulf Coast Chapter President is **Antonio Terry**, Senior Engineer at Gulf Power in Pensacola, Florida. The Chapter VP is **Lennon Brown III** (Mississippi Power Company (MPC)). The Treasurer is **Carmen Swaucy** (MPC). The Financial Secretary is **Tanya Lockett** (MPC) and Secretary is **Tamara Proctor** (MPC). Immediate past President **Cyla Clark** (MPC) was elected onto the Chapter's Advisory Board. The Chapter is comprised of members from coastal cities in Georgia, Florida and Mississippi along the Gulf Peninsula. Congratulations goes out to all Gulf Coast Chapter's newly elected leadership. ☀

## Exum-Goudeaux (GE Energy).

The Weiss Energy Hall explores the application of scientific concepts and advanced technology in the oil and gas industry. Explore the entire process of energy development, from how oil and natural gas are formed to the ways in which various types of energy are used. The hall incorporates interactive learning methods such as computer graphics, touch screens, holographic video displays and virtual reality. ☀

## Kansas-Missouri Chapter



KS-MO Chapter members participated in local school board efforts aimed at getting dropouts back into class and graduating. Pictured above front-to-back: **Joe Medina, John E. Smith and John Smith.** ☀

## Houston Chapter



On Tuesday, November 18, 2008, the AABE Houston Chapter hosted 50 students from Cullen Middle School and Angleton High School at the Weiss Energy hall at the Museum of Natural Science. Students toured the worlds most sophisticated and comprehensive exhibit on various energy types, learned about various careers in energy, black inventors and the history of AABE organization. They then had lunch and asked questions of Houston AABE members – President, **Xchelsia Bledsoe** (GE Energy) and Education Committee Chair, **Lesley**

## New Jersey Chapter

The AABE NJ Chapter celebrated its 4th Annual Black Tie Gala on November 14th at Snuffy's Pantagis Renaissance. The theme of the event was "Economics and Energy - How Does it Affect You?" and featured **Rev. Raquel A. St. Clair, Ph.D.**, Executive Minister of St. James AME Church in Newark, New Jersey.



The affair was attended by over 70 people who came out to support the NJ Chapter once again at their annual gala and to support the chapter's annual scholarship program. The food was good, the music was excellent, the weather was warm for November and the guest speaker was awesome.

Dr. St. Clair referred to the state of the economy and the responsibility that we as humans have in respect to the energy predicament that we now find ourselves in. She reminded us that according to biblical scripture, God placed humans in charge of all natural resources and that it will take all of us to help fix what we have destroyed.

Pictured above and below: AABE NJ Chapter members at the Black Tie Gala. ☀



**AABE Houston Chapter**  
Explores Weiss Energy Hall  
with students



**AABE NJ Chapter President**  
**Kevin Kimbo and**  
**Rev. Raquel A. St. Clair**

# AABE Chapters' News continued.

## New York Metropolitan Area Chapter (NYMAC)

Members from AABE (**Samuel King-Nabi**, **Kelit Alazar**, and **Stephen Haynes**) had the opportunity to go to the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) meeting the week of 1/4/09. It was great to see that just like us they are looking to branch out and network with other organizations as act as a source of empowerment for our communities. Equally enjoyable was the info session on Indian Point's Nuclear Power Plant by Entergy, the presentation by **Ruby Saake**, Summer and College Intern Coordinator for NYC School Board, funded internships in the sciences, tutoring at Cooper Union for High School Students and last but not least the NSBE National Conference.

In the end, NSBE expressed their gratitude for our presence and looks forward to reciprocating in the same manner to develop a relationship beneficial for us both.

AABE-NYMAC participated at the Advisory Council for Career and Technical Education meeting. As we move forward, we plan to start a partnership with these Council & Commission members to create a program in parallel with the upcoming NYMAC Student Chapter at New York Polytechnic University.

AABE-NYMAC member **Cherie DeLarosa** (NYISO) represented the Chapter at NYS **Governor David Paterson's** State of the State Message on January 7th at the State Capitol in Albany, NY. ☀

## North Carolina Chapter

The AABE NC Chapter elected new Officers for the 2009-2010 term of office in January. AABE NC Chapter President is **Sherrie Duncan**, Manager of Supplier Diversity at Progress Energy. The Chapter VP is **Tiffany Cox** (Progress Energy). The Secretary is **Julia Wright** (PSNC). The Treasurer is **Ver-melle Wilson** (Raleigh Area De-

velopment Authority). The Chapter Historian is **Alicia Lyon** (Progress Energy). Congratulations goes out to the NC Chapter new Officers. ☀

## NC A&T State University Student Chapter

North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University entered into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the American Association of Blacks in Energy to develop programs and projects of wise energy development in the African Diaspora. These activities are represented in part by the NC A&T State University Center for Energy Research and Technology (CERT) and by the Student Chapter of the Association. ☀

## Philadelphia Chapter

The Chapter held a meeting on "Financial Wellness: Four Phases of Wealth" on January 19th at PECO/Exelon corporate headquarters. The guest speaker was **Jason Snipes** of First Genesis Financial Group. ☀

## South Carolina Chapter (SCCAABE)



**Deloris M. Brown** was elected South Carolina Chapter President in January. Deloris is employed as the Senior Technical Writer for the Information Services & Technology Department at the Scana Corporation.



SCCAABE members **Richard Hucks** and **Demetrius Rumph** install energy efficient

windows in a home in West Columbia, SC on October 29th. In the Economic Stimulus Package working its way through Congress, homeowners can receive a tax credit up to \$1,500 for making their homes more energy efficient in 2009 through 2010, by installing such things as energy efficient windows, doors, roofs, furnaces, water heaters and insulation. ☀

## Southeastern Missouri - Southern Illinois Chapter (SMSI)

**Morry Davis**, Manager of Government Relations for Peabody Energy Corp, represented the AABE organization at the recent National Conference of State Legislatures. Morry was a presenter in the following session, "Carbon emissions reduction policy scenarios: What is advanced technology and why do we need it?" He discussed energy costs for minorities as it related to the topic. **John Snider**, Vice President, Eastern Region (WV/VA), Arch Coal Company was the moderator. Other presenters included **Jeff Phillips**, Electric Power Institute, and **Armond Cohen**, Executive Director, Clean Air Task Force.

The AABE – SMSI Chapter sponsored a Holiday Mixer Meeting, October 14, 2008 at AmerenUE in St. Louis, Missouri. The guest speaker was **Sabrina Campbell**, Director of Federal Agency Relations for American Electric Power (AEP). Sabrina gave a presentation providing an overview the AABE organization and information on how being a member will benefit you individually as well as your company. Sabrina's presentation was well received and expected to lead in an increase in membership for 2009.



**AABE NYMAC Chapter President Bill Suggs (center) with members of the community and New York City Council members.**



**Morry Davis and Sabrina Campbell**

**The Brooklyn Academy of Music's 23rd Annual Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr**





**AABE SMSI Chapter Member Brian Leonard receives NAACP award**



**AABE Southern California Chapter VP David Ford distributes CFLs to residents**



**AABE Washington DC Metropolitan Area Chapter at the Energy Expo**

## AABE Chapters' News continued.

### **SMSI Chapter (Cont.)**

**Brian Leonard**, Manager, Business & Community Affairs, AmerenUE and SMSI chapter member, was awarded the East St. Louis NAACP Freedom Fund Award at its 54th annual honors banquet on Oct. 19.

The AABE – SMSI chapter hosted a BEAM event on November 10, 2008 at the Harris-Stowe, Southwestern Bell Library Telecommunication Center entitled “Energy Efficiency Workshop.”

The primary objective of this event was to get the “BUZZ” out to the Community about Energy Efficiency – “BEE” Be Energy Efficient: Prepare, Conserve and Save. ☀

### **Southern California Chapter**

In December, the Southern California Chapter donated 200 compact fluorescent lamps to local residents of Historic Christmas Tree Lane in Altadena, California. ☀

### **Tennessee Chapter**

The American Association of Blacks in Energy (AABE), the nation’s leading advocate for minority involvement in energy issues, policies, and technologies is proud to announce the Tennessee Chapter - Energy Professional of the Year: **Gary Harris**, Tennessee Valley Authority’s General Manager of Customer Service - West TN.

The award was presented at the Tennessee Chapter - Annual Membership Meeting. During this event we present this award and our members have an opportunity to learn more about current trends in the energy sector. **David Owens**, Executive Vice President, Business Operations, of the Edison Electric Institute (EEL) shared his thoughts on the industry today and detailed

the energy sections of the stimulus plan. EEL is the international trade association of shareholder owned utilities whose members are responsible for providing electric service to three quarters of the U.S. population.

The award was presented to **Gary Harris** by **Lisa Wheeler**, President of AABE –TN and **David Owens** who is also an AABE board member. “We appreciate his work efforts across West Tennessee and his community service efforts in the Memphis area” said **Lisa Wheeler**, President of AABE – TN.

When we select the recipient for this award, we look at individuals that embody the mission of AABE. **Gary Harris** is respected for his work ethic and he is also concerned about the impact of environmental and energy policies on African Americans and other minorities. We appreciate his continual support of Energy Smart Memphis, a partnership effort between TVA, MLGW and other community partners. Energy Smart Memphis offers workshops throughout Shelby County that focus on teaching energy basics. TVA is funding hands-on demonstrations and providing tool kits that include weatherization materials, energy-efficient light bulbs and other items.

**Jerry Collins**, President of Memphis Light Gas and Water congratulated Gary and spoke of his great customer service focus. **Carvetta Williams**, Site Manager of the TVA Allen Combustion Turbine Plant spoke of Gary’s commitment to diversity within the organization.

Other award recipients include:  
2006 - **Bishop William**

**Graves**, Board of Directors, Tennessee Valley Authority

2007 - **Alonzo Weaver**, Vice President of Engineering and Operations, Memphis Light Gas and Water

“We at TVA join in congratulating Gary on this distinguished honor,” said TVA Customer Resources Executive Vice President **Ken Breen**. “We appreciate Gary’s leadership, and AABE’s recognition of the many contributions he has made in service to the West Tennessee community, TVA mission and energy industry.” ☀

### **Washington DC Chapter**

On left, **Dianne Oliver** (Pepco) and **Marcia Hooks** of the DC Chapter assist members of the public during the 2008 DC Energy Expo.

The DC Chapter participated in educating the public during the DC Energy Expo as part of its efforts to promote Black Energy Awareness Month. The DC Chapter provided information on weatherizing and caulking homes to make them more energy efficient, as well as information about the DC Chapter’s Scholarship Activities. The Chapter also discussed opportunities for AABE membership with energy professionals also participating in the DC Energy Expo. ☀

### **Washington-Oregon Chapter (WAOR)**

Join the 2010 planning committee to help develop the 33rd Annual AABE National Conference to be held in Seattle, Washington. For more information, please contact AABE Western Regional Coordinator **Kirsten Watts** at [rkwatts@bpa.gov](mailto:rkwatts@bpa.gov). ☀

# Energy and Environment News

## WGL CEO Plans to Retire



Natural gas and electricity supplier WGL Holdings Inc. said Tuesday that longtime CEO **James**

**DeGraffenreidt Jr.** will relinquish the reins next year and turn the job over to his top lieutenant, **Terry McCallister**.

DeGraffenreidt, 55, will step down as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of both WGL Holdings and its largest subsidiary, Washington Gas Light Co., next October. Washington Gas Light is a natural gas utility with more than 1 million customers in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.

After becoming President of Washington Gas in 1994, DeGraffenreidt worked his way up the chain of command until he became chairman and CEO of WGL in 2000. He also continued to run the utility.

McCallister, 53, joined Washington Gas in 2000 as Vice President of Operations and became the Chief Operating Officer of the utility the next year.

WGL is coming off the most profitable year in its 160-year history, one of the reasons DeGraffenreidt said he felt this was a good time for him to move on. The Washington-based company earned \$116.5 million in its fiscal year ending in September, an 8 percent increase from the previous year.

McCallister's appointment to the boards of WGL and Washington Gas Light is scheduled to be voted on by shareholders in March. WGL shares added 10 cents in

extended trading after falling 48 cents in Tuesday's regular session to close at \$30.71. The stock price has risen by about 20 percent since DeGraffenreidt became WGL's CEO. (*Associated Press* - January 8, 2009) ☀

## ACEEE Green Vehicle List

With the auto industry in turmoil and energy prices in flux, the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy today released environmental ratings for model year 2009 vehicles. This is the twelfth year ACEEE has published its rankings as part of ACEEE's Green Book® Online, the organization's environmental guide to cars and trucks, available at [greencars.org](http://greencars.org).

Despite the beating taken by the industry in 2008 and more tough times ahead, this continues to be an exciting time for green vehicle technology. Manufacturers are fine-tuning their engines and transmissions, improving materials, and adding emissions control technologies to complete the phase-in of Tier 2 tailpipe standards and get a head start on meeting tightened federal fuel economy standards. Worries over the economy and future gas prices are driving interest in high fuel economy vehicles as well. "The economic downturn may put the brakes on technology investment in some sectors," noted ACEEE Transportation Director **Therese Langer**. "But unstable fuel prices and a domestic auto industry in danger of being left in the dust by its foreign competitors make fuel efficiency technologies an essential investment in this business."

The flurry of activity failed to dislodge the reigning champion of the Greenest Vehicles list. This year's greenest title goes once again to Honda's natural gas-powered Civic GX. The Toyota Prius and Honda Civic Hybrid claim spots two and three, while the Smart Fortwo Convertible, the Toyota Yaris, and the Nissan Altima Hybrid complete

the top six. Others on the Greenest Vehicles list include conventional and hybrid-electric vehicles from both domestic and foreign automakers. This year, the Chevrolet Cobalt/Pontiac G5 twins and Chevrolet Aveo land in the 8th and 11th spots, respectively, showcasing the improving performance of domestic vehicles in ACEEE's annual ranking.

The Meanest Vehicles list, dominated by heavy American models and European imports, is topped by the Hummer H2 flex-fuel vehicle this year. Following closely behind are the Lamborghini Murcielago, the GMC Yukon 2500, the Mercedes-Benz G55 AMG, and the Lincoln Navigator. Large, diesel-powered vehicles, previously prominent on the annual Meanest Vehicles list, are completely absent this year. As a result, 2009's worst-performing vehicle scores two points higher than 2008's meanest.

"With upward movement at the bottom and near the top of the offerings, it's tempting to conclude that the U.S. is really greening its fleet," said ACEEE vehicle analyst **Shruti Vaidyanathan**. "Sales figures will tell whether we're really turning a corner, but putting more fuel-efficient models out there gives consumers a real choice." (*ACEEE Press Release* - February 3, 2009) ☀



2009 Toyota Prius

## DID YOU KNOW?

A showcase of green vehicles will be available for viewing at the 32nd Annual AABE National Conference in Orlando from April 14th to 17th at the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort



2009 Chevrolet Cobalt XFE



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

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**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**

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

### **Upcoming AABE Chapter Golf Tournaments in 2009**

April 18: 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 docu-

ment. 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, May 1st, 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)  
**Paula Jackson** (AABE Director of Communications)  
**Delitha Morrow-Coles** (Atlanta Chapter - GE Energy)  
**Alice Gordon** (Birmingham Chapter - Alabama Power Company)  
**Carin Burwell** (NJ Chapter - PSE&G)  
**Bill Dickens** (WAOR Chapter - Tacoma Power)

**LaKeesha Wilson** (AABE Director of Member Services)  
**Gerald Dawes** (NYMAC - AGA)  
**Leslie Exum-Goudeaux** (Houston Chapter - GE Energy)  
**Joyce Hayes -Giles** (Michigan Chapter - DTE Energy)  
**Dot Harris** (Atlanta Chapter - GE Energy)  
**Aaron Johnson** (DC Chapter - AGA)  
**Margo Jackson** (Connecticut Chapter - Northeast Utilities)  
**Charlotte King** (Atlanta Chapter - Snowden & King Communications)  
**TaKeysha Cheney** (Columbus Chapter - AEP)  
**Toni Cunningham** (Columbus Chapter - AEP)  
**Syl Morgan-Smith** (DAC - NREL)  
**LaQuisha Parks** (NC Chapter - Progress Energy)  
**Victoria Penera** (SoCal Chapter - SCE)  
**Jessica Whitaker** (NC Chapter - Progress Energy)  
**Toni Love** (SMSI - AmerenUE)  
**Paul White** (DAC - NREL) ☼



**AABE PHOTO GALLERY**

