

AABE®



All ABout Energy

American Association of Blacks in Energy® – Atlanta Chapter
Vol. 5, Issue 9 ♦ May 2007
<http://aabe.org/atlanta>

APRIL HIGHLIGHTS:



30th Anniversary Conference

The American Association of Blacks in Energy celebrated 30 years of energy advocacy with a remembrance of why AABE was founded and a call for action against global climate change. "Back to the Past, Shaping the Future" was the theme of the five day extravaganza.

The conference was hosted by chapters in the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast regions. The program consisted of various topics and special events. Attendees were treated to an exhibit and session profiling African-American inventors, innovators and AABE founders who have made an impact in the energy industry.

Conference sessions included new technology, diversity, energy efficiency, Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts, energy services and careers. Current and future energy policies were also revealed with speeches by the **U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commissioner (FERC), the Honorable Jon Wellinghoff** and the **U.S. Secretary of Energy, the**

Honorable Samuel Bodman. Keynote speaker **Charlie Cook** from CNBC and author of the Cook Political Report, gave an entertaining look at the 2008 presidential candidates. **U. S. President George W. Bush** was also seen in the building.

AABE began the conference with the annual "State of Energy in Black America" presentation with **Assistant Ambassador Amina Salum Ali** from Nigeria. The Ambassador discussed opportunities for partnerships in African countries such as Ghana, Nigeria, Tanzania and South Africa. African-American companies were urged to invest and support development of a new energy agenda for African nations.

AABE National Chairman Wilton Cedeno (NYMAC) gave a heartwarming speech for all AABE members to remain active on issues such as global climate change, renewable fuels standard (RFS), the resurgence of nuclear power, clean-coal technologies and mentoring young African-Americans to become the next generation of energy professionals in our industry.

Chairman Cedeno also took time to honor AABE's Founding Father, the late **Chairman Emeritus Clarke Watson** (Denver) and 2nd AABE Chairman & co-founder, **Rufus McKinney** (Southern California). Rufus was present at the conference and signed

copies of his autobiography *Beating The Odds*. Mr. McKinney was one of two AABE members who were profiled in the African-American documentary series *The History Makers*.



The second History Maker, **AABE President and Chief Operating Officer (COO) Robert Hill** (DC), announced his retirement after 13 years of service. AABE elected **Frank Stewart** (Denver) as its new President and COO for the organization. Frank takes office on May 15, 2007.



Local Atlanta Chapter executives **Richard Holmes** (GPC) and **Ralph Cleveland** (AGL) were also re-elected to the National Board of Directors for AABE for a second term

through 2009. The other four directors that were re-elected included **George Williams** (MS), **Dan Packer** (LA), **Tracie Boutte** (LA), and **Gerald Dawes** (NYMAC). The Atlanta Chapter also received its 7th consecutive Outstanding Chapter of the Year banner during the AABE General Meeting.

Panelists at some of the conference sessions included representatives of Georgia companies such as **Chris Hobson** (Southern Co.) in “Coal: The U.S. Goldmine!” and **Dr. David Veazie** (Clark Atlanta University) in the Young Adult Forum’s “Careers in Research” session. More than 125 college students attended the Forum. Atlanta Chapter members **Bentina Terry** (Southern Nuclear) and **Jenay Johnson** (Southern Nuclear) also spoke at the conference in the “Global Benefits of Nuclear Technology” and the Young Adult Forum’s “Perspectives on Energy Careers” sessions respectively.



The AABE National Premier Scholarship winner was **Lamar Hill** from North Carolina. Other winners included **Sengal Alazar** (Northeast Region), **Gilbert Castillo** (Mid-Atlantic Region), **Timothy Alford** (Midwest Region), **James Hill** (Southeast Region), **William Ugwu** (Southwest Region) and **Brandon Win** (Western Region). At the **James E. Stewart** (JES) Awards Gala, the Atlanta chapter received an honorary AABE crystal vase for

its support in developing this conference. **Atlanta Chapter President Eric Duncan** (GPC) graciously accepted the award on behalf of our chapter. Kudos to Atlanta chapter members **Heidi Boykin** (GPC) who received an award for her work as the Conference Planning Committee Special Events Chairperson; **Jo Holliman** who co-chaired the First Time Attendees meeting; and **Valerie Searcy** who worked on Fundraising and the Publicity/Promotions committees.



The 2007 JES award went to **AABE Board Director** and immediate **past-Chair Hilda Pinnix-Ragland** (NC). The **Clarke Watson** Chairman’s Cup was awarded to **Southwest Regional Coordinator Gilda Joseph** (Houston). President Hill received an honorary service award and tribute. **AABE Board of Directors and Conference Planning Committee Chairperson Polly Rosemond** (Louisiana) also received duplicate copies of JES and Chairman’s Cup awards lost during Hurricane Katrina.

During the Chairman’s Reception, conference attendees were treated to a tour of the Potomac River on Spirit of Washington Cruise Lines and a tour of African-American historical landmarks throughout D.C.

Special recognition goes to **DC Chapter President and Mid-Atlantic Regional Coordinator Sabrina Campbell** (AEP) and all the AABE chapters and members who worked to

organize a truly historic 30th anniversary conference.

SAVE THE DATE: AABE’s 31st Annual National Conference will take place in Houston, Texas from April 15-18, 2008. Next year’s theme will be “Advancing the Understanding of Energy ... From Local to Global.”

APRIL GENERAL MEETING

Atlanta Chapter’s monthly meeting was held on Thursday, April 19th in the GE Energy auditorium with GE’s African-American Forum (AAF). The meeting focused on “Technology & Innovation from a Customer and Supplier Perspective.” Panelists included **AABE Kansas City Chapter Co-Founder Allen Spivey**, Manager – Office of Corporate Engineering for AGL Resources, and **Renee Armstrong**, General Manager – Marketing Strategy and Operations for GE Energy. **Melvin Kirk**, Energy Services Business Process Leader for GE Energy, moderated the session.

Mr. Spivey and Ms. Armstrong both discussed AGL and GE’s dedication to the identification and creation of new technology to improve processes that will benefit consumers and the environment.



Allen’s presentation focused on AGL’s development of the following:

- Repair and replacement methods of distribution piping.
- Location devices for piping and underground obstacles.

- Peak survey tools and methods.
- CIP lining to seal existing & future leaks.
- Lightweight shoring.
- Keyhole technology – camera inspections on live mains.
- Remote methane leak detectors using laser beams.
- Mobile sensor approach – internal corrosion sensors to measure water or active corrosion.
- Automatic meter reading via radio.
- Live insertion – work in the pipe while not cutting off services.

Renee discussed GE's EcoImagination® program that identifies technology and trends from the marketing perspective such as:

- Improving gas turbine technology.
- Advances in nuclear plant design (CANDU).
- Clean coal technology.
- Wind farms on and off shore.
- Solar energy conversion techniques.
- Promoting hydrogen fuel cells and hybrid vehicles.
- Biomass plant design.
- Developing technology that is economically viable without tax credits and subsidies from the U.S. Government.
- Anticipating and responding to climate change.
- Education on energy policy and conservation to children, consumers and the governments of different countries.

Both companies' goals are to lower costs passed on to the customer, improve reliability, enhance safety and reduce carbon emissions by 2020.

AABE's Black History Moment was presented by **Erica**

Campbell, Financial Analyst for GE Energy. Erica profiled the **Honorable Hazel O'Leary**, the first and only African-American and female U.S. Secretary of Energy. A profile of Secretary O' Leary is provided on page six of this newsletter.



Next National AABE Board Meeting in Anchorage, Alaska
Alaska Chapter President **James Posey** has planned three field trips during the meeting to be held June 7-9th. On Thursday, June 7, 2007:

- Tour of Alaskan Oil Field - open to board members only, first come basis – 10 spots total, three taken; seven available.
- Tour of Gas-Fired Combined Turbine Plant - Open to all first come basis - 20 spots, one already taken, 19 left;
- Tour of Hydro Plant - Open to all first come basis, 10 spots, one taken.

For general tour and visitors information go to WWW.ANCHORAGE.NET.

If you would like to participate please send **AABE Board Director Polly Rosemond** (Louisiana) your information (name, address and telephone number) to her at PROSEMO@energy.com as soon as possible. The deadline is **May 7, 2007**.

ATLANTA CHAPTER NEWS:

May General Meeting: James K. Davis Scholarship Banquet
Atlanta Chapter's annual **James K. Davis** academic scholarship

banquet will be held on Thursday, May 10th in the GPC Auditorium at 4PM, when we award 26 metro Atlanta students with \$30K in scholarships! Volunteers are needed for the event. For more information contact Scholarship Committee Chairperson **Fanchester Henry** at fyhenry@southernco.com. This event takes the place of our May general monthly meeting.

AABE Golf Outing in May

The 5th annual **James K. Davis** Scholarship Golf Outing will be held on Friday, May 11th at Summer Grove Golf Course in Newnan, Georgia. Only two foursomes remain available! A drawing for a \$500 shopping spree to the PGA Tour Superstore will also be held afterwards. Proceeds from this tournament will finance our scholarship program for 2008. Volunteers are needed to help organize the event. Please contact Fundraising Chairperson **Tangela Martin** (GPC), at 770-603-5372 or ffmartin@southernco.com or visit our website: <http://aabe.org/atlanta> for more information.

AABE Welcomes Director Dot Harris to Atlanta

AABE Board Member **La Doris (Dot) Harris** (Michigan) will relocate to Atlanta, Georgia in June. Dot was recently promoted to Synergy Leader for GE Energy's \$7B Energy Services business. Dot's responsibilities include identifying key opportunities, implementing best practices and consolidating processes for the \$54B GE Infrastructure businesses.

Spellabration Event

Literacy Volunteers of Atlanta is pleased to invite you to Spellabration on Thursday, June 7, at The Westin Hotel in Buckhead from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Spellabration is Literacy Volunteers of Atlanta's (LVA) signature fundraising event and

is the only event of its kind in the country!

The evening consists of a Speed Scrabble tournament and a team Spelling Bee. Guests are also treated to a world-class dinner and a silent auction as part of this unique celebration of literacy!

LVA provides free and confidential reading and writing assistance to adults and families in metro Atlanta to try and break the cycle of illiteracy. LVA provides these services with the help of a dedicated network of volunteers who work one-on-one with students in need. Because of volunteers, corporate supporters and donors, 90% of each dollar raised for LVA goes directly to its services and programs.

Please make plans to attend Spellabration and show your support in the fight against illiteracy. Volunteers are also needed for this event. Please contact LVA volunteer and Atlanta Chapter Assistant Secretary **Monica Reese** at mhreese@southernco.com for more information.

REGIONAL NEWS:

Ethanol Production Increases – (article by Suzanna Stagemeyer for the *Kansas City Business Journal* 3/30/07 – 4/5/07)

As lower oil prices and higher corn prices in the past few months squeezed profit margins for ethanol producers, investors who eagerly financed ethanol plant projects last summer have grown more wary.

The number of ethanol plants in production increased from 95 in 2005 to 110 in 2006. Eight plant expansions and 73 new refineries under construction last year will add 6 billion gallons of production, more than doubling last year's U.S. production of

4.9 billion gallons, according to the Renewable Fuels Association.

Several plants are planned or under way in Georgia; including a 100 million gallon-a-year plant planned by First United Ethanol LLC in Camilla, GA. U.S. Energy Services Inc. (Minneapolis, MN) has management and development contracts with 125 ethanol plant projects, 70 of which are in operation. Owners of 10 plants in the design phase have said that they are struggling to get financing and may not be able to continue.

Kansas City engineering firm Burns & McDonnell receives a call every three weeks to build ethanol plants, down from a call a day from last summer. Ethanex Energy (Basehor, KS) is developing 3 ethanol plants set to come online next year with a combined annual capacity of 400 million gallons of ethanol. Kansas City-based Alternative Energy Sources Inc. plans to complete three plants, each with a 110 million-gallon capacity, by late summer 2008.

As a result of the implementation of the Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS), increased octane demand and other market forces, the U.S. ethanol industry produced a record 4.9 billion gallons of ethanol from 110 bio-refineries in 19 states. Production in 2006 exceeded the previous year by a record 1 billion gallons, or more than 25%. Since 2000, ethanol production in the U.S. has increased more than 300%.

Southeast's Gas Emissions Rising – (article by Ben Evans for the *Atlanta Journal Constitution* 4/13/07)

Carbon emissions believed to cause global warming rose more in the Southeast than any other region of the country over a recent 15 year period, nearly

doubling the national rate of growth, according to an environmental report released Thursday, April 12th 2007.

Much of the rise can be attributed to population booms in areas like Atlanta that have created more automobile travel and coal-fired power generation. Environmental advocates say it also stems from a general Southern aversion to utility regulation and a failure to recognize the ills of urban sprawl.

The report, done by the U.S. Public Interest Research Groups using U.S. Energy Department figures, found that energy-related carbon dioxide emissions jumped 31 percent in the Southeast from 1990 to 2004, versus 18 percent nationwide.

The two leading sources of emissions were coal-burning power plants and the transportation sector, which together accounted for about three-fourths of the 784 million metric tons of carbon released in the region in 2004.

Mike Tyndall, a spokesman for Atlanta-based Southern Company, which operates coal plants, said the added emissions are directly linked to a 40 percent jump in electricity demand. Southern Co., he said, is committed to developing cleaner technologies.

Birmingham's 25 Fastest Growing Midsize Companies – (from the *Birmingham Business Journal* 3/30/07 – 4/5/07)

The BBJ listed two energy related companies in its annual top 25 list. Energy Systems Southeast LLC (#4) is a company which sells industrial and residential emergency generators. The E Group (#7) consults commercial clients on managing energy costs.

DOD Awards Fuel Contract - (from the Birmingham Business Journal 4/6/07 – 4/12/07)

The U.S. Department of Defense awarded a \$70M contract to Hunt Southland Refining Company to provide jet fuel to the federal government. The Tuscaloosa, Alabama company will supply fuel to military agencies across the East Coast, Gulf Coast and Midwest regions.

New Interstate Gasoline Pipeline Seeks Approval – (from the Atlanta Business Chronicle 4/6/07 – 4/12/07)

Georgia Senator Ross Tolleson (R – Terry) has asked the Georgia House of Representatives to consider an amendment to his SB 173 Bill on pipeline construction. Colonial Pipeline Company wishes to build a \$1B interstate gasoline pipeline 46 miles from the Alabama state line to Colonial's Powder Springs, Georgia facility. Originally, the pipeline was to stretch to South Carolina. Colonial already has 2 such pipelines that run east to west in the Southeast.

GEORGIA NEWS:

Renewable Energy from Sludge - (from the Atlanta Business Chronicle 4/13/07 – 4/19/07)

EnerTech Environmental Inc., an Atlanta-based firm, was awarded a \$150M contract to build a renewable energy plant in Rialto, California. The facility will convert raw sludge into fuel using revolutionary technology. The facility will be operational in 2008.

Mirant For Sale? - (from the Atlanta Business Chronicle 4/13/07 – 4/19/07)

A spokesperson for the Atlanta-based energy company stated that the Mirant Corporation is looking at several options after 1 year coming out of bankruptcy.

The board of directors for Mirant is looking at alternatives to enhance shareholder value. Several options include divestiture of its overseas businesses, several natural-gas plants or selling off the company.

WEEC Conference

The World Energy Engineering Congress (WEEC) will hold its 30th anniversary conference in Atlanta from August 15 – 17, 2007 at the Georgia World Congress Center. Entry costs range from \$795 to \$895. Registration info can be found at the WEEC website www.energycongress.com.

Atlanta's EcoManor Near Completion - (from The Sunday Paper 4/15/07)

The very first private residence to be certified by LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), the rating system for green buildings, is almost finished after 2 years of construction. EcoManor, owned by **Laura Turner Seydel** (eldest daughter of media mogul **Ted Turner**) and her husband **Rutherford Seydel**, sits in the Buckhead neighborhood of Atlanta, Georgia.

Laura hopes that EcoManor will serve as a template for builders, designers, architects, vendors, landscapers and school teachers on the benefits of earth-friendly energy efficient technology.

Featured products within EcoManor include:

- An advanced window that actually produces solar electricity;
- Solar tubing that directs natural lighting into closets and interior rooms;
- Energy Star lighting and appliances;
- Reclaimed and environmentally-certified woods;

- Pressed hay straw cabinets and pressed wheat straw doors;
- Chemical free carpet and non-toxic low volatile organic compounds (VOC) paints and stains;
- Recycled content decorator tiles and reclaimed slate roofing;
- Water reclaiming greywater tanks and rain cisterns;
- Touch panel computer system that manages and monitors the home's energy and water use.

Laura and Rutherford are co-founders of the Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper Fund and are both active on the boards of many other local and national groups including: Earth Share Georgia; The Nature Conservancy of Georgia; the North Georgia Water Planning District Board and the League of Conservation Voters Education Fund. Currently, Laura serves as chairman of the Captain Planet Foundation, a partner program to the highly successful environmentally focused Saturday morning cartoon, *Captain Planet and the Planetears*. The Captain Planet Foundation acts as a national educational conduit to place funds in the hands of groups conducting environmental projects with elementary, middle, and high school students. For more information and a tour of EcoManor, please visit www.ecomanor.com.

Coca-Cola Goes Green

The new World of Coca-Cola Museum is near completion. The museum is located near the Georgia Aquarium in downtown Atlanta. This is the first building that will meet LEED certifications. High efficiency lighting and waterless urinals have been installed so far. The museum is set to open May 24, 2007.

**AABE 30th Anniversary
Conference Photos Weblink:**

- Go to www.photosbyvicki.com.
- Click on order online.
- Type the password AABE.
- They will be online until May 30, 2007.



Atlanta Chapter Committees:

Volunteers are needed to support the following AABE committees in 2007:

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 Outing 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.

Mentoring – CHOICES:

Monthly peer and skills advice for 9th grade students.

Philanthropic/Charitable – Donations for needy families.

Energy Education – Enlighten the community about energy.

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

Please contact Atlanta Chapter Secretary **Cherryl Harris** at cmharris@southernco.com for more information.

Member Company Websites:

- www.aabe.org
- www.aglc.com
- www.aglresources.com
- www.blackenergy.com
- www.gepower.com
- www.georgianaturalgas.com
- www.georgiapower.com
- www.greystonepower.com
- www.heatga.org
- www.honeywell.com
- www.htsenterprise.com
- www.mirant.com
- www.slking.com
- www.opc.com
- www.southernco.com
- www.southstarenergy.com
- www.psc.state.ga.us

GOT NEWS?

Please send all comments, suggestions, AABE information, announcements, member and energy-related news to Communications Committee Chair **Wayne Young** at wayne.young2@honeywell.com.

The deadline for the next monthly newsletter is **Monday, May 28, 2007.**

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**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) 325-355

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.”

For more information visit our National website at:
<http://www.aabe.org>.

Atlanta Chapter Website:
<http://aabe.org/atlanta>

Atlanta Chapter Address:

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

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HISTORY MAKER BIOGRAPHY -

**HAZEL ROLLINS O’LEARY
(b. 1937)**



Ms. O’Leary was the seventh United States Secretary of Energy from 1993 to 1997. She was the first and to date, only woman to hold the position.

Born in Newport News, Virginia, she is an alumna of the former segregated Huntington High School of Newport News. O’Leary worked as a prosecutor in New Jersey after graduation from Rutgers University Law School and was later a partner in the accounting firm of Coopers & Lybrand.

During the **President Jimmy Carter** administration, O’Leary was assistant administrator of the Federal Energy Administration, general counsel of the Community Services Administration, and administrator of the Economic Regulatory Administration at the newly-created Department of Energy.

In 1981, O’Leary established with her husband the consulting firm of O’Leary & Associates, serving as vice president and general counsel. From 1989 to

1993, she worked as an executive vice president of the Northern States Power Company.

O'Leary was nominated to be Secretary of Energy in 1993 by **President Bill Clinton**. Since 2004, O'Leary has served as President of her undergraduate alma mater, the historically black Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee.

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More Conference scenes...

