

emPOWERing You

Chapter News

President's Message

Greetings, AABE Members.

It is an honor, privilege and pleasure to serve as the North Carolina Chapter President for the 2015-2016 program year. You elected a diverse and dynamic team of capable leaders to serve as chapter officers. The NC Chapter Board of Directors stands ready to "Inform, Educate, Advance and Grow the network of energy professionals" within our Duke Energy family and with our external business partners in the energy industry.



So, what does 2015 look like for the NC Chapter of AABE?

Our program year is off to a great start! Our chapter will strategically focus on five areas: Membership, Scholarship, Legislative, Communications and Corporate Citizenship.

Membership – We have a clear focus on targeted membership drives, the value of industry partnerships, and bridging the gap with our Student Chapters.

Scholarship – We will provide financial support to students pursuing careers in energy-related fields and serve as an active partner in the community for Black Energy Awareness Month.

Legislative – We will host two industry summits focused on legislative issues impacting the energy landscape.

Communications – We will provide quarterly updates to active chapter members. We now have a Facebook page to engage with you on social media. [Like us on Facebook](#) and share our page with your friends!

Our fifth focus area is a new one for the NC Chapter: **Corporate Citizenship**. Through strategic partnerships with our fellow Duke Energy Employee Resource Groups, we will seek out appropriate opportunities to represent the company through advocacy and community outreach.

We are most excited about the 2015 National Conference, which will be held in Charlotte, May 4-8. This year's theme is: Empowering a Generation Today, Tomorrow, and Beyond. As the host chapter, expectations are high for us to have a strong turnout – let's show up in great numbers! Registration information is included in this edition of "emPOWERing YOU."

As you can see, our chapter has a number of opportunities to "Inform, Educate, Advance, and Grow the network of energy professionals." We want YOU to stay engaged with our chapter and be committed to the mission of AABE. If you have questions about our programs or the chapter, please contact me. Thank you for your involvement, and we look forward to seeing you at our next event.

*Yours in AABE,
LaQuisha*

2015 Board of Directors

President	LaQuisha Parks
Vice President	Shirell H. Burris
Secretary	Shirelle Allen
Treasurer	Christine Wyche
Historian	Jamie Bond
Scholarship Chair	Conitsha Barnes
Membership Chair	Vakesia Graves
Legislative Chair	Debra Taiwo
Communications	Cassandra Springer

Save the Date

2015 NATIONAL CONFERENCE

MAY 5 - 8

CHARLOTTE, NC

EMPOWERING A GENERATION TODAY, TOMORROW, & BEYOND

emPOWERing You

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VP's Message

Greetings, fellow AABE Members.

I am honored to serve as the North Carolina Chapter Vice President for the 2015-2016 program year. As members of the NC Chapter of AABE, we are called to action by the vision to "Inform, Educate, Advance and Grow the network of energy professionals" while partnering with national members to inform and educate the underserved and underrepresented in our communities.

I look forward to the work we have planned for 2015 in support of the vision and goals for our chapter. This includes increasing our membership, educating our members through legislative summits, partnering with other organizations, and working with our schools.

If you have questions or suggestions, please contact me. I look forward to the great work we will do together!

*Yours in AABE,
Shirell*



Membership Matters!

Are you member?

New Members

You may apply for membership by completing the application form on the AABE national web site at aabe.org. Click on the Membership tab.

Returning members

Go to aabe.org/renew. You will be prompted to input your email address and within 5 minutes an online prepopulated renewal application will be emailed to you for completion.

5 Reasons to be a member

1. Network with the best in the industry.
2. Stay engaged through chapter meetings, webinars, and conferences.
3. Show your employer you are committed to a career in energy.
4. Discover new opportunities.
5. Develop your leadership abilities by serving on a local committee nationally.

Get Engaged Join a Committee

The NC Chapter has many opportunities for you to expand your network and develop leadership skills. Learn more about the NC Chapter by visiting the AABE web site, aabe.org or contact Shirell Burris at 980-373-3605 for details on how you can get involved.

emPOWERing You

Chapter News

What's going on?

Industry Network

Stay Engaged

Show Your Commitment

Discover New Opportunities

Scholarships

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Month	Event
January	Membership Renewal
February	Membership Renewal
March 12 18/19 March 27	Legislative Summit – Raleigh, NC Membership Drives – Raleigh, NC Scholarship Applications due
May	2015 National Conference
Q2	Legislative Summit – Charlotte, NC
October	Black Energy Awareness Month

The North Carolina Chapter of AABE is pleased to announce the 2015 AABE Scholarship Program. Applications are now being accepted. All applications must be returned by **March 27, 2015** to be considered.

NC Chapter AABE members are asked to share the application with local schools, community organizations and family and friends. [Click here](#) to access and download the 2015 scholarship application.

If you have questions, please contact Scholarship Chair, Conitsha Barnes at 704-382-2330.

emPOWER - Legislation

Energy Transformation: Are you ready for the Challenge?

Today more than ever, the electric utility model is being challenged. New environmental regulations, aging infrastructure and emerging technologies are dramatically changing how we acquire, generate and use electricity. While the electric utility industry is fully aware that change is coming, will the industry embrace the change? Our challenge, as AABE members, is ensuring that we understand the impact of these changes, and our role in engaging, educating and empowering underserved communities during this energy transformation.

The mission of the National Legislative Issues and Public Policy committee, is to ensure that African-Americans and other minorities have a voice in the development and implementation of U.S.

energy/environmental policies. Charged with tracking legislative and public policy issues of interest to AABE, this committee develops and disseminates white papers regarding energy and environmental issues.

This year, the NC Chapter AABE Legislative Committee will host two Energy Summits. Both summits will focus on increasing our understanding of emerging issues and technologies impacting our industry.

The first summit will be held Thursday, March 12, 2015 at 12:00 pm in Raleigh, NC. More details coming soon.

AABE is committed to shaping the energy and economic priorities of minorities and historically underserved communities. We will do our part to ensure you are equipped with the knowledge and tools to transform underserved communities.

Are you ready for the challenge?

Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/AABENCCChapter