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Bill Dickens, Editor  
Frank Stewart, Publisher

# AABE Energy News



## News You Can Use

### Special points of interest:

- \* News You Can Use
- \* Welcome New AABE Chapter (South Jersey)
- \* Newsletter features:  
Upcoming events and  
The Last Word
- \* The AABE Chapter  
Highlights and “A  
Mind Is A Terrible  
Thing to Waste”

### Inside this issue:

2010 AABE Meeting 1

2010 DC Meeting 1

AABE Chapter News 2

Sonja Ebron 3

Smart Grid Webinar 3

AABE Western Re-  
gional 3

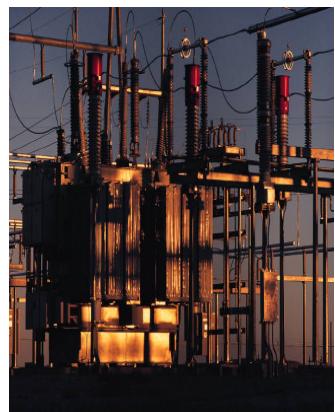
Frank's Last Word 4

## AABE May 2010 National Conference in Columbus, Ohio

The American Association of Blacks in Energy hosted its 33<sup>rd</sup> annual conference May 18-21 in Columbus, Ohio. The conference attracted more than 300 Energy professionals from around the country – from every sector of the energy industry. Each year, the AABE holds the conference to promote professional development, to share industry information, and provide networking opportunities. The 2010 theme, “People. Profit. Planet. An Inclusive Approach to a Bright, Reliable Energy Future” examined how the industry must balance the needs of consumers and the environment in the emerging green economy.

“Today’s economy requires our strong commitment to both sound public policy and technology innovation,” said Frank Stewart, the AABE President and Chief Operating Officer. “As our national policy encourages parti-

pation in our green economy, it is important to appreciate that industry is increasingly challenged to balance the needs of consumers and the impact to the environment in an ever changing business milieu.” The 33<sup>rd</sup> annual conference focused on both the energy challenges and solutions. In addition attendees, including energy entrepreneurs, engaged in stimulating workshops.



## AABE September 2010 General Board Meeting in Washington, DC

The AABE held its annual General Board Meeting September 15 -18 in Washington, DC. Attendees consisted of energy professionals who hold AABE leadership positions at both the local and the national level. The Thursday meeting provided invaluable information to local

chapters on filing the IRS 990N tax form, understanding the AABE by-laws and dissecting proposed national energy legislation. Michael Blake, Associate Director, White House Office of Public Engagement, was the luncheon speaker on Thursday and provided an inspiring speech

on voter and environmental responsibility. In addition, the AABE participated in several energy forums co-sponsored by the Joint Center on Political and Economic Studies on the implications of climate change for African American communities.



### AABE Chapter News: Northwest Indiana, Anchorage, AK & Denver, CO

The City of Hammond, IN, Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO), and the Lake County Energy Task Force will be hosting and Energy Fair on Sat., October 16, 2010 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Jean Shepherd Community Center. It is free to the public and Indiana AABE members will be on hand to assist in providing the community with tools, resources, and information needed to prepare for the upcoming winter season and ways to manage winter heating bills. The fair will feature weatherization demonstrations.

For more information please contact Africa Tarver (219) 853-6508

AABE Board Member Hilda Pinnix-Ragland was a panelist discussing energy issues for the National Black Legislative Women's Conference in June 2010. The event was held in Anchorage, Alaska

The Denver Area Chapter of the AABE will participate in **"Colorado's Multicultural New Energy Economy Forum – A Town Hall Meeting on Green Jobs"** on Thursday October 21, 2010 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at the New Faith Church (Chapel loca-

tion) - 4834 N. Chambers Rd. in Denver, CO 80239 – inside Chapel. The discussion will focus on Green Collar Jobs and answer the questions: *"What are they?", "Where are they?" "How do I train for them?" And, what is the economic potential of green jobs?"*



Pictured: ToNola Brown-Bland, Commissioner, North Carolina Public Utilities Commission

### AABE Chapter News: The Tar Heel Chapter, More than just great BBQ

The NC Chapter of the AABE held its annual membership drive on Wednesday, June 30<sup>th</sup> at the Sheraton Downtown Raleigh, NC. The theme for this year's membership drive was "Making the Connection between Our Community and Our Industry". Commissioner ToNola Brown-Bland with the North Carolina Utilities Commission (*pictured left*) was the guest speaker for the

event. Commissioner Brown-Bland became a member of the North Carolina Utilities Commission staff in December 2002, where she was an attorney in the Administrative Division. She was appointed to the North Carolina Utilities Commission by Governor Beverly Eaves Perdue for an unexpired term ending on June 30, 2009 and for a full term beginning on July 1, 2009 and

ending on June 30, 2017. Commissioner Brown-Bland, in recognition for her service to our community was bestowed an honorary membership to the NC Chapter, presented by former National Chair and Board of Director for the AABE, Hilda Pinnix-Ragland.



Pictured: Sheila Oliver, Speaker, New Jersey General Assembly

### AABE Chapter News: New Jersey Chapter, History on the Jersey Shore

Sheila Oliver, Speaker of the New Jersey General Assembly, is the first African American woman to serve in that capacity. Earlier this year, Speaker Oliver spent some time with the New Jersey Chapter of the AABE for an informal State of the State Address. The meeting was held at the Public Service Enterprise Group (PSEG) headquarters in Newark, New Jersey. Attendees and observers engaged with one of the Garden State's highest-ranking officials.

"Our Chapter of the AABE has done some work to get out in the communities," said New Jersey Chapter President Derek Haley. We'd like to work with your office to help broaden our outreach efforts around the state." "I think that is an excellent idea, and very timely," replied Speaker Oliver..

Congrats to the New Jersey Chapter for organizing this event! In addition, AABE welcomes its newest chapter also local in the

Garden State, the South Jersey Chapter. Welcome South Jersey to the family of black energy professionals and entrepreneurs. Roll your sleeves up and let's get to work in the cause of energy awareness and empowerment. A wise man once noted the harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few.

## Sonja Ebron Signing Off

One of the premier energy thinkers and prominent AABE leaders in the US has decided to close shop. Sonja Ebron will no longer be hosting blackEnergy. When black Energy was founded 10 years ago, Enron was on top of the heap and California's utilities were going bankrupt. Sonya wanted to increase the options for Blacks and others vulnerable to mistreatment as energy deregulation moved across the country. She partnered with community organizations like the American Association of Blacks in Energy (Atlanta chapter) and the Concerned Black Clergy of Metro Atlanta for everything from free light bulb swaps to energy town

hall meetings to countless workshops on home energy efficiency. In addition, blackEnergy worked with natural gas companies to provide services with lower rates, low-credit options and cash contributions to local organizations working on issues we cared about. Tons of energy saving products were sold through her e-commerce store. She took pride in serving the needs of Black communities throughout the country.

Please join us in thanking Sonja for her commitment to improving the lives for black Americans thru energy awareness.

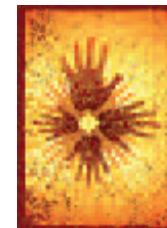


*Pictured: Dr. Sonja Ebron, CEO, black Energy*

## SAVE THE DATE

AABE 34th Annual Conference

**Our Energy Our Future**  
Creating Sustainable  
Communities



April 26-29, 2011

Jersey City Hyatt  
Jersey City, New Jersey

## Smart Grid: A Game Changer for the Energy Industry

On July 16, 2010, AABE hosted an informative webinar about the Smart Grid. The webinar provided webinar attendees a didactic and pragmatic overview about what Smart Grid means for the utility industry and specifically for African American consumers of utility services. The key "takeaway" points from the webinar were:

1. Smart grid is a "game changer" which will transform the utility-customer

relationship, provide new business opportunities while enabling utilities to meet energy and environmental public policy goals.

2. Electric utilities are making substantial investments in smart grid and innovative technologies from smart meters to plug-in electric vehicles.
3. Cyber security is a top priority of the utility industry because it impacts reliability

4. of service.
4. Electric utilities are working with regulators and smart grid technology companies to ensure the smart grid provides value for consumers.

Kudos to Paula Jackson, David Owens, Ralph Cleveland and Thomas Graham for organizing this important webinar!

"Smart Grid needs a process to develop plausible deployment pathways with input from all major stakeholders."

David Owens (EEI)

## Coming Soon—A Dynamic Western Region Conference

What: The AABE Regional Conference

When: October 6-8, 2010

Where: Westin Hotel, Pasadena, California

Why: To demonstrate the importance, opportunities and challenges of integrating variable resources in the Western Grid.

Who should be there: YOU!!!

Theme: Building a Green Economy & Environment Through Clean Resources & Workforce Readiness

For more information contact either ;

Afarah Board, (picture) the AABE Western Region Coordinator

Rodney Davis. Western Region Program Chair at the following number:

626.302.9567

See You in Sunny California!



*Pictured above, Afarah Board, Regional Coordinator, Western Region*

# AABE Energy News

The Last Word—Equal Opportunity in the Green Economy



**Frank Stewart is the  
President of AABE**

President Obama was correct in saying that the introduction of new energy technologies will be an important opportunity for addressing our goals for greater racial and ethnic economic equality. Most of the people in the renewable energy industry want those technologies to benefit the entire nation. It may be time for the real leaders of the renewable energy industry to speak up about the importance of new energy technologies providing a way to have a nation that is more in keeping with the ideals embodied in the American Constitution. The renewable energy community in wind/solar should know that the winds that blow across our central plains and the sun that shines down on our western deserts are resources which should benefit all Americans. We have to make it our mission to see to it that the past does not dictate the future. This new “industrial revolution” should be more than another opportunity to increase economic disparity, more than an opportunity to perpetuate racial and ethnic inequities. This should be as step forward; not a step back.

See AABE on the  
web at:  
[Www.aabe.org](http://Www.aabe.org)

## "A Mind is a Terrible Thing to Waste" - AABE's Energy Puzzle

Solve the two puzzles below. Each puzzle is an important phrase in the energy industry. First person to email Bill Dickens with the correct response will win a special prize. Contact Bill at: [bdickens@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:bdickens@cityoftacoma.org) Good Luck!

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