

# ELECTRIC CITIES *Connected*



## Legislative Meet & Greet Reception Highlights



ECA Executive Director Jon Hand with Lt. Governor Kay Ivey at the Legislative Meet & Greet Reception

ECA held its 12th annual Legislative Briefing and Meet and Greet Reception at the RSA Plaza Terrace on March 29. ECA members gathered to hear issues impacting public power in Alabama as well as a briefing regarding the new ethics laws from ECA's attorney Wendell Cauley.

Following the legislative briefing, members made their way to the annual Legislative Reception, which

had ECA members and elected officials in attendance. The elected officials included Alabama's Legislature, State Constitutional Officers and Judiciary.

This year's event was co-sponsored by the Alabama Municipal Electric Authority and the Tennessee Valley Authority. Thank you to our sponsors for making this event possible!



Huntsville Utilities representatives Ronnie Boles (left) and Jay Stowe (middle) with Senator Paul Sanford, Representative Howard Sanderford and Representative Phil Williams

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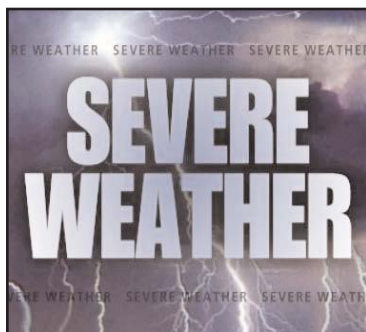
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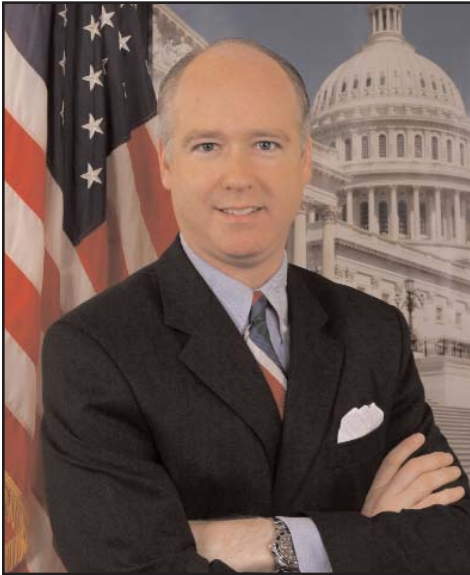
## ECA Recovery Efforts



At the time *Electric Cities Connected* went to print, many of ECA members from the Tennessee Valley region were impacted by a severe line of tornadoes and thunderstorms. ECA is working with the affected

utilities to ensure they have the proper man power and equipment to get back online. Please know our thoughts and prayers go out to everyone affected by this record breaking weather disaster.

# Congressional Member Spotlight: Robert Aderholt



**Congressman Robert Aderholt (AL-R, 4th)**

*Electric Cities of Alabama will feature a monthly spotlight on Alabama's Congressional Delegation to help its members learn more about the Alabama Congressional Members and their views on legislation. This month's spotlight is Congressman Robert Aderholt.*

Congressman Robert Aderholt was re-elected during the November 2010 General Election to serve the Fourth Congressional District of Alabama in his eighth term as a U.S. House Representative. Aderholt was selected to serve on the powerful House Appropriations Committee, as the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Homeland Security, and a member of the Commerce, Justice and Science Subcommittee and Agriculture Subcommittee. He is also on the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (better known as the Helsinki

Commission). The Helsinki Commission is made up of 56 countries around the world and monitors human rights in Europe and Central Asia.

Aderholt has worked toward bringing record levels of funding to Alabama for vital projects throughout the state and fourth congressional district. He campaigned on a promise to continue his commitment to improve transportation in Alabama by making roads safer, improving economic development, and creating more jobs for the Fourth Congressional District and all of Alabama.

Aderholt has fought for traditional Alabama values in Congress and continues to fight against the loss of jobs due to unfair competition from foreign countries as well as for a tougher immigration policy. He believes the federal government has a role in assisting state and local projects as well as economic development efforts. At the same time, he believes in responsible budgeting and feels that with an appropriate balance, Congress can work to make sure the government operates within its means.

Aderholt graduated from Birmingham Southern College, and received his law degree at the Cumberland School of Law at Samford University in 1990. Following graduation, Aderholt was legal assistant to Alabama Governor Fob James in 1995 and 1996, and served four years as Municipal Judge in his hometown of Haleyville.

Aderholt is married to the former

Caroline McDonald of Huntsville and they now reside in Haleyville with their daughter, Mary Elliott and their son, Robert Hayes. When Congress is in session, Congressman Aderholt's family joins him in Washington, DC.

## **What do you feel is your greatest obstacle in the new congress?**

The greatest obstacle of the 112th Congress is the wide gap between the philosophy of the President and Senate majority leader, in comparison to the will of the American people as expressed last November. The President wants government to control all of our choices and Senate Democrats believe the answer to every problem is to spend money now and balance the checkbook later. Although Republicans hold the House majority, we only control half of one third of the government and that is going to make reigning in government spending and implementing the fiscally responsible policies the American people want to see put in place exceedingly challenging. That is not to say that we can't reign in spending, because there are things we can do and must do. However, at the end of the day all legislation has to have the President's signature. Therefore, it's important that the White House hear from Americans on these important issues.

## **What has changed the most during your tenure in Congress?**

I've been in Congress for over 14 years and plenty has changed, some for better, some for worse.

*continued on page 3*

## Congressional Member Spotlight: Aderholt (Continued)

Thankfully in the past few months, with Republicans in the majority, Washington's attitude towards spending has changed for the better. The days of wasteful spending and the cavalier attitude towards spending taxpayer dollars has changed the most. We're on the road to getting our fiscal house in order and moving the country towards a more stable and prosperous path.

### Do you feel that Cap-and-Trade legislation has a future during this congress?

Absolutely not, after Republicans took over the House any chance Cap and Trade had to become law during the 112th disappeared. The issue will be if the Administration continues to pursue limits on carbon through the regulatory

process. Already the House has passed legislation (H.R. 910) that would prevent them from doing so. The bill now awaits action in the Senate.

### Do you feel domestic energy production will increase or decrease this Congress?

It's imperative and I fully support that the United States must reduce its dependency on foreign oil. My colleagues and I are committed to offering proposals to increase domestic energy production. The United States has an abundant supply of natural resources, including oil, oil shale, and coal. Unfortunately, the Administration and some Senate Democrats continue to block House Republican's efforts to cultivate our great domestic energy

resources. Not only do we have these abundant resources, but American companies also have the ability to develop them in a responsible manner that protects and restores the environment, while creating sustainable jobs within our borders.

### What would you like ECA members to know about you?

Serving ECA's members in Washington is a great honor. For many years ECA and its members have served as a great resource for me and my staff and as always I welcome your feedback. I look forward to working with ECA throughout the 112th Congress and representing the residents of Alabama's Fourth district.

## ECA's Blast From the Past

Don't forget to send in your old ECA annual meeting photos! Submit your favorite ECA annual meeting photos to [asalvador@electriccities.org](mailto:asalvador@electriccities.org) and we will showcase a new set of photos each month until the Annual Meeting and Governmental Affairs Conference in July. The following pictures were submitted by David Thornton in Tuscumbia.



## Welcome New Members!

ECA welcomes two new associate members:

**Landis + Gyr**  
**McLean Engineering Co., LLC.**

# Government Shutdown Adverted

## Government Shutdown



Congressional leaders came to an agreement in the late hours of the evening on April 8, 2011, to keep the federal government funded for the remainder of the fiscal year, averting a government shutdown less than an hour before it was set to start.

House Speaker John A. Boehner (R-Ohio) announced the decision just before 11 p.m. The agreement

came together in a few frantic hours at the Capitol, with a midnight deadline looming.

“I’m pleased that Senator Reid and I, along with the White House, have been able to come to an agreement that will, in fact, cut spending and keep our government open,” Boehner said at an impromptu news conference, mentioning Senate Majority Leader Harry M. Reid (D-Nev.).

Shortly after, President Obama read a statement from the White House, pointing out that the Washington Monument, seen lit up over his shoulder, would be open as usual the next day.

“Today, Americans of different beliefs came together,” Obama said. He said the cuts would be painful but necessary to maintain the country’s fiscal health. “We protected the investments we need to win the future.”

To keep the government running, lawmakers approved a short-term

spending measure overnight — the Senate at 12:20 a.m. and the House at 12:40 a.m. — and said the final agreement would be approved the next week.

The measure would cut \$37.8 billion from the federal budget through the end of September. The cuts would add up to the largest budget reduction for federal agencies in U.S. history.

The budget agreement did not become a law that evening. There wasn’t enough time to make it legal before midnight.

Congress voted on April 14, 2011, to keep the budget agreement, which sailed through the Senate, 81 to 19 and went to President Obama for his signature.

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*Source: The Washington Post - Government Shutdown Adverted: Congress agrees to budget deal, stopgap funding, by Paul Kane, Philip Rucker and David A. Fahrenthold*



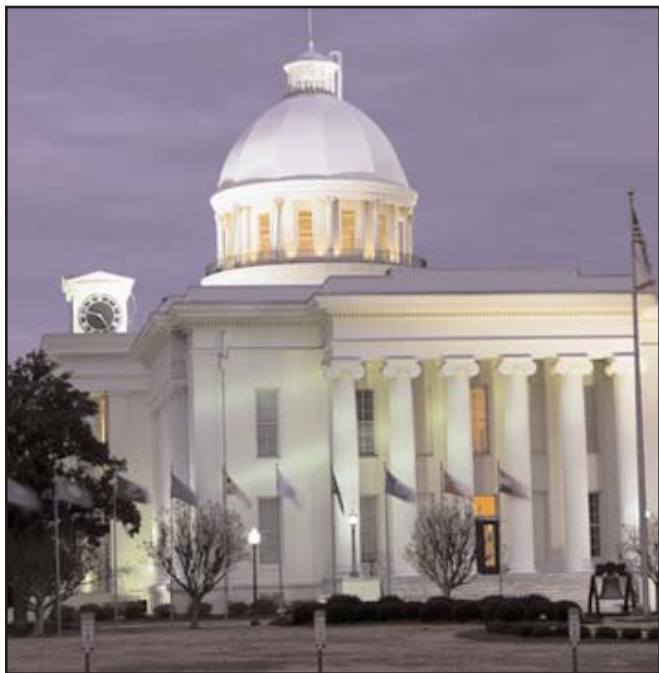
## Door Prize Reminder

It’s that time again!

The Electric Cities of Alabama Annual Meeting and Governmental Affairs Conference is right around the corner, and we need your door prize donations!

ECA appreciates your donations that make giving door prizes during the conference possible. Registration information will be mailed in the next few weeks which will allow you to list your door prize donations. Please contact Andrea at [asalvador@electriccities.org](mailto:asalvador@electriccities.org) for more information on how you can donate a door prize.

# Happenings on Goat Hill



March 31, 2011 - Governor Robert Bentley declares a 15 percent proration in the state's General Fund.

March 31, 2011 - President Obama nominates Montgomery attorney George Beck to serve as the U.S. attorney for the Middle District of Alabama.

April 4, 2011 - The husband of Secretary of State Beth Chapman passes away after being in intensive care for more than a month

April 5, 2011 - The Alabama House of Representatives passes an immigration bill modeled after the controversial legislation in Arizona that cracks down on illegal immigration in Alabama.

April 7, 2011 - The Alabama Senate approves a \$1.8 billion General Fund budget for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1.

April 19, 2011 - The Senate Committee on Finance and Taxation Education passes House Bill 414 by a party-line vote. HB414 would increase state employees contributions towards retirement in effort to balance the 2012 budget. This legislation currently awaits consideration before the Alabama State Senate.

April 21, 2011 - The Alabama State Senate passes their version of immigration reform leaving House and Senate members having to agree on one version of immigration legislation before it can be enacted.

## ECA Trivia Grid



**What is the most common abbreviation for the word transformer?**

**Be the first to email the correct answer to Andrea Salvador at [asalvador@electriccities.org](mailto:asalvador@electriccities.org) and win a \$25.00 gift card. Good Luck!**

*Last month's winner was Troy Utilities Electric Superintendent, Brian Chandler. Brian answered 60hz to the following question: The power grid serving most of the United States operates at how many cycles per second (Hz)? Congratulations Brian!*



**THE INFORMATION SOURCE OF THE ELECTRIC CITIES OF ALABAMA**

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*Calendar*  
*2011*  
**ECA**

THE ELECTRIC CITIES OF ALABAMA IS A COALITION OF THE STATE'S MUNICIPALLY OWNED AND OPERATED ELECTRIC SYSTEMS. ALABAMA'S ELECTRIC CITIES SERVE APPROXIMATELY ONE MILLION CONSUMERS IN 36 CITIES THROUGHOUT ALABAMA.

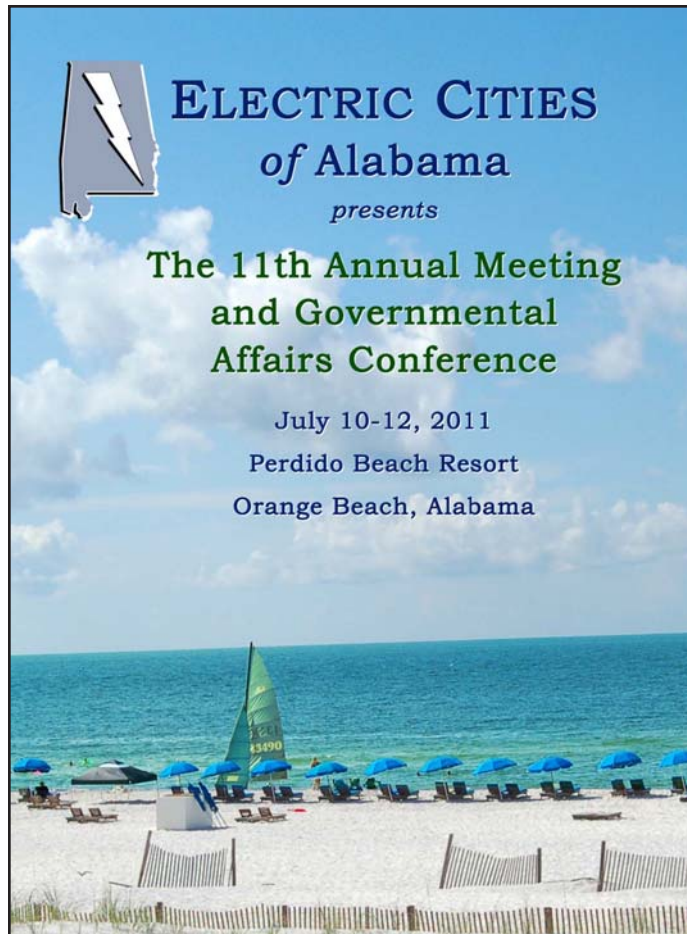
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**July 10, 2011 - 3:00 p.m.**  
Annual Business Meeting  
(Board of Directors)  
Perdido Beach Resort  
Orange Beach, AL

**July 10 - 12, 2011**  
Annual Meeting and  
Governmental Affairs  
Conference  
Perdido Beach Resort  
Orange Beach, AL

**October 19 - 21, 2011**  
Engineering & Operations  
Conference  
Ross Bridge Hotel & Spa  
Birmingham, AL

**October 21, 2011**  
Board of Directors Meeting  
Ross Bridge Hotel & Spa  
Birmingham, AL



The 11th Annual Meeting and Governmental Affairs Conference is almost here!

Book your room today by calling The Perdido Beach Resort at (800) 634-8001 and using Electric Cities of Alabama's booking code 5072. You can also book online by logging onto [www.perdidobeachresort.com](http://www.perdidobeachresort.com) and using the same booking code number.

Registration materials will be mailed in early May. You do not want to miss out on this annual event!