

ELECTRIC CITIES *Connected*

Mark Your Calendars for ECA's 2011 E&O Conference!



Electric Cities of Alabama's (ECA) 10th Annual Engineering & Operations Conference is rapidly approaching and you do not want to miss it! Mark your calendars for this year's conference held at Renaissance Ross Bridge Resort in Hoover, Alabama, October 19-21, 2011.

The 2011 ECA Engineering & Operations Conference is in partnership with Alabama Consumer Owned Power Distributors Association (ACOPDA), North Alabama Public Power Association (NAPPA) and South Alabama Public Power Association (SAPPA). The conference will offer a variety of educational programs and an excellent line up of speakers. Featured speakers include Alabama Public Service Commissioner Twinkle Andress Cavanaugh, who will give an overview on Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Actions and motivational speaker Bryan Townsend, who is a professional writer and one of the nation's most active motivational humorists. Other speakers include Nick Chintala with GE Lighting Systems, Chris Cusack with Navman Wireless, Roger Hartley with Stuart C. Irby Co., Bill Kendrick with Transformer Protector Corp., Charlie Martin with C. Martin Events, Charles Sample with the Tennessee Valley Authority

and Rick Simpson with McWane Iron Poles.

In addition to educational opportunities, ECA will host two annual golf outings as well as new outings that include clay shooting (off-site at Selwood Farm) and horseshoes (on-site). If you are interested in participating or sponsoring any of these events, please contact that ECA office at any time. You can also fill out a sponsorship form located in this newsletter.

Don't miss your opportunity to attend the 2011 conference! Log-on to <http://electriccities.org/> for a schedule of events and to register today!

IN THIS ISSUE

Mark Your Calendars for ECA's 2011 E&O Conference.....	1
Congressional Member Spotlight: Richard Shelby...2-3	
Business Council of Alabama Recognizes ECA Member.....	3
ECA Trivia Grid.....	3
Federal Lawyer: No Room for AL Immigration Law.....	4-5
Sponsorship Opportunities....	5
Calendar of events.....	6



ELECTRIC CITIES of Alabama

**In partnership with
ACOPDA, NAPPA & SAPPA**

Presents the 10th Annual
Engineering & Operations
Conference
October 19-21, 2011
Renaissance Ross Bridge
Hoover, Alabama

Congressional Member Spotlight: Richard Shelby



U.S. Senator Richard Shelby (AL-R)

Electric Cities of Alabama features 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 U.S. Senator Richard Shelby.

Richard Shelby, Alabama's senior United States Senator, was first elected to the Senate in 1986 with an undeniable commitment to Alabama and the simple philosophy that a smaller government can also be a more effective government. Senator Shelby is ranking member of the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee and a senior member of the Appropriations Committee. Senator Shelby also serves on the Committee on Rules and Administration and the Special Committee on Aging.

Senator Shelby believes that education is an investment in our nation's future and that expansion of infrastructure at our nation's institutions of higher learning is vital. As a

senior member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, he has fought to secure critical funding to construct world class facilities across Alabama that will educate students in the subjects of math, science, and engineering. Because of Senator Shelby's efforts, Alabama's colleges and universities have received over \$132 million to build state-of-the-art laboratories and research facilities.

Prior to Senator Shelby's election to the United States Senate, he served four terms in the U.S. House of Representatives and eight years in the Alabama legislature. He also served as a City Prosecutor in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, U.S.

Magistrate Judge for the Northern District of Alabama, and Special Assistant to the Attorney General in Alabama.

A fifth generation Alabamian, Senator Shelby is a graduate of the University of Alabama's undergraduate and law programs. He and his wife, Annette Nevin Shelby, have two sons: Richard Jr. and Claude Nevin. Claude and his wife Lisa have one daughter, Anna Elizabeth Shelby, and one son, William Nevin Shelby.

What do you feel is the greatest obstacle in Congress?

"The deepest challenge we face as a nation is high unemployment. The greatest obstacle in Congress toward solving this problem is a belief held by many that the federal government has not played a large enough role in creating jobs. I firmly disagree. These big-government

policies have not only failed to create jobs, they have also put our country on the road to fiscal insolvency. Instead, I believe that the appropriate role of the federal government is to create the conditions necessary for private sector job growth. We can accomplish this through three main actions. First is meaningful spending reform and a balanced budget amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Many on the left are unwilling to do this for political and ideological reasons. Second is comprehensive tax reform. By eliminating all special interest loopholes, we could lower marginal rates for all and drastically simplify our tax code. Third, we should roll back all unnecessary regulations that impede job growth. The amount of burdensome regulations has increased exponentially under the Obama Administration. Together, these measures would provide American businesses the certainty and stability to do what they do best – create jobs and wealth. Enacting these policies will require a change of leadership in the White House and the Senate."

ECA appreciates your position against Cap and Trade legislation as well as your position against the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) regulation of green house gas emissions. Do you feel Congress will limit EPA's ability to use the Clean Air Act to regulate green house gas emissions during this Congress?

"I strongly believe that the EPA should not attempt to continually

(Continued on page 3)

Congressional Member Spotlight: Shelby (Continued)

expand its regulatory scope under the Clean Air Act beyond the authority specifically delegated to it by Congress. The EPA's actions have the potential to impact countless American jobs and increase compliance costs for companies throughout the United States. Unfortunately, many in the Senate do not share my belief in the importance of a limited federal government, and they are supportive of an even greater expansion of the EPA's role in business decisions and the everyday lives of Americans. Although the House of Representatives has repeatedly

shown that it supports preventing the EPA from regulating greenhouse gas emissions, I am disappointed that the Senate has shown no willingness to pass any limitations to the EPA's regulatory authority."

What does the future look like for domestic energy production?

"It is my hope that we can work together to explore any and all viable energy sources that will alleviate our dependence on other nations. I am an advocate of technological developments such as oil shale, coal-to-liquids technology, and hydrogen fuel.

I also see great possibilities for the future of domestic energy production in nuclear power. Moreover, the federal government must not continue to block or impede drilling for oil and gas. While it is important that companies do so safely, there is no reason that we should continue to purchase these resources from other countries when we sit on huge reserves here at home. There is no doubt that seeking out alternatives in domestic energy production will be critical to our nation's security and economic viability moving forward."

Business Council of Alabama Recognizes ECA Member



City of Opelika Mayor, Gary Fuller

Alabama magazine, *Business Alabama*, featured a spotlight on Opelika Mayor Gary Fuller in the August 2011 edition. Opelika is one of Alabama's 36 electric cities and was recognized in the magazine for having a Mayor who is a "Mover & Shaper", which was the title of the article. *Business Alabama* covers business, large and small, in all sectors of Alabama's economy. *Business Alabama* reports in detail on the vital regional issues that go unnoticed in the daily newspapers and the

national business magazines. Here is what *Business Alabama* had to say:

"Fuller, mayor of Opelika since 2004, was president & CEO of Fuller Broadcasting Co. from 1985 until he sold the company in 1998. He is founder of Gary Fuller Consulting and managing general partner for Fuller Properties Ltd. He is a former Opelika City Council member, serving from 2000-2004. He is a member of several community and civic organizations."

ECA Trivia Grid

A circuit that is incomplete, or has been disconnected at some point, is called an _____ circuit.

Be the first to email the correct answer to Andrea Salvador at asalvador@electriccities.org and win a \$25.00 gift card. Good Luck!



Last month's winner was Carol Kirby with Hartselle Utilities. She answered that "static" was the first basic type of electricity produced by Otto von Guericke's first known machine. Congratulations Carol!

Federal Lawyer: No Room for Alabama Immigration Law



August 17: Students sit in the gym at Crossville Elementary School in Crossville, Alabama. Despite being in an almost all-white town, the school's enrollment is about 65 percent Hispanic. Both English- and Spanish-speaking residents say they are awaiting the outcome of a federal court hearing on Alabama's new law cracking down on illegal immigration.

Article and photo courtesy of Associated Press, Published August 24, 2011, www.foxnews.com.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – Lawyers for the federal government and for a coalition of civil rights groups asked a federal judge to block a new Alabama law cracking down on illegal immigration, arguing that stomps on such basic rights as free speech and free travel.

But attorneys for the state argued the new law allows the state to regulate illegal immigration in the absence of action from the federal government and that many opponents have overreacted about the law's expected impact.

Deputy Assistant U.S. Attorney

General William Orrick told U.S. District Judge Sharon Blackburn that sections of Alabama's law -which has been described by opponents and supporters as the toughest such law in the country - should be blocked because they conflict with federal law.

Blackburn was holding a hearing on lawsuits filed by the U.S. government, civil rights groups including the American Civil Liberties Union and Alabama church leaders that seek to block the new law signed by Gov. Robert Bentley in June. The all-day hearing in Birmingham continued Wednesday evening.

The law allows police officers, in conducting routine traffic stops, to arrest those they suspect of being illegal immigrants. Other provisions in the broad measure also make it a crime to transport or provide shelter to an illegal immigrant. It also requires schools to report the immigration status of students, a provision opponents say will make many parents afraid to send their children to school.

Orrick said the new law intrudes on the authority of the federal government, which enforces immigration policy. Judges have blocked all or parts of similar laws in Arizona, Utah, Georgia and Indiana.

"There's no room for the states to be legislating in this area," Orrick told Blackburn, who heard three hours of arguments from the law's opponents in the morning.

Alabama Attorney General Luther Strange later told the judge that the immigration law should not be seen as a sign that Alabama doesn't welcome those from other nations.

Strange said the state's recruitment

in recent years of such foreign-owned businesses as Hyundai from South Korea and Mercedes from Germany shows that "nothing is further from the truth." He urged the judge to let the law take effect as planned Sept. 1.

Strange also told Blackburn that foes have exaggerated predictions of dire effects of the new law. He said it would not prevent church leaders from ministering to illegal immigrants nor deter worship and participation in religious ceremonies that is protected under state and federal constitutions.

In asking Blackburn to throw out parts of the law, Orrick told Blackburn it makes criminals out of people who rent houses to illegal immigrants and in some cases makes it a crime to work.

Orrick also argued that the law harms the reputation of the U.S. with other countries.

"It corrodes the reputation of the United States for American values like openness and welcoming others," Orrick said.

He also criticized a section of the law that requires schools to report the immigration status of students, saying it would make parents afraid to send their children to school.

The state's attorneys defended that provision.

"We are simply gathering data," said Assistant Attorney General Misty Fairbanks. Under Blackburn's questioning, she said the provision also is not an attempt to label immigrant children.

Republican state Sen. Scott Beason -- one of the law's sponsors -- said

(Continued on page 5)

No Room for Alabama Immigration Law (Cont.)

outside court that he didn't hear any discussion of the rights of legal Alabama residents during the arguments before the judge.

"I didn't hear the federal government or the ACLU arguing about the rights of citizens of Alabama who have been displaced from their jobs by these illegal immigrants. Who's looking out for their rights?" Beason said in an interview.

During a break in the hearing, Beason also spoke with some Hispanic young people and told them Alabama's law was not intended to hurt them.

A recent high school graduate, 19-year-old Victor Palafox, told Beason the teens were worried the law would prevent them from attending college or getting good jobs. Beason told the teenagers he respects their opinions but the law does what's best for the people of Alabama.

During the hearing, ACLU attorney Cecillia Wang questioned a provision of the law allowing police to detain people after a routine traffic stop if they suspect them of being in the country illegally. She said that would turn "law enforcement officers into immigration agents" and would subject innocent citizens to detention while their immigration status is determined.

Alabama Solicitor General John Neiman said illegal immigrants are already violating federal law by being "unlawfully" in the country.

Blackburn frequently interrupted attorneys and indicated she would address the issues in depth in her written ruling. She gave no indication when she would rule.

Read more: <http://www.foxnews.com>.

Sponsorship Opportunities

The 10th Annual ECA Engineering & Operations Conference Renaissance Ross Bridge Hoover, Alabama Oct. 19-21, 2011

Electric Cities of Alabama (ECA) greatly appreciates your generous support. Please complete the below sponsorship form and return to the ECA office no later than Sept. 26, 2011.

Again, thank you for making these events possible.

SPONSORSHIPS

ECA Mix and Mingle
 \$500.00

Clay Shooting
 \$300.00

Golf Outing (Wed.)
 \$250.00

Golf Outing (Fri.)
 \$250.00

Breakfast (Thur.)
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Breakfast (Fri.)
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(Thur.)
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Meeting Break
(Fri.)
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Calendar of Events

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

February 28, 2012
Board of Directors Meeting
Montgomery Legislative
Briefing & Meet & Greet
Reception
RSA Plaza Terrace
Montgomery, AL

March 12-15, 2012
Washington Legislative
Conference (In
Conjunction with APPA
Rally)
The Mayflower Hotel
Washington, DC

July 8, 2012
Annual Business Meeting
(Board of Directors)
Perdido Beach Resort
Orange Beach, AL

July 8 - 10, 2012
Annual Meeting and
Governmental Affairs
Conference
Perdido Beach Resort
Orange Beach, AL

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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Save the Date!

October 19 - 21, 2011

Electric Cities of Alabama
Engineering & Operations Conference
Ross Bridge Resort, Birmingham, AL

(Special rate of \$149 nightly)
[http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/
bhmhv-renaissance-birmingham-ross-bridge-golf-resort-and-spa/](http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/bhmhv-renaissance-birmingham-ross-bridge-golf-resort-and-spa/)
1-800-228-2100

Group Code: eoceoca

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