



ECA Sets Date for 2012 Legislative Meet & Greet



Lt. Governor Kay Ivey and ECA Executive Director Jon Hand at the 2011 Meet & Greet.

Electric Cities of Alabama (ECA) will host its 13th annual Legislative Briefing and Meet and Greet Reception at the RSA Plaza Terrace February 28, 2012. ECA will once again kick-off the day with a board meeting and a legislative briefing with ECA's attorney Wendell Cauley. Immediately following the Legislative Briefing will be a Legislative Meet and Greet Reception, where ECA member cities and elected officials will have the opportunity to discuss issues impacting public power in Alabama. Invited elected officials include Alabama's Legislature, State Constitutional Officers and Judiciary Officials.

ECA has reserved a block of rooms at the downtown

Montgomery Renaissance Hotel. Don't delay, space is extremely limited and the hotel is expected to completely sell out of rooms for this night. Reserve your room today by calling (800)266-9432 and mentioning "ECE" for the special rate of \$150 per night. The cut off date to reserve your room is January 29, 2012.



ECA member cities at the 2011 Legislative Briefing.

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Season's Greetings
from Electric Cities
of Alabama



ECA Members with Senator Roger Bedford (middle) of Russellville.

The Sound of One Chamber Grousing



Photo by: Chris Maddaloni/CQ Roll Call
Photo of: Speaker John Boehner

Senators and most House Members might be away from Washington, but the political theatrics over a stalled extension of the payroll tax cut kept rolling on Capitol Hill this morning.

As Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) was convening a largely symbolic meeting of his Members chosen for a yet-to-be-constituted conference committee, House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer (D-Md.) and Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.) made an equally operatic attempt to try to bring a bill to the floor during today's pro forma session.

Neither stunt was ultimately intended to produce results, but rather both were part of an escalating rhetorical war being waged between House Republicans and the rest of the government.

Both sides are hoping to break the other in the next two or three days. Democrats want Boehner to concede defeat and allow a two-month extension of the payroll tax cut to pass to allow the two sides to negotiate a full one-year deal.

It is unlikely Boehner could deliver such a vote at this point given his Conference's demands for a fight, and he and his top lieutenants are hoping to shame Democrats and Senate Republicans into agreeing to a conference committee on a one-year deal.

And at this point, neither side is backing down.

"We're here, we're ready to go to work and we're hoping that Senate Democrats will appoint negotiators, will come to the table and resolve these differences," Boehner said, flanked by his negotiators at a half-empty table. "All we're asking for is to get the Senate Members over here to work with us to resolve our differences so we can do what everybody wants to do, extend the payroll tax cut for the next year."

House Majority Leader Eric Cantor (R-Va.) said a deal could be worked out in the 10 days left before the measures expire. "The differences between us are not very great," Cantor said, repeating a consistent GOP talking point.

But in a letter to Boehner today, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) disagreed, calling on the Speaker to pass the Senate bill immediately and reiterating that he will not negotiate with the House until it does so.

"As these weeks have made clear, there remain differences between our parties over how to fund and implement these programs that will take longer than a few days to reconcile," Reid said. "Once the

House of Representatives acts on this immediate extension, we will be able to sit down and complete negotiations on a longer extension."

House Republicans have taken fire not just from Democrats but from Senate Republicans and even the conservative editorial page of the Wall Street Journal. Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) tweeted today that he agreed with a scathing editorial directed at the Republican approach: "WSJ is right on the mark here."

The editorial in today's paper stated that Republicans actually scored a win with the inclusion of language to expedite the Keystone XL pipeline, "But now Republicans are drowning out that victory in the sounds of their circular firing squad. Already four GOP Senators have rejected the House position, and the political rout will only get worse."

Democrats are seizing on Republicans' previous hesitation to extend the payroll tax cut holiday.

Rep. Tom Reed, a freshman Republican whom Boehner appointed to the conference committee, acknowledged the GOP would prefer tax cuts to come elsewhere.

"If I had my choice, I would love to see us take care of this relief on middle class Americans, taxpayers, through income tax reduction, but the president and the Senate are adamant that this has to be done with a Social Security tax reduction and if that's where they are, we're willing to meet them there,"

continued on next page...

The Sound of One Chamber Grousing (continued)

the New Yorker said. “I have concern about the Social Security trust fund, but overall, if the Senate and the president want to agree with me and the Republicans that lowering the tax burden on all Americans is good economic policy. ... I agree with that, so I’m willing to find common ground, and if it means we find it on the payroll tax holiday, then I’ll stand with them.”

After their failed attempt to bring the Senate’s two-month extension

to the floor, Hoyer and Van Hollen blasted Republicans saying that Reed and others on the House GOP negotiating team are disingenuous in their calls to extend the payroll tax holiday.

Hoyer dismissed Boehner’s calls for a conference committee altogether, noting that “the irony is that the Speaker has appointed five [Members] ... all of whom have said at one point or another they oppose” an extension of the payroll tax cut.

Van Hollen was equally harsh, charging that “the Speaker of the House and Republican leadership were AWOL on the House floor today. ... It’s a real tragedy that the House Republican leadership didn’t show up on the House floor today.”

*By Daniel Newhauser and John Stanton
Roll Call Staff
Dec. 21, 2011*



Member News!

Have some news you would like to share in the ECA newsletter? *Electric Cities Connected* is starting a “Member News!” section and wants you to be in it!

Send in your latest press releases, news articles or any other news you would like to share with ECA members. E-mail information to asalvador@electriccities.org.

AG Announces Website for Immigration Guidance

Last month, Attorney General Luther Strange announced that information and guidance will be posted on the Attorney General's website regarding Alabama's new immigration law, Act No. 2011-535, and the legal challenges to the law.

According to a press release from the AG's office, The Attorney General's primary role remains to fulfill his duty to represent the State defendants in ongoing litigation. Due to this litigation, under state law, the Attorney General may not issue formal

opinions on specific questions. The office will, however, develop guidance that will be based in part upon positions taken in legal filings. The guidance will be posted on the website periodically as it becomes available, and is intended to assist state and local agencies in their interpretation and enforcement of the immigration law.

In addition to the Attorney General's website, Electric Cities of Alabama will continue to work with its legal counsel to keep you up-to-date on the changes and

latest news regarding immigration.

Log onto the website at www.ago.alabama.gov to view summaries on the lawsuits in federal and state courts, including links to numerous documents that have been filed. A searchable copy of Act 2011-535 is posted, as is information about which provisions of the law have yet to take effect, which provisions now are in effect, and which provisions have been enjoined from enforcement by court order.



ECA Trivia Grid

In 1879, the first demonstration of the incandescent lamp was performed in Menlo Park, New Jersey. Who invented the lamp and performed this demonstration?

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

*Last month's winner was Mike Richard of Sylacauga. Mike answered that **an alternating current** was the new method to distribute electricity that competed with Edison's direct current. Congratulations Mike!*

Attention Member Cities:

Don't forget to register for ECA's Washington D.C. Legislative Rally. The Rally will be held March 20-22, 2012, at the Renaissance Mayflower Hotel in Washington, D.C. The deadline to make room reservations is February 14. Don't delay, reserve your room today! Find the ECA registration form on page 6 of this newsletter.

Member News!

Member Cities Lend a Helping Hand



Fallen trees crushed a number of mobile homes in the Scotland Forest Trailer Park in Opelika. (photo by: John Walker Opelika-Auburn News)

ECA members came together to assist a member city last month when a line of storms blew through east Alabama causing power

outages and fallen trees.

Severe weather hit the city of Opelika on November 16, 2011. The National Weather Service Meteorologists announced the brief touch down and minor damage was the result of a weak tornado. Additional damage across Lee County was due to straight line winds.

Opelika Power Services General Manager Derek Lee expressed his sincere appreciation to fellow ECA member cities in Sylacauga, Cullman and Tuskegee who lent a helping hand to assist with the storm damage repair. Lee said, "We

initially had about 2,500 customers without power after the storm hit. Within 31 hours we had service restored to all customers." Lee said he wouldn't have been able to accomplish this in such a short length of time without the help of fellow member cities. ECA's Executive Director Jonathan Hand stated, "When member cities are affected by severe weather, ECA members help each other get back on their feet. This association works together to ensure our members recover from storms in a timely and safe manner."

Boles Visits With Congressional Delegation



Ronnie Boles (left) visits with U.S. Rep. Martha Roby in the U.S. Capitol. (photo by Nancy Hewston)

Huntsville Utilities Director and Huntsville General & Automotive Machine Shop manager, Ronnie Boles was spotted in Business Alabama's December issue of The Manufacturing Advocate, a publication of The Business Council of Alabama.

In addition to being Huntsville Utilities' director, Boles serves as Manufacturing Advocacy Council (MAC) Co-Chairman. The newly created MAC was established

through the Business Council of Alabama to promote and enhance a positive business climate for Alabama's manufacturers. MAC traveled to Washington D.C. this past October to discuss issues and concerns specific to Alabama's manufacturers with members of the state's congressional delegation.

MAC spent time with top policy and advocacy experts from the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) where they heard policy briefings from several NAM experts in the fields of government relations, economics, tax and domestic economic policy, energy and resources, human resources and infrastructure, legal and regulatory policy. MAC is comprised of a Alabama's

manufacturing community, manufacturers who are members of BCA, BCA's board of directors and BCA's regional advisory committees.

In addition, MAC serves as a national model for the NAM and reinforces the strong, exclusive partnership of BCA with the NAM to strengthen BCA's message of supporting manufacturing and the need to compete in a global marketplace. Pick up the December issue or log onto <http://www.bcatoday.org/publications.html> today to read the complete article.

Source: *The Manufacturing Advocate* by Nancy Hewston with BCA.



Ronnie Boles with U.S. Rep. Terri Sewell. (photo by Nancy Hewston)



ECA WASHINGTON, D.C. LEGISLATIVE RALLY

MARCH 20 – MARCH 22, 2012
THE RENAISSANCE MAYFLOWER HOTEL
WASHINGTON, D.C.

TENTATIVE AGENDA

Tuesday, March 20

4:00 p.m.: ECA Legislative
Briefing, Mayflower Hotel, Room TBD

Wednesday, March 21

10:00 a.m.: Senator Richard Shelby
11:00 a.m.: Senator Jeff Sessions
1:00 p.m.: Congressman Mike Rogers
2:00 p.m.: Congressman Martha Roby

Wednesday, March 21 continued

3:00 p.m.: Congressman Mo Brooks
4:00 p.m.: Congressman Jo Bonner
4:45 p.m.: Congressman Spencer Bachus
7:00 p.m.: Dinner at The Morton's Steakhouse

Thursday, March 22

10:00 a.m.: Congressman Robert Aderholt
11:00 a.m.: Congresswoman Terri Sewell

UTILITY REGISTRATION FORM

To register with Electric Cities of Alabama (ECA), please fill out the information below and fax/e-mail back to ECA at (334) 954-3223 no later than February 3, 2012. As in years past, a room block has been reserved at the Mayflower Hotel with a discounted room rate of \$289.00 per night – reservations will not be available after the February 14, 2012 deadline.

To make reservations, please call (800) 266-9432. You may also book online by logging onto:
https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcome_ei_new&eventID=7616432

Mention the “Electric Cities of Alabama” room block for the discounted rate. The Renaissance Mayflower Hotel is located at 1127 Connecticut Ave., NW.

ATTENDEE NAME: <i>Please list Spouse, if attending</i>	UTILITY NAME & TITLE:	DELEGATE MEETINGS	WEDNESDAY DINNER
_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Calendar of Events

February 28, 2012

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

March 20-22, 2012

Washington Legislative
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

October 22-24, 2012

Engineering & Operations
Conference
Renaissance Ross Bridge
Hoover, AL

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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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