



# ELECTRIC CITIES *Connected*

## Public Power Week Celebrates 25th Anniversary



This year marks an important milestone for public power as it celebrates the 25th anniversary of Public Power Week, a week in which public power utilities across the nation reach out to citizens in their communities to celebrate the benefits and unique value of public power. Public Power Week is celebrated each October in conjunction with the American Public Power Association (APPA) in Washington, D.C. APPA is the service organization for community-owned and state-owned electric utilities.

So mark your calendars, APPA is calling on public power systems and their customers nationwide to recognize Public Power Week October 2-8, 2011. “Despite the tough economic climate, turmoil in the Middle East, an unprecedented year of storm-related and manmade tragedies, and legislative and regulatory uncertainty on climate change that is creating understandable anxiety in the utility industry, public power remains strong,” APPA President and CEO Mark Crisson said. “We will continue to have a strong and abiding influence on the future course of our nation’s energy policies. With the continued guidance and support of each public power utility across the country, we are

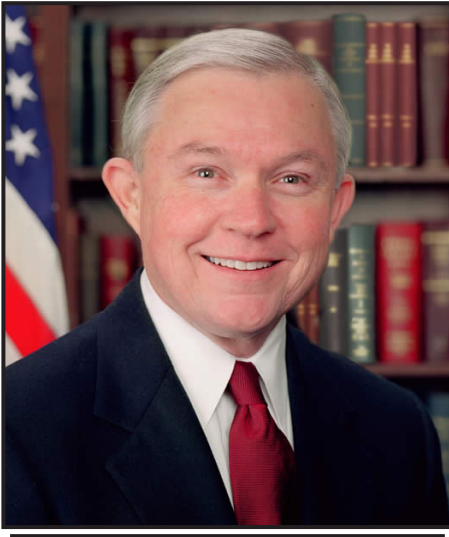
confident that the interests of our most valuable ally – our citizen owners – will be protected and advanced through our commitment to providing affordable, reliable, and environmentally responsible electricity to our communities.”

Electric Cities of Alabama (ECA) wants to know what your utility is doing this year for Public Power Week. Send your ideas and pictures to [asalvador@electriccities.org](mailto:asalvador@electriccities.org) to have your story featured in ECA’s October newsletter. You can obtain a full toolkit with resources and ideas through APPA’s website, <http://www.publicpower.org>.

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# Congressional Member Spotlight: Jeff Sessions



**U.S. Senator Jeff Sessions  
(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 Jeff Sessions.*

Jeff Sessions was born in Selma, Alabama on December 24, 1946, and grew up in Hybart. Growing up in the country, Sessions was instilled with the core values – honesty, hard work, belief in God and parental respect – that define him today. Sessions worked his way through Huntingdon College in Montgomery and received a Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Alabama in 1973. Sessions served in the United States Army Reserve from 1973 to 1986 ultimately attaining the rank of Captain. He still considers that period to be one of the most rewarding chapters of his life.

Sessions' interest in the law led to a distinguished legal career, first

as a practicing attorney in Russellville, Alabama, and then in Mobile. Following a two-year stint as Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of Alabama (1975-1977), Sessions was nominated by President Reagan in 1981 and confirmed by the Senate to serve as the United States Attorney for Alabama's Southern District, a position he held for 12 years. Sessions was elected Alabama Attorney General in 1995, serving as the state's chief legal officer until 1997, when he entered the United States Senate.

As a United States Senator, Sessions has focused his energies on maintaining a strong military, upholding the rule of law, limiting the role of government, and providing tax relief to stimulate economic growth and empower Americans to keep more of their hard-earned money.

Sessions was selected to serve as the Ranking Member on the Senate Budget Committee to restrain the growth of federal spending and make permanent tax cuts that benefit American families. As a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Sessions is a leading advocate of confirming federal judges who follow the law and do not legislate from the bench. He serves as chairman of the Judiciary Administrative Oversight and the Courts Subcommittee. As a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Sessions is a strong advocate for America's military, including the four major defense installations in Alabama – Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville; Fort Rucker, near Ozark; Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery; and the Anniston Army

Depot. Sessions was recently appointed to the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. His membership on the EPW Committee will give him the opportunity to develop policies that promote reliable and affordable energy sources and reduce our dependence on foreign oil.

To help make America more energy secure, Senator Sessions worked closely with his Gulf state colleagues to open 8.3 million acres of land in the Gulf of Mexico to new energy exploration, the first such expansion in decades. The newly opened tract of land, which is 125 miles off the coast, contains an estimated 1.3 billion barrels of oil and 6 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. The law also included a provision to share tens-of-millions of federal revenue dollars each year with Alabama to fund environmental restoration and coastal infrastructure projects.

Sessions and his wife, Mary Blackshear Sessions, originally of Gadsden, Alabama, reside in Mobile and have three children, Mary Abigail Reinhardt, Ruth Sessions Walk, and Sam. They have four granddaughters, Jane Ritchie, Alexa, Gracie, and Sophia, and a grandson, Jim Beau.

## **What do you feel is the greatest obstacle in Congress?**

In my view, the greatest obstacle we face is the unprecedented spending by Congress and this Administration. We're borrowing forty cents of every dollar we spend. We've racked up huge, trillion-dollar deficits in recent years—much higher than anything in our nation's history. I believe our debt is pulling down economic

*Continued on page 3*

# Congressional Member Spotlight: Sessions(Continued)

growth and job creation right now, and Congress and the Administration are going to have to confront that threat honestly if we have any hope of creating a favorable environment for growth and job creation.

**Regarding Cap and Trade legislation and the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) regulations of greenhouse gas emissions, do you feel Congress will limit EPA's ability to use the Clean Air Act to regulate greenhouse gas emissions during this Congress?**

I certainly hope Congress will be able to restrain EPA in its new efforts to dramatically reduce carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. In April of this year, I joined 49 other U.S. Senators in voting for an amendment that would have prevented EPA from regulating carbon dioxide since it was never understood by Congress to have been regulated by the Clean Air Act. Unfortunately, it failed to obtain the 60 votes needed to pass in the Senate. We all know that EPA regulation of carbon dioxide has the potential to drive up costs for individual Americans as they heat their homes and drive their cars and will place a real burden economically on the Ameri-

can economy. In my view, it should be the Congress—not the EPA and not the federal courts—that should decide when and how our nation will regulate carbon dioxide. With the persistently high level of unemployment and upcoming elections, there may be a renewed willingness in the Senate to take steps to clarify EPA does not impose unwarranted regulatory burdens on our economy.

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

Spending has surged far beyond anything we've ever seen before. In the last three years, we've added \$5 trillion in gross federal debt. Non-defense, discretionary spending increased by 24 percent in just the first two years of the president's term. It's unprecedented. I am confident that we can meet the challenge of our current crisis, but it will require a return to the tried and true principles. We must pay our debts, spend within our means, and live according to a budget. If we take those steps, we will see a resurgence of growth, jobs, and opportunity in this country.

**What can ECA members do to assist you in increasing domestic**

**energy productions?**

Our nation is in dire need of a comprehensive energy plan that provides affordable American energy for all Americans. In April alone of this year, the U.S. imported 344 million barrels of oil from foreign sources. That is over 60% of the oil consumed in America. That means we sent \$42.5 billion abroad in April through our oil purchases. Stated differently, in that month alone, the U.S. spent over \$980,000 per minute on oil from foreign countries. Our top economic goal must be to create more American jobs without going deeper in debt. High paying jobs, created by producing more American energy is an obvious solution. We can lower energy prices and produce tax revenue for America. We cannot delay any longer.

**What would you like Electric Cities of Alabama members to know about you?**

I have valued the opportunity each year to meet with the Electric Cities. You are one of my favorite groups. The assistance and advice of the ECA has been extremely valuable to me as my staff and I work to serve the people I represent.



## ECA Trivia Grid

Ohms are a measure of the opposition to current flow. What is all of this opposition called when it is in a DC circuit?

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 Mike Counts with Huntsville Utilities. Mike answered that an **open** circuit is the term used to describe a circuit that is incomplete, or has been disconnected. Congratulations Mike!*

## In Memory

This month, Electric Cities of Alabama is saddened to report the passing of two dedicated public power friends, Mayor James E. Grimes of Elba and Dale Jenkins of LaFayette.

Mayor James E. Grimes, a lifelong resident of Elba passed away on September 9, 2011, at the age of 72. He passed away at Elba General Hospital after an extended battle with cancer. Mayor Grimes served the City of Elba as Mayor for 15 years and was a very active member of the Electric Cities of Ala-

bama. "We all were saddened by the passing of Mayor Grimes, an active and loyal supporter of our association," ECA Executive Director Jonathan Hand said, "ECA is a stronger association from the work that he contributed over the years. He will be missed by many and admired by all those who had the opportunity to know him." Funeral services for Mayor Grimes were held at Westside Baptist Church on Monday, September 12.

Our friends in LaFayette laid to rest Dale Jenkins on September 18,

2011. Mr. Jenkins passed away on Wednesday, September 14, 2011, at the age of 39. Mr. Jenkins was a resident of Beauregard and was employed by the City of LaFayette in the Light and Power Department as a Lineman Superintendent. "Dale was a friend to many and was always willing to lend a helping hand," Hand said.

"ECA remembers both Mayor Grimes and Dale Jenkins for their many accomplishments."

## *ECA Welcomes Two New Members:*

Burndy, LLC - Stockbridge, GA  
Southcon - Birmingham, AL

## *Join us for ECA's First Sporting Clay Outing*



ECA will host its first sporting clay outing Oct. 19, during the 2011 Engineering and Operations Conference. The event will take place at one of Alabama's first sporting clays courses, Selwood Farm. The fully automated course meets the needs of all levels of shooters and includes a new covered 5-stand for warm-up and training and a 100-target course. It will offer challenging targets for both beginners and experts.

The Sporting Clay Outing is free to Engineering & Operations attendees and will take place at Selwood Farm from 9:00-11:00 a.m. To register for this event and the Engineering & Operations Conference, call the ECA office at (334) 954-3221.

# Public Power Groups Call for Full Evaluation of Pending EPA Rules

Joint action agencies and state associations representing public power utilities in 17 states have written President Obama to express concern over the Environmental Protection Agency's regulation of electric generation resources. Pending EPA rules "will directly jeopardize these utilities' ability to provide affordable, reliable electricity," they said in a Sept. 21 letter.

The public power groups asked that EPA "fully evaluate, through a rigorous and transparent process verified by independent peer review, all of the impacts that may be expected from its entire aggressive regulatory agenda." A broad and cumulative assessment "of the impacts of all the various rulemakings taken together must be done," the utility groups said.

The agency's asserted costs "often fail to comport with our operating experiences," they said. "Without greater transparency, it is impossible to know whether this results from analytic problems or reflects harsh regional impacts masked by national averages."

EPA's expectation that the power sector can comply with new requirements in as few as three years is unrealistic, given the time needed to design changes, procure equipment and schedule outages and construction, they said.

Consumer-owned public power utilities must pass any costs imposed by EPA directly to consumers, they said. "Small communities with disproportionate shares of low-income consumers and elderly citizens on fixed incomes will be most affected by the regulation."

"We are very concerned about the aggressive EPA regulatory agenda and its impact on costs and reliability of service," said Mike McDowell, general manager of Heartland Consumers Power District in Madison, S.D. "Affordable and reliable electric power for consumers is critical for our recovery from the worst economic contraction since the Great Depression."

The significant reduction in emissions over the past 40 years "is the result of EPA, electric utilities and other stakeholders working

together to achieve that decline in a cost-effective manner that provided adequate lead time to develop compliance technologies."

The letter was signed by the Alabama Municipal Electric Authority, Blue Ridge Power Agency, Colorado Association of Municipal Utilities, Florida Municipal Electric Association, Heartland Consumers Power District, Indiana Municipal Power Agency, Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities, Kansas Municipal Utilities, Kentucky Municipal Utilities Association, Michigan Municipal Electric Association, Missouri Association of Municipal Utilities, Municipal Energy Agency of Mississippi, Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska, Ohio Municipal Electric Association, South Dakota Municipal Electric Association, Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems and Wyoming Municipal Power Agency.

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*Article by Robert Varela, Alabama Public Power Association, Public Power Daily.*

## Top 10 Reasons Why You should Attend ECA's E&O Conference

10. You don't want to miss the beautiful new conference location at Renaissance Ross Bridge, Hoover, Alabama.
9. Enjoy new activities with members such as a round of horseshoes and clay shooting.
8. Socialize with your fellow utility and associate members.
7. Listen to tunes from ECA musical favorite, JR Owen.
6. Participate in the first ever ECA, NAPPA, SAPPAL luncheon.
5. In addition to getting credit hours for attending the conference, you will be participating in not just one, but four association meetings: ACOPDA, ECA, NAPPA and SAPPAL.
4. Visit with over 20 exhibitors specializing in new technology for your utility.
3. Be inspired by one of Alabama's top motivational speakers, Bryan Townsend as he speaks on "Customer Service as Everyone's Responsibility."
2. Meet and hear from Alabama Public Service Commissioner Twinkle Cavanaugh.
1. **Because if you're not there, you are fair game for David Thornton's jokes at ECA's next conference.**



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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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### Be There!

October 19 - 21, 2011

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

\*All rooms are sold out at Ross Bridge Resort  
Book your room at the Residence Inn, Hoover, AL  
2725 John Hawkins Parkway  
(Special rate of \$124 nightly)  
(205) 733-1655

**Group Code: Electric Cities of Alabama**

**The 2011 ECA Engineering & Operations Conference is in  
partnership with ACOPDA, NAPPA and SAPP**