



**LaDoris "Dot" Harris, Synergy Leader - Energy Services at GE Energy,**

**2008 AABE Conference**

**Honorary Chairs:**

**Sam Combs (ONEOK)**

**Michael Harness (Osyka)**

**Reginal Spiller (Frontera)**

**Roderick West (Energy, NO)**

**Warner Williams (Chevron)**

**Michael F. Harness, President & CEO of the Osyka Corporation.**



## AABE Energy Entrepreneur's Take Charge

The inaugural Energy Entrepreneur's Forum was a complete success at the conference this year. Thanks to the work of the AABE National Energy Entrepreneur Committee Chair's **Dot Harris** (GE Energy-Atlanta) and **Tonja Wicks** (DC), the event drew a crowd of over 75 minority-owned businesses.

Topics focused on the first experiences that minority entrepreneur's face in the industry and how to finally build

your own business. The do's and don'ts when dealing in the energy arena were also explored. The forum also provided a networking demonstration where companies can form alliances with government agencies and major corporations.

Featured panelists at the Forum included **Steve Hightower**, President of Hightower Petroleum Company; **Vicky Bailey**, President of Anderson Stratton Interna-

tional; **Milton Scott**, President of the Tagos Group; **Greg White** of Northwestern University and **Jewel Smith**, Supplier Diversity Manager at Centerpoint Energy.

Please contact Tonja at [twicks50@aol.com](mailto:twicks50@aol.com) to enter to win the *AABE Energy Entrepreneur of the Year award*. The deadline is November 30, 2008.

## MLK Day of Service Resolution

A RESOLUTION that the American Association of Blacks in Energy recognize the **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.** holiday as a Day of Energy Service.

WHEREAS, the AABE is the nation's leading advocate for minority involvement in energy issues; and

WHEREAS, African American households, irrespective of income, spend a greater portion of their income on energy than do their non-African American counterparts; and

WHEREAS, minority and low income communities are harmed most by rising energy costs; and

WHEREAS, underrepresented communities also are more likely to live in older, less energy efficient homes, use older less efficient appliances, and drive less fuel efficient vehicles; and

WHEREAS, there are steps that citizens can take to reduce their energy bills, whether they own or rent their homes, and whether they own an automobile or use public transit; and

WHEREAS, saluting the legacy of **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.**, through a day of service has become a national practice; and

WHEREAS, educating our nation's disadvantaged citizens and communities is crucial to the formulation of a sound national energy policy; and

WHEREAS, education regarding home weatherization, vehicle maintenance and repair, and energy conservation and efficiency are examples of ways that low-income, disabled, elderly and minority consumers can reduce their energy expenditures; and

WHEREAS, AABE members have the skills and access to information that underrepresented communities need to become wiser energy consumers; and

WHEREAS, the AABE has identified community education as an important component of its mission;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY **THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF BLACKS IN ENERGY** that this Association hereby designates **Dr. Martin Luther King Day** as a Day of Utility Service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the AABE, through its local chapters throughout the nation, makes community energy education and assistance on the MLK holiday a priority outreach activity.