

A note from our president

Inside this issue:

- 1 A note from our president
- 2 International News
- 3 Chapter Spotlight
- 4 Energy Update
- 7 Local Chapter Highlights
- 8 Development Corner
- 9 Member Q&A

International officers:

- **Janet Rehberg**
President
(Ohio Chapter)
jprehberg@aep.com
- **Carolyn Gordon**
*Vice President/
President-Elect*
(Virginia Chapter)
ccgordon@aep.com
- **DeCoffette Ward**
Treasurer
(West Virginia Chapter)
dlward2@aep.com
- **Trena Riffle**
Secretary
(West Virginia Chapter)
tmriffle@aep.com
- **Donna Campbell**
*Immediate Past
President*
(West Virginia Chapter)
djcampbell@aep.com
- **Claudia Powell**
Executive Director
winup@att.net

Celebrate character, courage, commitment

March is National Women's History Month, and this year the National Women's History Project is celebrating "Women of Character, Courage and Commitment."

Did you know as recent as the 1970s, women's history was virtually an unknown topic to the K-12 curriculum or to the general public? To address this issue, the Education Task Force of the Sonoma County (California) Commission on the Status of Women initiated a celebration of "Women's History Week" in 1978. Celebration activities included special presentations in classrooms, essay contests, and a parade.

The celebration received a lot of positive recognition, which initiated presidential and congressional support. President Carter issued the first Presidential Proclamation declaring the Week of March 8, 1980, as National Women's History Week. However, each year, the dates of National Women's History Week changed, and new lobbying efforts were needed to continue the recognition and celebration of this event.

By 1986, 14 states had declared March as Women's History Month. Finally, in 1987, Congress declared March as the National Women's History Month in perpetuity.

The incredible journey of how Women's History Month was initiated makes me think of WinUP's remarkable history, which goes back even further, to 1923.

Did you know that WinUP was not the original name of our organization? It was originally called Electrical Women's Round Table (EWRT). EWRT was founded in 1923 when



Janet Rehberg
International
President

seven women from New York attended the annual meeting of the Society for Electrical Development. This had always been an all-male event, but at that time, the women gathered around a round table and discovered they had common career issues. They began meeting once a month and inviting other women to attend.

As the group grew, they decided to organize. In 1927, EWRT filed for and received a Certificate of Incorporation from the New York Secretary of State.

It was not until 1999 that EWRT filed a certificate to amend its incorporated name to The Women's International Network of Utility Professionals (WinUP). The name change was to move the organization from electrical only to a holistic utility industry focus.

There have been many great women leaders throughout our organization who have kept our history alive for over 90 years. Thus, the theme of this year's Women's History Month "Women of Character, Courage and Commitment" is very suiting. I encourage each and every one of you to think about what value you would like to contribute and receive from being a member of this organization. I also challenge you to make a difference at the international or local chapter level and leave behind a legacy for yourself.

For more information on the National Women's History Project, please go to www.nwhp.org. For more history on WinUP, please go to www.winup.org.



International News

Awards guidelines under review, application deadline changing

Revisions to be in place for use by 2014 awards committees

An international committee has been convened to review the guidelines for WinUP's international POWER, OAK, Member-At-Large and Honorary Life Membership awards.

The review committee members are the 2013 and 2014 award committee chairs.

The purpose is to clarify and standardize guideline language, processes and forms across the awards to provide consistency, provide for objectivity and make the evaluation and judging processes more consistent from year to year. This review is driven by feedback from recent committees regarding challenges they

encountered due to gaps in the guidelines language.

All revision recommendations must be approved by the International Board of Directors. The board has approved changing the application deadline to allow the board to approve the award nominees at its mid-year meeting in June. Due to the board's meeting schedule, the complete revised guidelines will not be available until after the board's April meeting.

Status updates will be provided to chapter chairs to allow them to begin the nomination process as soon as possible.

Current award guidelines

POWER: Honors a WinUP member who has been an active member for at least two years and no more than five; recognizes an up-and-upcoming member's efforts and contributions to the organization, the industry, and other professional organizations

OAK (Outreach, Accomplishment, Knowledge): Honors a member who has exhibited exceptional leadership and service within WinUP for at least six years; recognizes member's involvement, responsibilities and leadership at the local and international level and contributions to other organizations

MEMBER-AT-LARGE: Presented to a member of a least six years for exceptional leadership and service within the organization; recognizes involvement and responsibilities at the international level and attendance at International Conferences and contributions to the industry and other organizations

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP: Awarded to a member who has exhibited exceptional leadership and service within WinUP for at least 15 years; the award recognizes: 1.) the member's involvement and responsibilities at the local and international level, 2.) the member's ability to advise, counsel, and mentor other WinUP members, and 3.) the member's contributions to other professional organizations

International Conference dates, theme set

The ArkLaTex, North Texas, and South Texas Chapters invite y'all to come to the 2014 WinUP International Conference this October!

Together, the three chapters will host the 62nd annual conference Oct. 6-8, at the Hilton Dallas Lincoln Centre in Dallas, Texas.

The conference theme is "Your Brand for the Future."

The hosts are seeking assistance from local chapters. There are three ways to help: 1.) Bring a gift basket for a silent auction to benefit the Susan G. Komen Dallas County Affiliate, 2.) Donate a door prize, and 3.) Be a conference sponsor.

Sponsorship levels are as follows:



- Head Wrangler: \$20,000 (Receive eight complimentary conference registrations)
- Platinum: \$15,000 (Receive six complimentary conference registrations)
- Gold: \$10,000 (Receive four complimentary conference registrations)
- Oil Derrick: \$5,000 (Receive two complimentary conference registrations)
- Silver Spur: \$2,500 (Receive one complimentary conference registration)
- Lasso: \$1,000-\$2,499
- Ten-Gallon Hat: \$0-\$999
- Boot Scootin': In kind

Plan now to attend! Use group code "WINUP" for a special hotel rate. Stay up-to-date on conference details by following WinUP on Facebook!

Reminder: 2014 dues past due

Membership dues are payable now. A \$10 late fee will be assessed if paid after March 1. Further, a reinstatement fee of \$10 will be assessed after March 31. Contact Executive Director Claudia Powell at winup@att.net with questions concerning dues.

Chapter Spotlight

Virginia Chapter grows membership, begins planning regional event

A few ladies in the Roanoke Main Office and the Roanoke Service Center had heard of WiNUP but they were not familiar with the organization. Ladies from both offices were planning to attend the WiNUP International Conference in Columbus, Ohio. When the groups arrived in Columbus, they were surprised to see others from Roanoke with the same interest. The two groups of ladies were so inspired by the International Conference that they knew immediately that they wanted to be a part of an organization developed by women, creating a forum for professional and personal development.

When the Roanoke ladies came back home they were energized from learning about WiNUP, and they were also ready to start the formation of the Virginia Chapter. The WiNUP Virginia Chapter was chartered in February 2006. There were approximately 10 charter members. Carolyn Gordon was the chair, and Barbara Carter was the vice chair for the first two years. Donna Campbell made a special trip from West Virginia to Roanoke, Va., to charter the chapter and to get them started in the right direction.

Even though the Virginia Chapter is very young, they have achieved several accomplishments over the last eight years. The chapter's first conference was held in 2008 and was a huge success. It was held at the Hotel Roanoke, which is considered an historical landmark. Several members of the Virginia Chapter have served on executive and national committees.

Two members of the Virginia Chapter have received the International OAK Award. The group has also received newsletter and conference awards. They are a small and mighty group of professional women. Their 2014 membership exceeds 30 dynamic individuals

from various utilities and several different professions.

The Virginia Chapter reaches out to other utility companies for possible memberships.

The chapter has always taken the time and energy to support the Roanoke community. Some community outreach projects include supporting the Ronald McDonald House at Christmas, along with serving dinners, collecting items for the Salvation Army, collecting necessities for local animal shelters, supporting local winter coat drives for adults and children, and shopping for the Angel Tree program. They have volunteered at the Community Christmas Store, volunteered as hostesses for the Smith Mountain Lake Charity Home Tours and the Agape Center, and collected school supplies for less fortunate children in Roanoke and neighboring communities.

Virginia Chapter members have always been in attendance at the International Conferences.

Recently, the chapter has adopted a scholarship to assist in the cost of sending at least one member to the conference. The members feel this is another way to show their passion for WiNUP.

This year, the chapter is planning something very special. Virginia Chapter Chair Elizabeth Testerman and her members are in the process of organizing a Regional Meeting. The invitation will be extended to other chapters and they will work on soliciting new memberships. They are very excited about choosing the right speaker for their meeting and uniting in fellowship with other WiNUP professionals.

Information submitted by Virginia Chapter Chair Elizabeth Testerman; Trena Riffle, International Secretary, contributed to this article.



As a fundraising project, members sold concessions at Salem Red Sox baseball games. Pictured left to right are Carolyn Gordon, Robbie Pierce, Ragena Jordan, Sheryl Carr and Patsy Fout.



In 2012, the Virginia chapter collected donations for the Salem and Roanoke Valley Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

FROM THE CAPITOL

Utility attack should prompt U.S. safety review

Senate Democrats recently urged U.S. power regulators to consider whether additional safety standards are needed to protect power plants after a sniper attack disrupted a California utility last April.

Calling the attack in California's Silicon Valley a "wake-up call," the lawmakers said the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and North American Electric Reliability Corporation should weigh enacting mandatory rules to increase protection at utilities.

"We are concerned that voluntary measures may not be sufficient to constitute a reasonable response to the risk of physical attack on the electricity system," the senators said in a letter to the regulators.

Unknown assailants fired a high-powered rifle more than 100 times at electric transformers owned by PG&E Corp's Pacific Gas and Electric utility.

The senators met with government and industry officials to discuss the utility sector's response to the shooting incident and efforts to prevent similar physical attacks. — *Ayesha Rascoe, Reuters, Feb. 7*

SMART GRID

Spending on smart grid IT will more than double

Utility spending on information technology systems for the smart grid will grow from \$8.5 billion in 2013 to \$19.7 billion in 2022, according to Navigant Research.

The research firm says that without intelligence and systems that know what to do with the data generated from smart grid technologies, the smart grid is just a more expensive version of the conventional grid. IT (through software solutions that are integrated across a utility's operational silos) makes the smart grid "smart." Several utility IT solutions have emerged to meet these needs, but the challenge to acquire, integrate and maintain these systems is formidable.

Navigant reports challenges for utility IT systems:

- Integrating IT/operational technology is complex. Workforce processes must be modified to cut across departments, and personnel need to be retrained.
- The volumes of data new sensing and automation devices will deliver must be stored, analyzed and shared with a variety of IT systems — an expensive proposition, good for vendors, but less so for utilities. Utilities may need approval from regulators reluctant to approve large investments with limited real-world examples of measurable benefits to ratepayers.
- Validation, estimation and editing of data is necessary to ensure that desired results can be achieved, but the high level of customization that is needed to implement most IT solutions may lead to unintended flaws within systems.
- Legacy utility IT systems were not designed to

handle the volume or speeds of data generated by the smart grid. New hardware AND software systems may be needed to maximize the value of information gathered by grid devices. Increasingly, utilities are looking to outsourced data centers to meet these needs, but this raises concerns about data security.

- IT solutions based on different protocols make customized integration necessary in nearly all utility implementations. However, vendors are not highly motivated to make their solutions interchangeable with others. Vendor lock-in may occur if a utility is restricted in its choices for new applications due to interoperability and integration issues.

- The growing financial pressures utilities face have changed the dynamics of the IT department's place within the utility organization, with cost becoming a point of emphasis. Regulators also demand evidence of tangible benefits before they approve rate cases.

"The acquisition and integration of new and upgraded IT systems for electric utilities presents one of the greatest challenges faced by the industry today, but also an unprecedented opportunity," comments Richelle Elberg, senior research analyst with Navigant. "Utilities can now have not only granular data about the status of their network components and customers, but also the ability to quickly and appropriately react to that data." — *Renew Grid, Jan. 8*

NUCLEAR

Can electricity actually be too cheap to meter?

In ancient times, salt was a precious commodity — so valuable it was used as currency and could be traded ounce for ounce for gold.

This once-prized granular condiment has lost its economic punch. It is ubiquitous, served freely in every eating place in America. To borrow a phrase from the infancy of atomic energy, you could say salt is just "too cheap to meter."

This phrase was first uttered by Atomic Energy Commission Chairman Lewis L. Strauss in a speech to the National Association of Science Writers on Sept. 16, 1954 — three years before the first commercial nuclear plant began operation in Shippingport, Pa.

Almost immediately, the phrase was hijacked and twisted by detractors who have used these four words for six decades to highlight what they consider to be the undelivered promise of atomic energy.

In his speech, Strauss spoke about how modern scientific research would lead to better lives for future generations. He painted his futuristic vision the next day in the *New York Times*: "Our children will enjoy in their homes electrical energy too cheap to meter ... will travel effortlessly over the seas and under them

Please turn to the next page

and through the air with a minimum of danger and at great speeds and will experience a lifespan far longer than ours, as disease yields and man comes to understand what causes him to age.”

His “meter” remark was about electric energy, in general, not nuclear power, in particular. But that didn’t stop the agnostics. Disregarding his actual words, activists pounced on the phrase, artfully morphing it into what they wanted to hear the government’s top nuclear executive say — that the cost of nuclear power would be so low that, like salt, it couldn’t be measured.

The phrase was used to ridicule fission power and became an iconic example of absurd claims presumably made by supporters like Strauss. Though misquoted, it has sustained its status as one of the atom’s ultimate put-downs for 60 years.

When capital costs are considered, no source of electricity has achieved the Utopian status of being “too cheap to meter,” and none likely will anytime soon. The fact remains nuclear is an attractive option when a plant’s lifetime costs are considered.

While nuclear plants are capital-intensive projects, with construction costs estimated at \$6-\$10 billion for a large reactor, they are considered 60-year investments and the levelized cost of electricity, taking into account lower fuel costs over the plants’ life, makes them competitive with other sources.

South Carolina’s seven reactors generate more than half of the state’s electricity — and they do so economically. With an average production cost of 2.14 cents per kilowatt-hour, nuclear energy is less expensive than coal or natural gas, according to the Nuclear Energy Institute, an industry trade group.

The institute says South Carolina’s nuclear energy facilities are among the most efficient, with an average capacity factor of 88 percent in the first half of 2012. A facility’s capacity factor is the percentage of how much electricity it produces compared to the maximum it could produce around the clock. Nuclear plants proved reliable during the latest bouts of freezing weather that stressed natural gas prices and supply.

Dow Jones Business News reported natural gas prices of \$135 per million British Thermal Units for New York on Jan. 21, a record high. Before the storm hit, prices ranged between \$10 and \$25 per million BTUs. By contrast, nuclear energy fuel costs remained untouched at about 50 cents per million BTUs. — *Mike Butler, Aiken (South Carolina) Standard, Feb. 9*

ECONOMY

Electricity demand rises, boosts emissions

Total U.S. electricity demand increased 1.4 percent

last year, the first gain since 2010 and reversing long-term trends in the energy industry.

Coal produced 39 percent of U.S. electricity in 2013, up from 37 percent a year earlier, while power from natural gas slipped three points to 28 percent as prices climbed, according to the Sustainable Energy in America 2013 Factbook by Bloomberg New Energy Finance.

That led to the first increase in U.S. carbon dioxide emissions since 2010. President Barack Obama has pledged to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere 17 percent from 2005 levels by 2020. Wind, solar, hydropower and other renewable sources produced 13 percent of the country’s electricity, up one point from 2012.

Carbon emissions “actually ticked back up somewhat due to a short-term rebound in coal-fired generation,” according to the report.

The 2013 results buck the long-term trend, the London-based research group said. Electricity consumption has declined 5 percent since 2007, largely due to improved energy efficiency. Use of coal is down from 49 percent of total generation, while gas increased from 22 percent of the mix and renewable energy has surged from 8 percent. Carbon emissions are down about 9.8 percent from 2005, after peaking in 2007.

— *Ehren Goossens, Bloomberg, Feb. 5*



PENNSYLVANIA RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

TECHNOLOGY

Learning from one of the biggest blackouts

On a warm afternoon in August 2003, in rural Ohio, a high-voltage power line brushed against some untrimmed tree limbs. The action tripped a relay that immediately shut off the power it was carrying. Three more lines sagged into trees and were shut down. Joining power lines were forced to shoulder the extra burden until they, too, failed.

In all, 50 million customers lost power for up to two days throughout the northeastern United States and

Please turn to the next page

southeastern Canada. For many, this blackout was a wake-up call to the fragility of the electric energy grid.

More than 10 years later, our electric power system continues to be challenged. In the U.S., 149 power outages affecting at least 50,000 customers occurred between 2000 and 2004, a number which grew to 349 between 2005 and 2009. In 2012, prolonged power outages in New York and New Jersey were caused by Hurricane Sandy.

The demands of our digital society are increasing. Our need to accommodate renewable energy generation is rising, too, and threats to infrastructure security and concerns over global climate change are growing. To help address these concerns, Georgia Tech is conducting research that crosses many disciplines, including electrical and computer engineering, public policy, mechanical engineering and information security.

The long-standing electricity paradigm is phasing out as advancements to the grid make it “smarter.” Smart grids are equipped with advanced sensing, communication, and control systems that allow unprecedented interaction between electricity providers and consumers. The smart grid integrates renewable energy sources and allows a new class of utility customers to be both providers and consumers of power.

The potential of the smart grid is enormous: improved energy efficiency, optimization of power supply and demand, and greater transparency into power consumption.

Georgia Tech researchers are helping to advance the smart grid by developing technologies, creating methodologies and analyzing policies.

A phenomenon called a “voltage collapse” can cause a blackout when electricity demands reach a critical level, even if there is sufficient power generation to meet the demand. The Northeast Blackout of 2003 led utilities and the government to team up to install a phasor network throughout the U.S.

By placing phasor measurement units at critical points in the network, operators can assess system stress. Miroslav Begovic, a professor in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, helped develop a methodology that uses the data collected from phasor measurement units. System operators can quickly assess the state of the power system and determine in real time whether it is in danger of a blackout.

Wind, sun, water, wood, organic waste, and geothermal energy generated about 12 percent of the

electricity in the U.S. in 2012.

Georgia Tech’s School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering, Strategic Energy Institute, and School of Mechanical Engineering are working together to allow expansion of this percentage. Researchers are developing a more distributed and flexible control architecture that supports high levels of renewable energy generation and storage. They are also studying market mechanisms that balance supply and demand in the presence of these energy sources.

This new architecture is based on the emerging concept of “prosumers” — a combination of the words “consumer” and “producer” — which are economically motivated small-scale energy ecosystems that can consume, produce and store electricity. For example, prosumers could include homeowners who consume electricity from the grid while also producing power on-site from solar panels on their homes’ roofs that feeds back into the grid.

In recent years, several U.S. states, the federal government and other countries have adopted or are considering laws, regulations, programs, and requirements aimed at improving power systems.

Researchers from Georgia Tech’s Sam Nunn School of International Affairs and School of Economics are analyzing and recommending policies that promote the path toward the next generation of the electric utility grid.

Utilities are also worried about cyber threats. A National Research Council report warned that a coordinated strike on the electric grid could have devastating effects on the American economy. Georgia Tech researchers have helped secure and protect devices throughout U.S. government and corporate networks for years.

To help prevent cyber attacks, the Georgia Tech Research Institute, National Electric Energy Testing, Research and Applications Center and the Strategic Energy Institute are working with smart grid technology experts to develop tools to detect weaknesses.

Technical, regulatory and financial obstacles have slowed its worldwide adoption, and it is estimated to take decades for the entire grid renovation. Georgia Tech researchers continue their development of this transformative technology and the smart grid momentum is growing. In fact, smart grid technology is already a reality in several U.S. cities. — *Georgia Tech University, Jan. 31, 2014*



Local Chapter Highlights



At the **Atlanta Chapter's** 2013 year-end meeting, members wore the scarves they purchased from the annual conference fundraiser.

This winter, members of the **Indiana Chapter** collected personal care items for Indianapolis-based Hoosier Veterans Assistance Foundation. Members delivered the items and enjoyed a tour of the facility.



In October, the **Nashville Chapter** cooked a meal at the local Ronald McDonald House, where loved ones who support sick children in Vanderbilt hospital stay. A comfortable spot to land at the end of the day along with a good wholesome meal brings some sense of normal to their lives. The Ronald McDonald House is free to the families of these children, which is a relief to these already over-burdened families. The members decided to make a tradition out of donating a meal and the labor to prepare it, so this has become part of their mission and charitable works. Each October members will gather to cook a meal for those staying at the Ronald McDonald House.

What has **YOUR** chapter been up to? Share it with other **WiNUP** members! Each issue of the newsletter this year will feature highlights from local chapters. Send pictures and a brief description of your chapter's events and activities to Mandy Kent at mkent@isa.coop.

Tips for taking charge of your professional development

Recently, I read an article in *U.S. News and World Report* by Alexis Grant, centered around professional development during our country's current economic situation. She speaks of the fact that most companies have cut back and everybody's down to "muscle and bone." She suggests that we should take control of our own development and find ways to move forward in our individual careers. Listed below are 10 ways to help yourself grow professionally, even without the support of your company.



**Carolyn
Gordon**
International
Vice President

1. Take a class. Just because you're no longer in school doesn't mean the classroom is off-limits. Plenty of universities offer classes for adults, often in the evening so you can attend around your job schedule. Online classes are another convenient option. Take a class on a topic that's relevant for your job, or learn about something that's totally unrelated for a change of pace. Either way, you're growing, which is the overarching goal.

2. Teach yourself a skill. You don't always need structure or a class to learn something new. Pinpoint skills that are desirable in your line of work, and start practicing. Website building or social media skills are a perfect example, and they're desirable across the board. Jump into a project, and learn the ropes as you go.

3. Volunteer. "Because [nonprofit] organizations are so hungry for hands," Alexandra Levit, author of *New Job, New You: A Guide to Reinventing Yourself in a Bright New Career*, said, "you'll get the opportunity to master leadership skills you might not have the chance to practice otherwise." And, she adds, "you'll be doing it in a real-world environment, which makes the experience better than if you, for example, took coursework or training seminars."

4. Master an online tool. Even those of us who organize our lives via digital tools don't always make the most of them. The Web is full of free video tutorials on how to use networks like LinkedIn and Google+, as well as tips on organizing your Gmail life. Think about how you can increase your efficiency, and scour the Internet for resources to help you accomplish that.

5. Seek out people who are on the career path you aspire to. Ask them how they got to where they are. Especially if you stroke their ego a bit, people are often happy to talk about the path they took in their career, as well as what worked and what didn't. Learn from their successes and mistakes.

6. Shadow a colleague. Find workers within your company who do something you want to learn, and

stop by their office occasionally to ask questions. You don't need an official shadowing program to accomplish this, just your own initiative. You can learn a lot by listening and watching.

7. Find a mentor. Take that find-a-successful-person goal one step further and identify someone who's willing to give you guidance and advice. Even if you don't feel comfortable calling that person a mentor, having someone to run ideas by who has more experience than you can go a long way toward helping you make the right decisions. The key is that they have to have an interest in helping you.

8. Read. Devour books, articles and blogs within your niche, but also pick reads that are outside of your normal professional box. Read about topics that are outside of your own industry and experience; think about how you can relate that and apply it to your business.

9. Attend a conference. Figure out which conference is most worthwhile for people who work in your target industry and go, even if it means using vacation time. Not only will you learn new skills, you'll also make new contacts. Emily Bennington, who helps new college graduates transition from the classroom to the workplace, advised researching who's going and connecting with those people on social media before the event, so you can arrange an in-person meeting and facilitate a stronger connection.

10. Don't neglect your "soft skills." Most of us know our weaknesses, whether we need to be more organized or do a better job of meeting deadlines or simply prioritizing in a smarter way. Putting effort into improving those skills will make you more marketable no matter what field you're in, said Joseph Grenny, an organizational development expert and co-author of *Change Anything: The New Science of Personal Success*.



Take an online class on a topic relevant to your job or learn about something totally unrelated for a change of pace.

WiNUP helps member transition to new jobs

DeCoffette Ward has been a member of three different chapters of WiNUP. She shares how her membership has helped her transition into new job roles and responsibilities. She is currently serving as the treasurer of WiNUP International.



DeCoffette Ward
International Treasurer

WiNUP: Originally, what drew you to join WiNUP?

Ward: I became close friends with three women who are members, and as I listened to the positive aspects discussed about the organization, I was immediately interested. My transition from the military to civilian life was quite difficult because I was no longer part of a group. I missed the support and encouragement to achieve my goals, which was regained after becoming a WiNUP member.

WiNUP: You are currently a member of the West Virginia chapter. What other chapters have you been a member of and what positions have you held, both locally and internationally within WiNUP?

Ward: Ohio and ArkLaTex chapters; Ohio Chapter: Publicity Chair; ArkLaTex Chapter: International Board Representative 2012; West Virginia Chapter: Treasurer; International: ByLaws Chair 2013, Ways and Means Chair 2014, and Treasurer 2014

WiNUP: Can you give some specific examples of how your WiNUP membership helped you in the transitions to new jobs and new cities?

Ward: I have been truly blessed to meet some phenomenal women, and several of them that I met at conferences made my transitions to new cities simple because I was familiar with someone to show me the ropes in a new area. Knowing the women prior to moving took away the feeling of being the new kid on the block. I felt more ease with jumping in and learning my new duties because there was always someone to call for advice. In my transition to both the ArkLaTex and West Virginia chapters, it was great to have someone familiar to talk to about the new area. The ladies I currently work with I met over five years ago at the International Conference in Atlanta. It is a good feeling to walk into a room of smiling faces.

WiNUP: Any advice for other women who may go through something similar — transitions in job responsibilities, location, etc.?

Ward: My advice would be to keep an open mind, and never be afraid to meet new people and try new methods.

Want to share your WiNUP story? Email Newsletter Chair Mandy Kent at mkent@isa.coop

Connection is published quarterly by the Women's International Network of Utility Professionals.

To include news from your local chapter, send photos and a brief description of the chapter's activities to Newsletter Editor Mandy Kent at mkent@isa.coop.

The Women's International Network of Utility Professionals provides a link for developing and recognizing professionals involved with utility business, trends, issues, products and services. Its objectives are to provide:

- Opportunities for professional development of members.
- Networking and mentorship among members.
- Recognition and visibility for members and business partners.



WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL NETWORK
OF UTILITY PROFESSIONALS