



A Quarterly Update on U.S. WIN Activities

Committee Updates

Communications Committee

The Communications Committee set out in 2012 to be the trusted source for U.S. Women in Nuclear members for timely and accurate information related to activities and outreach efforts. Over the past several months, the committee has achieved milestones toward this goal, including the completion of the U.S. WIN brochure and beta site for the new U.S. WIN website.

As we continue to march through our objectives, we welcome your feedback on how to better communicate the news you need in the quarterly update. Please provide your suggestions, comments and feedback to Shilo Terek (s1t8@pge.com), Pacific Gas and Electric Company's Diablo Canyon Power Plant.

National News

The Partnership for Nuclear Security Holds Joint Networking Event with U.S. WIN

Provided by: Julie Mills

The United States Department of State's Partnership for Nuclear Security (PNS), in collaboration with U.S. WIN, held a networking dinner on July 17, 2012, for 30 notable women in the nuclear field. PNS establishes cooperative international relationships that support common nuclear security, safety and nonproliferation objectives. U.S. WIN is an inclusive network of over 5,000 women and men who work in nuclear- and radiation-related fields.

U.S. WIN members and PNS partners from Algeria, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Morocco, Nigeria, South Africa and the UAE gathered to share experiences and stories of leadership in the nuclear security field. Attendees represented a diverse cross-section of the nuclear community, including engineers, researchers, regulators, academics, vendors, operators, policymakers



Photo: U.S. WIN members and PNS partners from Algeria, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Morocco, Nigeria, South Africa and the UAE gathered to share experiences and stories of leadership in the nuclear security field.

and IAEA representatives. Attendees participated in vibrant discussions and agreed the event was a positive experience. PNS attendees remarked that the dinner introduced them to important new contacts with experience directly relevant to their own roles and goals in nuclear security. One U.S. WIN attendee characterized the dinner as “awesome” and attended by “women who are on the cutting edge.”

The event took advantage of the co-location in Orlando, Fla., of both the 2012 Institute for Nuclear Materials Management 53rd Annual Meeting, where PNS sponsored nearly 60 international participants, and the 2012 U.S. WIN National Conference.

Region I News

Girls WIN!

Provided by: Andrea Blizard

This isn't about the 2012 Olympics in London, but it is about the future of young ladies in the U.S.



Photo: WIN member Kristen Alfieri (far left) meets with Girl Scouts at Rock Hill Camp in Mahopac, N.Y., to talk about careers in engineering and nuclear power.

thoughts about her career. She also spoke about nuclear power and its role in supplying energy in our communities. The Scouts asked many pointed questions such as “Did boys ever make fun of you in engineering school?”, “Are the classes difficult?”, “What do you do at work?” and “Do you like engineering?”

Alfieri answered their questions with ease, gave advice and asked the Scouts what careers they wanted to follow. Some would like to teach, and a few are considering environmental sciences. One Scout cannot decide if she wants to be an engineer or an attorney. Kristen's response to her: Why not do both?

WIN is an international organization of women and men who work in nuclear- and radiation-related fields. One of the major areas of emphasis for U.S. WIN is outreach, and Indian Point's members are ready and willing to share their experience and encourage young women and men to consider a future in nuclear power.

Recently, Entergy—through its Indian Point Corporate Contributions program—partnered with Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson to support the Scouts' science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) initiative. Now the Indian Point chapter of WIN has joined in this educational effort.

WIN member Kristen Alfieri, mechanical engineer and member of Indian Point's design engineering group, recently visited with Girl Scouts at Rock Hill Camp in Mahopac. The camp offers a program called “Stemming Out” in which girls investigate a variety of math and science careers and participate in science projects.

Alfieri spent an afternoon describing her role at Indian Point, her educational path, and her

Button Up For Business Spring Fashion Show

Provided by: Kelly Semanco (Tender)



Photo: W-WIN models posing with one of their outfit selections. From left to right are Debbie Pillar, Jaclyn Cheripka, Kate Zotter, Catherine Sejvar, Lori Schmidt, Elaine Pinto and Pat Cheripka.

With so many choices available in stores, do you ever wonder what business casual attire should look like, especially when warm weather approaches? So did Women in Nuclear! The Westinghouse WIN Pittsburgh chapter partnered with our local Kohl's department store on June 21, 2012, to take on this challenge. The models, Westinghouse WIN volunteers who spanned all generations and styles, selected their own outfits with assistance from the Kohl's staff. Focus was placed on pairings that could transform from office to evening. From dresses to capris, every style was partnered with accessories to highlight the look.

A presentation throughout the fashion show reviewed the Westinghouse dress policy and provided make-up tips for all occasions. We even did our own "what not to wear" interactive session. After the show, attendees and models

were invited to enjoy networking and refreshments; each participant also left with a gift bag of facial products. Feedback about the event was so positive that we expect to hold another one next year.

WIN Educates Girl Scouts About Nuclear Energy

Provided by: Mary Ann Walsh

On Saturday, Sept. 29, 2012, Westinghouse WIN Pittsburgh hosted a record 90 Girl Scouts and 34 accompanying adults at the Cranberry Woods headquarters for an afternoon workshop titled "Girl Power-Nuclear Power."

The workshop began with a safety brief, welcome message and overview of nuclear power. Next, a team of 15 Westinghouse WIN members led the Girl Scouts through various activities. A participant favorite was the "candy reactor," which featured fuel rods, control rods and reactor coolant. The model helped the Scouts to gain a basic understanding of how a nuclear reactor is built.

The Scouts experienced science in action when they played "balloon fission." In the game, when an individual was hit by a balloon, that person had to release more balloons—just like in a real fission reaction. Other participants played the role of "control rods" and absorbed neutrons, just as control rods in a nuclear plant absorb neutrons, thereby slowing or shutting down a nuclear reaction.

Everyone was also introduced to the AP1000 plant design through the interactive scale model. The Scouts and adults then toured the simulator, which is an exact replica of the main control room of an AP1000 plant. The group saw the controls for the plant and experienced what it would be like to be a reactor operator at an operating nuclear plant. After the tour, several Scouts remarked, "I want to be a candy reactor operator."

The Scouts were very interested and engaged in the program and asked the career panelists many questions about how they chose their careers, career paths and work activities. The event was very well-received by both students and adults, as demonstrated by their many positive comments that "it was great for the girls to see women in technical careers" and "the question and answer session was good for the girls to hear."

Each girl received a Westinghouse drawstring bag and a custom-designed Nuclear Power-Girl Power Fun Patch to sew on her Girl Scout uniform. “This event was made possible through the efforts of the dedicated WIN volunteers; the record number of participants illustrates that the public is very interested in increasing their knowledge of science, engineering, and nuclear energy,” said Mary Ann Walsh, of Engineering Services, Reactor Internal Aging Management. The participant feedback provided further confirmation that the effort was very worthwhile:

- “Excellent forum to build female awareness for STEM and making STEM understandable for young girls.”
- “Thank you for a great event, our girls had a wonderful time!”
- “Thank you for the opportunity to see how Westinghouse works and what you have to offer.”
- “As an adult, I also learned so much about nuclear energy.”
- “Thank you Westinghouse!”



Photo: Future WINners of Troop 20610.

Region II News

CR3 WIN Participates in First Annual Citrus County KIDS Expo

Provided by: Mary Ann Walsh



On Saturday, Aug. 4, 2012, the Crystal River 3 WIN chapter participated in the first annual Citrus County Kids Expo. Two Girl Scout cadets facilitated this event to highlight services, activities and events for children in Citrus County, Florida. They hope to earn the Girl Scout Silver Award by providing parents and caregivers of children in Citrus County with a centralized, targeted location for information on events, activities and services.

The CR3 WIN chapter sponsored a booth, complete with stress light bulbs, pens and informative game sheets. Stickers were given to participants with the following quote: “I’m naturally radioactive ... You are too! Radioactive potassium & carbon that are in us keep us healthy.” A positive message touting nuclear energy was shared with parents, students and teachers. Chapter members spoke to participants about careers for women in nuclear, in the fields of engineering, operations and medicine as well as other diverse fields.



Photo: The CR3 WIN chapter sponsored a booth, complete with stress light bulbs, pens and informative game sheets.



Thanks to chapter lead Sandy DePirro, and WIN members Christine McKim, Ashley Elder, Carolle Butler, Kayla Alumbaugh, Sharon Layton, and Lynette Vukelja for participating at the Kids Expo, and thanks to Annemarie Hooper and Linda Dye for helping behind the scenes.

CR3 WIN Lunch and Learn: Nontraditional Pathways to Leadership

Provided by: Cassandra Depirro



Photo: Pierre Oneid, senior vice president and chief nuclear officer of Holtec International, presented at a lunch and learn at Crystal River.

Pierre Oneid, senior vice president and chief nuclear officer of Holtec International, presented at a lunch and learn at Crystal River.

In his opening remarks, Oneid stated, “In a conversation, you are learning only when you are listening.” A good leader, he said, needs to observe the three Cs: connectivity, commitment and confidence. The perfect CEO blood type is 25 percent people skills, 25 percent operations skills, 25 percent financial skills and 25 percent marketing skills. Oneid added that there are three types of leaders: laissez faire, management by exception and transformational.

He compared his managerial style to that of occupants in a row boat. Some of the rowers will be pushing the oars against the current, some will be rowing with the current and some have not even picked up the oars. He said it is a good manager who is able inspire and give his crew the tools to function as a team and all row in the direction they need to be.

He also said that networking should never be over looked. Oneid referenced an example that he holds near to his heart. He was flying to Italy to speak with ENEL, Italy’s largest utility company, when he realized he had a companion upgrade ticket and no companion. He decided to surprise a fellow passenger with this upgrade but could not determine from the crowd gathered at the gate who was traveling alone. While in line to speak with an airline attendant he turned around and saw a priest behind him in line. He asked the gentleman if he would like an upgrade— which the priest was delighted to accept. While on the flight to Italy they became friends, and this networking allowed him to gain an audience with the Pope as the priest’s guest.

CR3 WIN Lunch and Learn: Experiences from Orlando 2012 WIN National Conference

Provided by: Cassandra Depirro

The CR3 chapter of WIN hosted a lunch and learn on Sept. 27, 2012, for attendees to share recaps of their experiences attending the 2012 U.S. WIN Conference. The conference took place at the Walt Disney Swan Hotel in Orlando, FL July 15, 2012.

Chapter lead Sandy DePirro opened the meeting with a safety message and then shared a video that the interns who had attended the conference developed for us.



Control room supervisor Christine McKim shared a fascinating look at nuclear applications in space. We learned that the Curiosity Rover is nuclear-powered and that the U.S. has been using nuclear-powered spacecraft since the 1960s for electricity and propulsion. She also shared that spacecraft are powered by plutonium-238, which is an isotope produced in our reactor at CR3. However, the spacecraft cannot use spent fuel from a nuclear plants reactor, because the concentration of Pu-238 is too low.

Nuclear technical assistant Annemarie Hooper was impressed with the panel on “The Environment for Nuclear.” She shared some of the watershed events in the nuclear industry, including Fukushima. We learned that the Fukushima response includes a new layer of safety being introduced to emergency response plans, called Diverse & Flexible Coping Capability (FLEX). It is increased defense-in-depth, adding another layer of safety for beyond-design-basis external events to prevent fuel damage. She shared information on social media strategy and the value of networking. We learned how helpful it is to have a current LinkedIn profile, since it is a virtual resume and a powerful networking tool.



Photo: The CR3 attends the 2012 U.S. WIN Conference.

Nuclear chemistry technicians Felecia Dupree and Ashley Elder expressed their gratitude for having the opportunity to attend the national conference. They were both impressed by the presentations on Fukushima and especially the presentation by Naval Commander Troy Mueller. He was a first responder and shared first-hand knowledge of the devastation and recovery efforts at Fukushima.

Nuclear chemistry technicians Felecia Dupree and Ashley Elder expressed their gratitude for having the opportunity to attend the national conference. They were both impressed by the presentations on Fukushima and especially the presentation by Naval Commander Troy Mueller. He was a first responder and shared first-hand knowledge of the devastation and recovery efforts at Fukushima.

Employee concerns specialist Natalie Harness gave a presentation on nuclear safety culture, emphasizing that Progress Energy and Duke Energy are committed to maintaining an encouraging an environment for personnel to identify and report nuclear safety and quality concerns. Safety culture is important because we learn from our past mistakes and want to make things better. Natalie discussed each of the eight INPO nuclear safety culture principles and challenged the group to look for ways to contribute to nuclear safety culture at CR3, by addressing anything that causes concern, such as widespread procedural violations, policies or questionable management decisions that do not reflect safety.

In summary, the 2012 National Women in Nuclear Conference was a wonderful learning experience. Attending was very beneficial because of the sharing of ideas amongst WIN chapters increases the productivity and outreach of our CR3 WIN chapter.

CR3 Interns Attend WIN Conference

Provided by: Patrick Ochynski

Four of CR3's interns had the extraordinary opportunity of attending the 2012 U.S. Women in Nuclear Conference in Orlando, Florida in July. Joe Palmowski, Paul Son, Megan Olive and Patrick Ochynski were awarded student sponsorships from the Nuclear Energy Institute and were able to participate in this amazing four-day event.



Photo: Patrick Ochynski

The conference was held from Sunday, July 15 through Wednesday, July 18 at the beautiful Walt Disney World Swan Resort. In attendance were more than 400 women and men from many different facets of the nuclear industry. A variety of companies were represented, including AREVA, DevonWay Inc., Entergy Corporation, Exelon Generation, GE Energy, The Heritage Foundation, NextEra Energy Inc., Westinghouse Electric Company and many others.

Each day began with the Leslie Burns Memorial Fitness Walk at 6 a.m., followed by a networking breakfast. A series of lectures and seminars were held each day, covering a variety of topics: Developing Your Career in Nuclear; Public Outreach; Long-Term Plant Operations; Nuclear Applications in Space; Fukushima; and many others. Many distinguished speakers were in attendance including: Jeffrey Archie (senior vice president and chief nuclear officer, South

Carolina Electric & Gas Co.), Marshall Cohen (senior director, Nuclear Energy Institute), Vincent Dolan (president and chief executive officer, Progress Energy Florida), Eric Loewen (past president, American Nuclear Society) and many others.

Aside from lectures and seminars, the conference provided a gigantic networking environment the whole week. With more than 400 nuclear professionals from dozens of different companies and organizations, the atmosphere was constantly busy and thriving with open discussions, exchanged business cards and resumes, and socializing. For the interns, this was a fantastic way to meet a variety of people in the industry and build some very valuable relationships. Thanks to Cassandra Depirro, CR3's WIN president, the interns were not only made aware of this event and sponsorship opportunity, they were given the guidance and tools each day to make the most out of the experience.

U.S. WIN 2012: Navigating Your Chosen Course

Provided by: Joe Palmowski – Reactor Systems Intern CR3 Nuclear Plant



Photo: Joe Palmowski

As a male student, and a first time Women in Nuclear conference attendee, I must say that I did not know what to expect. In the days leading up to the conference I was certainly nervous, not only because this was a predominately female group, but also because it was my first professional conference. This feeling of anxiety quickly diminished even from the opening night. The mixer set the tone for a very professional, yet also comfortable environment. I had already begun a networking experience that would surpass any previous opportunities. As for the plenary and breakout sessions, the speakers were sensational. Every speaker that I had the opportunity to hear from brought their own experiences and endeavors to the table. The amount of knowledge I

gained in two days of industry leading sessions was truly amazing. I also very much enjoyed the social events, as they proved to be an irreplaceable networking experience. I want to say thanks to everyone who was instrumental in organizing and conducting this event. Also, special thanks to Richiey Hayes for coordinating the event and Brenda Mills for being such a great mentor throughout the experience. Thank you so much to Sandy Depirro and Jon Franke for allowing me to attend the conference. To all of you who participated, I thank you for establishing a professional friendship with me that I will certainly carry with me throughout my career!