



An Update on U.S. WIN Activities

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 2 | OCTOBER 2017

## Take Action Following the 2017 National Conference

Written by: **Shilo Terek**, Employee Concerns Investigator, Pacific Gas and Electric Company's Diablo Canyon Power Plant, Region IV



Hundreds of U.S. WIN members attended the 2017 U.S. Women in Nuclear National Conference in San Francisco. The conference, hosted by Pacific Gas and Electric Company and General Electric-Hitachi, focused on "A Time for Action" and featured dozens of industry experts, advocates and supporters. The goal of the conference was to encourage and empower members to reach out to local, state and federal agencies to get out the message of clean energy. Practical tools and advice flooded the dialog, and were reinforced through tools such as the Atomic Action app supported by Generation Atomic (check it out [here](#)).

U.S. WIN thanks the many members of the conference planning committee, the facilitators, presenters and NEI staff that helped make the 2017 event a success. ☺



## Three Mile Island Chapter Receives 2017 Small Chapter Overall Excellence Award

Submitted by: **Carolyn Flory-Magatz**, Administrator, Three Mile Island, Exelon Generation, Region I

Three Mile Island Chapter was the recipient of the 2017 Small Chapter Overall Excellence Award at the 2017 National Conference. ☺

## IN THIS ISSUE ▼

- Take Action Following the 2017 National Conference
- Three Mile Island Chapter Receives 2017 Small Chapter Overall Excellence Award
- In a Word, Wow
- Thank You from Middletown Area High School
- National Conference Sponsored Student Program Recap
- A Students Reflection about the Nuclear Industry
- Season of Outreach across the Country
- Nuclear Matters Supports U.S. Women in Nuclear
- 2017 U.S. WIN Chapter Excellence Award Winners
- Girl Scout STEM Expo
- Passing the Torch
- The Nuclear Promise Film Series
- WINing with the Ashford Robotics Team

## In a Word, Wow

Written by: **Yehudis Gottesfeld**, Engineering Intern, Exelon Generation's Ginna Nuclear Power Station, Region I



This Summer I was one of the fortunate students sponsored by the U.S. WIN organization and Exelon (Ginna) to attend the 2017 National Conference in San Francisco, CA. The conference was one of those things that I can accurately describe by taking a deep breath and just saying, "WOW!" It was a few days of bonding, supporting, advocating, sharing emotions, and sharing industry knowledge that served to elevate me individually and professionally.

As a student at The City College of New York, I have been given the opportunity to attend many student and professional conferences in the past, but none were like the 2017 U.S. WIN Conference. The opportunity to sit through lectures and understand them enough to walk out with practical takeaways would have been enough to impress me. But the U.S. WIN conference did more than just that by offering a variety of lectures that catered to individual interests and having a strong student mentorship program in place for their sponsored students.

My mentor, Joan Steinert from Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation, was everything I would want in a mentor. Before the conference, she had reached out to me to see if I had any questions and to make sure that I arrived in San Francisco safely. Throughout the conference, Joan was able to share insightful information with me about the different fields of nuclear energy. Her support, heart of gold, and readiness to help me in any way she could, helped me greatly throughout the conference.

One moment during the conference that really touched me was when Eric G. Meyer (director of Generation Atomic) spoke to a room of 500 powerful women holding various nuclear professions and told us all about the importance of advocating for nuclear energy and how we can all make a difference in that process. After hearing about the positive benefits of nuclear energy, how nuclear energy has touched the lives of so many, and how we can make a difference, I was inspired to act. I spoke to a few people and worked with the Nuclear Matters advocacy group, and as a result 1,300 letters were sent to local and state legislators in support of nuclear through the Nuclear Matters advocacy platform. I think this speaks a lot to who U.S. WIN is as an organization and the importance of the conference. I, a 21-year-old student, was heard in a crowd of 500 experienced professionals! My contribution to the group mattered and executives took the time to contribute toward my future.

The theme of this year's conference was nuclear advocacy. Through the conference, I have come to experience that this is what the nuclear industry and U.S. WIN is all about: supporting the industry and ensuring each individual nuclear professional is able to succeed.

I am extremely grateful for the opportunity I have been given, and for being invited into the Women in Nuclear family. I look forward to continuing my education and career in nuclear energy and continuing my participation in nuclear advocacy to ensure that we deliver a promising world for future generations. ☺

## Thank You from Middletown Area High School

Submitted by: **Carolyn Flory-MaGatz**, Administrator, Three Mile Island, Exelon Generation, Region I

Three Mile Island (TMI) chapter's site Vice President Ed Callan received a thank you letter from Adam Shaffer, Earth System Science Teacher and Engineering and Industrial Technology Pathway Chair at Middletown Area High School. The letter expresses the high school teacher's appreciation for allowing Callan's employees to support Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) events and make an impact on the students' education. ☺

# National Conference Sponsored Student Program Recap

Written by: **Savannah Fitzwater**, U.S. WIN Steering Committee, Region I

The 2017 U.S. Women in Nuclear (U.S. WIN) Conference in San Francisco was host to 29 sponsored students. Students represented colleges and universities from across the country, and hailed from a diverse set of educational backgrounds. Some students were completing their freshmen year of college, while others were working toward finishing their PhDs. Some were returning attendees and others were new to the U.S. WIN conference. But what they all had in common was an amazing opportunity to be partnered with industry mentors, meet other students from around the U.S., expand their network, and further their professional development.

In this newsletter, you'll hear from sponsored students who spoke in conference sessions, sharing their perspectives and encouraging others. You'll also hear from a student who was so inspired by the message of nuclear advocacy she heard at the conference that she initiated a call to action during the closing plenary. While we can't capture the amazing experiences of all the students in this newsletter, these highlights demonstrate the value of the sponsored student program.

These valuable experiences were only possible because of generous conference sponsors and university funding. Thank you for your support! 

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## A Student's Reflection About the Nuclear Industry

Written by: **Amanda Bachmann**, Nuclear Engineer, Undergraduate Research Assistant, University of Tennessee, Knoxville Women in Nuclear Vice President, Region II

This year's conference in San Francisco was a great experience. I was able to meet so many new people who provided me with valuable advice about the nuclear industry. At the conference, I had the opportunity to speak with an Auxiliary Operator (AO) about her position and what happens in a normal day for her. Through my internship with Duke Energy, I was given the opportunity to learn about what Senior Reactor Operators and Reactor Operators do; however, if not for the U.S. WIN Conference, I would not have learned much about the AO position and I am grateful for that experience. I was also able to meet one of the founding member of the organization Mothers for Nuclear, Kristin Zaitz. I was really inspired by her. She shared how their organization works, and how she is able to make a difference with her nuclear advocacy. This discussion showed me not only how much of an impact one person can make, but also motivated me to be an advocate for nuclear energy in every aspect of my life.

The different speakers at the conference really helped me learn about ways to develop the University of Tennessee, Knoxville chapter. The breakout session titled "Outreach Best Practices" showed me some of the diverse ways that we can teach students and the public about nuclear science and technology. They also discussed ways to help the events run more smoothly, such as making sure that every volunteer has a role, and understands the role for the event through a pre-job brief. In the session titled "Developing Talent Around You," I learned about the importance of mentoring others, and making sure that some form of knowledge transfer is in place for when people leave. This is very important to me as a student, because our chapter regularly has people come and go as they start at the university and then graduate, so it is easy for best practices to be lost in the turnover.

I also had the unique opportunity this year to be a speaker. That was probably the most rewarding part of the conference. In preparing to speak at the session, "Sharing U.S. WIN Activities Across the Organization," I focused on how our chapter communicates things to the officers, to our members, to the rest of our department, and to the broader campus community. Through that process, I was able to identify gap areas to improve, such as how we share information from the conferences. Giving the presentation itself was a huge confidence boost for me. Like most people, I'm always a little nervous when it comes to public speaking, and this time was no exception. Even though I made a few mistakes, I still walked away from the podium feeling good about my presentation. I know I will be able to take this confidence into future presentations. This was a great help to my personal professional development, and I have U.S. WIN and this conference to thank for that. 

# Season of Outreach Across the Country

Submitted by: **Price Collins**, Mechanical/Structural Design Engineer, Exelon Generation's Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station, Region I

The Nine Mile Point (NMP) chapter has participated in several outreach events over the past three months in New York, North Carolina, and even as far west as Texas. The events were for a variety of age groups including universities (North Carolina State University [NCSU] and Texas A&M), a high school and the inaugural session of a Girl Scout's "Get to Know Nuclear" patch day at the site training center.

**NCSU and Texas A&M:** The talks at NCSU and Texas A&M were technical talks for the student American Nuclear Society and U.S. WIN Chapters. The NCSU talk focused on near- and medium-term deployment of small modular reactors and potential co-generation applications. The Texas A&M talk discussed the history of the Boiling Water Reactor (BWR), industry efforts to harden plants post-Fukushima, and to meet expected challenges for subsequent license renewal.

**Fike High School:** Chapter Co-Chair, Price Collins, returned to his former high school in Wilson, NC to teach one of his former teacher's science classes. The overall theme of the talk was on the basics of nuclear science, with discussions on safety, security, medical applications, commercial power, and new construction. Students asked very insightful questions.

**Girl Scout Patch Day:** The inaugural "Get to Know Nuclear Day" was a rousing success at NMP. Twenty-six girl scouts between Kindergarten and 8th grade and parents attended the patch session, and were very impressed by the event. Nineteen site chapter members and eight other site employees, including folks from the senior leadership team and other managers, volunteered to make the event run smoothly. The afternoon of outreach started out with a safety brief, and how the nuclear industry considers safety prior to any activity. After a presentation on the basics of nuclear science, the scouts were split into activity groups. Hands-on events conducted included: M&M half-life counting, What is my Dose?, Marshmallow Isotopes, Career Dress-Out, Advanced Nuclear Topics, and a tour of the Unit 1 Simulator. Through the variety of activities, event participants learned all about how nuclear power works, the robust safety culture in the industry, training and response to industry events, and environmental stewardship. Feedback from parents, scouts, and troop leaders was extremely positive, and preliminary discussions have already been held to host another session in the upcoming months. ☀



North Carolina State University Students learn about the benefits of small modular reactors, and co-generation opportunities



Chapter Co-Chair, Price Collins, delivered a talk about Nuclear Science for one of his high school teachers in Wilson, NC



Texas A&M Students listen eagerly to Price talk about the history of Boiling Water Reactors, and current industry initiatives to harden the plants for extended operations



Tiny 'Rad Workers' take part in Nine Mile Point's inaugural 'Get to Know Nuclear' Girl Scout patch day at the sites Nuclear Learning Center

# Nuclear Matters Supports U.S. Women in Nuclear

Written by: **Kaitlin Rekola**, Staff Counsel, Legal Division, NEI, Region I

This year, Nuclear Matters participated at the Region IV Conference on July 22 and the National Conference from July 23-25. [Nuclear Matters](#) is a national coalition that works to inform the public and policymakers about the clear benefits of nuclear energy. The coalition supports solutions that properly value nuclear energy as a reliable, affordable, safe and carbon-free electricity resource that is essential to America's energy future.

At the Region IV Conference, Nuclear Matters gave a presentation outlining the coalition's mission and its approach to grassroots advocacy. During the National Conference, Nuclear Matters hosted a booth where conference attendees could stop by to learn more and sign up to join the coalition. Representatives from the coalition also gave a panel presentation about nuclear advocacy and how to join the movement. Conference attendees were encouraged to share photos and participate in WIN's "I'm a Nuclear Pro" campaign, which you can follow by searching [#ImANuclearPro](#) and [#MoreThanAPrettyFace](#) on Twitter and Instagram.

Throughout the conference, attendees were encouraged to use Nuclear Matters' digital advocacy platform to contact their elected officials and urge them to support the nuclear energy industry. More than 200 people sent a total of 1,300 messages to state and federal regulators across the country. You can see a map of where the attendees are from, [here](#).

If you're interested in learning more about the coalition and signing up for updates, you can do so now on the [Nuclear Matters website](#). ☺

## 2017 U.S. WIN Chapter Excellence Award Winners

Provided by: **Heather Tarango**, Senior Nuclear Clearance Coordinator, Pacific Gas and Electric Company's Diablo Canyon Power Plant, Region IV

### SMALL CHAPTER

Overall Chapter Excellence: **Three Mile Island**

Public Outreach: Exelon – **Braidwood Station**

Professional Development: Exelon – **Nine Mile Point**

Networking: Exelon – **Nine Mile Point**

### LARGE CHAPTER

Overall Chapter Excellence: Exelon – **LaSalle Station**

Public Outreach: **Diablo Canyon Power Plant**

Professional Development: **Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)**

Networking: Exelon – **Ginna Station**



# Girl Scout STEM Expo

Written by: **Mary Root**, Financial Analyst, Three Mile Island, Exelon Generation, Region I

In May 2017, Three Mile Island (TMI) chapter members participated in the first Girl Scout “Girls Go STEM” expo held in Hershey, PA. The event was organized by the Girl Scouts in the Heart of PA (GSHPA), Girl Scout council and included over 40 technology businesses, colleges, museums, and other organizations. Girl Scouts from 30 counties in Central and Northeastern Pennsylvania attended the half-day session. There were a total of 616 girls and adults in attendance.

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) interactive displays were presented that allowed the girls to experience and learn more about the technologies available to them in their future. There were interactive displays on weather forecasting, animal care, healthy habits, wildlife conservation, careers for women in engineering, and so many other diverse fields and interests.

The TMI chapter sponsored a display that showcased a large photograph of the main control room. Girls could dress up in lab coats and surgical caps and have their picture taken in this virtual control room. The girls had a blast doing this. Even the girls who were a little shy and hesitated soon joined their sister scouts in the picture after they saw all the fun they were having.



Radiation Protection provided many examples of radioactive material in everyday life – from Fiestaware to lantern mantles. The girls were given a quick lesson on how to use and read a frisker. Then the girls used the frisker to see how radioactive each item was as well as the background radiation in the convention center. Next, the girls ran a small generator to understand how the turbine-generator at TMI produces electricity. They experienced how the light grew brighter the faster they turned the generator.

Information was provided to the girls and their adult chaperones on how electricity was produced at TMI and the benefits of nuclear energy. The girls went away with smiles, handouts, their surgical cap, a fortune cookie with the message “Go Clean – Go Green – Go Nuclear: Three Mile Island,” and an atom-shaped lollipop provided by the TMI chapter.

The centerpiece of the expo was the GSHPA STEM Mobile. The STEM Mobile is a large van that travels to troop and Girl Scout events providing STEM-related programs at no cost. The TMI chapter will be working with GSHPA to help develop nuclear programs that will be used in the STEM Mobile. In addition, GSHPA is very interested in working with the TMI chapter on some of their upcoming STEM events and large council events. ☀

## Passing the Torch

Kaitlin Rekola was announced as the new NEI liaison for U.S. WIN, a role previously held by Carol Berrigan. Rekola has been with NEI's Legal Division for four years and is a licensed attorney in the states of Massachusetts, New York and the District of Columbia. Born and raised in Providence, Rhode Island, she received her undergraduate degree from Seton Hall University in New Jersey in International Relations and Diplomacy and her J.D. in 2013 from Roger Williams University School of Law in Rhode Island.

The transition from Berrigan to Rekola will continue through the end of 2017 with Berrigan providing support and mentorship as Rekola begins her new role. Rekola will be a member of the U.S. WIN steering committee and lead the website re-design project. Feel free to contact her with any questions you have or just to say “hello”, at ker@nei.org or 202-739-8113. ☺

## The Nuclear Promise Film Series

Submitted by: Carolyn Flory-MaGatz, Administrator, Three Mile Island, Exelon Generation, Region I

What would happen if you discovered that everything you knew about nuclear energy was wrong? That is the mantra for the 2013 pro-nuclear documentary Pandora's Promise. The film highlights the transitional journey of many anti-nuke environmentalists as each discovered more about the benefits of nuclear energy.

Throughout the month of August, Three Mile Island (TMI) hosted a film series to screen Pandora's Promise at Midtown Cinema in Harrisburg. On August 8, members of the TMI chapter attended the premiere event with a green carpet entrance. We were visible among Clean Jobs for Pennsylvania coalition members, Exelon employees and Pennsylvania Nuclear Energy Caucus lawmakers. A special treat for the evening was being able to ask questions and interact with Michael Shellenberger, an American author, environmental policy expert, cofounder of Breakthrough Institute and founder of Environmental Progress and the film maker/director Robert Stone.



Sarah Spath shows off her nuclear nails

The theater, managed by the son of a TMI employee, also helped generate funds for the Lower Dauphin High School Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM), program by collecting \$10 for each film ticket. All proceeds help young students further their education in math and science. The film was made available to the public every Tuesday in August at the Midtown Cinema, with all screening times beginning at 7 p.m. ☀



Sarah Spath, Engineer 2A-EN, Ginna Nuclear Power Station and Director of East Coast Operations for a pro-nuclear environmental organization called "Mothers for Nuclear" poses with Robert Stone and Michael Shellenberger



Panel made up of Clean Jobs for Pennsylvania coalition members, Exelon employees and Pennsylvania Nuclear Energy Caucus lawmakers

## WINing with the Ashford Robotics Team

Submitted by: Kassondra Moore, License Renewal Transition Team Project Manager, Southern Nuclear Operating Co., Inc., Region II



Members of the Farley Nuclear Plant chapter had several sessions, over several weeks, with a group of intelligent and self-motivated sixth graders who make up the Ashford Robotics Team at Ashford Elementary school in Alabama. The goal was to teach the students about the engineering design process.

The students were divided into teams, and their goal was to design and build a space craft via the Lander Space Mission - STEM challenge. The project required the students to build a space craft that would land from a six-foot drop without ejecting "aliens" from the command center.

The aliens were jumbo marshmallows. The materials provided to the students to build their space craft were 3-oz. drinking cups (the command center), index cards, plastic straws, scotch tape, scissors, tape measure, and miniature marshmallows.

The students had to use concepts such as problem-identification, brainstorming, design, testing and evaluation. The students learned that only with collaboration, sharing and teamwork would they be successful.

Participants stated that "it was awesome to see the ideas and imagination that these students exhibited as they discussed the task that was given them, developed and re-developed designs and encouraged each other as they successfully met the milestones of the project."

Every team enjoyed the challenge and one team successfully landed their spacecraft from more than an eight-foot drop. ☀



## WHAT IS U.S. WOMEN IN NUCLEAR?

- U.S. Women in Nuclear (U.S. WIN) is the premier network of over 8,000 women and men who work in nuclear- and radiation-related fields around the country.
- U.S. WIN members participate in networking, professional development and outreach activities through local chapters, regional organizations, and the national organization. Local chapters are organized based on company, university/college, or geographic region.
- In addition, U.S. WIN is an affiliate of the Women in Nuclear Global organization (WiN-Global). The WiN-Global organization is made up of thousands of members in more than 100 countries.

### Follow U.S. WIN On Twitter!

Follow [@WomenInNuclear](#) to keep up with U.S. WIN happenings.

We welcome your suggestions and comments by direct message on Twitter. If you'd like to join the Twitter Team, please email [CommComm@winus.org](mailto:CommComm@winus.org)

### SUBMIT YOUR STORY TODAY

We want to know what your U.S. WIN Chapter is doing to support an environment in nuclear energy and technologies, provide a network for professional development or provide public education opportunities. This is how you can contribute:

#### 1. COMPOSE YOUR STORY.

Brag about a great event you put on recently, tell us about something important happening at your facility, or highlight a personal achievement of a member of your chapter. You can type it in a word processor document, or even just put it in the body of an email. Make sure to include your name, plant and company, region, daytime phone number and email address.

#### 2. ADD PHOTOS.

They say a picture is worth a thousand words so be sure to add a photo! Photos make your story pop and add that personal touch. Make sure that you follow the guidelines – get permission from everyone in the photo before you submit it. You can find a copy of the release form at the U.S. WIN website.

#### 3. SUBMIT YOUR STORY.

Email your story and photos to [CommComm@winus.org](mailto:CommComm@winus.org).

For a complete set of submission guidelines, go to [www.winus.org](http://www.winus.org), click on Member Resources, select Publication Materials, then U.S. WIN Newsletter Submission Guidelines.