



Winter 2008/2009

# Connections

*Published for members of the Women's International Network of Utility Professionals, Inc.*

*Welcome to each member  
of our newly formed  
chapters!  
The Northern  
Indiana Chapter,  
approved by Board action  
in September,  
received its charter at the  
conference in October  
and  
Kentucky Chapter,  
approved by Board action  
in February,  
will receive its charter in  
March.*



Dear WiNUP Members,

Greetings! I am delighted to be your 2009 International President. Early in my career at TXU, I commuted to work each day with Charlotte Gibson, a co-worker.

Charlotte had joined Electrical Women's Round Table (EWRT, the predecessor to WiNUP) in 1974. She spoke highly of EWRT and how it allowed her the opportunity to network with other women in the industry and kept her informed of industry trends and news.

Upon her invitation in 1991, I attended a local meeting and became a member shortly afterwards. After a few years, I was asked to be the Chapter Vice Chair—my first leadership role in any type of professional organization. I asked Charlotte if she thought I could do it and she said - "Of course, we won't let you fail!" That type of support and mentoring is what WiNUP is about. It is the core of our mission and was key to my development.

Since that time I have served as North Texas Chapter Chair, North Texas Board Representative, International Secretary, and Vice President. Each experience has been a wonderful opportunity to learn and grow both personally and professionally.

In 2009 there are many opportunities for your professional development through WiNUP. One major event is the **2009 conference** hosted by ArkLaTex Chapter in Shreveport, LA. It will take place October 19-21, at Sam's Town Hotel and Casino. The theme is **"Rio on the Red"**. The WiNUP web site will have updates as they are available and I would encourage you to make plans to attend. The ArkLaTex Chapter was chartered in 2007 and I am proud of their commitment to host this conference. I also am looking forward to seeing you in Shreveport!

Today's economic situation may be a burden to many. It has and will continue to impact support from our employers, funding, and time away for WiNUP. However, I strongly believe in the effectiveness of "face-to-face" meetings and time spent together that WiNUP offers.

Opportunities to network, mentor, and develop, are core to our objectives. I would urge each of you to be involved at the local and national levels of WiNUP if at all possible. You will not be disappointed! If you are interested in being a member of a committee please let me know. I am in the process of confirming with the 2008 committee chairs and members that wish to serve during 2009.

I am proud to announce **WiNUP will charter a new Kentucky chapter in 2009** with 25 members, most from the Ashland area and Kentucky Power.

**WiNUP Scholarship applications** (Julia Kiene Fellowship and Lyle Mamer Fellowship) are due by March 31. If you know of anyone pursuing an advanced degree to be utilized in the utility industry, encourage them to complete the application. The scholarship is available to both WiNUP members and nonmembers. Additionally, a members-only grant is available for individuals working to advance their skills through degree and non-degree programs. Application forms are on the web site.

Just a reminder that your **2009 dues are due** in February. Please send your information to your local chapter Treasurer, who will send it on to the International office.

I am looking forward to working and growing with each of you in the next year and for years to come.

Sincerely,

*Julie Jumper-Morris*

*2009 International President*



*Silent and soft and slow  
Descends the snow.*



## Virginia Chapter Shoots for the Stars—and Hits in Roanoke!

The conference held in Roanoke was a full and rewarding event beginning with business meetings on Sunday, through closing remarks on Wednesday afternoon.

*Many thanks to the Virginia Chapter for their efforts in making it a memorable event.*

The agenda offered a variety of speakers from within the energy industry with several members of the AEP management taking part. Mike Morris, Chairman, President, and CEO of AEP took time to share with our members



MIKE MORRIS, CEO OF AEP WAS FEATURED SPEAKER AT THE 2008 CONFERENCE IN ROANOKE

about the impact of current energy policy on our industry.

Motivational and professional development coaching was also a featured track during the conference with image and management skill development topics as well as a special featured speech by Nikki Giovanni, poet and VA Tech professor.

The awards banquet was held at the elegant Corinthian Ballroom and included:

- Installation of our **2009 International officers**

- Presentation of the **Charter of the newly developed Northern Indiana Chapter**, which had 3 of its 25 members present at the ceremony.
- Presentation of the recently instituted **Chapter Achievement award** to the **Oklahoma Chapter** in the large chapter segment and to the **Virginia Chapter** for the medium sized chapter segment.
- Presentation of the following **Newsletter awards**: 1st place, **Indiana Chapter**, 2nd place, **Oklahoma Chapter**, and 3rd place, **Virginia Chapter**.



2008 OFFICERS: LILA MUNSEY, TERI, BERLINER, JULIE JUMPER-MORRIS, AND AMBER HELT

- Presentation of the **Honorary Life award to Rita Simpson; Oak award to Linda Bryant**, and the **POWER award to Amber Helt**.

*Congratulations to all award winners—individual and chapter. You are the best!*

To close out the conference members even had the opportunity to see some of the beautiful Virginia countryside with participation in group tour options to the electric technology Innovation lab VA Tech or to Smith Mountain Dam and hydro plant.



BRENDA HOUTZ, NORTHERN INDIANA RECEIVES CHARTER FROM AMBER HELT

## Emotional Intelligence is a skill that pays

Elizabeth Jamison of Radford University's Leadership Development Center provided a dynamic presentation at the fall conference in Roanoke about how Emotional Intelligence (EQ) is key to being successful in interpersonal relationships and may position individuals for career promotion. She was one of several speakers

that provided a professional development segment at the conference.

So what is emotional intelligence? According to the Salovey & Mayer 1990 study it is "a form of social intelligence that involves the ability to monitor ones own and other's feelings and emotions, to discriminate among them, and to use this information to guide one's thinking and action...."

People with high EQ will

- Monitor themselves
- Manage their emotions
- Draw on resources to stay motivated.
- Develop effective communication skills.
- Develop interpersonal expertise
- Help others to help themselves.

*To learn more read: **Social Intelligence: The New Science of Human Relationships** by Daniel Goleman.*

*The good news: Emotional Intelligence can be learned, developed and enhanced.*

## Money for education—we're searching for someone to give it to

Every year WiNUP offers scholarships opportunities to persons pursuing education that will lead to careers in the utility industry or allied fields. What is unfortunate is that we don't always reach qualified candidates with this news and at times the money goes un-awarded.

*But you can help.*

If you are in school—apply for

the award. Or, if you know of someone who is in school, spread the word and encourage them to apply.

We offer two grants, the Julia Kiene Fellowship Award of \$2,000 and the Lyle Mamer Fellowship Award of \$1,000.

Both are for individuals pursuing **graduate degrees**.

Relevant fields must relate

to a career in a utility related

field such as engineering, business admin., accounting, environmental sciences, communications, information technologies, and so on.

A third award of \$500 is available only to WiNUP members and it is designed for degree or non-degree study.

The application may be

found online at [winup.org](http://winup.org) and are due by March 31.

Awards will be announced following the June Board meeting.

Students not currently taking classes are asked to include proof of registration with scholarship application.

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## Northern Indiana Chapter is in high gear—outreach workshop event and community service project planned

Northern Indiana Chapter, which received its charter during the 2008 conference, will host an outreach event during March Women's History Month. The Workshop Theme is 'Women –

*Taking the lead to save our Planet*'. There will be vendors to visit and a Conflict Management workshop with noted local area speaker, Michelle Gladieux. This event takes place March 18.



The chapter has also identified Charis House, shelter for homeless women and children, as its community involvement project. With these efforts, Northern Indiana is on its way to making an impact to its members and community.

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## WiNUP group established on Facebook ([www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com))

Looking for a way to stay in touch with your friends in WiNUP from around the country?

We have solution for you. Join our private Facebook network and keep in touch with friends, share

**To maintain proper professionalism, please adhere to your workplace policies and use Facebook after hours.**

your projects, pictures, family events, and work related news.

We have an exciting and diverse group of women—let's get to know each other better!

If you wish to join the

group please go to Facebook.com and search for WiNUP. Then submit a request to join the group. There are just two of us out there now. WE NEED YOU.

*Wanted: An administrator for WiNUP's Facebook group—so if social networking on Facebook is your hobby, and you'd like to coordinate our site, please email Theresa at [Drexler@runestone.net](mailto:Drexler@runestone.net).*

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## Plan to attend "Red on the Rio" October 19-21 in Shreveport, Louisiana at Sam's Town Hotel and Casino



Among the speakers already scheduled for the conference is renowned motivational speaker, author, journalist, publisher, and Doctor of Dental Surgery, **Monica "Dr. mOe" Anderson, DDS**. Her debut novel, ***When A Sistah's Fed Up***, was a national bestseller in 2006 and her new release, ***Stand Accused***, is a *Dallas Morning News* bestseller. She was a weekly columnist for the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* for seven years, writing over four-hundred columns while practicing dentistry full-time. Her articles have appeared in news outlets across the country.



Also expected at the event is Venita McCellon-Allen, Executive Vice President for AEP West Utilities where she is responsible for distribution and customer service operations in the states of Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas. From 2004 to 2006, she was senior vice president of shared services responsible for human resources, information technology and telecom, procurement and supply chain services, corporate services, and enterprise security. She has held a number of leadership positions with the utility including President and COO of Southwestern Electric Power Company and has helped to drive organizational transformation to meet an ever-changing industry environment.



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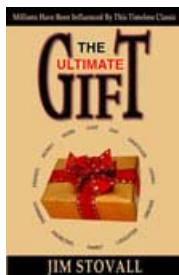
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**Connection** is published quarterly. Article submissions from Chapters and members are welcome! To submit material, email or call:

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## Past presidents' book choice – *The Ultimate Gift* – a great read and successful fundraiser



*Past President Lynn White offers The Ultimate Gift during the 2008 Conference in Roanoke.*

*If you'd like a copy in support of our Past Presidents' grant program contact one of our Past Presidents.*

*The Ultimate Gift* by Jim Stovall was selected by the Past Presidents' as their choice of a fundraiser offering to raise money to fund the newly established Past Presidents' Grant. The Past Presidents' Grant is made available to help fund member attendance at the annual conference.

The book was offered for \$15

and is a story of Red Stevens, an accomplished man, who learned too late that giving material things carries a price to the receiver.

While most of his family were lost causes because of his mistake, one stood out with potential to learn—his nephew Jason. And as a result Jason experienced a year to end all

years.

The *Ultimate Gift* takes the reader through Jason's incredible experiences to gain his Uncle Red's inheritance, "the ultimate gift."

## 2009 Chapter Officers and Board Representatives

	Position	Name	Email Address
ArkLaTex	Chair	Horace Nell Gibbs	hngibbs@aep.com
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