

connection

Summer 2006

Published quarterly for members of the Women's International Network of Utility Professionals

A Message from the President:

Dear Fellow WiNUP Members,

I want to thank the Committee Chairs, Board Representatives (and those that had proxy) and Executive Committee for a successful summer international board meeting in Austin, Texas. We have worked hard this year to help our organization be the best it can be. We have made some tough decisions this year about our financial situation and are in the process of providing information for an audit. Hopefully, we will have a statement ready for the business meeting in October, as well as a proposed budget for the 2007 fiscal year.



Bring a basket from your state to the conference. The basket can represent food, beverages or items special to your state. We will have a silent auction for the baskets as a fund raiser for WiNUP this year.

We had an outstanding number of nominations for International awards. The applications are now in the hands of the judges and they are pouring over them trying to select the best candidate for the OAK, POWER, Honorary Life and Member-At-Large awards. Congratulations to all the nominees and good luck. It is truly an honor to be nominated. The award winners will be announced at the conference in Williamsburg.

As you can see in the newsletter, our conference is in Williamsburg, VA. It looks like the past presidents have a great conference planned for us. Your company will benefit tremendously from the wealth of knowledge you'll receive and the networking you'll experience while attending this conference. Turn in your registration today!

See you in Williamsburg!!

Donna
President

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Theresa Drexler
P.O. Box 817
Fergus Falls, MN 56538-0817
drexler@runestone.net

NEWSLETTER DESIGNER/EDITOR

Cindy Berry (cberry@lcra.org)
LCRA
P.O. Box 220, L300
Austin, TX 78767



Women's International Network of Utility Professionals

P.O. Box 817
Fergus Falls, MN 56538-0817
drexler@runestone.net
Web Site: www.winup.org

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Donna McCord, President
LCRA
P.O. Box 220 - MS - L300
Austin, Texas 78767
dmccord@lcra.org

Teri Berliner, President-elect
American Electric Power
1 Riverside Plaza
Columbus, OH 43215
tberliner@aep.com

Julie Jumper-Morris, Secretary
TXU Electric Delivery
1220 E. Pleasant Run
Desoto, Texas 75115
jjumper@txued.com

Kim Satterfield, Treasurer
Clarksville Department of Electricity
P.O. Box 31509
Clarksville, TN 37040-0026
ksatterfield@clarksvilleda.com

Rita Simpson, Immediate past
president
P.O. Box 1555
Gallatin, TN 37066
rsimpson@gallatinelectric.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

East Tennessee, Anne Allen
Indiana, Emily Schilling
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Indiana Chapter Celebrates Milestone Year

The Indiana Chapter of Women's International Network of Utility Professionals celebrated 30 years of existence at its June 12 meeting.

The chapter was chartered on June 25, 1976, by Reidun Crowley, who was Electrical Women's Round Table, Inc., national president at the time.

Chapter members Benita Runion, Anita Banister, Emily Schilling, and Dorothy Stoler were present to celebrate the chapter's milestone. Runion is the chapter's secretary-treasurer, Schilling is the chapter vice chair and International board member, and Stoler is the chapter chair. Both Banister and Schilling are former WiNUP international presidents. Lynn Moore and Dr. Frederica Kramer are also members of the Indiana Chapter.

WiNUP Member at Large member and International board member Lynn Thieneman was at the meeting to congratulate the chapter on its anniversary. On behalf of the International organization, President Donna McCord sent the chapter a certificate and congratulatory letter in honor of the special occasion.

Following a brief chapter business meeting, the group hosted two safety-themed meetings featuring renowned speaker Chuck Tiemann and his wife, Terri. Chuck, who has appeared on television programs like "Good Morning, America" and "Inside Edition," lost his left arm and right leg after touching an active power line in 1980. At the time, he was working as a lineman for Kay Electric in Blackwell, Okla. Since then, he has dedicated a portion of his life to sharing his story with thousands of linemen across the country and educating them on the importance of staying safe 24/7. Chuck is currently a senior loss control/regulatory compliance specialist at Indiana Statewide Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives, Inc.

Joining WiNUP members at these meetings were employees of Indiana Statewide and electric cooperative linemen and their wives. The meetings were organized in cooperation with Indiana Statewide's Job Training and Safety Department. It is hoped there will be interest in conducting similar programs in the future.



Pictured are Benita Runion, Anita Banister, Dorothy Stoler and Emily Schilling displaying the certificate awarded for 30 years of existence.

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RELIABILITY TAKES CENTER STAGE AT FERC AS IT IMPLEMENTS NEW AUTHORITY UNDER THE 2005 ENERGY POLICY ACT

By: *Deborah A. Swanstrom**
Jennifer H. Tribulski

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (“FERC”) is forging ahead to implement its new authority under the 2005 Energy Policy Act to ensure mandatory reliability standards are developed and enforced. FERC Chairman Kelliher stated on several occasions that the reliability provisions of 2005 Act are among the most significant provisions of the new law. The 2005 Act added a new section to the Federal Power Act – Section 215 – under which FERC has authority to certify an Electric Reliability Organization (“ERO”) and to ensure the reliability rules adopted by the ERO and approved by FERC are enforced through both monetary and non-monetary penalties.

As required under the new law, FERC adopted regulations setting forth procedures for, among other things: certifying a single, independent ERO; approving reliability standards proposed by the ERO; delegating ERO authority to regional entities; and instituting enforcement actions by the ERO, regional entity or FERC.

Pursuant to FERC’s regulations, the North American Electric Reliability Council (“NERC”), which has been the voluntarily, industry-sponsored reliability organization since the late 1960s, submitted its application for certification as the ERO. Along with its application, NERC submitted 102 proposed reliability standards. Ninety of these standards are referred to as “Version 0” standards because they became effective on a voluntary basis in April 2005.

In May 2006, FERC staff issued a preliminary assessment of the standards based on the statutory requirement that FERC review the proposed reliability standards to ensure they are just, reasonable, not unduly discriminatory or preferential and in the public interest. Giving due weight to NERC’s technical expertise, FERC staff made a preliminary finding that the proposed standards formed a solid foundation on which to maintain and improve the reliability of the bulk-power system. However, FERC staff also stated that it was concerned with several standards that lacked clear criteria for implementation or enforcement, lacked technical adequacy, could have adverse impacts on competition, or provide overbroad discretion to regional entities. FERC accepted comments on its preliminary assessment and

expected to issue a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on the proposed reliability standards in July 2006.

One issue that is the subject of hot debate is which entities will be included on the ERO’s registry for compliance with the reliability standards - particularly when it comes to smaller or relatively isolated entities. The new law applies to all “users, owners and operators” of the bulk-power system. NERC submitted its proposed criteria to FERC for determining which entities will be included on the registry. NERC identified two principles as key to its selection process: (1) there must be consistency between regions and across the continent with respect to which entities are registered; and (2) entities reasonably deemed material to the reliability of the bulk-power system should be registered, irrespective of other considerations. The major categories, subject to criteria such as size as well as various exceptions, include load-serving entities, distribution providers, generator owners and operators, and transmission owners.

The enforcement and penalty provisions contained in NERC’s application for certification are also being scrutinized by FERC and the industry. FERC’s new regulations permit the ERO and regional entities to take remedial action through monetary and non-monetary penalties, including imposing limitations on an activity, function or operation or imposing additional training requirements. While NERC views its goal as promoting and achieving compliance with the reliability standards to assure the reliability of the bulk-power system rather than to collect penalties, it recognizes that penalties are a necessary element of an effective program. However, determination of penalty amounts – i.e., whether penalty amounts should be based on the relative size of the offender or the extent of the reliability impacts of the offense – is currently being debated.

Resolution of these issues will be forthcoming as FERC considers NERC’s application. FERC is holding a technical conference in early July to consider NERC’s application and to address issues raised in the FERC staff’s preliminary assessment. FERC may rule by the end of this year, as NERC requested that the reliability standards become effective on Jan. 1, 2007.

** Ms. Swanstrom is a partner in Patton Boggs LLP. Ms. Tribulski and Ms. Devoe are associates in the same firm. Patton Boggs is helping other clients mitigate the risks discussed in this article through compliance training programs and internal audit services.*

WINUP is looking new leadership to serve as officers on the 2007 Executive Committee.

If you are interested in running for an office on the ballot this October (or if you like to nominate someone) please contact Cindy Berry, Nominating committee chair for 2006.

Meet WiNUP's New ED



Theresa Drexler is the new executive director of WiNUP, assuming the position on June 1, 2006. For the past 13 years, Theresa has worked at Otter Tail Power Company, Fergus Falls, Minn. and will continue her duties there as senior program design specialist. Her prior work includes serving as director for a local community action agency and as regional consultant to the American Heart Association, Minnesota Chapter. These work experiences include extensive work in designing and implementing customer and client service programs, public relations, and marketing of those services. Theresa is experienced with fundraising and volunteer recruitment and coordination, as well as with managing the administrative functions and detail work that make a program successful.

Theresa has a bachelor of arts degree in psychology and human services from the University of Minnesota and has completed graduate work in liberal studies. She lives in Norcross, Minn. with her husband, David, and has four children: David, 24; Olena, 21; Lauren, 19; and Leah, 17.

Louisan Mamer Hagen, 95, a Washington, D.C. resident who worked for the old Rural Electrification Administration from 1935 to 1981 and retired assistant chief of the training branch, died Dec. 24 at George Washington University Hospital.

Ms. Mamer joined the REA in its first year and toured the country on "farm show" exhibitions at which she lectured and demonstrated how to use and operate home lighting, wiring and equipment highlighting safety tips.

Mamer was a native of Hardin, Ill. and a 1931 education graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She founded and formerly chaired the national capital area of the Electrical Women's Round Table. She remained a staunch supporter of WiNUP throughout her retirement and attended her last conference in Savannah in 2000.

Welcome to the New Virginia Chapter

We are happy to welcome WiNUP's newest chapter - Virginia! The chapter installation was in February 2006. All 12 members are from AEP and from the Roanoke area.

They are already deep in fundraising, membership drives and outreach projects. They have raised over \$1,000 over the last three months and will participate at the conference at Williamsburg.

We offer a warm "welcome" and look forward to meeting all of the new members in October and congratulations!

Congratulations to WiNUP's Scholarship Recipients!

We congratulate this years very qualified scholarship winners.

Julia Kiene Scholarship award of \$2,000 for 2006 - 2007

Ms. Temitola Okunoren,
1175 W. Leroy Pond Dr., Apt 246
Fayetteville, AR 72701

Lyle Mamer Scholarship award of \$1,000 for 2006 - 2007

Ms. Elizabeth Ann Caputo
66 Carriage Trail
Belle Meade, NJ 08502



Pictured from left to right are Robbie Pierce, board member; Roxey Fisher, guest; Carolyn Gordon, chapter chair, and Sherry Hoopes, guest (in the foreground) at the last chapter meeting.



Conference 2006

LEADING THE REVOLUTION INTO THE FUTURE

More information
will be posted to
our Web site
very soon.
www.winup.org



Colonial Williamsburg

Prefer to go back in time and back to nature, too? The Woodlands Hotel & Suites is nestled on the edge of a 40-acre pine forest. The hotel is right at the starting point of the 18th century, at the Visitor Center for Colonial Williamsburg. You can follow the Nature Trail to the Historic Area, or just hop on a shuttle. The Bridge to the Past and recreational facilities at the Woodlands Hotel and Suites make it a great vacation destination for everyone. Enjoy the pool or relax among the deep shade and gentle silence of the pines, miles apart and 200 years away from the cares of daily life.

Be sure to wear comfortable walking shoes for the walking tour of historic Williamsburg and bring an umbrella. Also, the conference meeting facilities are a short walk (uncovered but located on the property) from the sleeping accommodations so be prepared for varying weather conditions.



Hotel Registration Information

WiNUP 2006 International Conference - Williamsburg, VA
October 9 - 11, 2006

Please Reserve by Sept. 1, 2006
Room rates \$110 per night + 10% tax and
\$2 occupancy tax per night, double or single

The Woodlands Hotel and Suites

105 Visitor Center
Williamsburg, VA 23185
Tel: (757) 220-7960

For reservations call: (800) 447-8679

www.history.org/visit/stayWithUs/williamsburgWoodlands

See registration form on
our Web site.

Make checks payable to

WiNUP

and mail to:

Theresa Drexler, WiNUP
P.O. Box 817
Fergus Falls, MN 56538-0817
drexler@runestone.net