



Leadership development specialist offers tips for staying on track

"How not to derail your career" and "personal branding" were two of the topics Vicki Tashjian, president of Tashjian & Company, discussed May 23 as the Ohio chapter's guest speaker for its first meeting of 2006. Tashjian & Company is a consulting firm specializing in leadership development.

Tashjian assured the WiNUP women that there are many more similarities than differences between men and women in the workplace. She also noted it is important for each gender to balance traits of strength and warmth.

Tashjian also presented her views about mentoring. Rather than relying on one mentor, she said, enter into several "learning relationships" (i.e. get help from a variety of people). Research shows, the group also learned, that adaptability to change and good personal relationship skills are two key differentiators between successful and non-successful business people.

Finally, each attendee was encouraged to develop a personal brand. A personal brand consists of three elements: personality, promise and mind space. Think Charmin!

For more information about Tashjian and her company, please visit www.learningoutcomes.com.

Clothing drive for New Directions set for September

The Ohio chapter once again will conduct a clothing drive to benefit the New Directions Clothing Closet.

The drive will be the week of Sept. 25, and drop-off locations will include the following AEP locations: 1 Riverside Plaza, Arena Building, the 850 Gahanna Building and the Groveport Customer Solutions Center. Watch for further details and start

collecting your gently-used, professional clothing that can be donated to women who are entering or re-entering the workforce after various hardships.

The clothes are sold to these women at very reasonable prices, and free outfits are available for those who qualify. Tax receipts for donations will be available. More information about the Clothing Closet can be found at www.centerfornewdirections.org.

**Clothing Drive
set for week of
Sept. 25.**

Watch for details.

From the Chair . . .
Faye Pointer



Hello everyone,

We've gotten off to a turtle start in 2006; however, we have a lot of opportunities that will allow us to have "finish line" accomplishments. The Ohio chapter board met Jan. 31 in Gahanna to establish guidelines, procedures and goals.

Our goals in 2006 are to focus on WiNUP membership retention and recruitment. You may ask how this will be accomplished. My response to you is that it cannot be accomplished without all of you.

We started the retention goal initiative by engaging the WiNUP members and nonmembers in a survey that requested meeting type, day and time preference for our quarterly meetings. The responses were great, resulting in two dinners and two luncheons. The second Tuesday was the preferred day. We had an outstanding first quarter meeting May 23, and our remaining quarterly meetings are planned for July 11, Sept. 12 and Nov. 21. I hope you will note these dates on your calendars. More information will be shared as the details are finalized.

Our recruitment efforts will be accomplished via advertising the meetings, flyers, meeting announcements and word-of-mouth. Additionally, we have had membership inquiries and new members as a result of these new

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WiNUP Mission

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.

WiNUP Objectives

- To provide opportunities for professional development of members.
- To provide networking and mentorship among members.
- To provide recognition and visibility for members and business partners.

2006 Conference

Oct. 9-11

**The Woodlands Hotel and Suites
Williamsburg, Va.**

757-220-7960

1-800-HISTORY

(See next page for more detail.)

From the Chair . . .

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changes. We have acquired five new members since January.

We also have had a change in one of our officer positions. Jane Goodwin, our vice chair and chair-elect 2007 and former longtime chapter treasurer, announced she was resigning as vice chair to join her husband in retirement in June. We are in the process of filling Jane's vacant position. Members soon will be asked to cast special election ballots.

Upcoming events include selecting our nominations for the international OAK and Power awards that are presented annually at the international conference and the clothing drive for the New Directions Career Center, which is planned for Sept. 25-29. Speakers for our July, September and November quarterly meetings are being confirmed. The Ohio chapter WiNUP calendar will be updated and redistributed as these are finalized. Also, remember to note Oct. 9-11 on your calendars for the 2006 WiNUP international conference in Colonial Williamsburg, Va. I urge you to try to attend. I think you will find it to be a rewarding and worthwhile experience.

Finally, the chapter once again has voted to donate \$250 to the Women's Fund of Central Ohio and to the New Directions Career Center in 2006.

Thank all of you for your support, and I look forward to seeing you at this year's events.

Faye Pointer
2006 Ohio chapter chair



Chair:	Faye Pointer	614-883-6945
Vice Chair:	Vacant	
Treasurer:	Susan Toombs	614-716-5943
Secretary:	Becky Counts	614-716-2228
International Rep:	Vikki Michalski	614-883-6925

Ohio WiNUP donation supports efforts at COSI

Claudia Powell (right), 2005 annual WiNUP conference co-chair, presents COSI Director Kathy Sullivan with a donation to support COSI's various activities. Sullivan wowed 2005 annual conference attendees when she appeared as the conference keynote speaker. From the oceans to the stars, she spoke about her experiences as an oceanographer and astronaut.



Save these dates for a revolutionary experience

The 2006 international conference is being hosted by the past presidents of the EWRT/WiNUP organization. The conference will be Oct. 9-11 in Colonial Williamsburg, Va.

The annual conference is a great way to meet and network with other WiNUP members from across the country. It also is a good opportunity to participate in a holistic educational program that focuses on various topics. Leadership, women, utility issues and health are just a few examples.

Further details of the conference and links to Williamsburg information can be found at www.winup.org.

Ohio volunteers requested to help at conference

Ohio Chapter volunteers are needed to help with conference registration in Williamsburg. If you are planning to attend the conference and are interested in helping out, please contact Teri Berliner at 614-716-1670 or ttberliner@AEP.com.

News from WiNUP's international organization

SUMMER BOARD MEETING

The WiNUP executive committee, which consists of the executive director, president, president-elect, secretary, treasurer and immediate past president, will conduct its summer meeting in Austin, Texas, on June 8. This meeting will be followed by a meeting of the WiNUP board June 9. These meetings include reports on chapter activities, budget updates, committee status reports, conference activity as well as fun and fellowship.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

After an extensive search, a new executive director has been selected to replace Vickey Setters who retired from the position Dec. 31, 2005. The WiNUP executive committee is pleased to announce that Theresa Drexler, senior market planning specialist with Otter Tail Power Co. in Fergus Falls, Minn., has enthusiastically accepted the position. The contract is being finalized and will be signed soon to make it official. Please give Theresa a warm, WiNUP welcome. Much thanks also goes to Rita Simpson, immediate past international president, for filling the gap by serving as interim executive director.

Safety message - Watch out for those motorcyclists

Warm, sunny weather brings out more than green grass and flowers. 'Tis the season of that darting summer animal the motorcyclist. Be aware that they are there. They are small and fast. Watch for them. In all instances, keep your eyes moving, look well ahead of you and check behind as well. Use your mirrors often. Plan ahead and look for an out if you see the potential for a collision. If a cyclist is in front of you, especially in slow-moving or stopped traffic, keep your distance. Allow enough space so that in the event someone hits you, you won't hit the cyclist and risk pinning him or her between you and the next vehicle. Staying alert will help keep you and the motorcyclist safe.