



AEP executives informal discussion provides insight to WiNUP members

Two top women executives from AEP shared their insights with Ohio Chapter members July 16.

Holly Koeppel, executive vice president and chief financial officer, and Helen Murray, AEP Indiana Michigan president and chief operating officer, talked about relationships, their utility beginnings and lessons they have learned.

Top on the list of questions was "what is the value of an organization such as WiNUP?" Other topics included what is the reaction in your hometowns to your success; what are the implications of big name tennis recently paying men and women equally; why is sustainability an important business factor and what do you wish you had paid more attention to during your careers?

"Relationships" was the key word both Koeppel and Murray cited when talking about the importance of professional organizations such as WiNUP. Both agreed "the relationships you build through your contacts here are invaluable."

Murray noted women need to network more among women and believe in themselves and in one another. "If there is anything we can do for one another, it is believing we can be anything we want to be," Murray said.

The two left attendees with a list of tips for effective leadership and career success. They are:

- Say what you mean.

(See Executives on page 2)

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.



AEP's Holly Koeppel and Helen Murray talk with WiNUP attendees July 16.

From the Chair . . .

Lila Munsey



I just wanted to tell you how much I am enjoying working with each of you. We have wonderful women in this organization with a lot to offer. I learn something new from at least one of you each time we meet. You provide wonderful ideas and as we build on each other's ideas, it's amazing what heights we can reach.

At the July meeting, I had the honor of presenting the Ohio Chapter's 2007 Power and Oak Award Nominations to Susan Toombs and Claudia Powell, respectively. These two women have been inspirational in their support of WiNUP. Susan is our treasurer and chairs our Fall Clothing Drive for New Directions Clothes Closet, which helps clothe underprivileged women in business attire for job interviews, etc. Claudia is the membership chair and is always willing to assist with whatever is needed. As our nominees for the 2007 International Awards to be announced at our conference in Oklahoma, we certainly wish them the best, including a few "Yee-haws."

Holly Koeppel and Helen Murray joined us for dinner July 16 and suggested we provide more networking opportunities for members as ways WiNUP can give something back to our companies, communities, families and ourselves.

Members can establish networks in both personal and professional lives with people in higher or lower levels of their organizations, and they should be constant learners. A happy, productive employee has more to offer the company and themselves.

Within WiNUP are many years of education, experience, initiative, compassion and responsibility. As new employees are hired, do you offer to help them? Are you the experienced one that trains others?

Your attitude can be your best friend or your worst enemy, and it always affects your coworkers and your team. Be a bright light with a positive influence and you'll find that others around you will also lighten up, but you will be the one to reap the most benefits.

Lila

Catch the Oklahoma Dream

The 2007 International Conference is being hosted by the Oklahoma Chapter and is being held Oct. 8-10 in Tulsa, Okla. The annual conference is a great way to meet and network with other WINUP members throughout the country.

Stuart Solomon, president and chief operating officer of Public Service Company of Oklahoma, will deliver opening remarks, and other notable speakers include Tulsa Mayor Kathy Taylor; American Electric Power Executive Vice President Susan Tomasky; Norma Eagleton, Honorary conference chair and past Oklahoma Corporation commissioner; and Phyllis Worley, president, Oklahoma Natural Gas Co. Self defense, networking, leadership, and philanthropy are on the agenda as well.

Further details of the conference, including registration materials and the conference program, can be found at www.winup.org.

Oct. 8-10,

2007

Tulsa, Okla.

Registration
under way

Congratulations

**Claudia Powell, Ohio's
OAK Award nominee
and
Susan Toombs,
Power Award
nominee.**

Good Luck!

Clean out your closets for annual clothing drive

The Ohio Chapter once again will hold a clothing drive for the New Directions Clothing Closet. The drive will be held during the week of Sept. 24, and drop-off locations will include 1RP, Arena, Gahanna and Groveport.

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.

International update

July 10 officially marked the addition of the 14th local chapter of WINUP. On that date, the ArkLaTex Chapter, headquartered in Shreveport, La., was chartered, and it already has 17 paid members. Other local chapters include East Tennessee, Indiana, Members-at-Large, Missouri, Nashville, New York, North Central/Minnesota, North Texas, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Texas, Virginia and West Virginia.

The Oklahoma Chapter is growing by leaps and bounds and, with 48 members, recently surpassed the Ohio Chapter to become the largest. Ohio currently has 42 members.

The summer national board meeting was held in Columbus, Ohio, on June 8. Ohio Chapter members in attendance were Faye Pointer (board representative), Janet Phan (chapter secretary), Lila Munsey (chapter chair and international treasurer), and Teri Berliner (international president).

A few of the topics covered in the board meeting were:

- a recent professional review of WINUP's financial records,
- a discussion around hiring a new financial advisor to help with investment funds,
- a final report on the 2006 International Conference hosted by the Past Presidents, and
- a peek into the new www.winup.org website, being built by chapter members Amanda Thatcher and Judy Smith.

Executives provide insight to members

(Continued from page 1)

- Mean what you say.
- Do what you say you are going to do.
- Help each other, stand behind each other, and support each other.
- You learn from people with more experience, not just their jobs, but what they've lived through.
- Trusting and respecting are important. Build relationships with people you trust no matter where they are in their lives.
- Don't let others' seniority hold you back; don't be intimidated.
- Do your best; step up "with" . . .not over.
- Make sure people know who you are and that you are equally committed.

Safety Message: Keeping summer safe

Taking an extra moment during preparations will keep you and your family safe in all your summer activities, whether it is mowing the lawn, using the grill, coaching a child's team or lying in a hammock in the backyard. Make sure everything is in good repair.