



# The Transmitter

Empowering Women in Utilities Since 1923



## Message from the Chair

Orawan Wells, Ohio Chapter Chair

### WINUP'S MISSION

Provide a link for developing and recognizing professions involved with utility business trends, issues, products, and services.

### WINUP'S OBJECTIVES

1. Opportunities for professional development
2. Networking and mentoring among members
3. Recognition and visibility among members

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For additional information, please visit our websites

Chapter website:

[www.winupoh.org](http://www.winupoh.org)

International Site:

[www.winup.org](http://www.winup.org)

Greetings and Happy holidays to all; as I write my last message as your Ohio Chapter Chair in 2016. It is a time of reflection as this incredible leadership journey started back in 2012 when I first joined WinUP to attend a meeting in which the discussion was about "What is WinUP". Ever since that meeting, I have been an active member - serving as Chair on committees and then running for the Vice-Chair position in 2014 to serve on the Ohio Board in 2015.

Since becoming a member and serving on the Board, I have seen how our chapter has grown with our involvement in the STEM program and this area will continue to grow. Membership for the Ohio chapter has grown over 25% just in the last year. Thank you Deb Hohn, Lindsay Chambers, and their committee in spearheading this effort.

We have participated in some phenomenal conferences hosted by other WinUP chapters, and the Ohio and Mid-Atlantic chapters have been hard at work planning for the upcoming conference which will be held in Philadelphia, PA, September 25-27, 2017. We will be co-hosting this event and will be contacting you soon for additional volunteers to assist in making this conference as memorable as the last.

I am thankful for my 2016 Board Members - Lindsay Chambers, Krista Tillman, Cindy Helenthal, Danielle Dorsey, and Linda Siddons - for without them, our chapter would not have run as smoothly as it has. I am excited for our 2017 elected board and what they have planned.

I thank you all for the honor and the privilege to lead such amazing, strong, and beautiful women. My challenge to all members is to get engaged and stay engaged; step out of your comfort zone; run for a Board office leadership position; step up and volunteer as a Chair for a committee; or volunteer your time. Make a difference, not just in your life, but for someone else as well.

Have a safe holiday season, and I look forward to seeing each and every one of you at our upcoming meetings.

Best Wishes!

**Orawan Wells**, 2016 Ohio Chapter Chair

## ✓ Ohio Chapter Updates

### ✓ Announcing the WiNUP Ohio Officers and Executive Committee for 2017

Lindsay Chambers, Chair

Hillary Sheffer, Vice Chair/Chair-Elect

Kernesa Samana, Secretary

Deb Wilson, Treasurer

Orawan Wells, Immediate Past Chair

Kristen Thompson, International Board Representative

### ✓ Announcements from the 2016 Annual Conference

Of the 234 conference attendees, 53 were Ohio Chapter members .

The Ohio Chapter received 1st place for the Chapter Achievement award.

The Ohio Chapter also received 2nd place for the Chapter Newsletter award.

### ✓ Start talking to management now because this year's Conference is co-hosted by the Ohio Chapter and will be held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on September 25th through 27th.

Contact Andora Marshall at [amarshall@aep.com](mailto:amarshall@aep.com) for volunteer opportunities.

## ✓ International Update

By: Cindy Helenthal

Hello All! The International Board met in person in Nashville on Sunday October 9<sup>th</sup>, before the start of the Annual Conference. We talked about normal business, approving minutes from the prior meeting, and discussed financial information. We discussed the Nashville conference which had over 200 registered attendants! Next year the conference is in Philadelphia, PA and the Ohio chapter is co-chairing, so if you want to help out, please let us know. During the meeting Sunday, we also discussed the chapter reports that all Chapter Chairs must submit to the international board. The International Representatives must also submit a report, but it appears these reports are identical, and the board is considering updating these reports. This ends my term as the Ohio Chapter International Representative. It was a pleasure serving in this position and I learned a great deal regarding the business side of running WiNUP.

## ✓ Keynote Speaker : Nick Akins

By: Hillary Sheffer

November's keynote speaker was Nick Akins Chairman, President and CEO of American Electric Power. Akins shared with us various tidbits about being leaders, seeking out role models and look for opportunities to step up and get engaged. He took questions such as how the election affects AEP, why are we selling off some of AEP Plants and what is AEP doing to bring in more women into AEP's senior positions. Regarding the election, Akins stated that AEP would be OK no matter the outcome, because we are already leading the way in reducing emissions while producing power. Why sell our Power Plants? AEP's long-term strategy has been to become a fully regulated, premium energy company focused on investment in infrastructure and the energy innovations that our customers want and need. Finally, what is AEP doing to bring in more women to senior positions? Akins said that AEP does need to do more when recruiting new employees as well as developing individuals using mentors and coaches. This was a great way to wrap up this year's networking.



## WiNUP Fall Clothing Drive was a success!



The Ohio Chapter of WiNUP collected 1,472 articles of clothing and accessories from six AEP and NiSource locations during the 2016 Fall Clothing campaign!

Thank you to the Clothing Drive Co-chairs, Maria Haberman and Katie Warren, the committee members, the crew of volunteers, and the donors throughout the various WiNUP member companies!





## WiNUP Seeds of Mentoring

By: Katie Warren  
and Andrea Lane

The first three WiNUP Mentoring Program events have been a success! We started the program with a Kick-off Meeting in August organized by Kristen Thompson. At this event the mentors and mentees had a chance to meet the other pairs in the program and to discuss future events.

The second event was a book club meeting. Participants in the program are reading, *Executive Presence: The Missing Link Between Merit and Success* by Sylvia Ann Hewlett. According to Fortune.com (2014), "She (Hewlett) set out to break "executive presence" down into its component parts and then analyze each one, relying partly on a detail survey of 268 senior executives." The first book club meeting was held at The Normandy and hosted by Irina Bilenko. There was great conversation, hors d'oeuvres, and of course wine! For those who could not attend the happy hour, there were two lunchtime book club events held at AEP Headquarters.



The third event highlighted the importance of personal branding and self-promoting. We were lucky enough to have Candice Thomas-Maddox, a Communication Studies Professor at Ohio University-Lancaster, provide a fun and interactive presentation. Terri Bendert and Deana Elizondo did an amazing job organizing this event! The next event will be another book club meeting in February 2017.

The WiNUP Mentoring Program has been extremely valuable for the participants. Andrea Lane, Senior Financial Analyst at CPG stated, "I was feeling a lot of disappointment about my job after I learned that TransCanada would be closing our office. After meeting with my mentor, Michele Jeunelot of AEP, I have a new sense of energy and confidence about my career. Michele offered to review my resume and help me with my interview skills in order to land a new job." We look forward to hearing more mentoring stories at our next update.



# ✓ New Member Luncheon

By: Amy Russell



The 2016 Ohio Board met with New Members on September 30, 2016 for networking, pizza, a brief presentation, and an event for the September day of service. Deb Hohn, Chair of the Membership Committee, discussed the advantages of WinUP membership. These include reduced meeting costs (and RSVP priority), events for members only, access to the WinUP Mentoring Program, scholarship opportunities, volunteering opportunities, leadership skill experience gained through working

on committees, and networking and professional development at monthly meetings and the Annual Conference. Orawan Wells, 2016 Ohio Chapter Chair, introduced the current and upcoming Ohio Chapter Boards, the international Executive Office Board, and the Ohio Chapter Executive Sponsors - Sandy Nessing, Managing Director of Corporate Sustainability at American Electric Power, and Teresa Smith, VP of Human Resources in the Charleston, West Virginia Area for NiSource.

Lindsay Chambers, 2016 Ohio Chapter Chair and 2016 Chair of the Programming Committee shared what to expect from your Ohio Chapter WinUP membership. In addition to volunteering on committees, attending meetings, and networking at events, members are kept informed through the quarterly Newsletter and can participate in various community outreach events. She urged members to become involved in committees, to network and build relationships, to take risks and seek mentors, to attend the 2017 Conference in Philadelphia, and to always continue learning!



The event closed with preparation of care packages in support of OPERATION BUCKEYE which sends boxes to the troops to show our gratitude for their service and to bring some of the reminders of home to where they are stationed. Thank you to Jackie Knight and Sandy McCormick, Community Outreach Committee Co-Chairs for organizing this portion of the program in honor of September 11th.



# ✓ Holiday Social

By: Deb Hohn

If you were unable to join us at the Holiday Social on December 2, the course of the evening went something like this:

**The FOOD** – From the Pasta Bar to the Sweets – the catering staff out did themselves!!

**The MUSIC** – by Roger Dearwester – From Holiday music to our favorite line dances! Not to mention the great voice of Roger singing some favorites! Wow!

**The TABLE ARRANGEMENTS** – **Handmade Ornaments by Lynn Guilbert** were created with 1girl and WinUP on each side with 2016 – Everyone received one! This is already on the tree! In addition handmade wreaths by Marie Parker were on the center of each table!

**The GIVEAWAYS** – WOW!! I think everyone got an additional giveaway from their name being pulled to take home! All furnished by Holiday Social Committee members, HR, and Mary Kay!

**The DONATIONS** – AMAZING!! – Everyone brought supply donations for the 1girl Charity! Overwhelming is the word that comes to mind! Grateful was 1girl representative – Stephanie Union.

**The PHOTO BOOTH** – Handmade Frames created by **Judy Buyer** and hand painted by **Deb Wilson**!! Fun and Creative, and at the same time fundraising for 1girl!!



**The NETWORKING** – Meeting/welcoming new attendees! Putting faces to names! Laughing, hugging, and the sounds of chatter filled the air! It was all in harmony!!

**THE MEMBERSHIP** - The 2016 WinUP Holiday Social set a new record attendance of 71 RSVP and 66 attending!! Wow! Our membership has grown exponentially! The Membership Chair Deb Hohn announced that we now have 197 members in the Ohio Chapter!! A new record for Ohio!!

**The ACCOMPLISHMENTS** for 2016 Ohio Chapter were announced:

1<sup>st</sup> Place – Ohio Chapter Achievement

2<sup>nd</sup> place – Newsletter

**The 2016 OFFICERS** - Congratulations were in order for the past year to the 2016 Board :

Orawan Wells - Chair

Lindsay Chambers – Vice Chair

Linda Siddons - Secretary

Danielle Dorsey - Treasurer

Cynthia Helenthal – International Chair

Krista Tillman – Immediate Past Chair

**The Ohio Chapter Committee Chairs/Co-Chairs**

**The Long Time Members** – Linda Michael and Michelle Kinds



## ✓ Holiday Social (continued)

**The INDUCTION OF THE 2017 OHIO CHAPTER OFFICERS** - Janet Rehberg, past President and International board member – inducted the new 2017 Ohio Chapter officers

Lindsay Chambers – Chair  
 Hillary Sheffer – Vice Chair  
 Kernesa Semana – Secretary  
 Deborah Wilson – Treasurer  
 Orawan Wells – Immediate Past Chair



### The EXECUTIVE SPONSORS

**Sandra Nessing –Managing Director, Corporate Sustainability at AEP** – Spoke of her involvement in the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) Sustainability Interest Group and how she has a network of colleagues because of her involvement. She explained that she has a “Tribe” – a group that help support each other in life. She used this example to illustrate that networking is not just collecting names, but to develop relationships.

**Teresa Smith – Vice President Human Resources at NiSource** – Carrying on with this line of thinking, Teresa began her moment with everyone standing up and reaching out to someone they did not know and introduce themselves. She continued by talking about getting involved. As you get involved, you will become known and recognized that will help in your career advancement.

**The 1GIRL ACTIVITY** -Stephanie Union, Executive Director of 1girl, shared the videos about this non-profit agency. 1girl is a offers leadership development experiences for middle school girls and college women! Find out more at [1girl.org](http://1girl.org)



**The activity** - Then we did an activity that 1girl uses with the young girls. It was very interactive and many of the adult responses are what she expected from us. She relayed the responses that came from young girls. Wow!

**The CHECK** - Our Chapter presented 1girl with a \$250.00 check, Donations brought by all the attendees for their activities, along with an additional \$100.00 raised that evening from the FUN Photo Booth. A gift card was also given to Stephanie for her speaking.

**THE REST OF THE NIGHT** - The **White elephant**, the dancing with DJ Roger was “electric”! The evening progressed with more eating, networking and even more dancing! **Velda Otey** kept the floor HOT! The evening ended with a wonderful annual group shot on the stairs of the 31<sup>st</sup> floor staircase!



**THE 2016 WINUP  
 HOLIDAY SOCIAL  
 A THEME TO  
 REMEMBER: GIFT**



**G**iving  
**I**t  
**F**orward  
**T**ogether

## Ohio Chapter Goal

To operate an organization that offers its diverse membership a variety of opportunities for networking, professional and personal development.

## 2016 WiNUP Ohio Chapter Leadership

Orawan Wells, Chair  
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Krista Tillman, Immediate  
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Cynthia Helenthal,  
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*If you know someone that should be recognized, or for corrections, comments, and suggestions please contact the Newsletter Editor  
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# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

**Kristi Crissinger AEP**  
**Nicole Drobny AEP**  
**Catherine Hurley AEP**  
**Carmen Johnson AEP**  
**Sandra Nessing AEP**  
**Karen Sloneker AEP**  
**Trisha Tierney AEP**  
**Ebony Tidmore AEP**  
**Jacqueline Lane AEP**  
**Anne Marie Meyer AEP**



## Calendar

### 2017 Ohio WiNUP Programming

**Theme:** Develop Your Passion to Empower Your Future

Month	Activity	Theme	Time
<b>JAN</b>	<b>Jan 26</b> 2016 WiNUP Central Ohio Chapter - Kick Off Meeting	Welcome to Your Passion	Luncheon
<b>FEB</b>	Past WiNUP International President	Finding your passion	Dinner
<b>MAR</b>	Women's History Month	Develop your passion through Understanding	Luncheon
<b>APR</b>	Sustainability within Utility Industry	Build your passion through Education	Dinner
<b>MAY</b>	STEM Event	Fulfill your passion by Helping others	Luncheon
	<b>May 1- 4</b> Clothing Drive	Fulfill your passion by Helping others	n/a
<b>SEP</b>	<b>Sep 25-27</b> International Conference in Philadelphia, PA	Find the Key to Power Your Future	Conference
<b>OCT</b>	<b>Oct 23-26</b> Clothing Drive	Fulfill your passion by Helping others	n/a
<b>DEC</b>	Holiday Social	Celebrate our passions	Dinner