



AEP executive VP talks about mentoring, networking

Bob Powers, executive vice president AEP Utilities East, shared his insights about mentoring and networking with Ohio chapter members Dec. 4.

Powers said he was not exposed to a formal mentoring program early in his career but was fortunate enough to be mentored by “my boss’ boss” — a relationship that has transcended his career and nearly a decade difference in their ages.

He explained the leadership mentoring program AEP has established for succession planning. He noted he hopes the program expands to all levels of the company. Unlike informal mentoring, Powers said formal programs usually have a time limit.

Powers applauded the chapter’s efforts to establish formal mentoring opportunities and encouraged members to cultivate the informal mentoring relationships they have with other members and colleagues.

Regarding networking, Powers said many barriers still remain for women. While the industry has come a long way, men continue to outnumber women.

Citing the game of golf as an example, he said, men use golf outings to network. He said what is needed is a venue that promotes networking and interaction between men and women.

He offered members a few career tips learned from his own experience:

- ◆ take advantage of memberships in professional organizations such as WiNUP to network with others in the industry;
- ◆ be curious about “what they’re doing over there;”
- ◆ be willing to take risks to take on new challenges to learn and grow; and
- ◆ be visible.

Officers for 2008 also were installed Dec. 4. They are (from left) Lila Munsey, 2007 chair; Janet Phan, vice chair; Claudia Powell, secretary; Susan Toombs, treasurer; Michelle Kinds, 2008 chair; and Faye Pointer, national rep.



From the Chair . . .

Lila Munsey



AS I finish out my year as the Ohio chapter chairman, I want to tell you how much I have enjoyed 2007. We have wonderful women in this organization with a lot to offer, and I have learned something new each time we have met. You provide wonderful ideas and as we build on one another’s ideas, it’s amazing what heights we can reach.

In July, 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 chair of our fall clothing drive for New Directions Clothes Closet, which helps clothe underprivileged women in business attire for jobs and job interviews. Claudia is the membership chair and is always working to bring in new members. Although neither won the 2007 international awards, they are winners, and I am glad to have worked with them. I believe “yee-haws” are in order.

Holly Koeppel and Helen Murray joined us for our July dinner and suggested we provide more networking opportunities for member as a way WiNUP can give something back to our companies, communities, families and selves. Many years of education, experience, initiative, compassion and responsibility are found within WiNUP. As new employees are hired, do you invite them to WiNUP? Are you the experienced one who trains others?

Your attitude can be your best friend. It always affects your family, your coworkers, your team and your company. Be a bright light with a positive influence, and you’ll find others around you also will brighten up, making the job more fun. Surprisingly, you’ll also find you’re the one to reap the most benefits. Thank you for the privilege of leading such a wonderful group of women. Merry Christmas, Happy Holiday, and a safe and happy New Year to each of you.

Lila



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.

The 2007 International Conference

Ohio Chapter Delegation Catches the Oklahoma Dream

Conducting WinUP business



The executive committee, board of directors and chapter chairs discuss the organization's issues in special weekend sessions preceding the conference opening Monday morning. Ohio chapter members participating include (clockwise from top left) Teri Berliner (left), 2007 International president; (right photo) Lila Munsey (left), International treasurer and Ohio chapter chair; and (bottom photo) Faye Pointer (right), international rep.

A brief introduction to Tulsa



In a whirlwind tour prior to the evening awards banquet, conference participants had the opportunity to tour some of Tulsa's historic Art Deco architecture or the famous Cain's Ballroom.

The hospitality suite



The hospitality suite provided an opportunity to network at the end of each day's sessions. At left, Lila Munsey (left), chapter chair, and Janet Phan, Ohio chapter secretary, pose with Marshall Dillon. Below, Marcia Harvey,



Ohio Chapter and Faye Pointer, international rep, get caught by the camera as they arrive.

The awards banquet



Top photo (from left) 2008 International officers Kim Satterfield, president, Nashville chapter; Julie Jumper-Morris, vice president/president elect, North Texas chapter; Teri Berliner, immediate past president, Ohio chapter; Amber Helt, secretary, Oklahoma chapter; and Lila Munsey, treasurer, Ohio chapter. At right, President Berliner addresses the gathering. Bottom (from left) are Ohio chapter members Susan Toombs, Faye Pointer, Claudia Powell, Marcia Harvey, Vikki Michalski and Joanne Goza.

The sessions – a few highlights



PANEL – AEP panelists (from left) Tracy Elich, HR region director; Mary Cofer, director - diversity and culture; Susan Tomasky, executive vice president - Shared Services; Gen Tuchow, vice president - Human Resources; and Susan Kirby, HR region director, discuss women's careers, success stories and mentoring.

PRESIDENT'S Luncheon speaker Madeline Manning Mims (left with Lila Munsey) inspired attendees to "do what you think you can't." Mims, a native of Cleveland, is an olympic gold medalist who overcame her lack of confidence in her running abilities to set women's world records as a teenager growing up in Cleveland's inner city.



PERSONAL Safety was the message from Tulsa television newswoman Lori Fullbright. Fullbright, an award-winning crime beat reporter and Channel 6 news anchor, shared the safety lessons she has learned while covering crime stories in central Oklahoma. She told attendees she has learned that sharp observation skills (to give a description, to know what's going on around you) are one of the most important keys to personal safety. Keen awareness and observation can help you avoid dangerous situations and can save your life if you suddenly find yourself in one. She advised all to learn to take note of a person's physical traits and dress and to test your skills by verbally repeating what you've noted.





International update

The annual conference in October in Tulsa was a huge hit. The Oklahoma chapter did a great job arranging an agenda jam-packed with excellent speakers and presentations, and the hospitality was equally wonderful. If you haven't already, please take a look at the fall issue of *Connection* for pictures and stories from the conference.

The 2007 executive committee is busy finishing up loose ends from 2007 so the 2008 executive committee can start fresh in January with new and exciting issues. Congratulations to the 2008 officers: Kim Satterfield (Nashville chapter) – president, Julie Jumper-Morris (North Texas chapter) – president-elect, Lila Munsey (Ohio chapter) – treasurer, and Amber Helt (Oklahoma chapter) – secretary.

Annual clothing drive



The chapter's annual clothing drive for the New Directions Clothing Closet was another huge success. Collected in September, the gently used professional clothing benefits women 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. More information about the Clothing Closet can be found at www.centerfornewdirections.org. Assisting with the delivery (from left) are Marcia Harvey, Claudia Powell, Jeff Wilson, Susan Toombs, Faye Pointer, Yvonne Jackson of New Directions, Janet Phan and Lila Munsey.

Safety Message:

Beware winter's dangers

With cold weather, comes rain, snow and ice and the inevitable conditions that contribute to accidents that can result in serious injury.

Take extra precautions to avoid those bone-breaking and potentially disabling slips, trips and falls when walking on icy and snow covered surfaces.

Also be aware the dangers of black ice. When walking or driving on wet or wet-looking surfaces, it may be black ice.

Black ice appears as a wet surface, but there is no splash when you step or windshield spray from passing vehicles.



Winter Social



Marcia Harvey (left) and Susan Toombs (front) were among the more than 40 Ohio chapter members who attended the annual Holiday Social Nov. 28 at the 94th Aero Squadron. Entertainment included Christmas carols led by guests Judy Taylor and Billy Brumfield, both AEP employees. Special thanks to committee members Lila Munsey, Janet Phan, Claudia Powell and Linda Michael.