



# The Transmitter

OHIO CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

SEPT 2011

## 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. Network and mentoring among members
3. Recognition and visibility among members

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## Calendar of Events

- 9/26 WiNUP Conference
- 10/18 Strength Builders
- 11/22 OH Oil and Gas Energy Education

For additional information, please visit our website [www.winupoh.org](http://www.winupoh.org)



## Message from the Chair

Scindra Kolecki, Ohio Chapter Chair

As we head into September, I can't help but mention the upcoming WiNUP conference one more time. I hope that most of you will join me at the conference. But if you can't make it this year, you can still be involved. WE NEED YOU.

The Ohio Chapter has been asked to help put together a production for the conference, where we will interview two female executives, Venita McCellon-Allen, President and COO of SWEPCO and M. Carol Fox, President of Columbia Gas, Md. and Pa. The show format will be set up to resemble a talk show. A conversation area with a table and comfortable chairs will be set on stage and Velda Otey will act as the host to facilitate the conversation. The entire show will be taped and a link to the show will be put on our Ohio Chapter Website after the conference.

Here's how you can help. We ask that **you provide the questions** that Velda will ask. So now's your chance to ask these two powerful ladies how they did it. What's their biggest challenge? Where did they come from? Anything you want to know. Ask it now. Please post your questions at [theveldshow@aep.com](mailto:theveldshow@aep.com). Then check back in October to see the show in its entirety.

Closer to home, I wanted to highlight two of our committees and some activities we've just finished and some that are coming up.

Our Ways and Means Committee had a tremendous success in it "Taking it to the Grill" event at BD's Mongolian Grill. The event was completely sold out. We had a blast watching our executive guest grillers from AEP and NiSource flip the food. I heard from Carl English that it was much harder than it looked. We sure couldn't tell, because they made it look easy. Thanks to all our executive's who took the time to participate.

This effort raised \$600 for WiNUP. If you missed this event, just wait, our Ways and Means Committee is already planning their next fund raiser. BTW, if you're interested, they're looking for more members on this committee. Please just reach out to Rhonda Myers at AEP.

Our Community Outreach Committee served up some food too, but this time it was to benefit the homeless and poor of the Greater Columbus Metro area. They worked at the Community Soup Kitchen in the last week of July. We didn't have as many members participate as we had hoped, but there is still time to be involved in some worthy cause. In September, they are planning on helping at the local Ronald McDonald House. Look for a separate announcement coming out soon on how you can get involved with this effort.

Wishing you all a great September!  
Cindy Kolecki  
WiNUP Ohio Chapter Chair



Suzanne Surface (NiSource)  
Photo by Andy Moore

## Taking it To the Grill by Rhonda Myers

**Who was that new griller at BD's Mongolian BBQ?**

**Did you get a chance to see AEP and NiSource executives taking turns at the 'very, very hot' grill?**

Wow - Ladies this was a great success for the Ohio WiNUP chapter! In fact, June 15 brought down the house at BD's Mongolian BBQ because it was the first "Guest Griller" event that had completely sold out the restaurant, according to the restaurant event planner. WiNUP sold 100 tickets to the Griller event for a profit of \$600 -- fantastic considering it was the first event of its type for WiNUP.

*Ways and Means* Committee Chair Rhonda Myers began recruiting members in early 2011, and by the end of March, a solid team had been established. Because this committee had been on hiatus for a couple of years, its first meetings focused on brainstorming ways to raise funds for the Ohio chapter. One of the first ideas was the Griller Event. The Ways and Means committee consists of Deana Elizondo, Tara Francis, Lori Mahood, Christine Turocy and Rhonda Myers, and many other members of WiNUP rallied around to support the effort. Thanks also goes to Audrey Stokes at NiSource who worked NiSource promotions and to Scindra Kolecki and Viji Jagabandhu who were there standing in the gap for "sales" and promoting the event at AEP.



Carl English  
Photo by Andy Moore



Barb Radous and Mike Miller  
Photo by Andy Moore

## July Luncheon - Breast Cancer Awareness

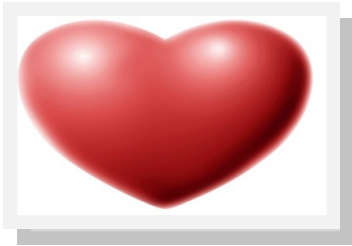
by Katie Grayem

WiNUP welcomed two inspirational and informative speakers to its July membership meeting at NiSource in downtown Columbus.

Ohio WiNUP Chair Cindy Kolecki welcomed the full room of members and introduced cancer survivor and AEP employee Doreen Hohl, Kolecki invited Hohl to share her story.

Hohl used her great sense of humor to share her personal story about not only her own fight with breast cancer but also those of her mother's and sister's. Hohl provided a great number of facts and suggestions to others about how they can take steps to watch for potential symptoms. She also encouraged awareness.

Kolecki also introduced Linda Gerken-Colflesh who is also a cancer survivor as well as a current volunteer for the American Cancer Society. As a cancer society volunteer, she spends time helping newly diagnosed patients cope with their situation, as well as help with the mental preparation needed for the battle with breast cancer. The stories for both women were truly inspiring and filled with lots of valuable insight for members.



## 2011 Heart Walk

by Anne Rutz

Brilliant colors filled Huntington Park on a beautiful summer morning, triggering excitement as the 2011 Central Ohio Heart Walk kicked off Aug. 27 with words of hope.

Approximately 25,000 supporters of the American Heart Association, including a number of WiNUP members, walked one to three miles to generate awareness, celebrate survivors, and remember lost loved ones to stroke and other cardiovascular disease - the No. 1 killer of all Americans.

This fundraiser helps create hope and inspire change for the future health of our loved ones and communities.

## Fall Safety Tips

by Heather Barnett

Fall is the time for yard clean-ups and readying your house for the cold winter ahead. Here are some tips to help prepare you:

- ✦ Have chimneys cleaned and furnaces inspected before cold weather sets in.
- ✦ Check and replace any home fire extinguishers that have expired.
- ✦ Change the batteries in your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors when you turn back your clocks for Daylight Savings Time which is November 6 this year. Make sure to check the alarms with the new batteries installed.
- ✦ Use extra caution when climbing ladders for fall jobs such as cleaning gutters or hanging holiday decorations. Shoes or boots may be wet causing you to slip as you climb the ladder.
- ✦ Keep your driveway and walkway clear of falling leaves. They get very slippery when they are wet.

## Make the most of the season

by Heather Barnett

Fall is a great time of the year to incorporate exercise in to your life. Exercising outdoors such as walking, hiking, and cycling will not only help you burn calories but will also invigorate your senses by taking in views of gorgeous fall foliage, feeling the crisp air and hearing the crunch of leaves under your feet. What a great way to rejuvenate your body and mind.

Since there are more hours of darkness in the fall, remember to be smart and safe. Wear a reflective vest and carry a flashlight if you'll be out during the dawn and dusk hours.

You should also dress in layers since you may feel chilly warming up, but as soon as your blood gets pumping, you may want to shed a layer. Layers should include a moisture-wicking fabric as the inner layer, a warmth layer for the middle, and a protective layer such as a windbreaker for the outer layer. Because being outside and exercising is a great way to rejuvenate your body and mind, why not start today and take a short walk at lunchtime or after work.

# Technology in the Utility Industry

Pablo Vegas, vice president and chief information officer at American Electric Power, took time out from working the AEP Community Care Day to speak at the WiNUP luncheon on Sept. 13.

Vegas views technology through the eyes of three consumers: field personnel, information/office workers, and end use customers.

AEP field personnel use Mobile Data Computers (MDCs), GPS, radios and cell phones, Vegas said, noting that mobile computing is one of the most-changed technologies. He said in the future during an outage, a text message alert would be sent to consumers. An outage map could then be pulled up on any of the above devices mentioned, a picture could be taken by any of the consumers, sent to a website and a crew would be dispatched to begin repairs. "All of these concepts are closer than we realize," Vegas said.

Vegas also noted that AEP is studying the potential for employees to use virtual desktops in the near future. These currently are being tested and are planned to be deployed next year, he said.

End use customers in AEP Indiana Michigan Power Co. recently installed approximately 100,000 smart meters. Vegas noted the verdict is still out on customer acceptance. Because prices for electricity remain relatively low in respect to other utilities such as gas, Vegas said customers still are relatively unconcerned about usage. He said there is speculation that it will take higher electricity prices to affect consumer consumption of electricity and drive down consumer usage.

Vegas also discussed one of the greatest challenges in Information Technology (IT) – cyber crime. "As we are becoming more comfortable with technology, we are also less skeptical," he said. Vegas told the story of an employee receiving an Adobe Acrobat file (.pdf) from an acquaintance, opening it but finding it empty. Vegas said that action had placed files on the computer without the employee's knowledge, and subsequently, that employee's computer tried continuously to hack into a government system. The government agency became aware, and contacted AEP to acquire the computer for analysis. Vegas offers this advice:

- if something looks strange, don't ignore it; and
- don't click on a link or open an attachment if you don't recognize the sender or if something looks suspicious.

Vegas said AEP is pinged for attack every second, and the company is partnering with government agencies to gain more information about cyber crime.



Pablo Vegas  
Photo by Terri Welsh

## Woodhaven Farm by Susan Toombs

On peaceful, relaxing acreage in Johnstown, Ohio, Chef Tami Cecil has a cooking school and also hosts corporate team events. A dozen WiNUP Ohio Chapter members met there Aug. 29 and made our own gourmet dinner. The key to the best taste is using the best ingredients. If using fresh herbs from Chef Tami's gardens, Cecil says less could be used, but fresh herbs should be used right away.

Members were divided into three groups in a large kitchen, and each followed recipes to create a picnic meal. The WiNUP cooks made a spicy rub for chicken, coleslaw with raisins and peanuts, bruschetta with fresh basil, dill potato salad, broccoli florets with garlic, and a rich chocolate desert with whipped cream and blueberries.

Although all had their favorites, members declared the entire meal was extremely tasty and great fun!

# International Update

by Roh Hardin

The WiNUP 2011 Conference, hosted by the Indiana Chapter, is fast approaching. I hope to see a lot of you there.

## 2011 Summer Board Meeting

Embassy Suites Columbus Airport was the site of the Summer International Board Meeting in June. In short, the board:

- approved an increase in the insurance budget line item from \$100 to \$3,100 to allow for the purchase of liability insurance. It was noted that it has become increasingly difficult to do business with hotels for board meetings and conferences without this coverage. In addition, the insurance covers the officers and board of directors as well as the organization. The executive director will provide the executive committee with quote matrixes from three providers, with the executive committee to take action and have the insurance in place prior to the 2011 conference in Indianapolis.
- approved to cover the international president's travel expenses for the mid-year and annual executive committee and international board meetings, up to \$2,500. In making its decision, board discussion focused on two key points: 1) what do other professional organizations do and 2) providing this as an incentive to the office can increase the number of highly qualified members interested in serving as president by opening the door to those members who are not supported by their companies or who do not have the personal resources to pay these expenses.
- learned the latest membership numbers are 311 (as of 7-31-11 the entire WiNUP membership is at 326).
- approved the recommendations of the fellowship/WiNUP member development scholarship award committee (results are below).
- approved the treasurer's report; and heard an update from the guidelines committee regarding its progress in revising the guidelines (see below).

**Treasurer's report:** *Numbers as of July 31, 2011. Amounts are rounded to nearest dollar.*

### **Budget**

	<b>Estimated amount 2011</b>	<b>Actual as of 7/31/11</b>
Revenue	\$37,579	\$29,065
Expenses	12,095	6,221
Other Expenses	32,205	9,972
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$44,926</b>	<b>\$16,193</b>

### **Balance of accounts on 7/31/11:**

Banking Accounts \$92,431

Investment accounts (including scholarship funds) \$138,838\* \*as of 6/30/11 end of 2nd qtr

### **Scholarships:**

Scholarship winners are Edgard Munoz, \$2,000 Julia Kiene Fellowship; the \$500 WiNUP Members Personal Development Grant went to Sherry Hill, Regulatory Analyst at the 850 building, Gahanna office.

The Lyle Mamer Fellowship \$1,000 was not awarded this year. There were only 3 applicants, and one was immediately disqualified because the application was not filled out completely, nor signed.

### **In other WiNUP News:**

**Membership:** June 8, 2011, stood at 311 across the organization's 14 chapters. That is down from 420 members at large in 2010. The decline seems to be because of cut backs financially of members companies in 2010.

## International Update cont...

**Guidelines:** The guidelines committee -- chaired by the Ohio Chapter's own Susan Toombs, has recommended several revisions and updates to the guidelines. The revisions have been presented to the board for review, and the board will meet in special session prior to conference to offer any additional comments and to approve the current recommendations. The revised guidelines will be posted under the member's only section of the WiNUP website and can be downloaded and printed.

The guidelines document, along with the bylaws, are designed to help the international organization and the chapters conduct their necessary day-to-day business and provide guidance on all aspects of the organization from electing officers to committees duties to organizing a conference. The guidelines committee has worked diligently to date to clarify numerous ambiguities in the guidelines to make it much clearer and user-friendly document for all WiNUP members. The international executive committee recommends chapter officers and committee chairs print the guidelines for easy reference.

**2011 Day of Service:** The international executive committee and board continue their support of Sept. 11 as a WiNUP Day of Service. This is the third year for the event, which allows chapters to hold or participate in various philanthropic projects as part of the National Day of Service and Remembrance. The conference planning committee has planned several community outreach events for Monday afternoon as part of the 2011 WiNUP conference in Indianapolis.

## Community Soup Kitchen by Sarah Doughty



WiNUP members had the privilege of serving at the Community Soup Kitchen (CSK) in Columbus, Ohio, on July 28 and 29. The CSK serves economically disadvantaged people living in the southeast side of Columbus. In 2009, the CSK served 104,430 meals, as compared to 54,515 meals in 1999. The CSK not only serves meals to people in need, but they also provide clothing and bus pass assistance.

Members were involved in prep work before serving the community, which included cutting strawberries and green beans, and even separating seafood. Members also served breakfast sandwiches and dessert. All members involved agreed it was a tremendous experience, and everyone at the CSK was very friendly!

There are many ways you can help by either donating your time or money, The Community Soup Kitchen is always looking for volunteers. Please visit their website at <http://www.communitykitchencolumbus.org>.

## Quick, Easy and Delicious Ice Cream Cake

by Jodi Sagan



One package of Oreo cookies  
 1/4 cup butter or margarine  
 One gallon of vanilla bean ice cream  
 or favorite flavor)  
 Take the ice cream out in order to soften.

- Crush the Oreo cookies and place in the bottom of 9x11 rectangular glass pan (set a small bit of the crushed Oreo cookies to the side for the top of the cake).
- Melt the butter and pour on top of the crushed cookies (this will form the cookie crust).
- Put the ice cream on top of the Oreo crust and gently spread with a spatula.
- Sprinkle the remaining crushed Oreos on top of the cake.
- Cover and put in the freezer until you are ready to serve.

2011 WiNUP Ohio  
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# News from Energy Affairs

by Hillary Sheffer

## Energy Efficiency Programs for AEP Ohio Residential Customers

By now, you've probably heard of AEP Ohio's gridSMART program. Have you also heard about the company's energy programs that can help save you money and reduce your energy usage?

### Home Energy Assessment/Audit

This program includes a visit from a certified energy auditor who provides you with recommendations for making your home more energy efficient. The recommendations include tips on weatherization, lighting, appliances, HVAC and other equipment. Residential customers can choose one of the following options:

- Energy Assessment: a one-hour walkthrough (\$25.00)
- Energy Audit: a comprehensive, four-hour audit (\$150-\$300)

In both options, the energy auditor will install several free (energy-saving) items that are valued up to \$100. Call 877-856-2454 to schedule your appointment.

### Appliance Recycling Program

Do you have an old refrigerator or freezer? If it is full-size and in working condition, you can turn in the inefficient appliance for cash! You will receive a \$50 incentive check and free pick up on the old appliance. Removing the old appliance can save you up to \$100 per year in energy costs and helps ensure it doesn't end up in a landfill. Ninety-five percent of the appliance and chemicals are properly disposed as part of this program. Call 877-545-4122 to schedule your appliance pickup.



Be sure to visit AEP Ohio's gridSMART Ohio website: <http://www.gridsmartohio.com/> for more information and other great programs.