

## FORMING AND GROWING A WIN CHAPTER

The South Texas Project Nuclear Operating Company WIN chapter began in 2003. Our Managing Sponsor gained the support of our CEO as our Executive Sponsor. After that point, an email was sent across the station announcing an initial meeting and membership drive. Two weeks after the membership drive began, elections by ballot were held to determine an executive board. Six weeks following the STPNOC WIN initial meeting, the newly elected executive board held their first board meeting. At this first meeting, we began drafting our mission statement utilizing the mission of WIN Global and U.S. WIN; then we developed our bylaws and logo. We formed an adhoc committee to draft the standing rules for the board's approval. New members are welcomed with a letter signed by the WIN President and sent a lapel pin with the STPNOC logo.

One of the first projects STPNOC WIN implemented was a Merchant Discount Program. Members of the Bay City Chamber of Commerce were initially contacted to participate in the STPNOC WIN sponsored Merchant Discount Program, (initially a pilot program). Each merchant application was reviewed and approved by the STPNOC WIN Executive Board. Discounts ranged from 10-20%. In 2007, we formed a new standing committee, the "Benefits Committee," and they are in the process of revamping this program to expand our participant geographical merchant area. Members will also be receiving STPNOC WIN member cards to be utilized as a means of identification at the participating merchants.

We formed another adhoc committee to develop our Scholarship Program. In 2007, I am pleased to say STPNOC WIN awarded two \$500 scholarships. Also in 2007, we turned the adhoc committee into a standing committee.

You might ask where we received funds to support these scholarships. When we initiated the organization, membership dues of \$10 were collected annually. After the first year, we realized it was difficult to split \$10 into 12 months when a new member joined 5 months into the year; therefore, we increased the dues to \$12/annually. In 2007, we decided membership dues were not really doing anything for the organization and now, as you will read in the bylaws, we no longer have dues. The criteria to maintain membership is active participation. Now, I would beat you are really asking where are we getting our funding. Beginning in 2008, STPNOC WIN will have a line item in our station budget. BUT, that doesn't mean we are solely depending on our management for our financial viability. In 2007, we formed a second standing committee, the "Charity Committee." The Charity Committee's purpose is to determine and coordinate a fund raiser.

We held our membership drive during the month of June. We went from 67 members to 173 members strong. We are quite happy with the new interest in the organization.

In 2007, we developed goals. One of the goals is to have four chapter members annually with speakers at three of those meetings. We have found that you must 'give' your members a reason to be a part of the organization. As a member of the initial board, we failed to recognize that not everyone wanted to give; they wanted something back for themselves. Actually, that isn't too much to ask. Previously, we did bring the members a few speakers; however, we were not consistent. The regular membership body doesn't really care to go to a member meeting to hear 'business.' They want something more.

A listing of a few of the speakers/presentations the STPNOC board has brought to its membership include the following.

- Thelma Wiggins, NEI Director of Member Communications (Cost = \$0)
- LeadStar™ Leadership Workshop, "Leading From The Front" (Cost = yes)
- Texas Senator Glenn Hager (Cost = \$0)
- Advocates of Responsible Disposal in Texas (Cost = \$0)
- South Texas Medical Clinic – Overall Health Questions (Cost = \$0)
- Advanced Bowling Water Reactor presentation (Cost = \$0)

We have also sponsored (not financially)/ coordinated participation in the following offsite activities.

- A day trip to A&M University to meet with the Nuclear Engineering Dept. (at member's expense)
- A weekend trip to Comanche Peak for a plant tour and to meet with their WIN organization (at member's expense)
- Health Seminar (\$0 Cost)
- Leadership Development web cast at a local college (sponsored by each participant's department)
- Dinner and a night at the play, "Swan Lake" (at member's expense)
- "Get Motivated Seminar" including speakers Steve Forbes, John Hopkins, George Foreman, and General Colin Powell (sponsored by each participant's department)

We are constantly posting upcoming educational seminars on our internal website for our member's information.