



March 23, 2016

COOK NUCLEAR PLANT LOOKS FORWARD TO 20 MORE YEARS

Bill Schalk served as Chair of the Day and introduced Joel Gebbie, Senior Vice-President and Chief Nuclear Officer of Cook Nuclear Plant in Bridgman.

Bill wanted to get the bad news out of the way first. The room got quiet. Joel has a degree in Mechanical Engineering and a Masters Degree in Business from **Ohio State**. He was also a wrestler there. Time seemed to stop until the relentless groans filled the room.

Joel Gebbie joined AEP in 1986. In 1995 the company moved its nuclear heads from Columbus, Ohio to the Cook site. He moved into this area in 1996. He was promoted to the Vice-President in 2010 and in January 1 of this year he became the Chief Nuclear Officer. He is only 1 of 26 in the entire nation to hold the title of CNO. After the Three Mile Island incident the nuclear field became noticeably aware of the need for safe operation of each plant. And CNO's were placed into position to be the person responsible for the safe operation of the plant. The group of CNO's are accountable for their plants, and are accountable to each other.

Gebbie said the Cook Plant has a great reputation in the industry and a strong support system from I&M and AEP. He said that every 18 months the reactors have to be refueled. In any given three years, there is one year (this year) that two refueling outages will occur. Unit 1 will have one in two days and in the fall a very large outage will occur in Unit 2. These outages include the Life Cycle Management projects where local vendors are used.

Outages are very intense. Cook Nuclear Plant is considered to be a baseload plant and they need to be on line as much as possible because they are considered to be a low cost provider. It puts a lot of pressure on the plant to do outages in as short of time as possible. They will rely on the 1200 employees they have, as well as 1500 construction-related contractors they

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NEWS



The Four Way Test

of the things we think, say and do

1. Is it the **TRUTH**?
2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

Thank you David Kirshenbaum for a lovely invocation!

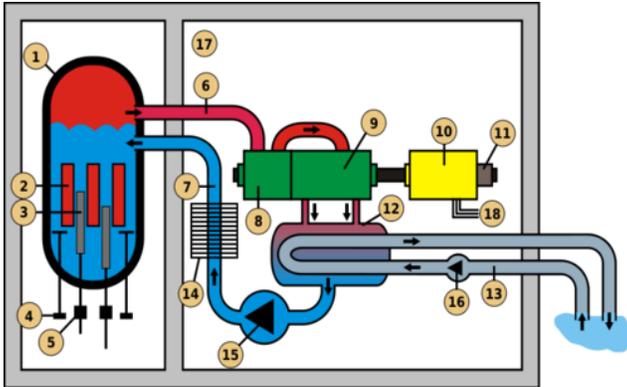
WELCOME TO

Dwight Bowman brought pharmacist Rachel Damaske

Jackie Huie brought her assistant, Chandra Stubbs.

Next week, our own Whitney Behnke will be our guest speaker and will bring us up to date on Saint Joseph Today!

are bringing in at a cost of \$95 million dollars. Outages are what keeps the nuclear power plants running. They are an economic benefit to the community because a big portion of the money they are spending is on “people cost.”



Nuclear plants are licensed to operate for forty years. By 2014, Cook was supposed to be shut down, but was allowed another 20 years of operation, until 2034. Unit 2 was granted another 20 years in 2017, allowing the plant to continue until 2037. They are already working on getting the plant licensed for another 20 years, until 2054 and 2057. They built the Life Management Project to be sure the plants were in good shape since they were going to continue to be utilized for another 20 – 40 years and they had to have reliable plants with the extension of \$1.1 billion dollars into the plant.

They will be replacing high pressure water heaters (2) and also the entire main turbines on the deck at a cost of 220 million dollars. Significant investments are being made to keep the plants in top shape.

Nuclear plants are facing many challenges. They need to be more efficient in how they use energy; this has made it difficult to operate in a utility district. The country uses 1.1% less electricity this year than it did in the previous year, but the economy grew about 2.2% as we saw a shift in how the country is growing. Moving away from industrial endeavors and more to commercial ways to service the economy.

Recent regulations have come down because coal

companies are going out of business. Banks are not extending credit to coal companies because they are delinquent on payments, or they end up going bankrupt. The coal industry is being phased out of our country as a source of power, and is being replaced with renewables to a lesser extent, but mostly by natural gas. Gas is all over the U.S. about 7-8,000 feet below the earth where there is fossil fuel. That is a real game changer.

Indiana/Michigan power is actually on a grid that is controlled by a series of companies called Regional Transmission Organizations. These companies control how power flows across the grid. If you want to dispatch power tomorrow, you have to bid the power onto the grid and into the market that day. It is then approved and the power is dispatched to that plant. Even in a regulated market where rates are negotiated, you have to place a bid, and there is no certainty of return. Although it is low cost, using the grid control, ore and coal plants are struggling in this business environment.

Gebbie said that when the Polar Vortex hit, it was the nuclear plants that kept the grid flowing because other sources of electricity were unable to compete because they could not pull their loads .. they were too heavy.

Gebbie says our future is bright. There is an aging workforce, so Cook if working with Lake Michigan College to have a tie-in program training nuclear works; and to staff students after graduation.

At the end of the life cycle of a nuclear plant, they are decommissioned at a cost of \$1.1 - \$1.2 Million dollars. The plants are taken apart and a repository sits in its place. This is currently happening to four plants in the U.S.

Gebbie thanked each member for their attention and was handed a plaque explaining a donation in hi his name was made for one Bio-sand filter!



CELEBRATE ROTARY!

Join the Rotary Club of St. Joseph-Benton Harbor
for mingling and more!

Learn how our hearts and minds are working together
to enhance health, empower youth and improve our community.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13 • 5:00-7:00 PM • SHADOWLAND ON SILVER BEACH
FREE TO THE PUBLIC • HEAVY APPETIZERS • CASH BAR



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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13

5:00-7:00 P.M.

Shadowland on Silver Beach

Free to the Public - Heavy Appetizers - Cash Bar

If you are a St. Joseph – Benton Harbor Rotarian, we really hope you will be at the Celebrate Rotary to help us display our Rotary Club to all who are present.



Joke of the Week

The Sergeant at Arms this week was Whitney Behnke. The joke she told bears repeating in this E-Wheel.

A painter by the name of Murphy, while not a not a brilliant scholar was a gifted portrait artist.

Over a short number of years, his fame grew and soon people from all over Ireland were coming to get him to paint their likenesses.

One day, a beautiful young English woman arrived at his house in a stretch limo and asked if he would paint her in the nude. This being the first time anyone had made such a request he was a bit perturbed, particularly when the woman told him that money was no object, in fact, and she was willing to pay up to 10,000 pounds.

Not wanting to get into any marital strife, he asked her to wait while he went into the house to confer with Mary, his wife. They talked much about the Rightness and Wrongness of it. It was hard to make the decision but finally his wife agreed, on one condition. In a few minutes he returned.

"T'would be my pleasure to paint yer portrait, missus. "he said. "The wife says it's okay. I'll paint you in the nude, but I have to at least leave me socks on, so I have a place to wipe me brushes"

Tis why we love the Irish.



OUR ROTARY HERO



**The nominations are in...
The voting is complete...**

**Stay tuned next week to your
Rotary Meeting to find out
who this year's UNANIMOUS
Rotary Hero is!! It's a doozy!**



THE MAY TRACK MEET IS COMING UP. HAVE YOU SIGNED UP TO WORK THE EVENT? HAVE YOU PURCHASED AN AD TO PLACE IN THE PROGRAM? THERE ARE MANY WAYS YOU A CAN HELP. SEE J.C. ANDERSON TODAY!