

Young professionals launch children's book about nuclear energy Seldom-discussed STEM topic comes to life for 6- to 8-year-olds

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WASHINGTON, D.C. – North American Young Generation in Nuclear (NAYGN) today announced the publication of a new children's book to teach first- and second-grade students about electricity and nuclear energy.

The book, "Marie's Electric Adventure," chronicles the quest of a young girl and her dog, Einstein, to find out why the night light went out. The plot-driven story uses whimsical characters, like a talking dog named Einstein, to make science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) concepts fun and relatable for children.

"It's crucial that young children become aware of their environment and how things work," explained second grade teacher Amy Doyle. "This book is a great resource that will help kids understand the concept of nuclear energy, how it is created and how the community can benefit from it."

Parents and educators will also appreciate the glossary and explanation of science concepts at the end.

Seeing a lack of educational material related to nuclear energy for younger children, the NAYGN Duke Energy chapter submitted a proposal in 2016 for a children's book as part of the NAYGN Impact Initiative. The initiative funds national projects that communicate the importance of nuclear energy in response to recent challenges.

With input from parents, teachers and other NAYGN members, the Duke Energy chapter wrote and oversaw the book's illustration and publishing.

"My favorite part about 'Marie's Electric Adventure' is that it normalizes words like 'fission' and 'nuclear.' They're part of our nation's energy story about how to keep the lights on at night," said Lee Causey, NAYGN communications chair.

The book will be distributed nationally through NAYGN's chapter network, which includes more than 100 locations across the U.S. and Canada. NAYGN members will read the book in schools as part of <u>Nuclear Science Week</u> in October. Educators interested in a book reading by their local NAYGN chapter can email <u>adventure@naygn.org</u>.



NAYGN also plans to donate copies of the book to local schools and libraries and is exploring e-book options.

"Having Marie's Electric Adventure available to give to classrooms, libraries and parents gives us the opportunity to let others know nuclear power is not mystical – it is around us all the time and there when we need it most," Causey said.

Call to Action

Interested in learning more about nuclear energy? Contact <u>adventure@naygn.org</u> to ask questions or request a classroom visit at your school. Limited copies of Marie's Electric Adventure will be available for purchase on <u>amazon.com</u> starting in October 2017.

About North American Young Generation in Nuclear

North American Young Generation in Nuclear (NAYGN) provides opportunities for a young generation of nuclear enthusiasts to develop leadership and professional skills, create life-long connections, engage and inform the public, and inspire today's nuclear technology professionals to meet the challenges of the 21st century. Established in 1999, NAYGN has more than 100 local chapters across North America who have dedicated hundreds of thousands of hours to public education activities.

More information about NAYGN is available at <u>naygn.org</u>, on <u>Facebook</u> and <u>Twitter</u>.

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