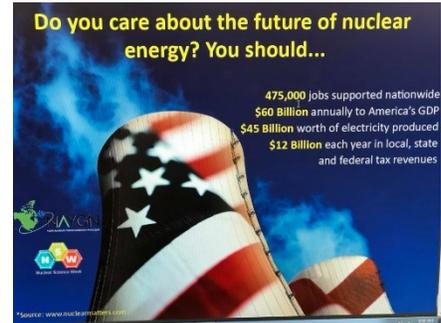


Dear NAYGN,

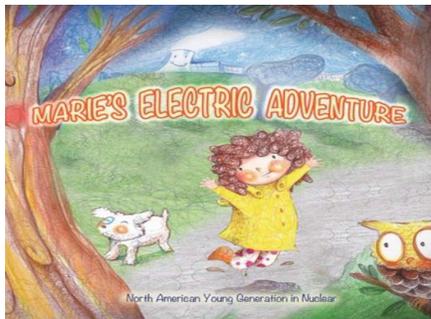
As NAYGN's Public Information Chair, I am in awe of what you have accomplished.

I've been a part of a few National Nuclear Science week's now and I really feel like this year has been an incredible step up in the number of National Nuclear Science Week initiatives, the visibility these initiatives are getting, and the creativity of new ideas that never cease to amaze me. After so many years of NAYGN being in existence, we are still getting better and better at Public Information.

We actually started National Nuclear Science week with Post Card Push Day- our 4<sup>th</sup> year and running strong! It's been an interesting evolution of postcard designs from fuel density, to the environmental benefits, to economic growth and patriotism. US Government Outreach Lead, Christy Fletcher and her team have developed our postcards into an expected commodity from chapters. The event has met with so much success that other industry organizations have now started creating their own versions of postcard push day. Keep an eye out for her Go Nuke Article talking about the over 12,000 postcards you guys have sent legislators!



The "The Big Event", which is in fact 3-4 days long in Idaho Falls, was hosted by Idaho National Lab, ANS and NAYGN local chapters in partnership with the National Nuclear Science Museum. This event includes a breadth of speakers and activities, one which included the first public reading of "Marie's Electric Adventure" by our very own



Student Outreach Lead, Amanda Lang. Marie's Electric Adventure started out as a 2016 NAYGN Impact Initiative and with the support from the NAYGN Core, was funded to become a membership wide deployment of the organization's first of many books about Marie's Adventures..... Yes, you read correctly- first of many! With the success of Marie's Electric Adventure, the Core has given the green light to create a series of Marie books. Stay tuned!

My favorite thing about National Nuclear Science week though is seeing the many activities all of our chapters do around the continent.

Sometimes you all will submit your stories to be highlighted (which is much appreciated!) but to grasp the extensive outreach activity, I love stalking the social media Twitter and Facebook chains. I was literally glued to my phone that week checking out all of the AWESOME things our membership has come up with. #nuclearsciweek #readwithmarie #postcardpushday #nuclearvisionary

I think this year's National Nuclear Science week was especially unique. Normally I would attend the Big Event or be participating in local chapter's PI Blitz of all the local high schools.... But this year Abbey and I, along with 11 other millennials were invited to Washington, DC to sit down with the Secretary of Energy, Rick Perry, to talk about the future of our industry. You may remember I discretely challenged Secretary Perry to a nuclear hot wing eating challenge on social media this summer. I certainly didn't expect to be sitting in front of him months later... but be it as things may- I took the liberty to remind him of that challenge during our meeting (along with requesting a "selfie" shown here). Abbey and I also shared with him Marie's Electric Adventure and the efforts that NAYGN has been doing with the K-12 Workforce initiative. He asked how he could get a book and we kindly told him he could buy it on Amazon since he isn't allowed to receive gifts (per the ethics committee). I can't explain to you all enough the tremendous VALUE our current Secretary of Energy has for the young



generation's perspective. He asked us the question, "If you were Secretary of Energy, what would you do?" I was so caught off guard, because nobody in his position has ever asked that question to the younger generation. I told him that I would try to levelize the energy market so nuclear was given the credit for its true value, much like his FERC ruling proposal. As a double major in Engineering and Economics, I believe the economics has to be viable for survival. He asked for our top 3 priorities for him to work on. As a group, we did not immediately come up with three cohesive things, however we discussed things like the need for supporting advanced reactors, creating a fair energy market where nuclear is not on the chopping block in deregulated markets, workforce challenges, the need for a nuclear waste solution and others. He shared that he thought that the young generation is the best group to change the perception of nuclear, and what he means is... the young generation is the perfect group to revitalize the industry and "make nuclear cool". We represent a vibrant, passionate, creative, modern and idealistic population of educated stakeholders, a population that is now the largest generation in the US census population! We look forward to a strong partnership with the Department of Energy's Office of Nuclear Energy on NAYGN initiatives and support moving forward.

As Thanksgiving approaches, I'm really thankful that we have a Secretary of Energy that is actively interested in engaging our organization and the young generation within the nuclear industry to help create and communicate that solution. I'm also thankful to be a part of an organization that cares enough about reliable, clean energy to take their own time and resources to do something about the issues our industry faces.

I encourage everybody to have a restful holiday season while at the same time keeping the momentum from an epic 2017 into 2018!



Best,

Chris

P.S. Stay tuned for our annual Drawing Contest and Essay contests rolling out in January. (Sorry I have to give a shameless PI plug!)