



AWE NEWS



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Recent Advancing Women in Energy Events Widely Attended by Members



Conversation with Chairman Talberg

On July 17th, AWE Members gathered at the Lansing Brewing Company for lunch, networking, and a conversation with Michigan Public Service Commission Chairman Sally Talberg. AWE Board Member, Brandy Brown, led the discussion asking Chairman Talberg about her background, her path to the Commission, her development as a public speaker and how she approaches leadership challenges. The discussion captivated the audience and served to highlight the many leadership characteristics that Chairman Talberg exemplifies.



Joint Networking Event

On June 11th, Advancing Women in Energy held a joint networking reception with the Michigan Energy Innovation Business Council and the Association of Blacks in Energy. The networking event, which was held at CLEAResult in Detroit, was well-attended by AWE members. This provided a great opportunity for AWE members to network with others interested in energy issues.

Get involved in AWE!

Want to get more engaged in AWE?

Join a committee to help us succeed! We have opportunities to work on events, membership, and communications.

[Contact us](#) to get involved!

Member Highlight: Andrea Sarmentero Garzon



What follows is an excerpt — Read the [full interview on the AWE website!](#)

Please describe your current role:

Andrea Sarmentero Garzón is a member at the law firm Jennings Strouss. She focuses her practice on energy litigation, regulatory and transactional matters. Ms. Sarmentero works with clients in shaping natural gas and electric regulatory policy in proceedings before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. She also assists clients in developing energy projects in the U.S. and abroad.

How did you get into the energy industry?

After law school, I decided to focus my practice in energy. Going back at least four or five generations, everyone in my family was either an engineer working in the energy industry or a doctor. Now, in the world

of fake news where in some minds 2+2 does not necessarily equal 4, scientists more than ever need legal advocates that understand and are not afraid of science.

What has been the key to your success?

Persistence. Never give up. Never doubt yourself. Seize the opportunities!

What's the best advice you've received?

Listen before you talk. You have to know your audience before you decide how to effectively convey a message.

What inspires you in your work?

My partners and their passion for excelling in the practice of law. When the people that surround you set the bar so high, you have no choice but to become your best self.

What would you tell a young person considering a career in energy?

Energy is at the center of economic development. Just open a newspaper and you will see that most news directly or indirectly involves energy prices, policies, and laws. If you want to be part of something big, pursue a career in energy.

Host an AWE Event!

We're looking for sponsors for networking events in Michigan and beyond! Host at your facility or a local establishment.

[Contact us](#) and we'll help you make it happen!

Save the Date!

* October 24: AWE Annual Meeting. [Annette Verschuren](#), Chair and CEO at NStor, will be the keynote speaker. Sponsorship opportunities are available! [Contact us](#) if you're interested.

* November 15, 5:30pm: Members-only Speed Mentoring hosted by the Lansing Board of Water and Light.

Quote of the Quarter

"Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world." Harriet Tubman