President’s Message

Last month, Feb. 21st – 27th, was Engineer’s Week. The Chapter celebrated Introduce a Girl to Engineering day (International celebrations occurred on Thursday, Feb. 25th) on Friday, February 26th by offering 3 locations in the Richmond area so high school students could meet with engineering professionals from various disciplines and get an inside look at their work and ask questions. Every year DiscoverE, formerly the National Engineer’s Week Foundation, identifies various events and celebrations throughout the country in honor of Engineer’s Week. This year, the organization released the following video for Introduce a Girl to Engineering day: https://youtu.be/eHWcI8NSro0.

The Chapter enjoyed a wonderful luncheon at the Westwood Club on Wednesday, February 10th with City of Richmond Program Manager, Jeannie Welliver as she discussed the Main Street Station renovations and the iconic buildings role as a transportation hub. Members that wish to tour the facility can join the Chapter for a tour on Wednesday, April 13th – visit our events page for more information!

At the beginning of this month, the Chapter celebrated International Women’s Day with a breakfast detailing updates on the Greater DC Area Glass Ceiling task force. The joint initiative between the Baltimore, Washington DC and Central Virginia chapters will end with the release of the baseline study of the glass ceiling report for the transportation industry on Wednesday, May 11th. The release party will be held in Washington DC, with individual Chapter release parties being held at a later date (additional details to come).

This month’s newsletter is full of updates on members, upcoming events and news from WTS International. As this quarter comes to an end, the Chapter will enter into Spring with exciting updates as we continue to celebrate the Chapter’s 10-year anniversary!

Sincerely,
Savannah L. Amor
Savannah L. Amor
WTS Central Virginia Chapter President

“I learned to always take on things I’d never done before. Growth and comfort do not coexist.”

— Ginni Rometty, CEO and Chairwoman of IBM
Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson (JMT) (www.jmt.com) is a 100% employee-owned A/E firm established in 1971, offering a full array of planning, design, and construction phase services for infrastructure projects. Our clients consist of federal, state, and local government agencies throughout the U.S., as well as private, commercial, and industrial companies.

We maintain offices throughout the country, including Richmond, Herndon, and Virginia Beach, Virginia.

JMT is proud of our continued growth, rising to our current #75 rank among the Engineering News-Record (ENR) Top 500 Design Firms and #22 among ENR’s Top Transportation Firms. In addition, ENR named JMT its MidAtlantic Firm of the Year in 2015.

JMT is a strong supporter of WTS, with many employees participating locally and nationally. We are a Gold sponsor of the Central Virginia chapter. The firm has been honored as WTS Employer of the Year by the Baltimore, Philadelphia, and Central Pennsylvania chapters.

Examples of our current projects include:

- Route 60 Widening, Chesterfield County’s first Design-Build project
- Centerville Turnpike Ultimate Improvements, Virginia Beach
- Midtown Tunnel SFM Improvements, Newport News
- Design of Various Types of Transportation Improvement Projects, Fairfax County
- On-call contracts for Traffic Engineering and Environmental Services, City of Colonial Heights
- On-call contracts for Structural, Planning and Transportation Facility Design Services, City of Harrisonburg
- Right of Way Acquisition Services, Loudoun County

We provide complete solutions for the Transportation; Buildings/Facilities; Water/Wastewater and Utilities; Energy; Information Technology; and Federal markets. JMT’s staff is involved in every phase of project development, from planning through construction management.

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**Reading Nook**

Have you been looking for a good book to read? The following books are a collection of recommendations from our members and Board.

- **Originals: How Non-Conformists Move the World** by Adam Grant (2016)
- **Superbosses: How Exceptional Leaders Master the Flow of Talent** by Sydney Finkelstein (2016)
- **The Storyteller’s Secret: From TED Speakers to Business Legends, Why Some Ideas Catch On and Others Don’t** by Carmine Gallo (2016)
In the News

Seven Semifinalist Cities Selected in USDOT’s SmartCity Challenge

Transportation for America March 14, 2016

“...while appearing at the South by Southwest Interactive festival, USDOT Secretary Anthony Foxx announced the selection of seven cities to continue as semifinalists in the first-ever Smart City Challenge — a competition that will eventually award $40 million to just one city to "use technology to connect transportation assets into an interactive network.”

“The cities of Austin, TX; Columbus, OH; Denver, CO; Kansas City, MO; Pittsburgh, PA; Portland, OR; and San Francisco, CA will now receive $100,000 each to put more meat on the bones of their proposals and create a detailed roadmap on how they will make their plans a reality. Come June, one of those cities will be selected to receive the full $40 million grant to implement their winning plan over a three-year period.”

Read more here.

The Scenic Route – Creative Placemaking and Transportation

Transportation for America

Take a visual tour of eight great ideas that answer the question, "How can the distinctiveness of this place and the people in it contribute to the success of this transportation project and the community around it?"

Click here to see eight approaches to creative placemaking.

Another “First” For USAF’s First Female Fighter Pilot

fightersweep.com

“Keeping in lockstep with the Pentagon’s direction to open all positions, including combat roles, to women, Nellis Air Force Base will also break the gender barrier this year in its command leadership.

Base officials confirmed Tuesday that Colonel Jeannie M. Leavitt will join the ranks of the base’s top brass by taking the reins of the 57th Wing, becoming the highest-ranking female officer to command at Nellis.”

Read more about Colonel Leavitt’s appointment here.
In the News, continued

Five Things Women Leaders Should Stop Doing. TODAY.

beleaderly.com by Tara Jaye Frank

In this article, the author describes—based on her experience—several counter-productive behaviors she sees women leaders doing that can get in the way of career success.

1. Stop making yourself small so someone else can feel big.
2. Stop apologizing for having a difference of opinion.
3. Stop assuming you can’t have a family AND a career.
4. Stop compromising your health, for anything...especially work.
5. Stop confusing what you do with who you are.

Get some great tips on how to do these things here.

Huge Study Finds that Companies with More Women Leaders are More Profitable

Quartz February 8, 2016

“Advocates for gender parity like to argue that equality is not just about fairness, but also about better business results.

New data from the Peterson Institute for International Economics and EY bolsters that case. The groups analyzed results from 21,980 global, publicly traded companies, in 91 countries from various industries and sectors and showed that having at least 30% of women in leadership positions, or the “C-suite,” adds 6% to net profit margin.”

Read the full article for more information.

More on Women in STEM and Corporate America...

♦ Honoring Mentors for Women in STEM—an event on Capitol Hill
discovere.org

♦ TEDTalk – Elizabeth Nyamayaro “An invitation to men who want a better world for women”
ted.com

♦ South Carolina State Transportation Secretary, Christy Hall – How she got where she is today
indexjournal.com

♦ Today’s Gender Reality in Statistics, or Making Leadership Attractive to Women
ForbesWomen

♦ Experts: Collaborate to Create Next Generation of Women in STEM
U.S. News & World Report

♦ New Bill Aims to Support Women in STEM Education
educationworld.com

♦ The Main Reason Women Make Less Money Than Men
huffingtonpost.com
Members in Action

Women Who Move the Nation
comto.org

The Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO)—the only multimodal advocacy organization for minority professionals and businesses in the nation’s transportation industry—honored 14 women leaders in transportation with its highest honor, the “Women Who Move the Nation Award,” on Wednesday, March 16, 2016 in Washington, DC.

“For the past five years, through this award, COMTO has honored women leaders who represent the broad cross-section of transportation in both the private and public sectors.”

We’re so proud of the many WTS members on this impressive list, including CTC’s Grindly Johnson. Congratulations to all on an award well-earned!

The Top 10 Women to Watch in Transportation

“Eno has joined forces with WTS to bring you a list of 10 women who are implementing innovative ideas and having a positive impact on transportation outcomes.”

Read more about these 10 women, including local leaders Irene Rico and Jennifer Mitchell, here.

Transportation Club

This past February saw the first Transportation Club Meeting at Powhatan High School. Robyn Hartz, the Chapter Vice President and Transportation YOU Coordinator, talked to the girls about what the various types of fields in Transportation and careers available. The club is an open format allowing for the girls to have a say in the activities and types of speakers that will come in. Ten girls showed up to the February event—they were engaged and asked questions about different types of engineering and their relationship to the transportation field.

Our next club meeting is next Tuesday, April 12th, when we will be designing bicycle ice cream makers.

If you’re interested in coming and helping out, we will meet at Powhatan High School the second Tuesday of each month at 3pm, just email Robyn.hartz@mbakerintl.com.

If you are interested in becoming a mentor for the girls, fill out the form located here and email it back to Robyn.hartz@mbakerintl.com.

Celebrating International Women’s Day with Pancakes

The Central Virginia Chapter celebrated International Women’s Day on March 8th with a pancake breakfast hosted by Kimley-Horn’s Richmond office. Thanks to all who came for a fun and delicious morning!
**Reminder**: 2016 Annual WTS Conference—Registration is OPEN!

*Tune in to the Future of Transportation* May 18th – 20th 2016 in Austin, Texas

Register here: [https://www.wtsinternational.org/networking/annual-conference/](https://www.wtsinternational.org/networking/annual-conference/)

WTS International will host its annual conference in Austin, Texas, May 18 - 20, 2016! Don’t miss this interactive, three-day session where transportation leaders will exchange ideas and learn about the latest developments in transportation. This annual networking event of the year attracts more than 600 corporate and governmental industry leaders worldwide. During this year's conference, a multitude of thoughtful and engaging topics will be covered, including autonomous technologies, transportation funding, shared mobility solutions, innovative data collection methods, professional development, and more!

**New for 2016:**
- More breakout sessions!
- More technical tours!
- Two professional development workshops!
- Extended poster gallery!
- More networking time!
- Inaugural WTS Honorable Ray LaHood Award!

**Main Street Station Tour Details:**
Wednesday, April 13th, 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

**Main Street Station, Downstairs Lobby, Office of Economic and Community Development**
1500 E. Main Street, Richmond

Parking and a snack is included in your registration. If you have any concerns, please email centralva@wtsinternational.org

**2016 Keynote Speakers**

Lilly Ledbetter & Jacy Good
► April 11-15:
Work Zone Awareness Week

VDOT’s Annual Work Zone Awareness Vigil – Wednesday, April 13th at 6:30 PM at the VDOT Workers’ Memorial on Afton Mountain. You can stay safe by:
 Slowing down
 Not tailgating
 Avoiding distractions – texting or talking on the phone while driving

For more information visit - [http://www.virginiadot.org/programs/prog-wzsa-default.asp](http://www.virginiadot.org/programs/prog-wzsa-default.asp)

► April 27:
Lunch Break Science at the Science Museum of Virginia
*Wednesday, April 27th from Noon to 1:00PM (free admission)*

Virginia: A Future of Drought?
presented by Richard S. Groover, Fellow at the Virginia Academy of Science and member of the Governor’s Climate Change and Resiliency Update Commission.

► June 17:
SAVE THE DATE!
Claudius Crozet Blue Ridge Tunnel Tour

Join the Central Virginia Chapter as we tour the Claudius Crozet Blue Ridge Tunnel Tour with Allen Hale – Nelson County Board of Supervisor and Blue Ridge Tunnel Foundation member. The tunnel, originally a railroad tunnel, carried its first train in April 1858. The tunnel remained in use for 86 years and then was abandoned in 1944. Following the completion of tunnel renovations, the tunnel will serve as a hiking and heritage trail to the public.

To learn more about the tunnel and current progress on renovations, visit the foundation’s website - [http://blueridgetunnel.org/](http://blueridgetunnel.org/).

Additional information regarding tour travel accommodations to come!

► WEBINAR SERIES:
Women’s Emerging Leader Series

WTS Central Virginia Chapter offers regular "webinars" which are viewed as a group at VDOT Central Office. *The 2016 schedule can be viewed here.* Cost is FREE for ALL VDOT employees, WTS Members, and employees of WTS Central Virginia Sponsors. Cost for Non-members is $5. Registration is open until 5pm the day before the webinar. Non-VDOT employees will be required to check in with the security guard in the Annex Building first. Parking meters may be available on 14th street; if parking at VDOT is desired, please e-mail centralva@wtsinternational.org at least 5 business days prior to the event.