Letter from the President

Dear Friends: The national conference in Portland couldn’t have been better! Did I say that the previous year about Philadelphia? I say that a national conference has a way of charging or recharging your batteries -- and that is the way I feel.

The conference is a multi-faceted experience. As president it affords me several opportunities to share with our National Board information about the Chapter’s achievements and new developments. On the other hand, it offers me a listening and learning experience about how other chapters are doing and the opportunity to benefit from their successes.

Correspondingly, the National Board has the opportunity to present the chapter presidents with their accomplishments for the year, especially the ones that impact on the local chapters. Among its accomplishments, National announced the formation of an Advisory Board with many outstanding members, some of whom are well known to us locally, such as Ann Hershfang, past president of National and mentor to the Connecticut Chapter.

WTS is now on the Internet for those techies among us. Read all about it in the upcoming national newsletter.

Further, since this is a national election year, WTS National will be focusing on getting outstanding women nominated to prominent positions in the next administration.

Beyond the sharing with the National Board and Chapter Presidents, there are the stimulating sessions on a wide variety of transportation and professional development topics. With so many to choose from it is an ongoing decision process throughout the three day meeting. Having worked at least a little on Connecticut’s Employee Commute Options (ECO) program, it was great to attend a workshop with speakers from Arizona, California, and Oregon tracking the latest developments in those states.

Oddly enough perhaps the most interesting session I attended was one describing a new type of highway -- “a private toll road”-- where else but in California. In the fast paced session the advantages and benefits were discussed along with the marketing strategies.

In addition to all of these activities, there were outstanding meetings and speakers at our lunches and dinners. Perhaps for me the best part is the gala banquet at which the two National WTS Scholarships (one graduate and one undergraduate) were awarded. These candidates are selected from a field of bright and talented young women majoring in transportation. It was especially exciting knowing that this year the Connecticut Valley Chapter had contributed both financially as well as entering our first applicant.

Oh, and I’ve neglected to mention that during all of this, there were a number of tours showcasing many aspects of the transportation industry that are unique to Portland.

Truly, it was a great conference. Next year’s conference site will be Baltimore, Maryland. In the words of that famous person, Anonymous, “You won’t want to miss this one”!

Sincerely, Connie Dice
Fifth Annual Meeting

The WTS Connecticut Valley Annual Meeting was held at the Rocky Hill Marriott on April 26, 1996. Following the luncheon and business portion of the meeting, Anne Marie McDonnell, Program Committee Co-Chair, introduced our guest speaker Deborah Kent, the Consumer Reporter for Channel 3 Eyewitness News.

Ms. Kent focused on “Issues and Challenges Facing Women Today”. Ms Kent explained how changes, although unsettling at times, should be looked upon as opportunities. Regardless of what stage a person is in his or her career, there are always many doors open. Ms. Kent stressed the need to consider all opportunities when determining which path to follow.

In reviewing her goals and career path, Mr. Kent encouraged the audience to sit down and plan their own paths. She also discussed the need for clear goals, as well as the ability to be flexible in both your plans and your goals. Ms. Kent used several current events to illustrate how our paths can be influenced by change.

Ms. Kent gave a very positive message to the audience about the availability of opportunities, and the ability each of us has to control our own lives.

New Board Members gathered together for an annual photo following the annual luncheon.

Back row (left to right) Roxane Franson; Scholarship Committee Co-Chair, Ann-Marie McDonnell; Program Committee Co-Chair, Colleen Kissane; Job Bank Committee Co-Chair, Leslie Haines; Job Bank Committee Co-Chair, Donna Carter; Program Committee Co-Chair, Sheila Suppicich; Membership Committee Co-Chair, Bea Isaacs; Scholarship Committee Co-Chair, . . . Front row (left to right) Susan Reynolds; Vice President, Connie Dice; President, Brooke Hoberman; Treasurer, and Maureen Shea; Secretary.
WTS Welcomes
Donald West

Above photo (L-R)
Deputy Commissioner
Harry Harrison, Donald
West

A welcome reception
was held for Donald
West, the Division
Administrator for the
Federal Highway
Administration, on
Tuesday June 25,
1996 in the Atrium of
ConnDOT Headquarters. Mr. West
joins the Connecticut division of
the FHWA following his FHWA
post in Vermont.

Following an introduction by
Deputy Commissioner Harry
Harris, Mr. West spoke on the
following topics:

1. The proposed reorganization
   of the US Department of
   Transportation.

2. The re-authorization now
   underway in Congress on
   ISTEA (Intermodal Surface
   Transportation Efficiency
   Act).

WTS Awards
Awards were presented at the
atrium of the ConnDOT
headquarters in Newington, in
conjunction with the welcome
reception for Mr. West.

Member of the Year: Nancy
Hayden
Employer of the Year:
Cronin and Company, Inc.

Advocate of the Year: Arthur
Handman; Executive Director,
Greater Hartford Transit
District.

(see photo below)

Approximately 60 members and
guests enjoyed the opportunity to
meet Mr. West. In addition award
recipients were presented mingling
with WTS members during the
social before the program.

Everyone enjoyed the outstanding
buffet provided by Ginger and
Pickles catering (owned and
operated by WTS Members -
Nancy Hayden and Maria
McEvoy).

Many thanks go to Christina Olsen,
Roxane Fromson, and Colleen
Kissane for organizing such a
successful event!

National News

Are you feeling old? Well, at least
old in terms of WTS? Recall that
our chapter celebrated our fifth
anniversary this year at our annual
luncheon. Well, National is
preparing to celebrate it's 20th
anniversary at the upcoming
conference in Baltimore next
spring.

Each chapter has been invited to
participate by nominating one
historian. What will be this
person's mission? To supply
National with photos, information,
anecdotes, anything about our
chapter's history that will
contribute to the overall body of
the memorabilia about our
organization's progress.

If you would like to be our
historian, please contact
Connie Dice at the Rideshare
Company at (860) 298-7000
ext. 102.

In addition, in celebration of
National's 20 years they are
creating a National Quilt. The
quilt will contain a block from each
chapter. Ms. Dice indicated that
she has material cut to the
appropriate size for the square to be
prepared by the Connecticut Valley
Chapter. Connie is asking all
members to assist in the following
two items:

1. An idea for quilt block.
2. A volunteer to sew together
   the block to the selected
   pattern.

Please use your imagination to see
what we can come up with, contact
Connie Dice at The Rideshare
Company at (860) 298-7000,
extension 102.
Note from the editors
Hello we are Kathleen Boyle and Lori Long the WTS newsletter editors of Parsons Brinckerhoff Construction Services. This is all new for us so we are hoping that you will give us some feedback. Your comments are welcome. Enjoy the remainder of the Summer and look for the next newsletter scheduled for December 1996.

JOB BANK
Attention WTS Members! Take advantage of our new HOTLINE telephone number! Thanks to the Rideshare Company, WTS has a hotline for information on exciting new jobs available in the industry. Just call:

(860) 298-7000, ext. 148

The hotline will be updated regularly, so call often. For more details on the specific job announcements, call Job Bank Co-Chairs: Leslie Haines at (860) 282-4400 or Colleen Kissane at (860) 594-3255.

Please remember that this is for WTS members only. Your discretion is appreciated.

WTS Scholarship Fund
The WTS Connecticut Valley Chapter is in the early stages of starting a scholarship fund. The scholarship will be available to a female college student interested in pursuing a career in the transportation industry.

WTS Connecticut is currently seeking individuals and corporations who would be interested in sponsoring the scholarship.

For further information on this program please contact Bea Isaacs, Scholarship Committee Co-Chair at (860) 768-4845.
WTS Connecticut Chapter Calendar

The Chapter has scheduled the following events:

September 1996, Say good-bye to summer and hello to WTS friends at the same time!! A fun social gathering for WTS members is being planned by the Special Events Committee to be held at America’s Cup in Middletown, CT. You will be receiving your invitations soon - watch the mail!

October 4, 1996, ConnDOT’s “Imaging Applications for Transportation”, at the Connecticut Department of Transportation Division of Research, Rocky Hill, CT. Directions and time to follow.

October 4, 1996, A New England regional workshop for municipal officials, citizen activists, and transportation professionals “Building Livable Communities Through Transportation”. The workshop will be held in Boston. The conference, sponsored by Conservation Law Foundation in conjunction with US DOT, the City of Cambridge, Woman’s Transportation Seminar, and others will focus on the role of transportation in revitalizing neighborhoods and commercial centers, improving mobility within communities, and contributing to overall livability. The workshop will include case studies from New England and beyond and will help arrange future communication and cooperation among participants.

November 1996, An event on Outstanding Women In and Around Connecticut, including a guest speaker from WTS National.

December 1996, Holiday Social.


March 1997, Conflict Resolution.

April 1997, Annual Meeting.


Please pencil in the above events on your social calendars and check your mail for more details.