A Letter from the PRESIDENT

Dear Members:

We’re off and running!! Over the past few months, I have been very encouraged by the increased participation at WTS functions, both by WTS members, and by other transportation officials. We are expending a lot of effort to ensure the quality of our programs is commensurate with the type of professional organization WTS is. We are off to a strong start, but...

We Need Your Help!! The Executive Board and a small handful of members have been developing all the programs, disseminating all information, and generally taking care of the business of the Chapter.

Let’s face it, all working women (and men) are busy. We all have responsibilities, to our employers, our colleagues, and most importantly, to ourselves and our families. We want to have it all, and have to work for every bit of it.

I always lived by the adage, “if I need something done, I’ll do it myself”. Well, it’s time you and I realize, we can get more out of life by lending each other a hand.

WTS is about helping us help ourselves. If you want to learn about transportation planning tools used in Texas, contact WTS Heart of Texas Chapter. They’ll be glad to help you find the information you need, or help you get in touch with someone specializing in your area of interest.

If your company is considering implementing a formal mentoring program, and are looking for a model or feedback on the success of other programs, you can contact Joanne Durham at TEC, or dial in to the WTS National Web Site, to learn other chapters who have conducted programs on mentoring, and who their contacts were. If your firm is trying to expand its business and are trying to get a foothold in another state, check your WTS National Membership Directory - there are thousands of men and women listed - and you can be sure one of them can help (at the very least). If you have particular interest in discussing women’s issues, and obstacles others have had to overcome in their professional careers, WTS is a great source of information.

Additionally, WTS CT Valley is always looking for program ideas, newsletter ideas and speakers. We would be glad to develop a program structured to meet your needs and interests.

Our current problem (and it is our problem), is that we need more hands, minds, and energy. We are in need of committee members (and Chairpersons) for Program Committee, Membership Committee, and Newsletter Committee. We would also like to get a Scholarship Committee off the ground, and to make an effort to increase Student Membership.

I’m never able to find time to do anything. I have to make the time for what I think is important. WTS is important to my personal and professional growth. I have also made several new business contacts, and new dear friends. The benefits to my involvement with WTS have become greater and greater, the more involved I have become. I encourage you all to maximize your benefits. Get involved!!

I look forward to seeing you all at the Annual Luncheon in April.

Kathleen Boyle
President

The 7th Annual Luncheon

Wednesday, April 15, 1998

Indian Hill Country Club
Newington, CT

The Chapter looks forward to listening to our esteemed speaker, Mr. Richard Cary-Brown, P.E. He is the Vice President, Office Manager and Highway Sector Director for DeLeuw, Cather and Company. The topic is The Current Trend in Transportation Projects - Design Build-
January 1998

Alternate Fuel Vehicles

WTS started the new year off right with the first ever Quarterly Membership meeting followed by a presentation on Alternate Fuel Vehicles and a buffet dinner catered by Ginger & Pickles. The program was held January 21, 1998 from 4 - 7 p.m. at CDOT Headquarters in Newington. Our guest speakers were Dave Fabricatore of the Rideshare Company and Jim Sime of the CDOT Division of Research. Last year these two men teamed up to drive a Solectria/ Horizon electric production vehicle in the American Tour-de-Sol road rally. The Tour-de-Sol is a five day event where Alternate Fuel Vehicles, such as electric, solar-electric and hybrid-electric, compete in several categories. In 1997 the road rally consisted of a journey which started in Waterbury, CT, ran north to White River Junction, VT, east through the White Mountains of New Hampshire and finished, the approximately, 500 mile trek in Portland, ME. The two gentlemen provided a very interesting presentation that utilized several types of media, including Power Point to relay their experiences. It was interesting to learn that the CDOT/Rideshare team was successful and even won several categories of the competition. Some of the victories included: Best Lead Acid Battery Sedan - Production Category, Best Range for a Lead Acid Battery Vehicle and Daily Efficiency Award - Most Efficient Production Vehicle.

It was especially nice to see many new faces, including those of non members, at this presentation. This program provided great insight into the future of motor vehicle transportation. We are sure to see more information on this topic in the future.

February 1998

AMTRAK HIGH-SPEED RAIL UPDATE

January's program was a tough act to follow but February's speaker did a great job. This month we changed our focus to the future of passenger railroading in America. On Wednesday, February 25, 1998 at the Riviera Castle in New Haven approximately 25 people gathered to get an overview of Amtrak's High Speed Rail project from Chris Riley, Manager of Community Relations. After an introduction to the project Mr. Riley showed a short video overview and then answered the numerous informational and technical questions asked by the railroad and non-railroad professionals who attended.

March 1998

WTS CT VALLEY HOLDS INCIDENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

WTS conducted a program on highway Incident Management on March 11, 1998, at the CDOT Headquarters in Newington. Following a buffet dinner catered by Silver Tray Deli in Newington, Mr. David Curran of MetroPool presented a video which highlighted CDOT/MetroPool efforts with Incident Management. Mr. Curran explained that in his position with MetroPool, he works closely with CDOT to notify the public of any highway/roadway closures, construction or obstructions. He also provided program attendees with brochures and other IMS literature, and copies of the IMS video, which he kindly donated on MetroPool's behalf, for those who wanted to share the information with their colleagues, family, and friends.

Mr. Curran then introduced William Stoeckert, Director of Highway Operations for CDOT. Mr. Stoeckert explained the many successes of the I.M.S. project and future anticipated technologies which will enhance the current system. Some of the issues that he discussed were as follows:

- The I.M.S. System covers highways between Greenwich and Branford and in the Hartford area.
- 216 speed detectors to detect unusual slowdowns.
- 91 video cameras and 33 video monitors.
- Fiber Optic cables provide high-speed, high-capacity information transmission.
• Computerized operations.
• 40 variable message signs.
• Video feed capability to media.
• Highway Advisory Radio.
• Signs and flashing beacons to alert motorists of critical roadway information.

In addition Mr. Stoeckert explained that the I.M.S. project is being developed under a $10.3 million dollar federal grant. Connecticut is one of seven (7) states selected by the Federal Highway Administration to demonstrate the feasibility of the technology. Finally, Mr. Stoeckert explained that the DOT is working closely with various agencies, such as the State Police and the I-95 Corridor Coalition, to make this project linking traveler information between Maine and Virginia a success. Mr. Stoeckert demonstrated his excitement when he discussed the partnership of the various agencies working together to make the Incident Management System Project the great success that it is. He is very excited about the new technology the future will bring and was happy to share this information and to show the “behind the scenes” work of this terrific operation to WTS and others.

Mr. James Mona, also of CDOT, brought the group down to the I.M.S. center to show them what Mr. Stoeckert had discussed. The I.M.S. Center was both interesting and very exciting. A gentleman who was running the controls kept everyone busy watching and listening as he did his job, showing the group visual displays of how the state roadways were monitored. Mr. Mona indicated that the roadways are monitored 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. He explained the technology of the cameras and the various ways of monitoring our highways. He further enlightened the group by listing the many ways this system has assisted in easing traffic on roadways throughout the state. Some of the components of the system Mr. Mona discussed follow:

• Traffic signals are a large part of the monitoring process. The signals can be adjusted right from the I.M.S. monitoring room.
• Message board changes can be made within minutes of a prospective traffic problem.
• Radar sensors that detect speeds on the roadways alert the I.M.S. monitoring staff of prospective traffic problems.
• Working closely with various agencies, including State Police and emergency response personnel, to make the highways as safe as possible.

Mr. Mona concluded this portion of the program with a walking tour of the large conference room (available to media personnel during crisis times), offices and the weather station of the I.M.S. center. He answered many very interesting questions from a group that was now much more knowledgeable about the monitoring of State highways and roadways. The program was ended with this thought “Smile, you may be on video camera”.

I would like to thank all our speakers who helped to make this program such a great success.

Lori Long
Vice President

WTS Newsletter

Member Profiles

In our continuing effort to get to know our members better, we would like to develop a book of member profiles.

Over the next few months, we would like to compile a booklet of member profiles, for distribution to WTS Connecticut Valley Chapter members only. Each member will be asked to provide a personal profile, including: name, title, employer, telephone number (home / work), fax number, address (work and/or home), E-Mail address (if applicable), General information about how you and / or your company are involved in transportation, hobbies or outside interests, and other organizations with which you are involved.

Participation in the Member Profile booklet is strictly voluntary, but we strongly encourage your participation. Not only will it help you get to know a little more about our membership, it will provide you with contacts within the transportation industry.

It is very helpful to have a point of contact when you are trying to either get your foot in the door, or when trying to research a particular topic. And for those who are little more timid when meeting new people, knowing a little about other members might ease the strain.

Please send your information to Kimberly Clarke at Rizzo Associates, 150 Trumbull Street, Hartford, CT 06103
Upcoming Events Include:

**Wednesday, April 15, 1998**
Annual Luncheon/Quarterly Membership Meeting/ Presentation of Annual Awards for 1997
*Guest Speaker: Mr. Richard Cary-Brown, P.E. DeLeuw-Cather &Co.*
*Topic: Design/Build*

**May 20 - 22, 1998**
*(Pack Your Bags)*

"Looking Beyond Our Borders"
Annual WTS National Conference
San Diego, California

**Wednesday, June 17, 1998**
Part 2 of the February program.
Tentatively scheduled speakers are Mr. David Jacobs, Metro-North and Mr. David Chase, CDOT.
*Topic: Current New Haven Line projects with an emphasis on those which will benefit High Speed Rail."

**Wednesday, July 22, 1998**
Location and topic to be determined.

**Wednesday, August 5, 1998**
Annual Boat Cruise along the Connecticut River

**Friday, August 21, 1998**
Location and topic to be determined.

**September 1998**
Professional Development Retreat, possibly in conjunction with other professional women’s organizations
*Location and topic to be determined.*

**Thursday, October 22, 1998**
Quarterly Membership Meeting
*BusinessesOwned/Operated by Women*
*Location and topic to be determined.*

**Thursday, December 10, 1998**
Annual Holiday Social

NOTE: The above dates and topics are subject to change, pending formation of the new program committee. Other program topics being considered are a networking workshop, a discussion on closing the gap on equal pay for men and women and a presentation from the modern day Amelia Earhardt, Linda Finch. She recently flew around the world in honor of Earhardt and what she tried to accomplish.

HELP WANTED

**WTS Job Bank / Information Hotline**

(860) 298-7000 ext. 148

To submit a job posting please contact Colleen Kissane (860) 594-3255. Also remember the Hotline is a service provided only to CT Valley chapter members.

THANKS!!
Multiply Your Options

On Thursday March 12, 1998, a workshop entitled, "Multiply Your Options" was held at the University of CT in Storrs. This is an annual, one day conference emphasizing mathematics, science, engineering and technology related careers for middle school, 8th grade, girls. This forum allows the girls to interact with female role models who have chosen careers in these fields.

Hands-on workshops are provided in the morning. These involve activities that acquaint students with applications of math and science in the real world. For example, students were shown how to build flashlights. Mechanical engineers from Northeast Utilities showed the students the flow of electricity in a simple electric circuit by constructing a flashlight from styrofoam, cardboard and aluminum foil.

In the afternoon, panel sessions were held that required the students "guess" what the female panelist does. The panelists were asked to bring five objects from work that gave clues to what they do for a living. The students examined each clue, then tried to guess the profession. The panelist concluded by giving a brief explanation of the clues and how they relate to her job.

Lunch was provided for all participants, and this year, Patricia Ireland from the National Organization for Women was the luncheon speaker.

Colleen Kissane participated as a panelist this year. Based on her clues (a bag of stone, tractor trailer truck, jar of water, calculator and a floppy disk), a few students thought she was a truck driver who transported stone around the state! No one guessed she was a pavement designer for DOT! The students were fascinated by her line of work and asked many interesting questions. She encourages everyone to consider volunteering for this program next year. It is held in mid-March and more information can be obtained by contacting Teresa E. Boyd, Director, Engineering Diversity Program, (860) 486-5536.

F.Y.I.
The By Laws for the CT Valley Chapter are currently being revised. Copies of the revised By Laws will be distributed at the Annual Luncheon, on April 15. This is being done to afford the membership the opportunity to review the By Laws before participating in the required vote for their acceptance or rejection. It is anticipated that you will receive your ballot in early May. For more information or a copy of the revised By Laws (if you are unable to attend the luncheon) call Christina Olson at (860) 247-5329 ext 3004.

WTS National Web Page

On line news from WTS National and about other WTS chapters across the country, can be accessed via the worldwide web at:

http://www.wtsnational.org

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Any ideas or comments on the Newsletter or maybe you would like to contribute an article or even join the staff? Just call Maureen Shea at (860) 594-2911.