WTS 9TH ANNUAL LUNCHEON

The WTS 9th Annual Luncheon was a great success. The Presentation on The Q-Bridge Design Phase and Surrounding Area Improvements was very interesting and informative. Guest speakers were Christopher Gallucci, Supervising Engineer with the Connecticut Department of Transportation and Anthony Moretti of Parsons Brinckerhoff Quade and Douglas. Parsons Brinckerhoff are the Program Managers for the Projects Design.

The Interstate I-95 Pearl Harbor Memorial Bridge better known as the Q-Bridge, current expressway over the New Haven Harbor, or Quinnipiac River, was originally designed and constructed as part of the Connecticut turnpike in the late 1950’s. The Q-Bridge was one of the nations first high speed expressway harbor crossings and the existing design falls short of current highway standards, therefore its redesign is paramount.

The original environmental impact report for this project was done in 1987. In an effort to address the publics concern, The Connecticut Department of Transportation decided to initiate a proactive public involvement process. The Intermodal Concept Development Committee (ICDC) was formed, composed of 26 public, private, and neighborhood groups, along with affected municipalities, and reviewing Federal and State agencies with an interest in the New Haven Harbor Crossing. The result of their work were seven (7) alternatives and one Do Nothing Alternative.

The alternatives were scrutinized and impacts were compared. Some of these impacts were Traffic and Transportation, farmlands, historic resources, archaeological resources, air quality, noise, wildlife, wetlands, construction impacts and engineering considerations, cost and several other major issues. Of the alternatives No. 5 was selected which is a new ten lane bridge, using as much of the existing Q-Bridge footprint as possible.

The speakers began their presentation explaining the I-95 New Haven Harbor Crossing Corridor Improvement Program. The I-95 Project is slated to begin this year and continue through May of 2012. This five Contract (Phase) Project is expected to cost between 650 and 700 million dollars. Details of the project were discussed. This included Program Organization, Traffic Management and Project Schedule. In addition to the Q-Bridge Project, the speakers talked about the New Haven Long Wharf area improvements, including a two year study, currently in process, along I-95 to improve access to the New Haven area. There are three alternatives, which are being reviewed for this work. There is also a Church Street extension study being made to bring people to and from the harbor railroad. This project could consist of a 2,500 foot bridge and roadway re-construction. Once concluded these studies could be used to design these area improvements.

WTS Annual Awards were presented as follows:

CHAPTER PRESENTS ANNUAL AWARDS

Lori Long (Frederic R. Harris, Inc.) was named 1999 WTS Member of the Year.

Lori has shown extraordinary commitment to the goals and growth of WTS, promoted the reputation of WTS within the Transportation Industry and worked to strengthen communication between local, national and other chapters. In addition, she has done an outstanding job of revitalizing and expanding the chapter and its activities.

Over the years, Lori has been a strong proponent of WTS through networking, committee involvement, and outreach efforts.

She organizes programs, continually encourages member and non-member individuals and organizations to be involved and attend programs, she has acted as a liaison to other professional organizations, she has been successful in soliciting corporate donations, she has written, edited and distributed the Newsletter and has held several board positions.

Lori wholeheartedly volunteers a tremendous amount of personal time, while pursuing her full time career, raising a young son and volunteering for many of his school and extracurricular activities and exemplifies what WTS stands for.
Frederic R. Harris, Inc. was named 1999 WTS Employer of the Year

Frederic R. Harris, Inc. (FRH) is a top Transportation and Infrastructure firm, with offices nationally and inter-nationally who strives to provide superior services in the engineering field. They offer a working environment that is challenging, fulfilling and fosters creativity, and each employee is treated with respect and dignity.

FRH has a diverse workforce encouraging minorities and women to join and remain with the team. Staffing turnover is extremely low, which is in large, the result of high morale coupled with personal job satisfaction. The firm offers an outstanding benefits program and encourages higher education including an education assistance program. Employee recognition is achieved through the firm’s Service Award Program, which acknowledges the employee’s dedication and length of service. In addition, the firm has an extensive Quality Assurance Plan for Administrative Procedures and Considerations. The plan outlines the responsibilities for all personnel from the Project Manager level to the Project Inspectors.

FRH is a long time supporter of WTS on both the National and the Local levels. They have recently participated in the 1999 National Conference held in Chicago. In additional, they continue to be represented in large numbers at many of the WTS Connecticut Valley Chapter’s yearly programs. WTS is proud to present Frederic R. Harris, Inc as the 1999 WTS Connecticut Valley Chapter Employer of the Year.

Michael McCarthy (Frederic R. Harris, Inc.) was named 1999 WTS Advocate of the Year

Michael McCarthy has been selected as an Advocate of WTS. This is one way for WTS to express to an individual that the organization and its members appreciate their services.

Mike has been employed with Frederic R. Harris, Inc. for 14 years where he has demonstrated real devotion and commitment. Throughout these years he has remained a strong supporter of WTS and encourages others to support the association as well. Through his support he has generated awareness and has assisted the Connecticut Valley Chapter in many ways. He shows enthusiasm for the association by attending many programs and encouraging others to do the same.

Congratulations to all the annual award winners!

At the conclusion of the annual luncheon, a raffle was drawn where two attendees were offered seats to the next WTS Scheduled Program, Tour the Central Artery (June 24, 2000), Sponsored by Rizzo Associates. Winners of these raffles were Cheryl Wallace of the DOT Training Division and Jean Stimolo, Executive Director of Rideworks of Greater New Haven. Congratulations to the raffle winners and enjoy the trip.

WTS Newsletter
WTS Electronic Network for the CT Valley Chapter

WTS has been utilizing the E-Mail communications system and have found it to be an extremely successful tool. We hope that our members are also finding it both informative and useful. If you have changed or added an e-mail address or have any comments concerning this form of communication, please notify our WTS e-mail coordination Margaret O’Malley at 860-542-0111 or e-mail her at: (momalley@normandeau.com)

MEMBER INFORMATION

WTS Connecticut Valley Chapter Treasurer, Colleen A. Kissane was recently promoted to a managerial position in the DOT. Her new title is "District Transportation Supervising Maintenance Planner." The state is broken into four (4) districts. She will be working out of the District 1 Office, located in Rocky Hill. District 1 encompasses the greater Hartford area, and points north. This change will be effective on June 1, 2000.

Her responsibilities will be as follows: evaluate all state highways in the District to serve as a basis for selections on resurfacing/reconstruction programs and other maintenance-related needs, i.e. drainage improvements, guide rail upgrades, etc. Provide technical support; prepare estimates, plans and designs for various types of state projects. Review contract project plans and assists in semi-final inspections for all projects. Administer the funding of all state and federally funded projects undertaken by state maintenance forces within the District.

Congratulations Colleen!!
**Recent Program**

Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW)
“Women in Trades and Nontraditional Occupations Conference”

The Permanent Commission on the Status of Women held their 11th Annual Women in the Trades and Nontraditional Occupations Conference on April 8, 2000 at the Ramada Plaza Hotel in Meriden, CT. The conference featured a Career Fair, Vendor/Exhibit Area, Concurrent Breakout Sessions and an Apprenticeship “Open House”. The well attended conference promoted extensive networking resources and offered information on tools to utilize in the business field. Experts spoke on sexual harassment, education and resumes.

Lori Long attended the conference to promote WTS. She set up a booth in the exhibit area and passed out literature on the organization. It was a great place to meet and greet new and upcoming work force members in the industry. She would like to thank PCSW for allowing WTS for use of the exhibit area space.

Lori Long
Frederic R. Harris, Inc.

**Upcoming Agenda**

Mark your calendars with the upcoming program dates. Hope to see you all soon. If you need more details regarding these programs please don’t hesitate to call any of the board or the person listed as running the program.

**WTS National Conference**

May 17, 18 and 19, 2000, WTS National Conference will be held in NYC this year. If you have not received your package from WTS National please contact Janna Nuzum, WTS National at (617) 367-3273 or E-mail her at WTS@engineers.org. See you in the City.

June 24 2000, Bus trip to Boston, update on the Central Artery “Big Dig” Project sponsored by Rizzo Associates, enjoy free time in the city. Find this information enclosed with this Newsletter.

August 4, 2000, Annual River Cruise along the Connecticut River. Boat leaves promptly at 5:30 P.M. and will return at 7 P.M., cocktails and dinner will be served. The boat will leave from the new State Street Pier at Riverfront Landing. You should be receiving a flyer for registration toward the end of June. Call Margaret O’Malley at (860) 542-0111 for more information.

December 2000, Annual Holiday Social, donations made to a local charity. If you would like to see WTS Connecticut Valley Chapter support a specific charity, we would like to know. Please contact Margaret O’Malley at 860-542-0111 or E-Mail her at (momalley@normandeau.com) with your suggestions.

Please send comments or articles to Lori Long at llong@frharris.com. All comments and articles are welcome!