LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear members and friends,

In my first letter as president, I would like to thank Kathleen Boyle, the immediate past president for her hard work and dedication during her time term as president of this organization. She was a true leader and a great example to follow. I also would like to thank Lori Long, our past and current Vice-President for her extraordinary efforts during the transition of the new board as well as her commitment to remain in this position. Thanks to them both!

WTS Connecticut Valley Chapter continues to grow. Welcome to our new members. It is our hope that the year 2000 will see continued growth and commitment in the organization. As your president I would like to encourage you to invite colleagues in related transportation fields to attend a WTS function to see what we're all about. We have a very exciting program agenda planned for this year. The Chapter has worked hard to find interesting and informative topics. The last two years have seen large numbers attend these programs and we would like to continue to see the numbers grow. We are a strong organization with a wide array of members from multi modes of transportation. I think you will find the programs exciting and beneficial. I look forward to seeing new faces and meeting you.

Finally, please feel free to call me or any of the Executive Board if you have any questions or suggestions with regard to the organization.

Thanks for your continued support.

Katie Breen
First Town Downtown

WTS BOARD 2000

WTS – In the past newsletter I wrote to you requesting a volunteer to fill my position as Vice President. I have since decided to remain in this position on the board and complete this two year term. A key factor in coming to this determination has been the outpouring of help during these first few months of 2000. Working together the board, a few chair persons and loyal members have planned this years programs, compiled and prepared two newsletters and begun a data base of members, non-members and dignitaries. I want to thank everyone who has worked with me and I look forward to continued success throughout this and the upcoming year.

Now that I am officially on board I agree to serve you again with as much enthusiasm and commitment as I have in the past. My only request is that you also commit yourselves to the same cause as I have. Attend a few programs and join us in supporting women and men in the transportation industry. We need each member if we are to succeed and reach the goals we have set.

Have a splendid Spring. See you on April 18th.

Lori Long
Frederic R. Harris, Inc.

LETTER FROM THE (PAST) PRESIDENT

Greetings from the Auto Capital of the World!!

As many of you know, my company (Parsons Brinckerhoff) has transferred me to Warren, Michigan. I am working at the General Motors Tech Center on a multi-billion dollar program to upgrade GM's facilities here in Warren, which currently house approximately 18,000 GM employees. It is a very exciting opportunity for me to work on such a large program, and provides me with many new challenges.

In answer to a popular question from Connecticut, no, Michigan does not have more snow and is not significantly colder than Connecticut (at least in the area in which I live and work).

While I am no longer directly affiliated with the CT Valley Chapter of WTS, my participation in WTS has had a very positive effect on me, both personally and professionally, and I plan to continue my long-term involvement with WTS. Currently I am working on starting a satellite chapter of WTS in the Warren area as an offshoot to the WTS Michigan Chapter which resides in Lansing.

I wish you all the best and encourage you all to seize the opportunities that WTS has to offer you. You'll be amazed at the difference it can make!

Sincerely yours,

Kathleen Boyle
Parsons Brinckerhoff Construction Services
TWO AGENCIES WITH ONE PURPOSE INCIDENT MANAGEMENT

I can still remember how difficult it was to get real-time traffic updates to efficiently operate our Traffic Operations Center in Long Island, NY. Back in the early 80's as a traffic operator, we would listen to police, fire and even CB scanners to get real time information outside the system areas. Listening to all those scanners was not an easy task. The Message Signs (VMS) messages were only correct if we received the information needed in a timely manner. This was never an easy task. As we rolled into the 90’s, more cameras and more detectors. Still not 100% efficient. Why?

In 1994 I was assigned by Smart Route Systems/Parsons Brinckerhoff to start up a new (first of its kind in the country) Traffic Operations Center located in Bridgeport, Connecticut. The system consists of 91 cameras and 216 radar detectors. This Center was co-located with the State Police (911). I wondered what could be better than that. Well, now in 1999 I can tell you that there is nothing better than this for Traffic Incident Management. As a manager I realize this is the best and only way for both agencies to manage any and all type of incidents from two different perspectives.

Today a traffic operator working side-by-side with State Police (911) will be aware of any problems detected by existing traffic systems or cameras. State Police and the Department of Transportation (DOT) personnel working side-by-side give a true meaning to the “quick clearance policy” in place in Connecticut. The rapid response by both agencies leads to a quicker clearing of the incident and a reduction of delays caused by the incident. As an incident happens, both agencies are monitoring the same incident from any one of the 91 traffic cameras controlled by the DOT. State Police can determine and dispatch what is needed at the scene. In the past State Police would have to wait until a trooper arrived at the scene before dispatching any resources. The traffic operator can also determine what information needs to be provided to the motorists by utilizing the VMS and Highway Advisory Radio (HAR). In addition, the traffic operator can provide DOT assistance for cleanup, detours, etc. in a matter of minutes. No phone calls are needed and there is no misinformation between the agencies. A traffic operator can also communicate one-on-one with the duty sergeant of the State Police handling the incident. This one-on-one gives the traffic operator a better idea of what is involved and how long it will take to clear the incident. At this time both agencies can decide together if a detour will be needed or what is the best way to manage the traffic from the incident. DOT can provide equipment and manpower to assist State Police for quick clearance.

As a major incident happens a traffic operator utilizes all the new technology such as, traffic signal timing controls on the alternate routes, 216 speed sensor detectors providing speed and volumes on the main highway and 91 CCTV (cameras) that an operator can use to monitor their effects. Communications between the two agencies determine which resources will be used by which agency. State Police provide DOT with vital information that a traffic operator in turn can release to the public and media agencies. This information will also determine if other states should be notified through the I-95 Corridor Coalition Information Exchange Network. This can provide motorists detailed information before entering the state where the incident has occurred. I believe that operations can be 100% efficient by utilizing all new technology and having the best communication between agencies managing the incident. We are always one step ahead by knowing what will be happening next at the incident scene and can determine faster than ever what needs to be done next. We can also now understand what each agency can do for each other to reach our common goal of efficiently managing traffic.

Integration of state of the art technology combined with the one-on-one (face-to-face) communication between agencies has proven to be the most effective way to manage traffic. Just as I thought, there is nothing better than this.

Liz Sussman, Operations Manager of Parsons Brinckerhoff, and current WTS Connecticut Valley Chapter member, wrote this article.

WTS Newsletter Electronic Network for the CT Valley Chapter

As most of our members have access to electronic communications, either in their professional lives or personally, we are going to experiment with sending more communications via E-Mail. We have spoken with most members and have developed a directory of E-Mail addresses, which we will be happy to send to anyone requesting it. (momalley@normandeau.com).

Several members, when polled about using their electronic addresses, requested that the utmost care be taken not to abuse the information by sharing it with other groups or “sales” forces. This will only work if we are conscientious about using it only for WTS purposes.

If we have not spoken with you personally about using this method of communication, please call Margaret O’Malley at 860-542-0111 or E-Mail her at the above address.
Enclosed in this newsletter please find a nomination form for the following: WTS Member of the Year, Employer of the Year and Advocate of the Year. Please complete this form and return it to either US Mail, Fax or e-mail: To: Lisa Rivers Connecticut DOT P.O. Box 317546 Newington, CT 06131-7546 (P) 860-594-2834 (F) 860-594-3445 e-mail Lisa.Rivers@po.state.ct.us

Thank you in advance for immediate response with your selection of nominations. Please keep in mind that the recognition in these areas is extremely important and a prestigious honor for those in receipt. The awards will be announced at the WTS Annual Luncheon Scheduled for April 18th, (for more information on the luncheon, see below).

MEMBER INFORMATION

Congratulations to our President Katie Breen, recently accepted a position as Executive director with, First Town Downtown, in Windsor.

Kim Clarke of Rizzo Associates, Inc, WTS Secretary, has been promoted to a Project Scientist. Great job Kim!

Should you or a member that you know receive a promotion, accept a new position or have a special event occur let us know and we will share it in our newsletter. Contact Lori Long at (203) 335-7425 or email me at llong@frharris.com.

CHAPTER PRESENTS ANNUAL AWARDS

RECENT PROGRAMS

Connecticut Engineers Week Meeting and Dinner
The meeting was held on February 23, 2000, and was sponsored by several organizations, including WTS. There were two sessions, one of seminars at 3:00 P.M. and one at 4:00 P.M. Dave Gilbert of the Connecticut Department of Transportation gave the Bradley International Airport Expansion seminar. He explained that an expansion to the airport was necessary due to the increase in air traffic. The first phase of the expansion will include a new terminal and east concourse, new bridges/sidewalks, bituminous roadway and concrete pavement. There is also a proposed parking garage for the future. Mr. Gilbert indicated that additional projected increases in passenger travel has prompted future additions! expansion plans for improvements to the airport as well as a new hotel and parking garage to handle the increase. Donald W. Doeg of Updike, Kelly & Kpellacy, P.C. gave the Staying Out of Trouble seminar. Mr. Doeg is both a Civil Engineer and a Lawyer who explained, "What you do or don't do now, may really impact you down the road." He began with an explanation regarding court hearings, litigation and mediation. He spoke about how both contractual parties should maintain a working relationship at all times. There must first be a mutual agreed upon understanding, which identifies and allocates risk, establishes rules and a clause to protect if a dispute arises. Mr. Doegs placed emphasis on documentation. He stressed that care should be taken when documenting problematic situations. He also explained the importance in maintaining records in an organized fashion, a bound book, written in ink where the pages are numbered. Mr.

Doegs took questions from the group and then indicated that he would be available for further consultation following the seminar.

The two seminars that were not attended by a WTS member were given by Joseph Sjogren, Executive VP on Precision Manufacturing and Ron Curran, Environmental Analyst from CT Department of Environmental Protection on Raybestos Remediation.

Following the seminars there was a social hour where vendors displayed the latest in computer software, building supplies, utilities and consultants for marketing professional services. During this time WTS had a portion of a table to display the association's literature and program updates and we were able to pass along some information.

The concluding portion of the program was dinner and a talk on Sustainable Development given by Anthony D. Cortese, SeD, President of Second Nature, an educational foundation to teach sustainability. He spoke of the importance of engineering sustainable solutions and that the future of global well-being depended in part on the commitment of the engineering "community" to provide the expertise required. He presented the rationale for corporate financial health being closely tied to sustainable management practices and developed five benchmarks to for which there must be increased attention. All in all the meeting was a great success and the program planners should be commended. Thanks to all that attended and we hope that the next joint meeting will prompt equal enthusiasm.

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.

April 18, 2000, WTS 9th Annual Luncheon, Presentation by Robert Pettinicchi, Transportation Supervising Engineer of The Connecticut Department of Transportation on the Q-Bridge Design Phase and Surrounding Area Improvements. The luncheon will be held at Jimmies of Savin Rock in West Haven, Connecticut. The program beginning at 12 noon. For more information or if you have not received your invitation, please contact Leslie Haines of Parsons Transportation Group, Inc. (860) 633-0223.

April 8, 2000, PCSW will be holding their Women in Trades and Nontraditional Occupations Conference.

May 17, 18 and 19, 2000, WTS National Conference will be held in NYC this year. You may choose to attend this conference for only one day. If you have never attended a National Conference, you are in for a real treat. They are both exciting and interesting and above all you will meet professional interested people with tons of experience and energy who are anxious to pass along their experiences. More details on the conference will become available in the next few months.


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.

October 2000, Train ride to Grand Central Station, visit the operations center during rush hour, enjoy free time in the city. Details to follow.

September 2000, Connecticut Ladies Build. WTS is considering volunteering our time to assist in a program called Hartford Area Habitat for Humanity. Essentially women work an eight (8) hour day and assist in building a home. We are still looking into the details of the program. Details will follow in an upcoming newsletter.

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 880-542-0111 or E-Mail her at (momalley@normandeau.com) with your suggestions.

Comments / Articles / or other help with the WTS NEWSLETTER Would be greatly appreciated. Please call: Lori Long (203) 335-7425