Greetings, fellow WTS Members, I write to you with great news about the success of our 10th Annual Luncheon. Attendance was above our optimistic expectations with an audience from all modes of transportation.

The 2001 Annual Luncheon marks a milestone for WTS Connecticut Valley Chapter; this is the 10th year of the Chapter’s existence. Some history about the organization dates back to 1988 and in June of 1991 WTS sponsored their first annual luncheon.

This year’s annual luncheon speaker was Mike Sanders of DOT who enthusiastically spoke of the planning stages relative to the New Britain/Hartford Bus way. He explained the details of this project and the four types of services it will offer. Proposed locations for the station buildings are centrally located for convenient travel. An estimated funding schedule projects a cost of $100 million dollars. Mr. Sanders expressed enthusiasm with regard to this preferred future way of commuting and anticipated that the design would be completed by the winter of 2003 and construction could begin by spring of 2003.

Thanks to all who made this program the great success that it was and special thanks to Mike Sanders with all his energy that kept the interest level high and covered all aspects of this very interesting upcoming project.

We have exciting upcoming events planned throughout the summer and the fall so stay tuned we will keep you posted. In the mean time, have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Lori Long
DMJM+HARRIS
CT Valley Chapter President

CHAPTER PRESENTS ANNUAL AWARDS

The 2000 WTS Connecticut Valley Employer of the Year is CTTRANSIT

Mr. Dennis Miller Vice President of Frederic R. Harris, Inc. presented the 2000 Employer of the Year award to David Lee General Manager of CTTRANSIT.

CTTRANSIT shows commitment to excellence and quality service by providing superior training, motivation and opportunities for their employees.

CTTRANSIT have developed an extensive Website, telephone information center and community information booths, which provide the traveling public access to information regarding fares, routes, and scheduled service.

CTTRANSIT has several employee recognition programs that encourage safety, involvement, respect, and commendable performance by honoring employees with awards for perfect attendance, outstanding performance, and Safe Driving. They are dedicated to the well being of their employees and offers assistance in managing their physical and mental health through company sponsored programs.

CTTRANSIT has an outstanding record of affirmative action in hiring and promoting at all employment levels. They are committed to Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Employment and strictly enforce a no tolerance policy for discrimination or harassment of any kind.

CTTRANSIT supports continuing education and professional development by offering employees yearly tuition reimbursement and the opportunity to attend seminars covering topics in the transportation field.

CTTRANSIT encourages women students to enter the transportation field, through grants and scholarships, or internship opportunities and encourage students to enter the transportation field through internship opportunities and nominations for scholarships from regional and national transportation associations.

The 2000 WTS Connecticut Valley Advocate of the Year is Lisa Rivers of DOT

Mike McCarthy Associate Vice President of Frederic R. Harris, Inc. presented the 2000 Advocate of the year Advocate to Lisa Rivers.

Lisa Rivers is an advocate for the improvement of transportation in Connecticut and also an advocate for WTS. She has shown extraordinary commitment to the goals and growth of WTS and has promoted the reputation of WTS within the industry.
Lisa has worked hard to strengthen communication between our chapter, the corporate community and the public. And she has worked tirelessly to continue the revitalization of the chapter and its activities.

Lisa volunteered to take over the WTS Connecticut Valley Vice Presidency when a former leader stepped down due to health reasons.

Lisa organizes programs, continually encourages members and non-members to be involved in the development of programs and to attend events. She shows great enthusiasm for the association and encouraging others to do the same. During the past two years, this year’s advocate has worked very hard with other board members of the Connecticut Valley Chapter to reach a real milestone by compiling a database of members and non-members. This database has been a key to the success of WTS programs throughout this past year.

The 2000 WTS Connecticut Valley Member of the Year is Leslie Haines of Parsons Transportation Group

Becoming a WTS Connecticut Valley Member of the Year is the only way our Chapter can express how thankful they are to have a volunteer come forth and show extraordinary effort and enthusiasm toward a common goal and growth of WTS.

Leslie promotes the reputation of WTS within the Transportation industry, works to strengthen communication on the local and national levels. And assist in the Chapter programs by promoting and attending.

Leslie shows extraordinary commitment to the goals and growth of WTS and was deserving of this recognition because of her longstanding commitment to the organization. She was nominated due to her ability to organize and willingness to give of her time and skill to make this organization and its programs a success.

Leslie has had many great program ideas and proudly brought them through the planning phases to astounding success. She continually encourages members and non-members to attend programs and acts as a liaison with other professional organizations.

Leslie was voted to the Executive Board as the Secretary and fulfills these duties as well as takes on many more responsibilities.

In addition to the work Leslie has done with WTS Connecticut Valley she has been employed with Parsons Transportation Group for 15 years where she has demonstrated real devotion and commitment. In February 1999 she was appointed Area Manager of the Connecticut Office and in March 2001 she was appointed Vice President. We are very proud to have this recipient as part of the WTS Connecticut Valley; she is a true success in her personal career and a real role model for women in the transportation industry and all career women.

What has WTS done for me?

This is a recurring topic for discussion in the WTS Annual Chapter President’s Meeting, which is held during each year’s WTS National Conference. I have had

WTS Newsletter

the pleasure of attending 6 WTS National Conferences, both as a member, as President of the CT Valley Chapter, and as an Immediate Past President. This year I was fortunate to have the opportunity to attend the President’s Meeting with Lori Long, your current President.

During the President’s meeting, the representative for each Chapter brings to the table any concerns or items which they would like some assistance with. As in the past, many Chapter Presidents face the question “What has WTS done for me?” or “What value is WTS National to me at the local level?”

What are the Benefits of a WTS membership? My answer to you is this: WTS is what you make of it. Several years ago a close friend urged me to go to a WTS meeting with her. She not only pushed me to join, but to share the responsibility for the Chapter Newsletter. For this I thank her. As a result of her pushing, not only did I become a member, but a very active member. I worked on the Newsletter, assisted with program planning, and even became Chapter President.

Because I became an ACTIVE member, I had the opportunity to participate more intimately with programs, to meet many members of the local and national transportation community, and learned how to effectively network. I learned how to make an impressive presentation in front of large groups, I learned more about how the industry works, and who the real players are. I’ve improved my meeting facilitation skills.

My company, Parsons Brinckerhoff, supports my involvement in WTS, and makes financial contributions to WTS National, because they see the benefits: employee satisfaction, employee professional development, employee and company networking.
opportunities, and make promoting women within the industry a top priority. This allows the company an edge – PB's support of WTS impacts their hiring and retention of qualified professional women and men, as well as give them a fast track to information about upcoming business opportunities.

How can I benefit from WTS National, being involved at the local level? There are many opportunities for local members to become involved and fully benefit from WTS National and these I offer to you. WTS National has a new upgraded website, please visit this site at your earliest convenience. I think you will be pleasantly surprised. In the very near future WTS CT will be able to update this website on a real time basis and you will be able to retrieve the most updated Chapter, Program and National News. We are very excited about this new technology. WTS National has recently offered two (2) programs open to the membership, Leadership Initiative and Presidents Training. These programs have proven to enhance leadership skills for utilization in fast track career paths in this transportation industry. One of the greatest benefits you will receive, should you choose to connect with WTS National, is NETWORKING, "Women helping Women, Women sharing with Women, and Women supporting Women". Please glance through your membership directory, you will be impressed with what you find. I guarantee if you contact anyone in this book, identify yourself as a WTS member, you will get their attention and an immediate response to a question, an inquiry regarding a company or any other information you are seeking. If you attend a National Conference, JUST ONE, you will get hooked and you will meet people who will knock your socks off, help you when you need help and let you fly by the seat of their pants (skirt) whatever. Having attended several conferences, this has become a highlight of my year. Each National Conference is different, yet equally as exciting. Each year I meet new people, made new friends, and catch up with old friends and colleagues. I come back refreshed, gaining new insight, additional energy, and full of new ideas - all from networking, attending dynamic workshops and presentations. Nothing will give you greater satisfaction, motivation and at the same time a true feeling of rejuvenation.

WTS has been a key component for me to better understand what it takes to move ahead, define and reach interim career goals, to set and prioritize daily activities, and to creatively network and utilize this information throughout my career and personal life. WTS is what you make of it. WTS can open the doors. You are responsible for knocking. To me, my success in my career is a priority. And my success has been, in part, due to WTS and my active involvement in the organization. Therefore, WTS is a priority for me. Is it worth the time and money? You to can have this same success, get motivated, become an active member and BENEFIT from WTS at the Local and National Levels! You will not regret it!

Kathleen Boyle
Parsons Brinckerhoff
CT Valley Immediate Past President

June 14, 2001
Professional Development Program is a Success

On June 14, 2001 WTS Connecticut Valley held a professional development seminar on Assertiveness Training and Women's Health Issues. This two-part program began with assertiveness training by Guest Speaker Ruth Boyea, Professor Emeritus from Central Connecticut State University, who has a long list of experience, credits, and honors. She came with a big smile and a real strong handshake. Ms Boyea encouraged us with enlightening information regarding socializing and networking. She stressed that we could learn the skills that give us the power to change relationships and help us achieve success in both our careers and our personal lives. Handshaking, making eye contact and starting a conversation with one's name is a good beginning in a networking environment. Giving and accepting compliments is an important part of any working relationship and non-verbal language (i.e. facial expression) and body language are also a serious catalysts to the start and continued success of any type of affiliation. Ms. Boyea encouraged the attendees to find the most important person in any room and introduce themselves to that person. She promised that this technique would turn heads and get results.

The second part of the program was presented by the Connecticut Department of Public Health. Charles Slaughter was the speaker and Christine Mercier and Sandy Kamens were kind enough to come with health information brochures and other items for distribution. Mr. Slaughter began with a major public health concern, the increase of obesity in all ages. He discussed healthy eating habits and encouraged the attendees to practice these habits as they go through life. The staggering statistics of the increase in obesity over the past years' has resulted in an increase in many other diseases such as heart, liver and respiratory complications. Other information was passed out concerning asthma, cancer, heart disease, mental health and osteoporosis. The health team entertained questions from the attendees and an open discussion.
was encouraged. The team also stayed following the program for people who had further questions regarding health issues. The Public Health Department has recently launched Connecticut’s First Annual Women’s Health Summit to raise awareness about cardiovascular disease, cancer, osteoporosis, and other issues affecting Connecticut Women. A second summit is scheduled for October 2001. For more information on this and other concerns you may have, please feel free to contact Christine Mercier (Health Program Assistant) at 1-860-509-7270.

The Connecticut Women’s Heritage Trail

The Connecticut Women’s Heritage Trail honors women’s often forgotten accomplishments. Wives, mothers and daughters maintained homes and businesses, cared for children and the infirm, provided family income, initiated social reform, inspired creative endeavors, achieved artistic brilliance and sometimes became heroines. Their lives had drama and value. Now we can discover the excitement in the stories of heroines such as Harriet Beecher Stowe, Sarah Bush and Prudence Crandall and less famous women such as Thankful Arnold and the mill workers of Willimantic. The inaugural sites on the Connecticut Women’s Heritage Trail are:

1. At the Old State House historic interpreters bring the past alive. Among the women you might meet strolling through this historic building are Susannah Hooker, wife of one of the colony’s founders, Hannah Watson, publisher of the Connecticut Courant during the Revolution, Alice Cogswell, a pioneer in the education of the deaf, Sarah Harris, first African-American student of Prudence Crandall, Elisabeth Colt, a Hartford philanthropist, and Isabella Beecher Hooker, a leader of the suffrage movement.

2. The Harriet Beecher Stowe Center in Hartford chronicles Stowe’s accomplishments as an author and reformer and illuminates her late nineteenth century world.

3. Prudence Crandall, a schoolteacher, also played a leading role in the fight for racial equality when in 1832, Crandall admitted Sarah Harris, a young woman of color, into her academy.

4. Mabel Osgood Wright was a pioneer in environmental education.

5. Florence Griswold nourished the American Impressionist painting movement.

6. Theodate Pope Riddle, architect and creator of Hill-Stead mansion in Farmington, was the daughter of its art collector owner and one of the first licensed female architects in the United States.

7. The Bush-Holley House in Cos Cob serves as a background for the accomplishments of two women. It was a center of artistic innovation in the 1890’s when run by Josephine Holley and her daughter Constant. During the Revolutionary War, Sarah Bush defended her house and family against attack while her husband was imprisoned for suspected British sympathies.

8. The Lockwood-Mathews Museum in Norwalk teaches about the decorative arts and the evolution of domestic technology, as well as the everyday lives of the women above and below the staircase: the wealthy and their servants.

9. At the Holley House Museum in Lakeville the focus is on women’s daily lives and the difficult choices women faced.

10. The Arnold House in Haddam offers guided tours by the “ghost” of Thankful Arnold, an ordinary woman of her time.

11. The Hanford-Silliman house, at one time a tavern and boarding house, illustrates a number of the essential economic roles that its women played over time and houses the Society’s costume collection.

12. Visitors to the Windham Textile & History Museum experience life in a mill worker’s home and a mill owner’s mansion, and tour a recreation of a nineteenth century textile mill.

The Connecticut Women’s Hall of Fame established the Heritage Trail. The Hall of Fame (located at the Hartford College for Women/University of Hartford) was dedicated to honor the accomplishments of Connecticut women and promote the study and interpretation of their lives. It documents the lives of women as diverse as those of the Fielding family, who stood almost alone to preserve Mohegan nation, to Katharine Hepburn and Madeline L’Engle, who entertained generations. Their lives are explored in traveling exhibits, special programs and events, and in materials created for students of all ages. For information about events, exhibits and membership, call 860-675-8242 or for a virtual exhibit visit the website at cwhf.org.

2001 Komen CT Race for the Cure

This annual event happens each year to Raise Breast Cancer Awareness AND to find a cure for this horrible disease, which kills so many. The event is a 5 K run or walk for children, women and men. The event was started in 1994 and has grown from approximately 2,000 participants to well over 10,000. I have had the opportunity to participate in this RACE the past two years. I am so very excited that I was apart of this amazing coalition of people who come together for such a good cause. Participants in this event are from all walks of life, young and old, they are recent or longtime survivors of cancer, or they are there in memory of lost loved ones. The energy surrounding this event is enough to make your head spin. It’s an overwhelmingly emotional roller coaster ride that you
don't want to get off. I can hardly describe the emotions you feel as you participate in this event, however, I can encourage you to set your sites on it and suggest that you attend next year. I plan to make sure it is listed on the calendar of events in this WTS Newsletter, giving you plenty of time to prepare. I hope that as you read this article you will find the same enthusiasm that I have at this time. The event will be early in May 2002. Please join me next year! I am confident that you will feel as I do right now.

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 program organizer listed under the description.

Saturday, August 4, 2001,
Annual River Boat Cruise (7:30 – 10:30 PM). The Annual River Boat Cruise leaves from Hartford CT, State Street Pier at Riverfront Landing. The cruise takes you for approximately 3 hour boat ride along the lovely Connecticut River. The views are spectacular and it gives you an ideal opportunity to meet and socialize with others in the membership as well as invited guests. There will be music and refreshments. Enclosed in this newsletter is a flyer with more details and a return registration form. If you need further information please contact Colleen Kissane at Colleen.Kissane@po.state.ct.us or (860) 258-4516.

2000 – 2001 Executive Board Members
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DMJM+HARRIS
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Vice President
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CT Department of Transportation
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Secretary
Leslie A. Haines
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Treasurer
Colleen Kissane
CT Department of Transportation
Colleen. Kissane@po.state.ct.us

Past President
Kathleen Boyle
Parsons Brinckerhoff
Construction Services
Boyle@pbworld.com

WTS Newsletter

October 2001, WTS CT Valley are in the planning stages of this program.

December 6, 2001, Annual Holiday Social, Ramada Inn, Plainville, CT. The social will begin at 4:30 donations will again be collected for the Interval House an agency committed helping women in families of domestic violence. There will be a cash bar and a light buffet. Please stop in for a visit.

You are reminded to check out the WTS National Website for updated information regarding the organization at the National and Local levels.

www.wtsnational.org

Please send comments or articles to Lori Long at Lori.Long@dmjmharris.com. All comments and articles are welcome!
WTS Annual Awards Nomination Form - 2001
(Deadline. October 31, 2001)

Annually, WTS Connecticut Valley recognizes members, employers, and others who have made a considerable contribution to our organization and the goals and mission of WTS over the past year. Please take a few minutes to nominate those individuals or organizations that you believe have made noteworthy contributions to WTS Connecticut Valley.

Please mail or fax your responses to: Lisa Rivers, Connecticut D.O.T., P.O. Box 317546, Newington, CT 06131-7546 Fax: (860) 594-3445
Or e-mail: lisa.rivers@po.state.ct.us

Member of the Year
A member who:

- Shows extraordinary commitment to the goals and growth of WTS
- Promotes the reputation of WTS within the transportation industry
- Has worked effectively to strengthen communication between local and national WTS levels or between chapters
- Has done an outstanding job of revitalizing or expanding a local chapter of any of its functions.

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Employer of the Year:
An organization who:

- Has enhanced the transportation industry through its commitment to excellence and quality in the service it provides, or products it produces;
- Has an outstanding record of affirmative action in hiring and promoting at all employment levels;
- Supports continuing education and professional development of its employees;
- Encourages women students to enter the transportation field, through grants and scholarships, or internship opportunities;
- Has supported WTS

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Woman of the Year:
An individual who:

- Has directly contributed to the advancement of WTS and its goals;
- Has provided necessary assistance, and a willingness and enthusiasm to promote the growth and development of the CT Valley Chapter of WTS;
- Has made an outstanding contribution to the transportation industry

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NOTE: Please attach additional sheets if necessary.
WTS Connecticut Valley Annual Awards

The WTS Connecticut Valley Annual Awards for Member, Employer and Advocate of the year have traditionally been presented at the annual luncheon held each April. WTS National presents their Annual Awards in May at the National Conference. Winners from the Connecticut Valley chapter are submitted as nominees for the National Awards. The ballots for the National Awards must be submitted in January and February each year. In order that we may submit Connecticut Valley Award winners to National in the same year, the WTS CT Valley Executive Board has agreed to change our chapter’s annual award ballot dates. We will be accepting nominations for the WTS Connecticut Valley Annual Awards for 2001 at this time. The Awards will be presented at the annual Holiday Social in December. Connecticut Valley will then submit these award winners to National so that they will be in the running for a National Award in May at the Annual Conference. In addition to this change, Connecticut Valley is also changing their traditional Advocate of the Year to Woman of the Year.

Attached please find this nomination form. Please complete it and either mail, e-mail or fax it back to Lisa Rivers, Connecticut D.O.T., P.O. Box 317546, Newington, CT 06131-7456 or, Lisa.Rivers@po.state.ct.us or FAX 860-594-3445.

Thank you very much for taking the time to complete this form. We look forward to your responses.