Greetings WTS members! In addition to assisting The WTS Connecticut Valley Local Chapter Board as Immediate Past President, I want to share with you other WTS activities I have been involved with this year.

I currently hold a committee chair position on the National Board as New Chapter Committee Co-Chair with Pippa Woods. Pippa works for New Jersey Transit and is affiliated with the WTS New York City Chapter. The committee is comprised of two co-chairs who work together with interested parties who want to start a chapter in their local community. We are also working to establish WTS “International”. At this time, we have interests from Victoria, Canada and London, England. In addition, several other cities across the nation have shown interest in starting a chapter.

The New Chapter Committee has also been assigned to assisting Chapters who may need assistance. In this case, we offer suggestions and ideas that may boost their membership or help program attendance. Since this is still somewhat new for me at this time, I will again write and let you know how we progress.

In November, I was fortunate to travel to Dallas-Fort Worth to attend the WTS Quarterly Meeting. News at the National front is a new membership application which you should have received in the U.S. Mail the week of November 18th. The changes made to the application were done as per member request. The Board was pleased, and we hope the membership will be too. National also has been working toward the website improvement completion which you can view at www.wtsnational.org.

Upon my return from the meeting, I was able to share what I learned with the CT Valley Board, and we will eventually pass along this information to you!

In an effort to continue to keep WTS Connecticut Valley up to date with the WTS National News, I will continue to write to you and let you know what is HOT. If you have any questions or comments or would like to become more involved in WTS CT Valley or WTS at the National level, I would love to hear from you and look forward to your feedback.

Lori Long, DMJM+HARRIS, Inc. 
Lori.Long@dmjmharris.com

As many of you already know, the next WTS National Conference is being held in Boston, Massachusetts. The conference begins on May 14th and goes through May 16th. For those of you who have attended a WTS National Conference in the past, how lucky are we to be so close. Close enough that we can hop in our cars or on a train and be there in a mere few hours. For those of you who have never had the opportunity to attend please take advantage of the location and take the time to try and attend. Time is always a factor when your career, family and outside influences may cause hesitation. My advice to you is to take this time and use it wisely. Attend the conference and make your contacts. Attend the breakout sessions and absorb all the information you can. Bring this information back to your office, use it in your professional and personal life, or just pack it away for a rainy day. All the information you will acquire is good stuff that can be used time and again. Try it once and you will want to attend year after year. If you are financially unable to attend, there are some funds that may be available to you. Please contact any of the WTS CT Valley Board to answer your questions. Attendance at the National Conference is time well spent with no regrets. Hope to see you in Boston.

Lori Long
DMJM+HARRIS, Inc.
WTS Website at Your Service

The WTS Website has been updated. Take a look and see what you think. Let us know.

There was also an article in the WTS National Newsletter regarding updating the Membership Directory on-line. This is very important, and it would be great if everyone could do this should your personal information change. One reason this is extremely important now is because WTS National will no longer be printing hard copies of the member directories. Rather, people will be taking the information directly from the website. Updating your information will keep everything current.

In addition to new features, you can now access the WTS National Website and renew your membership for 2003. With regard to membership, our President, Mary Jane O'Meara, has put a challenge out to the WTS Membership across the nation. She has requested that each member recruit one new member into the organization in the year 2003. Mary Jane encourages you to spread the good word. We are strong in numbers and the higher the number, the stronger we are. Please join in and meet the challenge.

If you have any questions or run into problems using the WTS website, please contact our web master at wts@wtsnational.org and they will assist you.

CT Valley offers Member Scholarship

WTS Connecticut Valley Chapter again will be offering a WTS Member Scholarship. This will entitle one to three persons to a one-year membership which includes all the local and national benefits. This Scholarship will be awarded to a candidate who expresses interest in the organization by volunteering to hold a Board or Committee Chair as well as attend three of the several yearly programs offered to all Members. Enclosed in this Newsletter, you will find an application of request to be considered for this prestigious award. Candidates will be selected by the Executive Board once all applications are received. It will be the option of the Board to select candidates who best fit the Chapter's needs as well as the personal needs of the individual. The number of memberships that are selected this year will be determined by the financial status of the Chapter. We will request that all applications be completed and submitted to the below address on or before December 20, 2002. Any applications received after this date will not be reviewed for the 2003 Member Scholarship. Please mail applications to:

WTS Connecticut Valley Chapter
750 South Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06604
Attention: Lori Long

We look forward to hearing from many of you. A candidate(s) will be selected and contacted by January 10, 2003. In addition, the candidate selected will be publicly announced at the First Annual Awards Banquet scheduled for January 14, 2003.

AGAIN, WTS CT VALLEY RESPECTFULLY REQUESTS

If you are a member of any organization related to your professional or personal life, you understand that there are always people willing to volunteer to help. Usually the same people who help out at work are also the ones who are marching in the local parade or working at their local little league field in the concession stand. Do you know those people, or are you one of them?

WTS CT Valley is small but mighty. We have grown and become a strong group. We are vocal and provide information. We put on great programs and many members play a significant role in the transportation industry in Connecticut. There is currently a small core group who make it happen, BUT we need YOUR help. Most of what we need will only take up small amounts of time, but it will help considerably. We can use the diversity and some new ideas too. Please contact any of our staff listed on the back page, and we look forward to hearing from you.
Upcoming Events Mark your Calendars

Annual Awards Banquet
January 14, 2003
The WTS 2002 Annual and Scholarship Awards will honor our 2002 CT Valley Award winners, and our Guest Speaker will be the 2002 Women of the Year. This event will be held at Pumpkins on Pratt Street in Hartford, enclosed find your invitation.

Legislative Breakfast
February 26, 2003, 8:30 AM—10 AM
Legislative Office Building Dinning Room. Come and learn about issues facing the transit industry in the 2003 legislative session. While you are there, stop in and greet your local representatives and let them know what is important to you and your company.

Annual Meeting
April 2003
WTS CT Valley will hold their Annual Luncheon with tentative plans to engage in a panel discussion with members of the Transportation Strategy Board, your ideas are also welcome.

WTS National Conference, Boston Massachusetts
May, 14 to May 16, 2003
WTS National Conference will be held in Boston. First notices will be forthcoming soon.

WTS Annual Boat Cruise
August 8, 2003
CT River Boat Cruise, great way to network and have fun.

Annual Holiday Social
December 4, 2003
This annual affair will again be held to benefit a local women's organization. Location is yet to be determined.

2002—2003
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

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Parsons Transportation Group
Leslie.A.Haines@Parsons.com

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Lisa Rivers
CT Department of Transportation
Lisa.Rivers@po.state.ct.us

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Barbara Smith
DMJM+HARRIS, Inc.
Barbara.Smith@dmjmharris.com

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DMJM+HARRIS, Inc.
Lori.Long@dmjmharris.com

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Lcragg@lockton.com

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momalley@normandeau.com

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS
2003 New WTS CT Valley Member:
Roberta Yegidis, Administrative Officer, Greater Bridgeport Transit Authority
Lucy Peoples, Mini Bus Coordinator, Town of Bloomfield
Michael Sanders, Transit Administrator, Connecticut Department of Transportation

If we have missed your name, please contact me, we would like to welcome you! Lori Long (Lori.Long@DMJMHARRIS.com).