Hello to all! I’m proud to say that the CT Valley Chapter is starting the year with renewed energy. Our membership retention numbers are among the highest of all the chapters, with approximately 67 percent retention. This is a great statistic, given the state of the economy.

Since our last newsletter, we’ve had two big events. The Connecticut Valley Chapter’s 11th Annual Meeting, held on April 11th. Many attended the program to listen to Art Gruhn speak on ConnDOT’s Context Sensitive Solutions program. This subject drew a diverse group of individuals in the transportation industry who listened intently to Art discuss how CDOT is now listening more to the concerns of the local community as projects are both in the design and pre-construction phases. Thank you to Art and to Lisa Rivers and Sandy Bartenstein for pulling that all together.

Another big thanks to Lori Long for organizing the Race for the Cure contingent. Although I couldn’t attend, I heard it was a wonderful experience for all involved. I’ve run this annual race before, and it is truly gratifying to follow those pink arrows through New Britain. Whether you’re in the front of the pack or straggling near the end, the applause of the spectators as you go by makes you feel like a winner. Congratulations to everyone who participated.

We still have a lot to look forward to in 2002 – the annual boat cruise on the Connecticut River is scheduled for Friday, August 2 – see flyer enclosed. And, what we hope will be our biggest event this year, our Golf Tournament to benefit the WTS Scholarship fund is scheduled for September 30. With the help of the Boston and Greater New York Chapters, we hope this will be a truly memorable day. Watch for more info in the near future.

In closing, I would like to hear from members regarding what they would like to see for future programs and events. We have some interesting and dynamic people in our group who could help with ideas, please drop me an email, leslie.a.haines@parsons.com.

Here’s to a great beginning!!

Leslie Haines
Parsons Transportation Group

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Special Interest:

- Letter from the WTS CT Valley President.
- Annual Women in Trades Conference.
- WTS Team, The Driving Force.
- WTS CT Valley Can Use Your Help.
- Welcome New Members.
- Upcoming Calendar of Events.

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LETTER FROM THE IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Oh what a feeling. I write to you for the fourth consecutive year regarding the WTS National Conference and this year’s 25th Anniversary. Once again, I return with enthusiasm and excitement from all that I heard and saw. The Minnesota Chapter, as promised, put on a fantastic performance that will be remembered for a long time. They rolled out the red carpet, which made us all feel like royalty. The conference spotlighted the 25th Anniversary of WTS. The Thursday Evening Awards Dinner Banquet displayed an enchantment of beauty with white lights, flowing table coverings and glowing candles as the National Award Winners graciously received recognition.

To kick off the conference, I was able to attend the National Board and Chapter Presidents’ Meeting. I rekindled old acquaintances and made some new ones. I listened intently to new ideas to improve WTS at the chapter level. I shared some of CT Valley’s Chapter ideas, and I heard old problems, which were discussed in hopes that they will be resolved with creative minds working together. It was determined that many of the chapters are facing the same problems with renewals and program attendance. It was interesting to hear that many of the chapters held similar programs following the WTS National Conference 2001 in Los Angeles and tried a round table session to meet (Continued on Page 2)
leaders in the transportation industry.

For those unfamiliar with the format of a two-day conference, there are several speakers that typically speak following meal times. In between meals, there are breakout sessions to select, depending on the mode of transportation in which you are most interested. These sessions ranged from 1 to 2 hours. In addition, there are also optional planned tours for those eager to see what types of transportation the hosting city utilizes, or to sight see, or even tour an existing project under construction, if available during the conference. Unfortunately I was unable to attend any tours this year. In the past they have been both interesting and very exciting.

In my opinion, the highlight of this National Conference was Renee Sigel, the 2002 Olympics Intermodal Liaison for the United States Department of Transportation of Salt Lake City, Utah. She was one of the most energetic, knowledgeable, and comical speakers I have ever heard. Ms. Sigel walked us through several years of the transportation planning and preparation of the 2002 Winter Olympics. She explained what was involved in transporting thousands of people to several functions for two weeks in a remote town of Utah. She further enlightened us about the playing field which was approximately 80 miles wide through some pretty rough terrain, keeping in mind that this was going to take place during the winter months. Some of the biggest challenges that were encountered involved visiting dignitaries, the press, with the most severe challenge being the aftermath of September 11, 2001. Furthermore, Ms. Sigel could not stress enough that security was of the utmost importance and that the transportation planning staff would go to any means to ensure the public’s safety. When asked if the cost of this venture was worth it, Ms. Sigel slurred with joy and her eyes filled with excitement as she exclaimed, “yes, every single penny spent was worth it”. You could tell that Ms. Sigel loved this special project, and although very complicated and stressful, the planning involved in this massive project was now very much apart of her. She had learned so much over the years, and when it went off without a hitch, she was overwhelmed. Ms. Sigel’s slide show reflected so much of the excitement, and moreover, how she lived this project for so many years.

As I stated earlier, I continue to feel the energy the 2002 National Conference generated, and I have shared much of what I took back with the CT Valley Chapter Executive Board. As I have for the past several years, I watch this Chapter grow and succeed and continue to believe that we are stronger in numbers and have to stick together. As a small chapter, WTS CT Valley has the potential to grow and expand to the outer limits of its boundaries. Together, we can work to make our Chapter stronger, more visible and certainly more compatible for all its members, old and new. We will take the time to hear individual voices offering your feedback and ideas.

I wholeheartedly encourage all our members to plan to attend a WTS National Conference. Next year the conference will be held in Boston, Massachusetts on May 14 - 16, 2003. We would like to have as many attend from CT Valley as possible. Please mark your calendars, and we will keep you informed as the time grows closer.

Lori Long
DMJM+HARRIS, Inc.

Annual Women in the Trades & Nontraditional Occupations Conference

On April 13, 2002, more then 300 people attended the 13th Annual Women in the Trades & Nontraditional Occupations Conference held by the Permanent Commission on The Status of Women (PCS&W) at the Learning Corridor in Hartford, CT.

The U.S. Small Business Administration, the Connecticut Department of Labor and the Connecticut Department of Transportation were also involved. The Conference featured a Vendor Exhibit Area and a Career Fair. The Career Fair had workshops for Apprenticeships, Understanding Financial Security, Job Training Programs for Women, Technology and Protective Services Careers.

Speakers were The Honorable Nancy Wyman, Comptroller of the State of Connecticut and The Honorable Sonya (Sonny) Googins, Representative to the General Assembly from the 31st District. Both women delivered motivating speeches with much humor.

The highlight of the Conference was a video “The Women of Ground Zero” that has been produced by the NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund. Two of the women that were featured in the video, Sharon Sellick of Con Edison and Lois Isaksen, a carpenter, were guest speakers. They told their stories with tears and humor. The video has been produced to show how many women, of all different occupations, were involved at “Ground Zero”. As hard as it was to watch the video, it was extremely educating and moving.

The Conference is a great place to network, meet the experts and gather information. It is especially a great place to expose women to the many different occupations that are available to them.

Diana Shoaf, DMJM+HARRIS, Inc., WTS CT Valley Treasurer
WTS Team — The Driving Force, Races for Life

WTS Team, The Driving Force, swept through New Britain on May 11, 2002, in the Susan G. Komen, Breast Cancer Foundation, Race for the Cure. We were fortunate to compile this team of WTS Members, family and friends to join together and participate in the Kid's K, Male K, Female K and 4K walk. "Thank you" to everyone who participated in this team. Talk about ENERGY! This event is amazing with the energy it generates year after year. Personally, this is my third year in attendance, and I can't say enough about the day. History dates back to 1993 when the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation selected New Britain, CT to host the CT Race for the Cure. The first event of May 7, 1994 drew 2,165 participants and raised $123,000. This year, there was an estimated 15,000 participants with a goal to raise $1,000,000.00. Not far from last year's final count of $827,000.00. These numbers have steadily increased since the onset. WTS Connecticut Valley would like to make this an annual event with as many in participation as possible. Please mark your calendars for **May 10, 2003** (10th Anniversary of the Komen CT Race for the Cure), and we can help in this cause that affects most people directly or indirectly at some point in their lives. When the race starts, they remind everyone that we need a team effort to fight this deadly disease. They ask that everyone in attendance bring a friend next year. Since the numbers continue to rise, I think that people are listening, so please join the team in 2003!

Lori Long
DMJM+HARRIS, Inc.
WTS CT Valley

Women's Transportation Seminar — WTS

Promotes the success of women in the transportation industry by providing an open forum for discussion of current transportation issues and technology, providing networking opportunities at the local and national level, and providing the opportunity for personal and professional growth.

WTS Website

Please check out the WTS Website for the WTS Connecticut Valley Local and National news. Your comments on the site would be greatly appreciated (www.wtsnational.org).

Please contact our Website Committee Chair Brenda Manke for any updates (Brenda.Manke @ dmjm harris.com).

WTS CT VALLEY CAN USE YOUR HELP!

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 makes it happen, BUT we need 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

August 2, 2002, Annual River Boat Cruise
This year’s Annual River Boat Cruise will leave from the Riverfront Plaza aboard the Mark Twain. Boarding time will start at 5 PM, and the cruise will meander along the Connecticut River starting at 5:30 PM and ending back at the Riverfront Plaza around 7 PM. This boat has indoor / outdoor accommodations. There is a cash bar. Cost for this cruise for WTS Members is $12.00 and for non-members is $15.00. Enclosed find a flyer for this event. Please return it now and join us along the beautiful Connecticut River.

September 30, 2002, WTS First Annual Golf Outing at Candlewood Valley Country Club for the CT Scholarship Fund
WTS Connecticut Valley is holding their first Annual Golf Outing for the local Chapter Scholarship Fund. This outing will include 18 holes of golf and three meals or join us for dinner banquet and awards. The course is designated one of the top five by the CT Magazine. More information will follow on this event.

November 2002, WTS Annual Awards Banquet
At this event, WTS 2002 Annual and Scholarship Awards will be presented to this year's winners. Our plan is to have the "Women of the Year—2002" be our guest speaker. In addition we plan to recruit other "Women of Inspiration" to speak at this event.

December 2002, WTS Annual Holiday Social
This annual event will again be held in support of the Hartford Interval House. The date and location is yet to be determined. If you have any suggestions please feel free to pass them along.

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“WTS ANNUAL RIVER BOAT CRUISE”

Friday – August 2, 2002

Departing from Hartford promptly at 5:30 p.m. and returning to port at 7 p.m.
(boarding begins at 5:00 p.m.)
We will cruise aboard the Mark Twain, that leaves from the River Front Plaza

A warm and cold buffet will be served and a cash bar will be available
Directions to the location will provided upon request

Please RSVP by July 26th to:
Lori Long
DMJM+HARRIS, Inc.
750 South Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06604
(203) 335-7425
Lori.Long@DMJM+HARRIS.com

_________________________  ___________________________
Name:  Organization:

_________________________  ___________________________
EMAIL ADDRESS:  FAX:

Cost: Members: $12.00    Non-Members: $15.00

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Amount Enclosed:

Make checks payable to WTS CT Valley Chapter