LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

As my first “official” duty as President of the Connecticut Valley Chapter, I’d formally like to thank Lori Long for her efforts, enthusiasm and optimism over the past several years as either Vice President or President of the Chapter. Lori – you definitely brought a new outlook to the group.

I also want to welcome two new members who have jumped right in to help (thanks to Lori’s arm twisting, I’m sure). Barbara Smith and Diana Shoaf, both of DMJM+HARRIS, Inc., joined the Executive Board this year, with Barbara serving as secretary and Diana as treasurer. Welcome to both of you, and thank you for your willingness to become so active.

My goal for this chapter for 2002 is to increase our visibility and our stature. I want this chapter to be taken as seriously by the industry in Connecticut as the Boston chapter is in Massachusetts. How do we do that? By having programs that attract key decision makers that provide members with information that they believe is valuable to their business. I think we made a good start with our sponsorship of the Legislative Breakfast with the Connecticut Association for Community Transportation (CACT). We had over 80 people respond to our invitation, of which several were either legislators or legislative staff. The program was informative and provided the opportunity for some very interesting discussions. And we were part of it! Thanks to Lisa Rivers for all her hard work.

Our next program will be our Annual Luncheon, and will take place on Thursday, April 11. We’re hoping for another big turnout – our speaker will be Art Gruhn, Construction Administrator for ConnDOT, who is also filling in as Acting Chief Engineer and Acting Bureau Chief of Engineering and Highway Operations. A busy guy, but he’s agreed to come speak to us about the Context Sensitive Solutions program the DOT has developed. Context Sensitive Solutions is becoming an important approach to highway design projects, all over the country. ConnDOT has done a significant amount of work in developing their program, and recently held a two day workshop on the topic that attracted transportation professionals from as far away as Utah and Minnesota. (this article is continued on pg 3)

LETTER FROM THE IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

As Immediate Past President of CT Valley Chapter 2000 - 2001, I write to you at the close of an extremely fulfilling experience. During my years on the Executive Board as Vice President then as President, I have seen this Chapter undergo real change and make some advancing strides. I have seen members and non-members alike come together to make programs work, assist in many professional areas and make long lasting contacts. Together we have sat around strategizing, worked to make events interesting, successful and profitable, traveled along the CT River and across the country. Many understand the camaraderie WTS members possess and very few will forget the people they have met along the way. I have high hopes for the CT Valley Chapter and I look forward to the continued success of this Chapter. I plan to continue my service to WTS CT Valley Chapter as Immediate Past President and hope that you will join us for yet another exciting year. I urge you to review the upcoming events listed on page 4 of this newsletter and try to attend some programs. With all that has happened over this past year, and certainly since September, I wish you much success in your professional careers and Peace in your lives.

Lori Long
DMJM+HARRIS, Inc.
WTS CT Valley
Immediate
Past President
CT Valley offers Member Scholarship

The WTS Connecticut Valley Chapter is now offering a WTS Member Scholarship. This would entitle one to three persons 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. Additionally, it will be the option of the Board to select candidates which best fit the chapters needs as well as the personal needs of the individual. This year, and in the future, the number of memberships that are selected will be determined by the financial status of the Chapter during the month of March. We will request that all applications be completed and submitted to the below address on or before March 31, 2002. Any applications received after this date will not be reviewed for the 2002 Member Scholarship.

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 April 5, 2002. In addition, the candidate selected will be publicly announced at the Annual Luncheon scheduled for April 11, 2002.

NEW MEMBERS!

NOTE: Be on the alert for prospective new WTS Members. And when you encourage the sign up of a new member, please request that they put your name on their application so that you may get credit for them. Why, you ask? Well, WTS National is holding a contest for the member who recruits the MOST new members by April 10, 2002. The reward is a FREE trip to the WTS National Conference May 16 – 18, 2002 in Minneapolis, MN. Remember, it could be the person who sits next to you at work, in an office down the hall or sits in a meeting that may be interested in becoming a member. Invite them to attend one of our meetings or programs, that’s how you get started, it’s that easy! Please call or E-mail Barbara Smith for applications. 203-335-7425 or Barbara.Smith@dmjmharris.
WTS Membership Renewal

Have you renewed your WTS Membership yet? If you would like your name to appear in the WTS National Directory, your membership renewal must be received by April 1, 2002. While renewals are usually processed within three (3) days of receipt, the mail has been significantly affected by the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 events (i.e. Anthrax), so there can be as much as one month's delay in receipt of mail in Washington, D.C. If you know your Membership number, you can also renew via the Internet.

If you have been a WTS Member through a “corporate membership”, you may want to confirm that your renewal will be handled through your employer in the same manner, this year.

If you have comments, suggestions, or questions about the Membership Dues structure, please contact your Chapter President or Chapter Membership Chairperson. The Membership Committee worked diligently to develop a dues structure that would benefit everyone. There will be a re-evaluation of the dues structure in August 2002. If you have comments or suggestions, please let your Chapter President or Membership Chairperson know so this information can be forwarded to the National Membership Committee.

By: Barbara Smith, DMJM+HARRIS, Inc.

Letter from the President (continued from page 1)

It should be another informative, interesting program. Special thanks to Sandy Bartenstein for all her planning efforts.

Of course, we also believe in having some fun, and will be attempting to put together our first ever golf tournament to benefit the WTS Scholarship Fund. The tournament will be a joint venture between the CT Valley and New York Chapters. Watch for the flyers!

We will also be trying to put together a team to run the Komen Race for the Cure in May. As someone who’s had four friends diagnosed with breast cancer in the past year, I’m looking forward to doing at least this one small thing towards helping to find a cure. Come and run with us!

Of course, we still have room on the board for several more – we’re looking for a Newsletter Chair, Membership Chair, By-laws Chair and list goes on. We’d love to see some more new faces at board meetings, so give me a call.

I’m looking forward to working with you all this year, and would love to hear some ideas and opinions on programs.

Leslie Haines
Parsons Transportation Group

Member Survey

Lois Watson of CIC is requesting that Members complete the survey form which can be returned to CIC either by mail, fax, or via the Internet through a link with the WTS website. This survey is done every two (2) years. To date, CIC has received completed forms that represent approximately 36% of WTS Membership with a goal of 50%.

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.anke@dmjharrisc.com).

Don’t put off until tomorrow what you could do today. Tomorrows are always busier than you expect!
Upcoming Events Mark your Calendars

April 11, 2002, Annual Luncheon Meeting
Griswold Inn in Essex, CT
1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Guest Speaker is Arthur Gruhn of the CT Department of Transportation. Mr. Gruhn will discuss Context Sensitive Solutions. Your invitation is forthcoming. If you have any questions regarding this please contact Sandy Bartenstein of CDOT at Sandy.Bartenstein@po.state.ct.us.

May 11, 2002 Komen CT Race for the Cure
WTS is organizing the first WTS CT VALLEY RACING TEAM. More information with regard to this event will be forwarded to you or you can enroll immediately by contacting Lori Long at Lori.Long@dmjmharris.com. Please join us.

May 16 – 18, 2002, WTS National Conference
Join WTS National in Minneapolis MN “Advancing Access”. For more information on this conference please see the WTS Website at www.wtsnational.org.

August 2002, Annual River Boat Cruise
This annual social event is planned each year to promote a networking atmosphere on the CT River.

September 2002, WTS First Annual Golf Outing 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 lunch and 9 holes of golf. More information will follow on this event.

October 2002, Tour the “Big Dig” (Central Artery) Project
WTS Connecticut Valley will sponsor their second trip to Boston to tour one of the biggest projects in the US. The trip will leave the Hartford area and include a driving tour of the current construction activities on this project. It will also include free time to sight see in Downtown Boston.

December 2002, Holiday Social
This event will be held at Parsons Transportation Group, date to be determined.

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2002—2003 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

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Leslie.A.Haines@Parsons.com

Vice President
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