Hello Connecticut Valley Members!

It’s been an interesting first year of my presidency. Our Annual Meeting with Art Gruhn speaking on Context Sensitive Solutions was our best attended meeting in many years and was unanimously agreed to be extremely interesting. As usual, our August boat ride was lots of fun. Unfortunately, due to the weather, our annual Holiday Social had to be cancelled. But – we made up for it in January, at our Awards Dinner. Not only did we have a great time honoring a truly impressive woman in the transportation industry and an outstanding employer (you can read the details in an article in this newsletter), we also were still able to make an impressive contribution to the Interval House.

My second year is promising to be even better. We’ve already got some great new members, ready to share their ideas and energy, and I’ve gotten phone calls and emails from other women who are enthusiastic and interested in membership. Our lineup of programs for 2003 is exciting – our 3rd annual Legislative Breakfast will be held on February 26 at the Legislative Office Building Dining Room; our Annual Meeting will be held at Carmen Anthony’s in Wethersfield on April 10, with DOT Commissioner Jim Byrnes as speaker; of course we will again participate in the Susan Komen Race team in May, the River Cruise in August; and the annual Holiday Social in December. In addition, we are planning a “Members Only” event in June to pick everyone’s brains on their visions for the Connecticut Valley Chapter – please plan on attending – it’s your chance to influence the direction of the Chapter, and we’re hoping to have a speaker from the Federal Rail Administration in September.

Please don’t forget that the WTS National Conference is going to be held in nearby Boston from May 14 to May 16! It’s the chance for all of us who haven’t been able to travel to other conferences to attend!

I look forward to working with everyone this second year of my presidency to raise the profile of WTS in Connecticut, and make it the influential organization I know it can be!

Leslie Haines
Parsons Transportation Group

WTS CT VALLEY AWARDS BANQUET

WTS CT Valley Annual Awards were presented on January 14, 2003, to a remarkable Woman and an Upstanding Employer. The banquet was a huge success with the attendance of many key transportation officials and other distinguished guests. CT State Representative Jacqueline Cocco was awarded the WTS Connecticut Valley Woman of the Year. Ms. Cocco is currently serving the 127th Assembly District for the City of Bridgeport and Town of Fairfield. Representative Cocco has been a statewide leader in the transportation field. In the General Assembly, she has served since 1987 on the transportation committee, including 10 years as the co-chair. She has also been involved in local transportation issues. Ms. Cocco is a member of the Finance, Revenue & Bonding and the Judiciary Committees. She was born and raised in Bridgeport and continues to reside in the City. Ms. Cocco was elected to the Bridgeport Town Committee in 1984 and has served on the Board of Human Affairs, the Charter Revision Committee and was elected State Representative in 1986. In addition, Ms. Cocco has served on the Appropriations, Public Health, Energy and Labor Committees.

In 1996, Governor Rowland created “Team Bridgeport”, in an attempt to revitalize one of the largest urban centers in CT. One of the prominent members of this Committee was Rep. Cocco.

DMJM+HARRIS, Inc. was awarded the WTS Connecti-
WTS CT Valley Announces Member Scholarship Winner

WTS CT Valley has recently offered a Member Scholarship to one or as many as three candidates who express 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 and Non-Members. This scholarship is open to the entire membership of the CT Valley Chapter and we encourage those who want to become more active and assist with bringing new ideas and developing programs to submit their applications. Lisa Rivers of the Department of Transportation is 2003 Membership Scholarship Award Winner. Ms Rivers is currently in her second term as Vice President. She also sits on the Membership Committee and maintains the mailing data base for the Chapter. Ms. Rivers also assists with planning programs and attends most of the programs held each year. Congratulations Lisa!

The Connecticut Valley Executive Board encourages those seeking more involvement in the organization to contact anyone listed on the back pages of this newsletter and, if interested, to submit their membership scholarship application next year in December 2003 / January 2004.

WTS CT VALLEY—FRIENDS OF THE INTERVAL HOUSE

Each year WTS Connecticut Valley sponsors a holiday social where proceeds go directly to an organization called the Interval House.

The Interval House is a non-profit organization that provides free support services to victims of domestic violence. The services include a safe shelter as well as food and clothing or whatever it is that may be needed in a particular domestic violence situation.

The WTS Annual Holiday Social is free of charge for people who would like to attend and bring a donation for the Interval House. This year's Social was cancelled, however, our members and many of the WTS CT Valley supporters who planned to attend or who planned to donate, sent checks, gift certificates, calling cards and even had items delivered to us as their donation. It was so heart warming to receive such a large number of donations which I

were able to be sent to the Interval House. At first, I sent the items through the U.S. mail, however, we also received a great deal more at the awards banquet in January. There was so much, I elected to handle deliver the donations directly to a designated location. In return, WTS CT Valley received a very nice thank you note which I would like to share with you:

Thank you for your recent collections from the holiday social which was cancelled on December 5th. Because of your support, we are able to answer "Yes" when battered women ask, "Can you help me?". We work in partnership with you to offer an interval of safety to battered women and their children and hope for their future.

How battered women and their children benefit from the contributions of supporters such as yourselves is told in the stories and articles presented in our agency newsletter, which is available to you. If you would like more information or have questions about our work, please call 860-246-9146, extension 12. If you belong to a faith community, club or civic group, please consider inviting our community educator to do a presentation about domestic violence. Thank you for your kind support. Sincerely, Cecile Enrico, Executive Director.

Again I would like to thank the organization and its followers for making this fundraising event so successful and share the special thanks that we received from the Interval House. I encourage you to follow-up on this issue should it pertain to you or someone you know.

Warmest Regards,
Lori Long
DMJM+HARRIS, Inc.
WTS Leadership Training—What a Wonderful Experience

WTS National offers its members a fabulous opportunity that I encourage all members to take advantage of.

For three consecutive years, WTS has offered a Leadership Training Program to its members. To apply for the program, you are required to meet certain criteria. Some of these include a letter of recommendation, a written statement of your interest in the program and a current resume. These are relatively easy items to compile. The difficult part, as always, is finding the time in your busy schedules to prepare the information and send it in by the deadline. The first two years this program was offered, the deadline crept up on me, and unfortunately, I missed the closing date. This year, I was bound and determined to make a go of it. My advice to you is once the announcement for the packages is made put it on the top of your priority list. You will be amazed at how fast something gets done when you really want it.

The program is designed and taught by many bright, professional and knowledgeable women who are experts in the leadership field.

The sessions far exceeded my expectations of what I thought it might include. I kept hearing that the program was INTENSE. Since I have attended many WTS functions both locally and Nationally I thought I was prepared for whatever WTS had to offer. I was wrong.

This program was about learning and understanding yourself, looking at others in new light, hearing about the most recent transportation issues, seeing the success of women and men in the transportation industry, understanding that women and men run into the same roadblocks that everyone does, some just hide it better than others. WTS Leadership Training is about meeting a tight knit group of women and holding them close in your network circle. It involves your heart and soul, your mind and body for three full days. Once you have completed this program, you leave feeling so full of energy and information that it will take you a week to try and digest it all.

In the short term, I have begun to view the working world in a new light trying to understand how I fit into it and how I can work better and more efficiently now and in the future.

I will share the information that was passed along to me, and I my hope is that I can continue to expand on the ideas and thoughts that others have so generously shared with me.

In a world full of so many different types and blends of people and in an industry that is full of twists and turns, there will always be a variety of ways to look at something and always a different way to see that same situation. But there is always time to listen and hear what others have to say and certainly there is a time to learn and apply what you have learned to improve yourself and your situations.

If you have not thought about it yet, please consider applying for this training. I truly believe that your experience will be as thrilling and rewarding as mine was.

Information on the 2004 Leadership Training Program will be forwarded to you—mark your calendars and make it your top priority.

Lori Long, DMJM&HARRIS, Inc.

WTS CT Valley - Race for the Cure - May 10, 2003

We are currently seeking people to join the WTS CT Valley Team to Run / Walk in the 10th Annual Susan G. Komen, Breast Cancer Foundation, Race for the Cure. This annual event is held in New Britain, Connecticut at Walnut Hill Park. If you are a runner, jogger, walker or just like to cheer people on, please join us as we gather together to help find a cure and fight this disease. You are reminded that no matter what your ability is, you can join us at any level. May is not far away for those of us who have been stuck in our homes—we need to hit the pavement and get those feet flapping. It’s a great Goal, and its for a wonderful cause. If you are interested in joining the team or have any further questions, please contact Lori Long at lori.long@dmjmharris.com or 203-335-7425.
Upcoming Events Mark your Calendars

Annual Meeting, Guest Speaker CT Commissioner Jim Byrnes
April 10, 2003
WTS CT Valley will hold their Annual Luncheon at Carmen Anthony’s of Wethersfield. Commissioner Byrnes will speak on the Route 11 Extension Project.

10th Annual Susan G. Komen, Breast Cancer Foundation, Race for the Cure
May 10, 2003
WTS CT Valley will again assemble a Team to run or walk in this Annual Event. Hit the pavement now! More information will be forthcoming, hope to see you there.

WTS National Conference, Boston Massachusetts
May 14, to May 16, 2003
WTS National Conference will be held in Boston. First notices have been sent, mark your calendars.

WTS Members Only Planning Meeting
June 2003

WTS Annual Boat Cruise
August 8, 2003
CT River Boat Cruise, what a great way to network with transportation officials and enjoy the peaceful and beautiful Connecticut River setting.

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

Welcome WTS 2003 New Members
Jacqueline Cocco, CT State Representative (2002, Women of the Year)
Beth Penney, with Penney Software Services
Kim DeMatteo, with DMJM+HARRIS, Inc.

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

2002—2003
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