With all of the worldwide focus on global warming and energy conservation, we sometimes forget to look at what is really happening in our everyday lives and how we as individuals can all “make a difference” right here in the communities we live in and within our homes. In July, Governor Rell unveiled a Conservation Campaign called “OneThing.” According to the Governor, “The ‘OneThing’ campaign builds on the enormous impact that could be achieved if every person in Connecticut did one thing, every day, to help conserve all forms of energy — from electricity and gasoline to natural gas and renewable resources.” (Source: Press release from the Office of Governor M. Jodi Rell, July 11, 2007)

This, along with education, is truly the guts of conservation philosophy. I personally have seen advancement and progression with energy and transportation across the state; it is like a fast spreading forest fire. There is a movement for conservation in our educational facilities, and in many of our local communities. Conservation is stimulated with innovative technologies, sustainable development practices, recycling programs, and alternative energies.

The University of Connecticut has taken on a grand initiative for broadening fuel cell research, announcing on September 22nd that it has raised more than $2 million from state businesses to match state funding. University officials designated the School of Engineering to recruit researchers and faculty members with expertise in fuel cell and other forms of sustainable energy. Michael J. Hogan, President of the University of Connecticut, said that the fuel cell initiative will help establish a “training ground for the 21st century workforce” and reduce consumption of fossil fuel. (Source: September 19, 2007-Stephen Singer, Associated Press Writer)

Connecticut boasts a broad array of transportation conservation initiatives and alternative modes of transportation. We hope to see you at two upcoming events which will highlight some of these initiatives: AltWheels Alternative Energy Festival in Boston on September 29th and September 30th and the Transportation Mini-Series on October 25th at the Marriott Hartford Rocky Hill.

Theresa Albanese-Pereyo
WTS CT Valley Chapter President
Summer Social at Hopkins Vineyards

On August 9th, a small group of WTS members met at Hopkins Vineyard for the CT Valley Summer Social. Hopkins Vineyards overlooks scenic Lake Waramaug in the Litchfield Hills. The evening began with a tour of the winery and a walk through the beautiful grounds. The second part of the evening consisted of wine tasting and socializing. Attendees ended the experience with some shopping in the Hopkins Vineyards store.

Summer Golf Outing

On August 23rd, the CT Valley Chapter joined the WTS Rhode Island Chapter and New England ITE at Meadow Brook Golf Course in Rhode Island. The golf outing attendees participated in a low-key evening of nine holes followed by dinner, networking and relationship building. Terri Albanese-Pereyo, CT Valley Chapter President, participated in this event. The jointly sponsored event brought together individuals from varied backgrounds. The event was such a success, that those who participated agreed to plan future joint events. Kudos to our sister WTS Rhode Island Chapter for organizing this event!

WTS International Annual Conference

The WTS International 2007 Annual Conference was held on May 2–4 in San Diego, California. The conference, “Re-inventing the Wheel,” was attended by Theresa Albanese-Pereyo, CT Valley Chapter President, and Lori Long, Programs Co-Chair (pictured below, right, with Margaret O’Meara, WTS International Regional Director and WTS Boston Chapter member, left). Conference sessions were held on such topics as “Creative Ways to Find and Involve John and Jane Q. Public” and “Financing our Transportation Future.” The Conference also included tours, exhibits, and special events, such as a silent auction and a walk-run to benefit the WTS Scholarship Program. Over 430 people attended the event.

The WTS International 2008 Annual Conference will be held from May 14–16 in Atlanta, Georgia. Mark your calendars now!

Interested in becoming more involved in WTS?

Prospective members and current members are always welcome at our CT Valley Chapter’s monthly board meetings. Please contact any of the board members for more information.

We have several open committee chair positions including: Programs Co-Chair, Newsletter Co-Chair, Bylaws Chair. If you would like to become more involved in the chapter, consider volunteering on one of these committees or just attend the monthly board meetings listed on the front cover of the newsletter. We could really use the help and love new ideas. Join us!
Transportation Mini Series

WTS CT Valley Chapter announces their first Transportation Mini Series to be held on Thursday, October 25th at the Marriott Hartford Rocky Hill. The afternoon will be comprised of a series of three sessions on top transportation issues, followed by a plenary session on the Federal Transportation Funding Bill. The day’s events will begin at 1 p.m. and continue through approximately 6:30 p.m. All proceeds will be donated to the WTS CT Valley Scholarship Program and Breast Cancer Awareness.

The afternoon sessions are:

“Go Green Transportation,” presented by Ken Stewart of United Technologies Corporation

“Ethics in the Transportation Industry Today,” presented by Donald Doeg of Updike, Kelly & Spellacy, P.C.


The evening plenary session will feature a discussion on the “Federal Transportation Funding Bill”. Albert A. Martin, Deputy Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Transportation, will open the session and introduce the speakers. The panel discussion on federal funding will be followed by questions and answers. The panelists will be H. James Boice, Deputy Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Transportation, Richard Doyle, Region 1 Administrator of the Federal Transit Administration, and Bradley Keazer, CT Division Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration. Attendees will then gather for a buffet dinner with special guest speaker, former WTS International President, Liz Levin.

The deadline for registration is October 17th. To register, please contact Nancy Rolfe at Nancy.Rolfe@dmjmharris.com.

For more information about the event, please contact Theresa Albanese Pereyo at talbanese@GFNET.com.

Mentorship Program Kicks Off Inaugural Year!

One of the freshest development opportunities offered by WTS Chapters across the country is a Mentorship Program. As the CT Valley Chapter prepares to embark on the inaugural year of its Mentorship Program, it extends a warm thank you to its sister chapters who have provided models and shared their program materials, such as the Colorado and Phoenix Chapters, and most especially the Greater New York Chapter for their support. Linda Travis, the Greater New York Mentorship Program Chair, and Charles Manning, a former mentor in the Greater New York Mentorship Program, shared their experience with the CT Valley at our Mentorship Program planning meeting this past June.

The purpose of the Program is to advance women in the transportation industry, and our goal in this first year of the Program is to graduate four or five apprentices. The CT Valley Chapter is currently seeking applicants, both mentors and apprentices, in the Program.

The Mentorship Program works by “teaming” a senior-level transportation industry professional with a mid- or junior-level professional. Each mentor-apprentice pair defines and works together on professional development objectives through monthly one-on-one meetings, as well as through periodic activities organized by the CT Valley Chapter.

The CT Valley Chapter’s Board of Directors is pleased to announce that its Mentorship Program will be a benefit of WTS members. This “members only” program is free to both mentors and apprentices.

For more information about the Mentorship Program, please contact Terri Albanese-Pereyo, CT Valley Chapter President, at talbanese@GFNET.com, or Laurel Stegina, CT Valley Chapter Vice President, at lstegina@fhiplan.com.
Spotlight on WTS CT Valley Chapter Member

Ruth Fitzgerald

Ruth Fitzgerald, President of Fitzgerald & Halliday Inc. (FHI), has been a member of WTS since shortly after the CT Valley Chapter’s inception. Ruth was the CT Valley Chapter’s first Programs Chair, and she remembers the early years. “In the beginning, we were just a small group of women who wanted to build a WTS Chapter. We used to meet in Union Station in Hartford in one of the Greater Hartford Transit District conference rooms,” she recalls.

Ms. Fitzgerald has seen WTS CT Valley Chapter grow over the years, as her own company has grown. This year, FHI is celebrating its 20th anniversary!

Ruth founded FHI in her Hartford West End Victorian home. Although FHI’s headquarters are no longer in Ruth’s home, the company has maintained a corporate culture of telecommuting. She says, “We have been telecommuting since before the term was invented!” The FHI corporate culture is vested in trusting the employee to function with integrity, which Ruth calls “our most important corporate value.”

She says that her proudest career achievement is that FHI is still in existence after 20 years and that the company continues to grow and evolve, providing “an affirming culture, where people like to be.”

According to Ruth, over the past twenty years FHI has been fortunate to work on most major transportation projects in Connecticut. Her own background is in transportation planning and environmental documentation, and FHI still reflects those fields of expertise, as well as others. Ruth serves as President of FHI and continues to contribute to project work, both as a project manager and as an advisor.

Ruth currently serves the WTS CT Valley Chapter today as an advisor for the Chapter’s inaugural year of its Mentorship Program.

Ms. Fitzgerald’s hope, both for FHI and for WTS, which celebrates its 30-year anniversary this year, is that they both remain active, vital, and evolving.

WTS CT Valley Chapter Corporate Sponsors

The WTS CT Valley Chapter would like to recognize and thank our corporate sponsors, who have contributed to our 2007 events through financial support and in-kind services: PB Americas, DMJM Harris, Dewberry, Gannett Fleming, The Washington Group, and Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc.

WTS CT Valley Chapter Announces First Annual Scholarship Program

Part of the WTS goal of fostering the development of women in the transportation field can be realized by encouraging bright new professionals to undertake careers in the area of transportation. The Sharon D. Banks Memorial Scholarship is awarded to women pursuing undergraduate studies in transportation. The WTS CT Valley Chapter will be awarding a $1,000 scholarship and a nomination for the $3,000 WTS National Scholarship. Scholarships are competitive and based on the applicant’s specific transportation goals, academic record and transportation related activities or job skills.

Applications have been disbursed to the various colleges and universities within Connecticut that offer transportation related fields as a major of study. Applications are also available through the WTS CT Valley Scholarship Chair, Shawna Bartkus. You can contact Shawna at sbartkus@dewberry.com.
30th Anniversary Gala

WTS International celebrated its 30th Anniversary on September 18th in Washington, DC. The Gala celebration, held at Union Station, included a day of seminars on focusing on the theme of “Global Climate Change: What is Transportation’s Role.”

An evening reception and Gala dinner honored the accomplishments of women in the transportation industry and paid special tribute to U.S. Secretary of Transportation Mary Peters for her leadership in advancing the nation’s transportation system.

Welcome New Members!

Ewa Zofka — Wilbur Smith Associates

Kim Tran — Baker Engineering, Inc.

WTS Boston Chapter
AltWheels Alternative Transportation & Energy Festival

September 28th, 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.
September 29th, 10 a.m. a.m. – 6 p.m.
Boston’s City Hall Plaza

The WTS CT Valley Chapter is proud to announce that it will join WTS Boston Chapter as a participant and exhibitor at AltWheels Alternative Transportation & Energy Festival on September 28th and 29th this year. AltWheels is the largest festival of this type on the east coast. It will be held at Boston City Hall Plaza during two-fun filled days of exciting activities for the entire family.

WTS realizes that as a transportation industry leader it is important to grow the awareness and commitment to sustainable transportation within the organization. As sponsors and participants, WTS can get the "word" out about clean transportation and energy technologies and alternatives. Last year’s AltWheels Event attracted over 20,000 people. The Theme for this year's festival is Celebrating Green Pioneers and Regional Heroes.

Admission to the event is free! For more details about this spectacular festival go to www.AltWheels.org, or contact Theresa Albanese-Pereyo at talbanese@GFNET.com.

WTS Quarterly Meeting and Summer Boat Ride in NYC

WTS CT Valley Chapter President, Theresa Albanese-Pereyo joined other WTS leaders for the Quarterly Meeting held on August 2nd–4th in New York City. The Greater New York Chapter was the host Chapter. The meeting started with the Annual Summer Boat Ride, a ferry cruise on the Hudson River on August 2nd. This is an annual social and networking event held by the Greater New York Chapter and it should not be missed next year!

The official business meeting was held on August 3rd in the Sheraton Towers. There were about 45 attendees representing the various Chapters nationwide. Detailed business items discussed during the business session included the WTS budget, newly developed Strategic Plan Goals, Scholarship process and schedule, International Committees Reports and updates from Chapters in attendance.
Powerful Tool Crunches Commutes

As the holidays approach and travelers hit the roads, traffic congestion becomes a hot topic around the country, even in places where rush hour is not very rushed at all.

Websites for travelers are nothing new, but researchers in Sunnyvale, Calif., have developed an advanced system with a twist: in addition to tracking traffic congestion, the program crunches data from 14,000 sensors, in some cases every 30 seconds, to decipher evolving rush-hour patterns.

The end result is www.BeatTheTraffic.com, a tool that tells commuters how long they can expect to sit in their cars, which shortcuts will get them home faster that day and even the best time to leave the home or office.

The tool is now available to commuters in 45 U.S. cities, with the heavily-congested Washington, D.C., metropolitan area just now coming online.

Tied to a statistical database that tracks how traffic conditions developed over the course of a "rush hour," for example, the software suggests a commute based on congestion that may arise, not traffic status at the time of departure. Based on such statistics, the researchers have found that many commuters can save more time by altering their departure time than they would using mass transit.

In use for more than a year in states from Illinois to Alaska, www.BeatTheTraffic.com is user-tailored down to the scale of individual roads, a result of the vast, yet disparate, government data sources driving the software.

Developed by Triangle Software with the support of NSF’s Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program, the tool is currently serving about 35,000 commuters, with the potential to help millions through coordination with local news media.

"By providing personalized traffic information on any number of routes or alternate routes straight to mobile phones or other text messaging devices, we try to save users time and aggravation," said Andre Gueziec, lead researcher on the project.

The website interface includes a base map of all roads, with average traffic speed and any obstacles such as accidents or construction mapped to each of 32,000,000 road segments. The software feeds this data to the routing engine, which can toggle travel options to find the quickest possible trip under real-time conditions.

Routes are personalized, so a user can continually track status on a number of regular paths, such as "home to grocery" or "office to gym," all of which are continuously recomputed to reflect new problems that may arise.

The researchers are close to releasing a new application that may eventually combine the accumulating road data with weather and holiday traffic information to generate seven-day forecasts for travel. The tool is particularly useful for travelers heading out of town, or those pondering relocation who want to better gauge their new commute before making the decision to move.

"BeatTheTraffic.com is better at exploiting live traffic data from transportation departments and law enforcement than any previous system," says Gueziec. "The site works similarly to a real-time Google," he adds, "finding specialized data for road conditions amidst a rapidly changing map."

The improvements are driven by a number of new developments, including the developers' powerful database-driven personalization engine, flexible routing engine, and efficient archiving and retrieval system.

The system already sends a text message to cell phones and other wireless devices when a route is experiencing a substantial delay, and the researchers are now exploring ways to integrate this function with car navigation systems.

Source: National Science Foundation, August 30, 2007.
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Visit WTS Online Soon!
The WTS International website contains a vast array of information about the WTS mission, its goals, and history.

Our website www.wtsinternational.org is currently being redesigned and reconstructed.

So check out the new and improved website soon!

MEMBERS ON THE MOVE!

Lori Long, with PB Americas Glastonbury office, is now Senior Office Engineer. Ms. Long has over 20 years of experience in the transportation industry, with expertise in construction management. She is currently working on the New Haven Rail Yard project for PB Americas.

Ms. Long has been a WTS CT Valley Chapter member for over 10 years and has served on the WTS International Board of Directors. She is currently serving on the Board of Directors as Events Co-Chair for the WTS CT Valley Chapter.

AUTUMN GOLF CLINIC

The WTS CT Valley Chapter will hold an autumn golf clinic at Golf Quest in Southington on October 2nd beginning at 6 p.m. For more information, please contact Theresa Albanese Pereyo at talbanese@GFNET.com.

TRANSPORTATION MINI SERIES

The WTS CT Valley Chapter is hosting a Transportation Mini Series on Thursday, October 25, 2007 at the Marriott Hartford Rocky Hill. The event will take place from 1 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., with three 40-minute concurrent afternoon sessions from 1:30 p.m. to 4:15 p.m., a plenary session on federal funding legislation and buffet dinner beginning at 4:30 p.m. Contact Nancy Rolfe at nancy.rolfe@dmjmharris.com to register. Contact Theresa Albanese Pereyo at talbanese@GFNET.com with questions or for more information about this event.