Spring is here and already we witness kids outside playing and riding bikes. My daughter is rushing onward to summer which is inferred by wearing Bermuda shorts to school. The robins were back in early March which I guess in Connecticut is a sure tale sign that spring is “unofficially” here. Yet the morning air is still chilly…I personally like the gradual transition to spring. Our southern New England winter was not so harsh, even though there was not a lot of snow melt I would bet that we have reached our peak rainfall level during March.

WTS CT Valley Chapter Board organized their planning meeting in January and we are actively working on programs and events for 2008 and beyond. Refer to the various articles throughout the newsletter which provides a sneak-peak at upcoming events, programs locally and regionally. We always welcome fresh faces at our Board Meetings so perhaps you can join us at our next meeting on April 8 in Glastonbury. Please send an e-mail if you would like more details.

Interestingly enough I have come across a few transportation-themed "Museums of Interest" throughout Connecticut that can be enjoyed by all…they are listed below. Connecticut surely has a lot to offer for all of its residents. I certainly will spend a few weekend days in April and May visiting some of these museums.

- Connecticut Trolley Museum, East Windsor
- Connecticut Electric Railway Museum, East Windsor (Trolley Museum & Transportation Museum)
- Shore Line Trolley Museum, East Haven
- Danbury Railway Museum, Danbury
- Golden Age of Trucking Museum, Middlebury
- SoNo Switch Tower Museum, Norwalk
- Railroad Museum of New England, Thomaston
- Connecticut Eastern Railroad Museum, Windham
- New England Air Museum, Bradley Airport

A venue you my find interesting is the New England Rail Forum & Expo which will be held on March 25 at the Rhode Island Convention Center. Our WTS Chapter along with the WTS Boston and Rhode Island Chapters will be exhibitors at this event. The Expo will highlight issues and developments influencing railroads in Southern New England.

Hope to see you there!

Theresa Albanese-Pereyo
WTS CT Valley Chapter President
talbanese@gfnet.com
WTS CT Valley Transportation Mini Series—October 2007

WTS Connecticut Valley shows Great Spirit with Big Results as they host their first annual Transportation Mini Series, held on October 25, 2007. The program focused on hot issues in Connecticut and Green Transportation. Three afternoon sessions followed by a set of panelist followed by a wonderful dinner and a motivational speaker made for one of the most successful programs in WTS Connecticut Valley History.

The Transportation Mini Series dream was born following attendance to the 2008 WTS International Conference, where board members wanted to share the enthusiasm of a Transportation Conference “mini style”. Many Connecticut dignitaries and WTS Partners (sponsors included, Dewberry, Gannett Fleming, DMJM Harris, PB Americas and Washington Group) came together to provide information to members and transportation enthusiasts. WTS CT Valley wants to warmly thank their sponsors and acknowledge that without them, this program would not have been the success it now claims to have been!

The day began with three sessions including a presentation on the Rehabilitation of the New Haven Rail Yard (presented by ConnDOT and PB Americas), Green Transportation and Fuel Cell use (presented by UTC Corp.) and Ethics in Transportation (presented by Updike, Kelly & Spellacy, P.C.). Connecticut Deputy Commissioner (H. James Boice), a Federal Transportation Agency representative (Richard Doyle) and a Federal Highway Representative (Bradley Keazer) discussed the Federal Transportation Funding Bill and answered questions regarding the composition of this bill. Our closing speaker was none other then Liz Levin, who brought the house down with a light and quite entertaining rendition of “leadership in today’s world.”

One cannot express with enough gratitude to all WTS CT Valley Chapter Sponsors, Executive Board and all who participated to make this a spectacular success.

5 - WTS CT Valley Transportation Mini Series Sponsors

Transportation Mini Series Planners, Terri Albanese-Pereyo, Lori Long, Shawna Bartkus, Laurel Stegina

Transportation Mini Series Speakers, John Hanifin (ConnDOT) and Glen Hayden (PB).

Transportation Mini Series dinner Speaker, former WTS National President Ms. Liz Levin, of Liz Levin & Company.
February 19, 2008 Connecticut Engineers Joint Meeting, sponsored by American Council of Engineering Companies of CT, Connecticut Society of Civil Engineers, Connecticut Society of Professional Engineers, and the CT Chapters of: Association of Facilities Engineers, IEEE, Institute of Transportation Engineers, and Women’s Transportation Seminar, was held on February 19, 2008. This event featured two afternoon programs, one on Space and Lunar Structures and the other was a Young Engineer’s Roundtable. The Space and Lunar Structures session featured a talk by Ramesh Malla, Ph.D a civil engineering professor at UCONN. Dr. Malla spoke about the possibilities and challenges of setting up permanent bases on the Moon as well as Mars. It was a very interesting and insightful session. The Young Engineers Roundtable session was facilitated by Mark Austin, PE. This session offered some candid discussion regarding young engineers entering the work force and the challenges they face. Additionally, there was some open brainstorming on how to help the young engineer remain enthusiastic in their profession as well as ideas on how to retain a solid workforce in the engineering field. The afternoon social hour offered several displays on some construction/transportation products, insurance opportunities as well as a WTS Display. Following a lovely dinner, University of Hartford EWB (Engineers Without Boundaries) Student Chapter members presented an exciting rendition of a project they worked on designing, building and implementing a water system with the people of Abheypur, India. EWB is a non-profit humanitarian organization established to partner with developing communities worldwide in order to improve their quality of life. The photos and stories were both interesting and allowed the audience a good idea of how the whole project came together with an amazingly successful completion. As these young engineers and their advisor, Professor David Pines, were involved in this project they were able to broaden their horizons and experienced a new culture as they lived and worked and totally succeeded providing a much needed water system to people who completely appreciated all their efforts. These young engineering students are to be commended for their willingness and passion to help this developing village.

~ Article Submitted by Nancy Rolfe and Lori Long

WTS Co-Sponsors Public Transportation Breakfast at the Capitol, The CT Valley Chapter of WTS hosted a legislative breakfast at the State Capitol Building on February 28, 2008. The event, co-sponsored with the Connecticut Association for Community Transportation (CACT), focused on the importance of investing in Connecticut’s public transportation services.

Laurel Stegina, WTS CT Valley Chapter Vice-President, welcomed attendees, which included speakers James Boice, Connecticut Department of Transportation Deputy Commissioner, and State Senator and Chief Assistant Majority Leader Donald DeFronzo. State Senator DeFronzo is also co-chair of the legislature’s Transportation Committee, along with State Representative Antonio Guerrera, who also attended the legislative breakfast.

Presenter Gloria Mills, CACT Executive Director, advocated for $79.5 million in bus transit operating funds ($12.7 million per year over the next five years). This funding would benefit communities in Connecticut by improving access and mobility, enhancing job access, supporting economic development, and reducing traffic congestion and air pollution. Capital investments are also needed ($43 million per year) for the purchase of new vehicles, parking for express bus services, and the implementation of bus rapid transit projects, and expanded facilities.

The joint WTS-CACT legislative breakfast is an annual event, this year attended by about 75 people.

~ Submitted by Laurel Stegina
Golf Clinic. On March 11, the WTS CT Valley Chapter held its second Golf Clinic at Golf Quest in Southington, CT. Nine people attended and were provided with golf instructions from Golf Pro, Kevin Giancola. Even though it was cold outside, the driving range was heated. Some newcomers to golf got a wonderful workout and picked up great tips as well! A few non-members attended and showed sincere interest in WTS membership and participating actively in the Chapter...and of course after all of that “work” hitting hundreds of balls– the group met for snacks and dinner at Max’s on West. Plans are underway for the next Golf Clinic to be held in June!

~ Article and Photos Submitted by Theresa Albanese-Pereyo

Kristin Stiff, a newcomer to Golf, obviously learns fast...great swing and follow-thru!  

Lori Long ready to drive the ball – look at her perfect form!

The National Transit Institute (NTI), is presenting a 3 day course entitled "Public Involvement in Transportation Decision Making" in Newington, Connecticut on May 6 - May 8, 2008.

Public Involvement is much more than posting notices and holding public hearings. Public participation involves creative thinking, with willingness and ability to interact openly to the public's preferred forms of communication. It is about being sensitive to disparate needs and conflicting priorities. It is about giving the public an opportunity to influence transportation decision making. This course “walks the talk” by employing public involvement techniques as the means of conveying the key learning outcomes. It is a joint effort among Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Office of Planning, NTI, the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Office of Planning, and the National Highway Institute (NHI) and was recently updated to reflect changes in the Federal Transportation reauthorization.

If you are interested in attending, please follow this link and register on line.

https://www.ntionline.com/CourseInfo.asp?CourseNumber=FP203
Welcome
2008 New Members!
Donna Carter- Greater New Haven Transit District
Denise O’Hara- Greater New Haven Transit District
Carrie Rocha - Keville Enterprises, Inc.
Laura Toole-Baker Engineering
Ewa Zofka - Wilbur Smith Associates
Patrycja Padio - Wilbur Smith Associates
Kristen Stiff — Howard/Stein-Hudson, Associates, Inc.

INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR’S Notes

Representing the Connecticut Valley, Boston, Rhode Island and London Chapters, I am delighted to provide you with quarterly updates from the International Board meetings. The following are highlights of our March meeting held in Orlando, Florida.

First, the Orlando Chapter welcomed the Board Members at their annual Awards Dinner.

The International Board participated in an all day Governance Focus Group to brainstorm about enhancing the clarity of WTS’ roles, commitment to mission, and long range goals as it pertains to the goals established within our strategic plan. A governance structure is expected to be finalized at the annual May conference.

WTS approved its 43rd Chapter. Congratulations and welcome to Northeast Ohio!

The election results of the 2008-2010 WTS International Board were approved. Their term will begin on May 16, 2008 (announcement soon).

A WTS Knowledge Center, an informal web-based network members can access for expert advice on a particular issue, is being developed. We are looking for volunteers who would be interested in working on the Knowledge Center Committee.

A Policy Seminar will be held September 11, 2008. The purpose of the seminar is to position WTS on the cutting edge of transportation issues. The focus of the seminar is Transportation for Tomorrow.

Next Board Meeting will be May 14th in Atlanta, Georgia at the International Conference. This year’s theme is “Transportation Crossroads.” We hope to see all of you there!

I welcome your comments and questions. Please contact me at 617-960-4906 or at omearam@pbworld.com.

Margaret O’Meare
WTS International Board Member and New England Business Manager

Americans Took 10.3 Billion Trips on Public Transportation in 2007

10.3 billion trips is the most in 50 years according to a report released by the American Public Transportation Association (APTA). The results constitute a 2.1 percent increase in transit ridership over the previous year. "In light of high gas prices, increased road congestion and expanded public transit services, this continued growth in ridership demonstrates how important public transportation is for America," APTA President William Millar commented. Miller continued-. "Now, with gas prices predicted to rise to $4 a gallon, there is a greater urgency for higher federal funding to expand U.S. public transportation systems, so Americans have an affordable transportation choice." The greatest rise in ridership, a 6.1 % increase over the previous year, was among light rail - including modern streetcars, trolleys, and heritage trolleys. Commuter rail posted the second-largest ridership increase (5.5 percent), and heavy rail (subways) increased by 3.1 percent. While bus service saw a 1 percent increase overall, APTA found, communities with populations of fewer than 100,000 saw a 6.4 percent increase in 2007.

Find a copy of the report at www.apta.com/research/stats/ridership.

(Source: Urban Transport News- March 14 2008, Capitol Press LLC)
News from WTS International

Policy Seminar 2008

WTS International is organizing a second annual Policy Seminar to be held on September 11, 2008. The Policy Seminar, a day-long event, will be held in Washington, D.C. It will involve two discussion groups, each with a moderated panel. The purpose of the event will be to provide a forum for dialogue across a broad cross-section of professionals. The focus of the event will be on policy, such as international trade/freight/security.

Knowledge Center

WTS International is in the process of developing a “Knowledge Center,” an online community whose purpose will be to educate/inform WTS members in a variety of technical areas. The Knowledge Center will be for “members only.” If you’re not a WTS member, join today!

2008 WTS Annual Conference

This year’s WTS Annual Conference, “Transportation Crossroads,” will be held in Atlanta, Georgia, from May 14th through May 16th. Online registration is now open via the WTS International website www.wtsinternational.org. Sessions feature national transportation issues (such as innovative pricing strategies), international and global issues (such as visioning world class cities), and much more.

~ Submitted by Laurel Stegina

---

Member on the Move - Michael McCarthy, DMJM Harris, Inc. in Rocky Hill CT, is serving as the Connecticut Operations Manager. Mr. McCarthy has 25 years of experience in the transportation industry, with most of this work with DMJM Harris (formerly Frederic R. Harris) working with numerous clients in the Connecticut and the New York areas. He is responsible for overseeing several projects which DMJM Harris is involved in such as Saga Bridge Design, Catenary “B” Replacement, I-84 Interchange Improvements, Fairfield Station, On Call Architectural/Engineering Assignments, I-95 Corridor Projects, New Haven Rail Yard, United Illuminating Inspection Services, M-2 Overhaul Program, On Call Rail Projects and Route 72 Reconstruction.

Mike has been a WTS CT Valley Chapter member for over 10 years and was honored as WTS CT Valley Advocate of the Year in 1999. He continues to support the CT Valley Chapter in many ways and encourages his staff to become involved and attend programs regularly. He is involved in the ACE Mentor Program for high school students who have an interest in the architectural, construction or engineering fields and has expressed interest in the WTS CT Valley Mentoring Program currently being developed. WTS CT Valley recognizes Mike McCarthy as a Member on the Move, congratulates him on his ongoing success and wishes him luck as he continues his work in the transportation industry.