Chapter Newsletter

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www.wtsinternational.org
As we approach the holiday season and the closing days of 2009, the WTS Board of Directors give thanks to all those who supported the Connecticut Valley Chapter this year! We have much to be grateful for—a successful partnership with ITE-CT in co-hosting the 3rd Annual Transportation Mini Series, the generous contributions of all of our corporate sponsors, and everyone who participated in one or more of our programs or events this year. We look forward to the coming New Year with great anticipation. One of my New Year’s resolutions for 2010 is to strengthen and grow our Chapter’s established WTS Committees. Currently WTS CT Valley Chapter has five active standing committees. They are:

- Communications Committee -- creates our newsletter and manages our website.
- Events Committee – plans all of our activities throughout the year.
- Membership Committee – provides our current membership with support and reaches out to folks who might not know what WTS is all about.
- Mentorship Committee – offers a structured year-long professional development opportunity to WTS members, pairing a senior level transportation professional with an apprentice, who engage in one-on-one and group sessions designed to support career growth.
- Scholarship Committee – maintains contact with colleges and universities and manages the process for selecting and granting merit-based scholarships to young women pursuing an education in the transportation industry.

Each of these Committees has a Committee Chair looking for enthusiastic and energetic Committee Members interested in helping them out. We are seeking WTS members who want to be more active in the CT Valley Chapter by becoming a member in one or more of these established Committees. Make OUR 2010 New Year’s Resolution one of YOUR New Year’s Resolutions and become a WTS Committee Member! It’s easy – just contact one or more of these Committee Chairs for more information:

- Communications Committee – Kim Tran, (khanh.tran@stvinc.com)
- Events Committee – Jessica Peruti (jperuti@haks.net) or Lori Long (longl@pbworld.com)
- Membership Committee – Terri Albanese (talbanese@gfnet.com)
- Mentorship Committee and Scholarship Committee – Shawna Bartkus (sbartkus@dewberry.com)

Wishing you a holiday season filled with peace, joy, and cherished good times with friends and loved ones! And see you in the New Year!

Laurel Stegina  
WTS CT Valley Chapter President
RIVER BOAT CRUISE

On August 21st about a dozen members and friends boarded the “Hartford Belle” at Charter Oak Landing in Hartford to cruise along the Connecticut River. The “Hartford Belle” is a beautiful 49-passenger riverboat with an open deck and an enclosed salon trimmed with mahogany and teak woods.

Initially it looked as if our cruise would be in the clear with the weather as the riverboat traveled up the river to tour the Hartford skyline before heading downriver to historic Wethersfield Cove. However, as the “Belle” made the turn downriver the dark clouds gathered overhead. We endured some heavy rain but nonetheless enjoyed light refreshments, and networking with colleagues.

GOLF CLINIC

The Golf Clinic was held at Golf Quest in Southington on September 16th. Nancy Rolfe, Chapter Secretary and Laurel Stegina, Chapter President, along with Erin Wilkinson and Elyse Fernandez from Lochner attended. Dinner was held at Mac’s on West followed by golfing. Everyone had a wonderful time driving balls and chatting.

TOUR DES FARM

The 2009 Tour des Farms, an annual bicycling event that supports local agriculture, took place on Saturday, September 26th starting at the Jones Family Farm in Shelton, Connecticut. Over 100 bicycle riders participated in the event, stopping and making purchases of produce and other items at local farms along the way. WTS CT Valley Chapter was a sponsor of the event and many attendees visited us at our display table the day of the event!
WTS CT Valley Chapter is generously supported by our corporate sponsors:

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CT VALLEY CHAPTER NEWSLETTER
FALL 2009
WTS CT Valley Chapter is generously supported by our corporate sponsors:

"Engineering is the science of economy, of conserving the energy, kinetic and potential, provided and stored up by nature for the use of man. It is the business of engineering to utilize this energy to the best advantage, so that there may be the least possible waste."

William A. Smith

Visit WTS online! We are at:
www.wtsinternational.org
WTS proudly sponsored its 3rd Annual Transportation Mini-Series in October of 2009. This event, entitled Green Transportation, was host to professionals within the industry, municipal leaders, CTDOT representatives and students. The all day affair began with a “coffee break” style event with FHWA Administrator, and one of WTS Connecticut Valley’s newest members, Ms. Amy Jackson Grove. The coffee break was held for WTS and ITE members only and kept to a minimum number of attendees in order to provide individuals the best opportunity to meet Amy and discuss hot button issues.

The days sessions began Financing Green Transportation Projects with Michael Vaccari and Virginia Wong of Nixon Peabody. Michael and Virginia touched on the many ways municipalities have been turning to finance transportation projects an provided examples of what is currently being done. Some of the methods of financing were new ways of tolling highways via variable toll charges for “fast lanes” and private/public partnerships where highways were owned and maintained by private businesses.

Transportation and Climate Change followed with Rachael Barolsky, U.S.DOT, John Zamurs, New York State DOT, and Anne McGahan, Boston Region MPO. This session included government findings on how transportation is effecting change, and what can and currently is being done to slow down the process. John discussed the many ways in-which the State of New York DOT has changed their ways of doing business and their overall goal of lowering their carbon footprint in the upcoming years. Anne discussed how climate change will affect the current landscape of Boston and what is being done to plan for that change.

Greenovation 101: Economic and Environmental Benefits with Maria Roberts De La Parra, BMB Construction Properties discussed the many opportunities for individuals to develop their current employment positions through certifications and licenses to better position them for a greener transportation industry in the future.

Smart Transportation with Cheryl Moon-Siriani, PennDOT, shared what the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation is doing to build better communities via Smart Transportation. Their goal is to link transportation investments with land use planning and decision-making.
Finally the dinner program, moderated by Amy Jackson Grove, entitled CT Rail: Present & Future, was paneled by a group of experts regarding rail in Connecticut. Panelists were Robert MacLagger, Vice President of Planning, Metro-North; Scott Howland, Principal Officer Commuter Policy & Development, Amtrak; Peter Simmons, Executive Director of Responsible Development, CTDECD; and Jeffrey Parker, Deputy Commissioner, ConnDOT. The audience during this program was alive with questions in hopes of getting answers to the who, what, where and when rail will move forward in Connecticut.

For more detailed information on the sessions, presentations are posted on the WTS website, www.wtsinternational.org, in the Connecticut Valley Chapter section.

WTS teamed with ITE for this event for the second year. This partnership is an opportunity for our organizations to work together in providing professional development and networking opportunities to our memberships. Save the date, October 15, 2010, for next year's Transportation Mini-Series! If you have any questions, comments or would be interested in participating on the planning committee or being a presenter please contact any one of our board members.

WTS-CT Valley gathered comments and suggestions after the program. What did folks say? Here are a few of the comments we received:

"... the sessions on Climate Change and Livable Communities were right on target."

"I thought all the sessions were pertinent. Although, I didn't attend all the sessions I heard people praising the seminars."

"...the woman from PENNDOT was really good."

"... I think the program was great."

"... the accommodations and food were excellent. I think the best of any WTS function I've attended."

WTS CT Valley thanks you for your support!
One of WTS-CT Valley Chapter’s Board Members, Kim Tran attended the Chapter Leadership Training held from November 5-7, 2009 in Miami, Florida. The Chapter Leadership Training is held annually to support chapters by training chapter leaders on various management aspects of the organization and to provide a forum for exchange of ideas.

The program kicked-off with a reception cruise of Biscayne Bay hosted by WTS-South Florida Chapter. This event was a great opportunity to meet members of the International Board and for chapter to chapter networking.

The training offered several programs including "The Power of I" led by Nancy Proffitt of Proffitt Management Solutions, Chapter Governance and the WTS Foundation. Additional sessions to discuss chapter management functions were presented in unique formats including "speed learning", storytelling, small facilitated conversation groups and panel discussions. Attendees were also broken into groups to write and perform a WTS song, leading to lots of fun and laughs!

A session on the Worldwide Web introduced the development of “TransPortal”, a new WTS website community which will allow members on both chapter and organization-wide levels to communicate in a message board style format. The session also included an introduction to the WTS Knowledge Center, another web-based community, focused on bringing together members that perform similar functions across all modes. Lastly, attendees were introduced to a new online registration system. The online registration system is optional for chapter participation.

Attendees were immersed into the spirit of WTS International and actively participated in the exchange of ideas and strategies with other chapters. They returned energized and inspired to implement some of the new ideas learned at the conference.

Article submitted by Carrie Rocha
(WTS-Boston Chapter Treasurer)

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT (Nancy Rolfe)

Nancy P. Rolfe, P.E. is a Senior Civil Engineer with AECOM (one of the largest providers of professional technical and management support services in the world with approximately 45,000 employees). She has over 18 years of experience in design engineering and construction inspection including highways, state routes, and bike paths.

She started her career as a construction inspector with CTDOT in District I, then transferring to the State Design Unit in Newington Headquarter Office before leaving CTDOT for the consultant world with CTE which became DMJM Harris and now AECOM.

She is married with a husband (Tom) and 3 sons (James is 12; Will & Ben are the twins (6 yrs old) & a dog named Becca, all living in Rocky Hill, CT.

She holds a B.S. in Engineering Technology from Central CT State University. She was recently nominated for the Central CT State University’s Dr. Stuart Bennett Alumni Award. This award is for an outstanding alumni from the construction management program.

She is serving as Chapter Secretary of WTS Connecticut Valley. Nancy is an enormous asset to the Chapter, maintaining an accurate mailing list and distributing all of our event notices and our Chapter newsletter. She is involved in other organizations such as ASCE, CSCE. Nancy also is an active member of her church and makes prayer shawls and quilts for folks who need them.

In her spare time she likes to quilt and crochet.
AROUND THE AREA

WTS - RHODE ISLAND

*Holiday Social Wine Tasting*

Date: Tuesday, December 1st, 2009  
Location: Twist Restaurant, Providence, RI

Come and spread some holiday cheer! Please join WTS Rhode Island for their annual holiday social on Tuesday, December 1st, starting at 5:30pm at Twist Restaurant in Providence, RI. This year's social will include a wine tasting accompanied by cheese and crackers.

For additional details, contact Lisa Sherman at rhodeisland@wtsinternational.org.

WTS - GREATER NEW YORK

*WTS Holiday Party*

Date: Monday, December 7, 2009  
Location: Trinity Place Restaurant  
115 Broadway at Cedar, NY

Please join fellow WTS Members at a cocktail party from 5:00pm to 7:00pm to celebrate the Holiday Season and ring in 2010!

Cost: WTS Member - Free  
Non-Member - $40

Hors d'oeuvres will be served. Cash Bar.

For reservation, please contact Marie Delucia at marie.delucia@gmail.com.

ITE

Please join the Annual New England ITE Section Meeting on Monday, December 7th, 2009 at the Crowne Plaza in Warwick, RI.

ITE-CT annual joint meeting with ITS-CT will be held on Tuesday, January 26th, 2010.

For more information, please contact Joe Hallisey at hallisey@pbworld.com.

WTS - BOSTON

*WTS - Boston Diversity Event*

"Urban Transportation Sustainability in China"

Date: Wednesday, December 2nd, 2009  
Location: Central Trans. Planning Staff Office  
Ten Park Plaza, 2nd Floor  
Boston, Massachusetts

Registration/Networking 5:15pm  
Dinner 5:30pm  
Program 5:30 to 7:00pm

This is a FREE event. Kindly RSVP by Friday, 11/26/09 as space is limited. For registration and questions on this event, please contact Lyris Liautaud at lyris liautaud@EOT.State.ma.us.

WTS - BOSTON

*December Luncheon and Annual Meeting*

"Traffic Congestion in Boston - A Bird's Eye View"

Date: Thursday, December 17, 2009  
Location: Tremont Hotel, Boston, MA.

Registration/Networking 11:30am  
Lunch 12:00pm  
Program 12:30pm - 1:15pm

Cost: WTS Member $30/$35  
Non-Member $45/$60  
Students & Retirees: $10

Kindly RSVP by Friday, December 11th, 2009.

For registration or questions, please contact Williamson at rwilliamson@gpinet.com.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS?

If you've recently changed employers or moved, please send an email to Nancy Rolfe at nancy.rolfe@aecom.com so that your contact information can be updated & we can keep you informed of all upcoming WTS CT Valley events!
### BOARD OF DIRECTORS/COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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Senior Planner II  
Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc.  
lstegina@fhiplan.com

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kstiff@hsha.soc.com

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nancy.rolfe@aecom.com

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longl@pbworld.com

### WTS Welcomes New Members!

Amy Jackson-Grove  
Federal Highway Administration

Larry Murphy  
CDM

Jenna Nichols  
URS Corporation

Latoya Smith  
CT Department of Transportation

Diana Shoaf  
Gannett Fleming, Inc.

Zhou Hongmei  
University of Connecticut

Donna M. Shea  
University of Connecticut

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**WANT TO VOLUNTEER!**

Why not get involved with WTS? The CT Valley Chapter could use your help! Volunteering has never been easier and the opportunities are endless. To volunteer, contact one of our Committee Chairs listed on this newsletter.

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**Special Membership Meeting**

to be held early next year. The focus of the meeting will be recruitment of new members, empowering current members to Volunteer as Committee Members and providing information on how to get the most out of your WTS membership. We will provide an overview of WTS and answer your questions and hopefully put your ideas into action! Invite a coworker, client or a student. The theme will be "Enrichments of WTS Membership at the Chapter and International Levels"

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**MEMBERS**

Please remember that membership renewals are due for members with expirations ending on 12-31.

"approximately 4,300 members from 44 Chapters representing cities and states in the United States, Canada and Great Britain; all dedicated to advancing women in transportation."

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WTS CT Valley Chapter is looking forward to launching a Student Chapter! We have a lot of interested students from various universities and colleges reaching out to our Chapter for this initiative. If you know a college counselor, professor or academic advisor who may be interested in assisting with this new membership please contact Lori Long longl@pbworld.com or Terri Albanese at talbanese@gfnet.com.

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Still not a member of WTS CT Valley? For information of how to join, contact Terri Albanese at talbanese@gfnet.com