Message from the President

Chicago was the perfect backdrop for another WTS Conference. It was exciting to review all the WTS accomplishments over the past year and look forward to an even greater future. As WTS as a national organization is continuing in its effort to promote and support women in the transportation profession. The January/February issue of the WTS National Newsletter published an article entitled “Women in Power: Making It Happen,” written by Elizabeth Levin, WTS National Development Committee Co-Chair. The article announced the creation of a WTS National and Chapter program aimed at creating an increased awareness of the importance of women on private-sector transportation firm’s boards of directors. The purpose of this program is to recognize firms who have women on their boards, and as a result, increases awareness of the importance of women in these roles. Hopefully, heightened awareness will lead to action and ultimately more inclusion of women in key leadership positions. To date, four companies have been identified: Bechtel; Parsons Brinkerhoff; Stone & Webster; and Frederic R. Harris.

Ann Hershfang, WTS National President, has worked diligently on placing WTS members within the Clinton Administration. Of the twenty-three members names submitted to the Administration for consideration, eleven members have been interviewed with four WTS members receiving positions. This includes Jane Garvey for the Boston Chapter as Deputy Administrator, Federal Highway Administration.

Now is the time to start saving your “pennies” for the next National Conference. In order to really get the WTS spirit, attendance at the National Conference is essential. The 1994 National Conference is being hosted May 18-20 in Los Angeles, California. The theme will be “Transportation in Transition.” Although the dates for the 1995 National Conference has not yet been confirmed, it is scheduled to be held Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This conference will examine the role of transportation in enhancing American competitiveness in the global economy. I hope you will be able to attend one in the near future. — M. Christina Olson

Celebrating Recent Meetings

April—Our second annual luncheon was held on April 13th in Farmington at the Marriott Hotel. The event was attended by seventy-five people. Connecticut Valley Chapter President Christina Olson introduced attendees to WTS National representative Laura Ray. Ray, Assistant Director of Transit Projects for the Metropolitan Transit Authority in New York City, urged everyone to become involved in WTS activities. She stressed “WTS can help you grow professionally, allow you to learn more about the industry and challenge you.”

The guest speaker was Nancy L. Hadley, Deputy Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Transportation. The topic of Hadley’s discussion was “Why Strive for Excellence?” She shared the reasons why state government is incorporating the Total Quality Management (TQM) concept into the public sector. Hadley distilled TQM into a few principle concepts, “customer service; continuous improvement; becoming a member of a team; involving employees in the decision making process; and above all, customer satisfaction.” She concluded her talk by asking attendee to “continually examine what we are doing.” She encouraged all to constantly strive for efficient, cost effective, and responsible means to conduct business.

May—The Department of Transportation Training Center was the location of the dynamic May 18th meeting. S.N.E.T. Training Consultant Jack Gehlke instructed the group of over twenty on the importance of customer “satisfaction”, not just customer service. This energetic leader spoke about service trends, goals, and how to focus on the customer. The group shared experiences of being both a satisfied and dissatisfied customers. Jack also stressed the importance of internal as well as external positive perceptions.

June—WTS Connecticut Valley members most recently toured New Britain Transportation’s headquarters. Participants learned many interesting facts about the 1920 formed company from President Ronald Agostini. Mr. Agostini talked about NBT’s founders, his parents Peter and Rose, and the company’s first bus a “Jiney”. Bus fare was five cents and it ran in direct competition with trolley cars. The group, who met in Berlin, toured the corporate and operating offices, dispatch center, maintenance shop, and safety/security training center. After continuing via bus NBT provided dinner for the group at its Southington plant. This small but proud company operates school bus contracts; state subsidized public transportation; commuter bus service; motorcoach charters; and packaged tour groups.
Member Spotlight

Shirley Granick—The May 1993 issue of Bus Ride magazine featured “Women in Transportation.” Several women had the chance to comment on special challenges they have encountered while working in the bus industry, and their outlook for the future of the bus business and those working in it. WTS Connecticut Valley member Shirley Granick was one of the nine chosen for publication. Shirley, Corporate Treasurer for the New Britain Transportation Company of Berlin Connecticut, told the story of her entry into the transportation field. Her first transit related job was twenty-five years ago as a part-time school bus driver. She shared her observations about the differences between drivers today to yesterday. Shirley also shared her enthusiasm about the potential growth for the transportation field in the near future. Shirley commented that “where there is growth, there is opportunity.”

Job Bank:

CUTR Transportation Research Associates

The Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) is seeking a few exceptional transportation policy analysts to join an interdisciplinary team in conducting policy-oriented studies. Transportation planning and research experience in transit, paratransit, transportation economics, and related areas is especially sought. These positions require a masters degree or higher in a transportation related field, such as planning, economics, or engineering. Excellent analytical skills and written/oral communication skills are required. Direct resume and inquiries by mail or facsimile to:

Search Committee
Center of Urban Transportation Research
University of South Florida
4202 E. Fowler Avenue, ENG 118
Tampa, Florida 33620-5350
Phone: (813) 974-3120 • Fax: (813) 974-5168