A Farewell Message from the President

"You've come a long way baby" is a phrase that describes our WTS chapter perfectly. I decided to take on the challenge of starting a Connecticut Valley Chapter because I was impressed by the caliber of people that I met who belonged nationally. And because I truly thought that the our state and local transportation industry would benefit from having its own chapter of WTS.

In 1988, I attended the WTS National Conference and met Grace Crunican from the Washington D.C. Chapter who at the time was serving as National President. Crunican told me about how she was able to build her professional intellect through WTS by learning from the membership about the entire transportation infrastructure. She learned more about rails, highways, trucking, air, ports and transit. The knowledge she gained furthered her career. She now serves as Deputy Administrator for the FTA in the Clinton Administration.

The open exchange of information and ideas among people from different modes and backgrounds within the industry was a vision I had for the Connecticut Valley. Expansion of our acumen in transportation to give us a better understanding of the entire system was, and still is, a major goal. I realized this would translate into a membership that would be more effective on the job and position us for professional advancement within our industry.

Official incorporation with the state of Connecticut in February 1992 was our first milestone. At that time, we were accepted by National WTS as the 24th chapter. Our membership has grown and we've been privileged by an offering of interesting and informative programs. I am very proud of what our chapter has attained. Our achievements have been made possible through the loyal, faithful support of the membership, especially those who have served as Chairpersons and Board members.

Being the President of our local WTS chapter has been a great learning experience for me. It's been an exciting and challenging time. I've especially enjoyed meeting and working with many talented transportation professionals on both a local and national level. I've been very involved with WTS Connecticut Valley Chapter since the seed was planted back in 1988. I now know that our chapter is firmly rooted and will continue to flourish. Secure in that knowledge, I feel that the time is right for me to step down as President.

WTS can have an impact on the transportation industry in Connecticut through the strength of its membership. By asking ourselves these two questions we can continue along the path to success: "What do I want from WTS?" and "What can I contribute?" I encourage the entire membership to become involved with the organization. It's a rewarding experience and through working together, we can open doors for each other.

Many thanks to everyone who worked so hard to get this chapter started. I extend my best wishes to the new Board as they take office in April. We have an excellent group and I can only see great things for the future.

— M. Christina Olson

Membership Report

Please welcome Henry D. Jadach of the Milford Transit District into the WTS Connecticut Valley membership.

Anyone interested in Transportation issues can receive additional information about WTS by writing: WTS Connecticut Valley, Inc., P.O. Box 290164, Wethersfield, CT 06109.
February Meeting A Success

The combined WTS/CACT breakfast meeting at the State Legislative Building on February 17 was well attended. In addition to WTS/CACT members, six State Senators, nine State Representatives, and Emil Frankel, DOT Commissioner were in attendance. The informal breakfast gave the members an opportunity to get to know each other and to discuss transportation legislation with the legislators.

Christina Olson, WTS President gave a brief overview of the organization, stating that membership is made up of women (and a few men) from all modes of transportation. In 1977, forty women in Washington, D.C., formed the first group which was dedicated to the advancement of women in transportation. The organization has grown steadily since that time and has chapters all over the country. The Connecticut group was incorporated in 1992 and now has 70 members.

Nancy Carroll, CACT Chairman, was next at the podium and described the function of the Connecticut Association for Community Transportation. Made up of public transit operators, non-profit transportation providers, planning organizations, funding agencies, and users of community transportation services, CACT members work together for transportation reform, improvements, innovations, and continuity of services. Their goals are to promote a statewide forum for community transit operators; to be an advocate for community transportation at the state and federal level; to provide technical assistance to its' members; and to maintain an affiliation with the national organization for the benefit of local community operators. Ms. Carroll stressed the importance of preserving and enhancing the integrity of community transportation. With ADA bringing additional pressures as well as additional costs to transit providers, CACT has been working with Senator Meotti on a proposal for a permanent funding source for community transportation operators. This legislation would call for an additional penny to the gasoline tax. In addition, CACT will lead the state effort to lobby for the maintenance of federal operating subsidies at current levels.

The meeting concluded at 9:30 A.M. and most members agreed it was an informative meeting which provided a good opportunity for networking with other transit professionals and state legislators.

Upcoming Events

March 21st  Realizing The Diversity Advantage
Guest Speaker: Dr. Michael Pesci
ConnDOT Newington Headquarters

April 8th  Third Annual Meeting
Guest Speaker: Kathleen E. Stein-Hudson
Radisson Hotel & Conference Center, Cromwell

May 18-20th  1994 National Conference
Transportation in Transition
Los Angeles