2016 is coming to an end as is my term as President of this Connecticut Chapter. I always feel introspective this time of year, but events of the year or maybe just getting older, have heightened these reflective feelings.

My deeper involvement with WTS these past two years has taught me much. I continue to be impressed by the depth and breadth of the talent of our members, Board officers and committees. It has been a pleasure working closely with Board members elected during my term. The ideas, the strength of character, the support they show each other is an inspiration. They are a credit to their firms.

I want to express my gratefulness to our corporate sponsors; their continued support has been invaluable to our organization. As we start our 25th anniversary of our Chapter in 2017, we will have additional opportunities to show our appreciation to those corporations that have been with us since the beginning and to those who recently gave us their support.

WTS is a non-profit organization and as such should remain apolitical. That said it is an organization that at its core is about moving women forward, that celebrates diversity.

For some this was just another election – for others (myself included) it was much more. For the first time since its establishment in 1828, a major political party chose a woman as the candidate to represent them. It has been almost 100 years since women first won the right to vote. Some women born before that day in August 1920, had the extra satisfaction of being able to vote for a female candidate; something they did not think would be accomplished during their lifetime.

The right to vote along with many other hard-fought rights should not be taken for granted and we need to remember how much effort and sacrifice by us and by our parents, grandparents and even great-grandparents went into attaining these liberties for us. We must continue to move forward and not give up any of these rights and freedoms, those that affect us directly and those that affect our neighbors, co-workers and friends.

Diversity and inclusion remain high priorities for WTS International and for this Chapter. Wherever the road takes us, we must remain adamant in fighting to keep sight of the WTS International core values.

- LOYALTY
- COLLABORATIVE ENVIRONMENT
- EXCELLENCE
- RESPECT
- PASSION

The ending of one year may be a time for introspection, but starting a New Year always brings with it hope and the excitement that comes from wondering what this New Year will bring. For our new board of directors and for our Chapter, I hope that it is a successful year both personally and professionally and that is a year of growth, individual growth and growth of our Chapter.

Visit us at: www.wtsinternational.org/connecticut/
SAVE THE DATE!!- 25TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

We are excited to announce that the WTS CT 25th Anniversary Gala will be held on **November 9, 2017** at the Gershon Fox Ballroom in Hartford, CT! Please mark your calendars for what’s sure to be a memorable event. This will be the culmination of a year long celebration of WTS Connecticut’s long rich history and commitment to the advancement of women in the transportation industry. Stay tuned for other events celebrating our 25th anniversary in 2017.

*Interested in becoming a member? Contact Lisa Slonus at slonusl@wseinc.com*

THANK YOU 2015/2016 ADVISORY BOARD

The WTS CT Board of Directors would like to acknowledge and offer special thanks to our 2015/16 Advisory Board members. Their knowledge and expertise has helped guide us in decision making, develop our programs, and work towards formalizing our procedures and policies.

**WTS CT Advisory Board members include:**

Anna Barry, Deputy Commissioner, CTDOT
Amy Jackson-Grove, Division Administrator, FHWA
Catherine Young, CM, ACE, ASC, General Aviation Airports Business Developer, Connecticut Airport Authority
Cheryl Malerba, Chief of Staff, CTDOT
Leslie Haines, PE, Sr. Operations Manager, Parsons
Ralph Phillips, PE, Sr. Project Manager, VB Technologies Corp.
Nicholas Lownes, Ph.D., P.E., Professor, University of Connecticut
Kimberly Dunham, Executive Director, Greater New Haven Transit District

KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR THE WTS CT ANNOUNCEMENTS EMAIL FOR MORE INFORMATION!
FROM THE ARCHIVES

In preparation of celebrating our Chapter's 25th Anniversary in 2017, we've created an Historical Committee, chaired by Lori Long, to preserve the Chapter's history.

Lori has voluntarily been collecting the Chapter's history for many years, including newsletters dating back to the very first issue in November 1991, CT Chapter member lists, program invitations, budgets, National and International handouts and announcements. The committee’s goal is to electronically save this information and make it available to all current chapter members and anyone interested in the evolution of the CT Chapter.

As a kickoff to this year long celebration, this new column, titled "From the Archives", will be included in our newsletters through 2017. The archives will include how the chapter started and where the chapter was at periods over the past 25 years.

Article from the Archives - from WTS Connecticut Valley Newsletter, dated February 1992, Volume 2, Number 1.

“Message from the President”

Congratulations! Women’s Transportation Seminar of Connecticut Valley, Inc. (now known as the Connecticut Chapter) was born on Friday, January 31, 1992. We are now formally incorporated in Connecticut and preparing for official acceptance by National (now known as WTS International) we will begin collecting dues and compiling our membership list, preparing for official installation at the Annual Meeting in April (1992). The coming year will be challenging, but exciting, as we strive to increase our membership and membership participation. We are here for you and want to hear from you. Please feel free to contact me or any Board member with your ideas and interests. M. Christina Olson, Acting President WTS Connecticut Valley, Inc.

Included in this Newsletter: was an invitation to attend a Professional Development Program, Wellness in your Life with Guest Speaker Catherine Spagnola, a buffet luncheon from 12—1:30 PM was open to both members and non members, at $15.00.

The list of the Acting Directors at this time were as follows: Vice President, Marjorie S. Anthony; Secretary, Diane Connolly; Treasurer, Jeanne Webb Chambers; Program Committee, Geraldine P. Munroe; Newsletter Committee, Pamela V. Johnson; Membership Committee, Nita E. Gagne; Publicity Committee, Judith M. Hany; and fundraising, A. Ruth Fitzgerald.
2016 was another successful year for Student Outreach. Activities for the year included the Tech Savvy Expo at Trinity College, STEM G2O at CCSU, and Women in Science Saturday at the CT Science Center. Our plate was full and our cup overflowing! We shared tips for successful interviewing, connection of the design process to all areas of school and work, and an understanding of bridges and the forces that act on them. If I could sum up this year in one word it would be passion. I am humbled by the tireless energy, ideas, and above all passion the group has for reaching as many young ladies (and gentlemen) as possible.

In 2017 we will continue our good work toward reaching our goal: “To encourage girls to pursue careers in the transportation industry and to see themselves as unlimited in their potential to change the future.”

Volunteers needed for student outreach events! Please contact Nancy Rolfe at nancy.rolfe@aecom.com if you are interested.

CORPORATE SPONSOR HIGHLIGHT

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Route 7 Brookfield Bypass
HAVE YOU CONSIDERED BECOMING A CORPORATE SPONSOR?

A sponsorship of WTS Connecticut offers vital mutual benefits to WTS and your company. WTS Connecticut offers outstanding networking and professional development opportunities for transportation industry employees and leaders at every level.

WTS offers informative programs, scholarships for students, mentoring program, and information exchange through our newsletter and website (including job postings).

For more information on the Corporate Sponsorship Program please contact our Chapter President, Sandra Dumas at sdumas@haks.net

EMMA CHAPMAN—2008 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

“The easiest way to help as many people as quickly as possible is through improving public transportation,” and currently as the Senior Manager for Debt Administration at the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA), Emma Chapman has used her passion for improving all forms of public transit.

Emma began her professional focus on transportation as an intern at PB Consult within Parsons Brinckerhoff, where she led research and wrote reports on transit asset management and best practices as well as worked with financial models forecasting transit and toll road revenue. A colleague introduced her to WTS and suggested she apply for her local chapter’s scholarship program. While finishing her BA in Political Science and a BA in Art History concentrating in Urban Studies and Architectural History at Yale University, she received the WTS CT Chapter graduate scholarship, and her recommendation for a pedestrian friendly corridor as part of her thesis on New Haven’s Union Station is currently under construction.

Prior to joining CTA, Emma led transportation engineering, environmental policy, and city planning projects for the City of New Haven, CT, the Eno Transportation Foundation, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (Metro), and Parsons Brinckerhoff (PB). She also determined the creditworthiness of municipal revenue transportation bonds and financings while at Fitch Ratings.

She continues to help other young professionals connect with experienced leaders in transportation through her involvement throughout the industry. In addition to serving as a prior board member of the New York and Washington D.C WTS chapters, she also co-founded the New York City Chapter of the Young Professionals in Transportation (YPT) and is a prior board member of YPT’s Chicago Chapter. Thirdly, she is also a prior board member of the Women in Public Finance (WPF).

Fun Facts: She had ridden on 14 different consists (train sets) in the same day, and has a miniature dachshund ("Rusty").
The Leadership Doc, Dr. Howard Fero, presented the 10 Bases of Leadership to an engaged group of participants on November 17th, 2016.

Based on his research and resulting book, *Lead Me Out to the Ballgame: Stories and Strategies to Develop Major League Leadership*, Dr. Fero broke down, what he calls, the 10 bases of leadership into three dimensions – leading yourself, leading others, and leading the game.

In leading yourself the goal is to remain focused, find your passion, know your strengths and weaknesses and earn respect.

To lead others, support your people - listen and acknowledge, clearly define the mission and vision and let individuals know where they fit in; and lastly, share your mistakes and how you fixed them.

When leading the game, understand what’s important to your people, set expectations, and foster teamwork.

During this 90-minute session, Dr. Fero dove into each dimension asking the participants their understanding and experiences of each along the way. Individuals later worked in teams during a group activity which then opened into a discussion led by Dr. Fero.

Dr. Fero is an author, speaker, professor, consultant and executive coach who helps people in all walks of life cultivate their leadership skills to become more effective and thus more valued members of their organizations. He is the Director of Graduate Leadership Programs and a Professor of Management and Leadership at Albertus Magnus College in New Haven, CT. Dr. Fero holds a Master’s degree in Industrial and Organizational Psychology from Baruch College, the City University of New York, and a PhD in Organizational Behavior from Claremont Graduate University.

**Ten Bases of Leadership**

- Finding Your Passion
- Lead by Example
- Earn Respect
- Know Your People
- Cultivate Relationships
- Support Your People
- Communicate Effectively
- Know Your Game
- Foster Teamwork
- Creating a Winning Culture
WOMEN’S ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

WTS CT Chapter launched a Women’s Roundtable Discussion featuring Sandy Fry, Principal Planner at City of Hartford, Kelly Dessureau, Project Engineer from Empire Paving, and Sandra Stavola, P.E. at Parsons Brinckerhoff. Shawna Bartkus of Lochner facilitated the discussion on the panelists’ careers, their leadership experiences, mentorships, and how they balanced their career and personal lives.

The speakers shared their distinctive experiences and perspectives on the culture of the transportation industry all answering the same questions but sharing totally different stories. A civil engineer and a planner, Sandy has been working tirelessly on improving the safety of our transportation infrastructure with a focus on bicyclists and pedestrians. A talented civil engineer, Kelly created key procedure manuals that are critical to the success of her company’s project management. Kelly is the document control specialist on Connecticut’s two largest construction projects. Sandra, a civil engineer and a structural designer, is passionate about construction engineering. Over the past two decades, Sandra has worked on some major projects in the state as well as around the country and shared her valuable experiences in leading the first design-build delivery project in Connecticut.

The feedback from the audience was that the discussion was informative, interesting and the guest speakers’ perspectives were very unique and refreshing. Thank you to the guest speakers for taking the time out of their busy schedules to share their success and more importantly their interesting perspectives on working in the transportation industry. All three of the guests stayed after the program and answered questions and continued to share their stories and experiences.

CORPORATE SPONSOR HIGHLIGHT
TRANSPORTATION MINI-SERIES– MERIDEN, CT

Hard to believe it has been a decade since the WTS Connecticut Chapter started holding an annual Transportation Mini-Series (TMS)! This year’s event on October 6th was held at the Four Points Sheraton in Meriden and was our best attended in our chapter’s history. A few format changes were implemented this year, thanks to the great ideas of Bonnie Torres, our Event Committee Chair. The event kicked off with a Pre-Meet & Greet on the eve of the TMS with Guest of Honor Rina Cutler, Senior Director of Planning and Development of Major Stations with Amtrak. Joining Rina, Bonnie and numerous attendees, including Dana Hook of CDM Smith – San Diego, WTS International’s Member of the year in 2015, attended the meet and greet.

At the start of the TMS, a welcoming keynote address was given by Luisa Paiewonsky, Director of Infrastructure Systems and Technology with the Volpe Center in Cambridge Massachusetts. Luisa shared her experiences with the MassDOT and how WTS has influenced her career and life. She also gave some insight into what the Volpe Center has accomplished in the past as well as some of the current projects they are working on.

TMS 2016 included two tracks running concurrently to double the impact. First up, attendees had a choice between How We Can Accelerate Project Delivery presented by Brian Byrne of Lochner and Mark Rolfe of CTDOT or Streets for People in the Age of Democratized Design presented by Jonas Maciunas, Urban Planner with NV5.

Other sessions included Application of Technology in Transportation presented by Joseph Herr of VHB; Connecting Transit presented by Michael Piscitelli, Director of Economic Development, City of New Haven and Holly Parker, Principal, Nelson Nygaard; Proactive Approach to Planning a Food Recycling Plant presented by a panel which included Linda Howard and Kevin O’Neil of DEEP, Amy McCrae Kessler Head of Environmental & Regulatory Affairs at Turning Earth; and Robert Phillips, Director of Planning and Community Development with the City of Southington; and Done is Better than Perfect: How to Complete Your Streets presented by Michael Morehouse of Fitzgerald & Halliday.
Carla Tillery also of Fitzgerald & Halliday, led a panel representing different peer groups in the current *Generation Gap*. Rina Cutler provided insight on *Amtrak’s Aging Stations and Development Initiatives*. During lunch, Dr. Consuela Ward led a discussion on *Diversity in the Workplace* which included the difference between intent and impact and between equity and equality.

The last tracks of the day included a panel discussion on *The Walk Bridge*, Connecticut’s first project utilizing the unique Construction Manager/General Contractor (CMGC) process with panel members Joseph D’Agostino and Ed Rock both of WSP/PB along with John Hanifin of CTDOT and *Drones/UAS: Beyond the Basics* covering unmanned aerial vehicles which was presented by James Adams and Christopher Doyle from the Federal Aviation Administration and Amy Stula from CTDOT. A special thanks to ITE and ITS for their contributions of *Streets for People in the Age of Democratized Design* and *Application of Technology in Transportation*.

Following the presentations, attendees were invited to a reception during which the Silent Auction winners were announced and the WTS Connecticut Chapter Corporate Sponsors were presented with certificates of appreciation as a thank you for their support. Thank you to all who attended, our guests and speakers, and everyone who helped in the preparation, especially the TMS planning committee.
MEMBER SPOTLIGHT – TAYLOR LEASKA

Taylor is a structural engineer at HNTB in Rocky Hill, CT. She received her B.S. at the University of Vermont and has always had interest in the construction and design industry. Her family owns a residential development construction company where she worked many summers resulting in hands-on real-world experience. During that time she realized she was a problem solver and enjoyed the field of engineering. Her interests further developed while vacationing with her family in the Dominican Republic. While on the island, Taylor observed children playing in the streets in sewage runoff, the collecting of water from stagnant puddles for personal use, and how housing consisted of scrap sheet metal and palm fronds. This eye opening experience moved Taylor to assist in clean water systems and in constructing new homes to improve the lives of those in need. Within her studies she focused on structural and geotechnical engineering while participating in American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) programs and competing in the steel bridge competitions. Taylor continues to grow through her project experiences and remains passionate and committed to engineering and development.
THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

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