



*Advancing Women in Transportation*  
Greater Dallas/Fort Worth Chapter

## September 2014 Issue

### Dallas/Fort Worth Chapter Officers:

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### Corporate Sponsors

## PLATINUM LEVEL



## Upcoming Events

### WTS Fall Professional Development Workshop North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) Offices October 29, 2014

Join WTS D/FW for a workshop to discuss two big topics on land planning and engineering design approaches to managing stormwater runoff - Low Impact Development (LID) and how you can rate your sustainable infrastructure with the Envision Rating System (ERS). We're lining up a panel of speakers to get your questions answered, so keep a look out for our email notification on this informative workshop.

**TENTATIVE - MORE DETAILS TO COME ON THIS EVENT!**

### WTS Corporate Partner Member Reception October 30, 2014 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Marriott Hotel North DFW Airport 8440 Freeport Parkway Irving, Texas

Save the date for our second annual exclusive corporate partner reception to recognize transportation leaders in North Central Texas and to focus on the importance of transportation advancement and growth.

**MORE DETAILS TO COME ON THIS EVENT!**

### 8th Annual LUNA Awards and RHCA Women's Business Conference October 31, 2014 Omni Fort Worth - Fort Worth, Texas

[Click HERE for Sponsorship Opportunities!](#)

Don't forget to make YOUR nominations for the LUNA Awards!

[Click HERE for LUNA Awards Categories and Nomination Information](#)



### WTS Greater D/FW Chapter Diversity Luncheon

November 18 2014  
DFW Airport



**GOLD LEVEL**



**SILVER LEVEL**



**2015 WTS Annual Conference**  
May 22-24, 2015  
Chicago, Illinois



We are pleased to announce the selection of Chicago as the site for the 2015 WTS Annual Conference. WTS is looking forward to bringing the Conference to the Windy City. Congratulations Chicago!

**MORE DETAILS TO COME ON THIS EVENT!**

### Word From the President

Dear WTS Members and Friends,

As we near the end of the year, we approach regular and Corporate Partner membership renewal deadlines. Many of you are not lacking for opportunity to join professional and/or social associations with missions and goals aligned with your own, which is why I appreciate that you have chosen WTS as a worthwhile organization.



As you receive renewal notices, know that our leadership team strives to ensure our members and Corporate Partners receive benefits worthy of the investment you make. Diane Gollhofer, our Corporate Partner Chair, has worked hard to streamline the Corporate Partner renewal process, which will begin later next month. We need you to continue our mission. I hope that you will continue to join us in our efforts towards advancing women in the transportation industry.

Nikki Simon, P.E.  
President, WTS Greater D/FW Chapter

### Catch The T's Game Day Shuttle to AT&T Stadium

ESPN Football will soon be here and The T is a great way to relax and get to the game. The Cowboy Coach serves the downtown area with pickups at Molly the Trolley stops close to the major hotels.

The T's Cowboy Shuttle is only \$5 to park at the T&P on Vickery Blvd. and \$10 for a round-trip ticket to ride the shuttle. The shuttles start departing four hours before kickoff and return as each bus is filled. The last shuttle leaves the Park & Ride three hours prior to game time. For more information, contact The-T.com or call 817-215-8600.

[Click HERE to see The T's 2014 Cowboy Coach Schedule](#)

### WTS Houston Volunteer Opportunity!



The American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Expo is coming to Houston this October, and WTS International will be coming with it! The Houston Chapter is putting out a call for

## BRONZE LEVEL



### Websites and Links:

[WTS National Website](#)

[WTS D/FW Website](#)

[WTS International Conference](#)

[WTS D/FW Board of Directors](#)

[WTS D/FW Job Postings](#)

volunteers to help man the WTS booth at the Expo, and they would like to invite you to participate.

Shifts are available throughout the Expo, and they're asking for two volunteers per shift. This is first come, first served, so sign up fast. It's a fantastic way to network with public and private transportation professionals from around the country. **As an added incentive, all volunteers will be entered into a drawing to receive a FREE registration to the 2015 WTS International Conference!**

To participate, simply reply to the Houston Chapter of WTS International link below with your preferred shift(s). In order to have name badges prepared, please reply before October 3rd. If you have any questions, please contact Meredith Alberto, WTS Houston Immediate Past President, at [mlgaber1@gmail.com](mailto:mlgaber1@gmail.com) or 713-256-8523.

Shifts are available as follows:

*Monday, October 13th:*

8:30 AM to 10:30 AM  
10:30 AM to 12:30 PM  
12:30 PM to 2:30 PM  
2:30 PM to 5:00 PM

*Tuesday, October 14th:*

9:00 AM to 11:00 AM  
11:00 AM to 1:00 PM  
1:00 PM to 4:30 PM

*Wednesday, October 15th:*

9:00 AM to 12:00 PM  
12:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Houston Chapter of WTS International  
[houston@wtsinternational.org](mailto:houston@wtsinternational.org)

*Mailing address:*

WTS Houston  
Attn: Bonnie Dial  
5444 Westheimer, Suite 200  
Houston, Texas 77056

[Click HERE to learn more about the APTA Expo!](#)

## WTS Membership Affiliation

We'd like to encourage all of our members to become affiliated with our other chapters in Texas: Heart of Texas, Houston and San Antonio. Just log into your WTS international account and select the affiliations you'd like to join!

## Irma L. Rangel Young Women's Leadership School to Offer Paid Summer Internship Program in 2015

Attorneys Serving the Community (ASC) has chosen the Foundation for the Education of Young Women as its 2014-2015 beneficiary!

The Irma L. Rangel Young Women's Leadership School (YWLS) in partnership with the Foundation for the Education of Young Women (FEYW) has received a grant for a paid summer internship for high school juniors.

The program, beginning in June 2015, will provide 10 girls with paid internships at various companies. The students will work 25 hours per week for a six week period in fields such as law, medicine, business, social work, technology, etc.

Irma Rangel YWLS is requesting employers to volunteer as an internship placement for this paid summer internship program. This is a great development opportunity as these young ladies begin to prepare for their future careers.

If you are interested in participating or would like to know more information, please contact Katie Albritton at 214-824-1400 or



[Click HERE to Learn More about the Junior Internship Program](#)



## The WTS Greater D/FW Chapter is on Facebook!

The WTS Greater D/FW Chapter is on Facebook! Check out our page for upcoming WTS Greater D/FW Chapter events and more.



[Click HERE to visit the WTS Greater D/FW Chapter on Facebook!](#)

## WTS Greater D/FW Chapter Monthly Luncheon/Tour

The WTS D/FW Chapter met out at the 35Express project this month where they were able to tour the project and learn more about the construction progress which extends approximately 30 miles, through eight cities and two counties, from US 380 in Denton County to I-635 in Dallas County.



[Join the WTS D/FW Mailing List!](#)

The Design-Build project is expected to relieve traffic congestion in one of the most heavily traveled corridors in the North Texas region. One of the highlights of the project is the construction of managed lanes down the middle of the interstate, which includes a reversible managed lane system. Managed or tolled lanes give motorists another option when traveling during peak times. The lanes will have dynamic pricing, which means the cost to use the managed lanes will vary depending on the time of day and roadway congestion.



The project also assists with much needed capacity to IH 35E with new general purpose lanes, a new southbound bridge across Lewisville Lake and the expansion, reconstruction or rehabilitation of more than 75 bridges.

To learn more about the 35 Express Project, visit [http://www.35express.org/project\\_info.php](http://www.35express.org/project_info.php).

## WTS Greater D/FW Chapter Annual Golf Tournament



It was a beautiful day at the Great Southwest Private Golf Club in Grand Prairie where the WTS Greater D/FW Chapter held their 12th Annual Golf Tournament!

Lunch was served prior to the shotgun start to prepare the golfers for a long day of fun and competition with 33 teams participating this year! If you weren't out on the fairway launching, lipping out, chili dipping or lumberjacking your ball, the Raffle was there with an assortment of items from beer and wine to a pearl necklace and a Dallas Cowboys football outing!

Later in the evening, a delicious barbecue dinner was served featuring the awards presentation for 1st place in the first and second flights, Closest to the Pin and Closest to the Water (without going in).

Whether you're a Duffer, a Knee Knocker or maybe even a Sand Bagger, there were plenty of activities at this fun event to keep you

A very special thank you goes out to Audrey Saldana for coordinating this awesome event, along with the many volunteers who made it a very special night for WTS.



1st Place, 1st Flight  
The Solis Group



1st Place, 2nd Flight  
Herzog Transit Services



Closest to the Pin  
Hugh Harrison



Closest to the Water (without going in)  
Scott Coghlin

## WTS Greater D/FW Member Spotlight

**Name:** Laura Weis

**Job Title/Firm:** Associate Vice-President/AECOM

**Years employed with Firm:** 18

**City/Town in which you reside:**  
Plano, Texas

**Hometown:** Rockport, Texas

**College Affiliation:**  
The University of Texas at Austin





**Marital Status/Children:**

Married/1 Daughter, age 4

**Organizations:**

Board Member, North Dallas Chamber of Commerce; External Steering Committee, The University of Texas at Tyler Engineering Department; Board Member, WTS Greater D/FW Chapter; Member, ASCE.

**Nickname:** N/A

**Favorite Quote:**

Lost time is never found again. -Benjamin Franklin

**Favorite Food:** Spaghetti

**Hobbies:** Cooking, gardening and travel.

**Favorite Vacation Spot:** The Beach!

**Something my colleagues might be surprised to learn about me:** I traded in my Corvette Z06 for a Ford Fusion - Go figure!

**What super-power would you most like to have, and why:**

Flight, so I could really have a bird's eye view of the world instead of looking at aerial photos all the time.

**How do I contribute to WTS:**

I am the Member Services Director of the team that includes the Communications Committee, Membership, and Corporate Membership.

## WTS Membership Benefits

### Membership Benefits

In support of its mission to transform the transportation industry through the advancement of women, WTS helps women find opportunity and recognition in the transportation industry through professional activities, networking opportunities, education, and research. Members of WTS International receive the following benefits:

- **Networking Opportunities** - Monthly program events, thought-provoking speakers, and interaction with WTS members, many of whom are top leaders in the industry.
- **Professional Development** - Access to a diverse mix of contacts within and across transportation sectors, access to the WTS International Career Center, and educational and career-focused guidance.
- **Education** - Leadership training, scholarship and fellowship opportunities, and distinguished speakers.
- **Mentoring** - Chapter mentoring programs, developed to benefit both the mentor and the mentee.

[Click HERE to Join Today!](#)

## Corporate Sponsor Spotlight



Michael Baker, Jr., Inc. (Baker) has had a Texas presence since 1976. Their offices in Texas (Dallas, Arlington, Denton, Austin, San Antonio, and Houston), employ a diversified staff of professionals experienced in engineering planning and design for the transportation and civil infrastructure markets. Services include a full complement of transportation planning and design services including planning and NEPA environmental services, roadway, drainage, bridge and traffic engineering design and management, project development, mapping and GIS, and water resources, among others.

Since 1998, Baker has partnered with contractors and

Partnership (P3) projects for the transportation industry including surface transportation, rail/transit, and aviation (non-facilities). For more information on Baker, please visit [www.mbakercorp.com](http://www.mbakercorp.com).

## WTS Greater D/FW Chapter Seeking Corporate Partners!

The WTS Greater D/FW Chapter appreciates the support and sponsorship of our Corporate Partners! Our organization offers great opportunities to both women and men in the transportation field. A few of the benefits that come with WTS membership include:

- Professional development and training
- Networking with peers and leaders of the industry
- Opportunities to get involved and develop leadership skills

Each month, we organize lunch programs, technical tours, and/or professional development activities. Samples of our activities this year include:

- Tour of DFW Terminal A, DART Orange Line Construction projects
- Seminars from TxDOT, NTTA, DART, NCTCOG, DFW Airport, etc.
- Professional Development seminars on personality styles and team working
- Continued development of a Student Chapter at the University of Texas at Arlington
- Development of a college student mentoring program
- Development of a high school transportation mentoring program at the Irma Rangel Young Women's Leadership School

Corporate partnerships are very important to our chapter's ability to provide these great benefits to our members. We encourage you to click on the link below of our corporate sponsorship application. The many benefits of corporate partnership are listed on the application.

[Click HERE for a 2014 Corporate Partnership Form](#)

## WTS Job Bank

Looking for your next opportunity or a new addition to your team? Check out the Greater D/FW Chapter's job bank [www.wtsinternational.org/greaterdallas/job-postings/](http://www.wtsinternational.org/greaterdallas/job-postings/).

As a benefit to our corporate partners, members, and local non-profit organizations, we will run job postings for 30 days for free on our chapter website. If you would like to post a position on the site, please send the information to Lane Wheatley-Zarate at [lmw@freese.com](mailto:lmw@freese.com).

## Volunteer Opportunities

### Volunteers Needed for Corporate Partner Membership Committee

The Corporate Partner Membership Program is being revamped with new ideas gleaned from the WTS Texas State Conference held last summer. Volunteers are needed to establish a strong committee. Please contact Diane Golhoffer, Corporate Membership Committee Chair at [diane@dgrconsultants.com](mailto:diane@dgrconsultants.com) to become a member of this committee.

### WTS D/FW Chapter Seeking Volunteers

The WTS Greater D/FW Chapter is requesting volunteers in Professional Bank Development for a Mentoring Chairperson, Job Bank Chairperson and Archivist Chairperson. If you're interested, please contact Lane Wheatley-Zarate, Professional Development Director at [lmw@freese.com](mailto:lmw@freese.com).



## WTS SAFETY MOMENT

September - National Preparedness Month

Observed each September in the United States of America. Sponsored by the [Federal Emergency Management Agency](#) (FEMA) within the Department of Homeland Security, National Preparedness Month encourages Americans to take steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses, schools, and communities. FEMA's Ready Campaign, the correlating public education outreach campaign, disseminates information to help the general public prepare for and respond to emergencies, including natural disasters and potential terrorist attacks.

### Are You Ready?

National Preparedness Month is a time to prepare yourself and those in your care for emergencies and disasters, both large scale and smaller local events. Emergencies can happen unexpectedly in communities just like yours, to people like you. Tornado outbreaks, river floods and flash floods, historic earthquakes, tsunamis, and even water main breaks and power outages that impact communities for days at a time.

FEMA has designed a guide to help the citizens of this nation learn how to protect themselves and their families against all types of hazards. It can be used as a reference source or as a step-by-step manual. The focus of the content is on how to develop, practice, and maintain emergency plans that reflect what must be done before, during, and after a disaster to protect people and their property. Also included is information on how to assemble a disaster supplies kit that contains the food, water, and other supplies in sufficient quantity for individuals and their families to survive following a disaster in the event they must rely on their own resources.

[Click HERE for the FEMA Guide to Citizen Preparedness](#)

Please send WTS Greater D/FW Chapter news items to  
Daria W. Payberah, P.E. CFM  
[dpayberah@hntb.com](mailto:dpayberah@hntb.com)  
(972)628-3153

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WTS Greater D/FW Chapter | P.O. Box 1626 | Fort Worth | TX | 76102