

Letter from Our President

From my office window fronting Harry Hines Blvd., I view a wide expanse of concrete that constitutes the driveway into a parking lot that accommodates over 200 buses. The scene is not very picturesque, and it's hard to tell one season from another. Yet even from here, I realize that another year has passed and spring is arriving, causing me to reflect on 2010 and our chapter's accomplishments during that time.

This time last year, we were still reeling from the sudden loss of Monique Pegues, our Immediate Past President, and the new Board members were still learning their new roles. Thankfully, the superior quality of our monthly programs were uninterrupted and activities continued due to the dedication and creative talents of our volunteers and leadership team. During our recent strategic planning retreat for the coming year, we reviewed the major events of the past year. Among them were:

- Successfully transitioned officers and committee chair positions, duties, and responsibilities
- Hosted approximately 120 members and guests at the Annual Awards Banquet in April to honor award and scholarship winners
- Sent seven members to the International Conference in Washington, D.C.
- Held summer technical tours spotlighting DCTA's A Train rail stations, the NTTA command center, and the DFW Connector
- Implemented a website for our local chapter.
- Redesigned both E-News monthly communications and the Newsletter to be more visually appealing and consistent
- Conducted a Franklin Covey Multigenerational Leadership workshop for professional development
- Updated contacts database for improved communications and future automation
- Registered over 120 golfers for the annual golf tournament in October with record revenues exceeding \$19,000
- Diversity Committee hosted a luncheon meeting panel discussion for 90 attendees
- Celebrated the Chapter's 20th anniversary with a gala event which was attended by Marcia Ferranto, WTS International CEO at the National Women's Museum in Fair Park

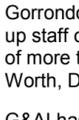
At that same meeting, we began planning for 2011 and beyond. Highlights of those plans include:

- Lani Lin and her committee planned and delivered another well executed Annual Awards Banquet, honoring our annual award and scholarship winners at the Great Wolf Lodge on March 10.
- Nikki Simon, Director of Programs has already begun putting together her summer technical tours, which promise to be exciting and educational.
- HOME fund applications were awarded for financial assistance to attend the International Conference in San Francisco in mid-May. The Board voted to fund up to 10 members for that opportunity.
- Stephanie Taylor, Mentoring Chair, will soon announce her kick-off event plans for our Mentoring program.
- Chapter Secretary, Erin Foley is compiling information to finalize our Annual Report to be published on the WTS International website soon.
- Another mid-year planning retreat will be conducted in June to pursue succession plans for our Chapter Leadership Team for the 2012-2013 term. If you have interest in assuming a leadership role, please let us know.
- Opportunities for involvement and professional growth exist throughout the year within our chapter's committee structure. Seek information through our website or any team member.
- If you have ideas, comments, or concerns to share about the chapter, please feel free to contact me at wshafer@dart.org or leave a message at 214-749-3751 and I'll call you back. Stay tuned and stay involved!

Finally, thank to all of you for your continued interest, participation and dedication to Advancing Women in Transportation. Have a healthy, happy spring!

- Wanda J. Schafer

Corporate Spotlight—Gorronдона & Associates, Inc.



Gorronдона & Associates, Inc. (G&A) is a Texas Corporation providing full service professional land surveying, subsurface utility engineering (SUE), utility coordination, geotechnical engineering, and construction materials testing (CMT). G&A's sole ownership is held by the original founder, Brad Gorronдона, RPLS. Established in 1990 with a start-up staff of three, the company now maintains a staff of more than 80 people, with offices in Austin, Fort Worth, Dallas, Houston, and Lubbock.

G&A has successfully completed over 2,000 projects throughout Texas, for a variety of clients including: Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), DFW Airport, numerous cities, water districts, and power companies. G&A offers a unique combination of knowledge and talent allowing for timely and accurate completion of your project.

Member Spotlight—Belinda Pate

This month's Member Spotlight highlights Belinda Pate, our 2011 Member of the Year. Next time you're at an event, be sure to say hi!

Biographical Information

Birthplace: Fort Worth, Texas
High School: Southwest High School
College: Southwest Texas State (now Texas State)
Children: None, but working on it
Interests & Achievements: Movies, Food, Spa, Travel; achievements include recent WTS DFW Member of the Year Award

Fun Facts

Nickname: B
Birthdate: February 4, 1972
Pet name(s) & type: Dante, Yorkshire Terrier
Favorite dessert: Anything with dark chocolate and raspberries or Tiramisu
Favorite fruit: Mango or cantaloupe
Favorite movie(s): Pretty Woman, Shrek (all series), Sex and the City the Movie (both)
Favorite TV programs: Sex and the City
Favorite bands or musical performers: I like a wide array of Depeche Mode, Janet Jackson, Black Eyed Peas
Favorite season of the year: Spring
If you could travel anywhere you haven't already been, where would you go? Anywhere in Italy
Where would you like to retire? Mexico
Of what accomplishments are you most proud? My degree, getting married to the most supportive and extraordinary man in the world, purchasing a new home here in Fort Worth, and winning the WTS DFW Member of the Year Award.
If you won \$1 million, what would you do with it? I would pay off debt, buy our dream home and new cars, and save the rest for travel and retirement.
List some memorable trips or vacations. As a child, every year my parents took me to Nashville, TN where we stayed off in Memphis to pay our respects to the King. The older I got, the more I wanted to go other places like Disney World. Other memorable trips include New York City; Sonora, Mexico; Taxco, Mexico; Tequesquitengo, Mexico; Las Vegas; Chihuahua, Mexico; Washington, D.C.; San Francisco; Los Angeles; Orlando (I finally got to see Mickey); Tampa; Gainesville and Ocala, FL.
Favorite restaurants: Mi Cocina, Uncle Julio's Reata, Michael's

- Belinda Pate

2011 WTS Annual Awards

Banquet

The 2011 WTS Annual Awards Banquet was held on Thursday, March 10th at the Great Wolf Lodge in Grapevine. The event was heavily attended by 120 people and included eight corporate tables. Mr. Shewmake, VP and General Counsel from BNSF Railway gave the keynote speech. The presentation was an overview of current and future capital improvements as well as visions of the company.

The event was a huge success! The reception prior to the banquet allowed attendees to mingle with old friends while meeting new acquaintances and browse through all the silent auction items (to benefit the scholarship funds, which ended up raising \$1400 in cash for the DFW Chapter Scholarship Fund). The music played by professional harpist Megan Li was delightful and enjoyed by all.

After the reception, everyone enjoyed the keynote speech, the awards presentation, as well as the scholarship awards presentation. A great time was had by all!

- Lani Lin

2011 Mentoring Program

The Greater Dallas Fort Worth Chapter of WTS is very excited to announce the six women selected to participate in the 2011 Mentoring Program.

- Dana Burghdoff and Crystal Pace
- Rachel Hayden and Lani Lin
- Angela Roberson and Sofia Ojeda

Our three mentors are all exceptional leaders who support our chapter of WTS in their very limited free time. Dana has previously served on our leadership team and recently gave a presentation on the Fort Worth Modern Streetcar project at a WTS meeting. Rachel's firm, Hayden Consultants, is a dedicated corporate sponsor and she has also served on our leadership team. Angela is the current Diversity Committee Co-Chair and 2010 winner of our Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award. Crystal, Lani, and Sofia are quite fortunate to have had these women volunteer to mentor them and provide support as they achieve their professional goals. At the end of this program, participants will be better equipped to have confidence in their skills, balance professional and personal responsibilities, lead others, make presentations to peers and superiors, and continue their education.

The Mentoring Committee's first event will take place at Chapter President Wanda Schafer's home. There, the participants will get to know each other and work together to create a calendar of events. I will be providing updates throughout the year about the committee's activities and progress. If you have any questions or input concerning this year's or next year's program, feel free to contact me at stephanie.taylor@aecom.com.

- Stephanie Taylor

2011 WTS National Retreat

This year's annual WTS conference promises to deliver a smorgasbord of topics to please everyone. There is still time to register for the conference that will be held May 18 – 20 in the city by the bay (San Francisco, CA). Three separate tracks will be offered and include professional development, funding and policy and technical/technology: Timely topics include discussions on high speed rail, sustainable development, and managing capacity and demand. The opportunity for professional development and to learn new information is, of course, one of the benefits of the conference but perhaps just as beneficial is the opportunity to network, meet new people, connect with old friends, and enjoy the camaraderie of other women in the industry; and all of this in the beautiful city of San Francisco! Don't miss out on your opportunity to be a part of this exciting event! For details go to the website at www.wtsinternational.org.

- Cynthia Northrop White

2011 WTS Leadership Trainees



The 2011 Leadership Training Class participants include:

Felicia Boyd, Kristen Bowen, Liisa Ecola, Myriam Frausto, Rachel J. Factor, Carol Ketcherside, Cynthia N. White, Jennifer Ogle, Michelle Pak, Odessa Phillip, Tesse R. Rasmussen, Anne Richman, Carrie Rocha, Liisa Sherman

For more information, contact [WTS Programs](http://www.wtsinternational.org).



Wanda Schafer, Greater DFW WTS Chapter President

Upcoming Meetings

APRIL LUNCHEON

When: April 19, 2011
Where: NCTCOG, Arlington
Topic: Cotton Belt Innovative Financing Initiative

MAY LUNCHEON

When: May 17, 2011
Where: ITC, Fort Worth
Topic: The T's Strategic Plan, SW2NE Line, Overcoming Insufficient Revenue and Moving into Non-Member Areas

Visit wtsdfw.org for more information!

Member Get a Member Campaign

The **Member Get a Member** campaign began April 1st. This campaign has been designed by WTS International to help Chapters increase their local membership. The campaign will continue all year, every year. To qualify to participate and to be eligible to win, members must be in good standing with WTS International.

The 2011 **Member Get a Member** campaign runs from April 1st through December 31st. To receive credit for recruiting a new member, the recruiting member's name must appear on the "Recruiter's name" line of the membership application and dues must be paid in full at the time the application is submitted.

Each month, WTS International will announce the winner of the **Member Get a Member** from the previous month in *TranShorts*. The winner is defined as the member who brought in the most new members that month. In the event of a tie, WTS International will defer to the dollar amount of those qualifying memberships. Membership payment must be received by the last day of the month to qualify. The monthly winner will be entered into the annual prize drawing, which will take place the last Friday of January.

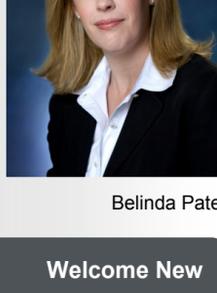
Annual Prizes Include: A new 32GB iPad Tablet Computer, Registration for 2012 Annual Conference, and a \$250.00 Visa Card.

Additional Incentive: Any member who is responsible for bringing in a minimum of 10 members from April 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011 will be awarded a free membership that he/she can use for himself/herself or give to another person.

Here's to Members Getting Members!

TxDOT Small Business Briefing

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) will hold its second Small Business Briefing of the 2011 FY on Wednesday, April 20, 2011 at the Omni Hotel, 1300 Houston Street from 8 a.m.—5 p.m., with onsite registration beginning at 7 a.m. The briefings are hosted by TxDOT's Business Outreach and Program Services branch and are designed to help small businesses learn how to do business with TxDOT and other state agencies. The day-long event will allow vendors an opportunity to market their products and services, as well as offer information about the bidding and procurement processes. These briefings are geared to small, women and minority-owned businesses. Information will be provided on financial resources, business marketing, technical assistance and small business certifications. For online registration, log on to <http://titi.tamu.edu/conferences/sbb11/>.



Belinda Pate

Welcome New Members!

As the Greater Dallas/Fort Worth Chapter continues to grow, please be sure to welcome any new faces you see at meetings.

Thank you to everyone who recently joined or renewed their membership with the WTS Greater Dallas/Fort Worth Chapter..

Annual Awards Photos



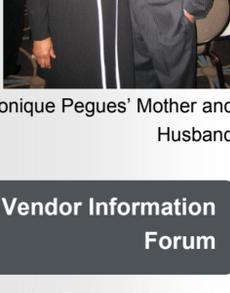
Lani Lin and Deanna Garcia



Trish Hatley and Judge Horn



Linda Rolfes and Stephanie Taylor



Monique Pegues' Mother and Husband

Vendor Information Forum

Save the Date ~ July 7, 2011
Tarrant County Vendor Information Forum

Velina G. Willis
 HUB Program Coordinator
 Tarrant County Purchasing
 100 E. Weatherford St.
 Suite. 303
 Fort Worth, TX 76196
vgwillis@tarrantcounty.com
 817-884-1948/office
 817-850-2932/fax

WTS Leadership Training Program

The WTS Leadership Training Program is geared toward women with promise for higher levels of responsibility. Founded by Janette Sadik-Khan and Maxine Finkelstein, the program is presented in cooperation with the Vorhees Transportation Center at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, N.J. From all applicants, a WTS selection committee chooses 14 women annually to attend the program. **This year's program was held February 6-9, 2011.**

This program is an opportunity for WTS to contribute to the professional development of a select group of mid-career professionals who have demonstrated the interest and potential to enhance their skills and advance within the industry. The program provides personal interaction with leading industry professionals who challenge the analytical and creative skills of participants as they tackle case studies and exercises dealing with complex issues of people, policy and politics. All WTS members are encouraged to consider their personal and professional career goals and apply for this program.