WTS-GNY Board of Directors and Committee Chairs 2004-2006

President
Pippa Woods
(732) 932-6812 x684

Vice President
Jenny Kapelyan
(212) 465-5338

Recording Secretary
Deborah English
(718) 694-1525

Corresponding Secretary
Lori Biscaglia
(917) 418-6070

Treasurer
Rajani (Jani) Nair
(646) 252-4745

Directors-at-Large
Felice Farber
(917) 855-3923
Malinda Foy
(718) 521-7283
Sylvia Isabel
(718) 694-3450
Barbara Thayer
(212) 564-2750
Rachel Weinberger
(215) 746-4263

Immediate Past President/Advisory Board Liaison
L. Dédi Gongâ
(718) 694-5268

Corporate Relations
Barbara Thayer
(212) 564-2750
Gail Spears
(212) 803-3657

Diversity and W/M/DBE
Cheryl George
(646) 252-1379

W/M/DBE Expo Convener
Donna Walcavage
(718) 834-0224

Job Bank
Maria Garcia
(718) 482-4563

Marketing/Public Relations
Nora Madonick
(845) 855-7077

Membership
Joanne Boiano
(347) 643-5109
Yevgeniya Shpigel
(646) 252-3349

Mentoring
See Director Felice Farber

Newsletter
Catherine Sweeney
(646) 252-7421
Catherine Revis
(212) 631-3712
Deena Hamdani
(212) 631-3749
Daniella Bernet
(212) 614-7632
Karen Lockwood
(212) 973-2912

Photography
Leila Weissling
(718) 575-8726

Professional Development
Marie Tocci
(212) 340-3266
Harry Tom
(646) 252-3228

Programs
See Vice President

Recognitions
Saundra Lautenberg
(212) 672-4085
Silvia Militello
(212) 631-3873

Scholarship
Karen Counes
(212) 510-2140

Student Affairs
LeAnn Waletzko
(212) 973-2900
Stefanie Cassin
(914) 993-2049

Website
Jennifer Jordan
(973) 491-8163

WTS
Advancing Women in Transportation
Greater New York Chapter
P.O. Box 989
New York, NY 10116-0989
Dear Members and Potential Members,

The Greater New York Chapter of WTS Advancing Women in Transportation had a very active and productive year in 2004, our 25th year in existence. Board strategic planning sessions focused on financial plans and have strengthened our scholarship and program goals. Our public programs provided an impressive list of speakers from a variety of transportation fields and has focused on topics from future redevelopment and transportation in lower Manhattan, to land use developments in New York City, cargo and supply chain security issues to a timely report on the 9/11 Commission Report – all serving to inform and educate our membership and potential members. Our Advisory Board is involved and invaluable, our sponsors are loyal, our mentoring program flourished and our Woman of the Year was a member of the NJ Transit Board of Directors who immigrated from El Salvador as a child. We arranged for on site tours of rail and highway projects, and set up lunch time presentations on WTS at four work places to recruit members. I can also report a number of ‘firsts’ including our joint program with the ITE Metropolitan Section, our golf outing to benefit the scholarship program, no-fee networking nights, and a book signing for a book about engineering by a member. And these are just the highlights. It is an honor to serve the membership as your President and I look forward to another exciting year in 2005. And if you are reading this and are not yet a member please consider joining us. You will not regret it.

Sincerely,

Pippa Woods, President

www.wtsnational.org

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2004 Calendar

- **February 11th** – Annual Meeting/Awards Program, L. Dédi Gonga, Member of the Year, and Sam Schwartz Company, Employer of the Year. Speaker Stefan Pryor, Chief of Staff of Lower Manhattan Development Corporation, on Future Redevelopment and Transportation in Lower Manhattan
- **March 16th** – Annual Woman of the Year Program, Flora Castillo, member of the NJ Transit Board
- **March 31st** – WTS Open House and Network Night at Metro Grill
- **April 8th** – W/M/DBE EXPO and speaker Amanda Burden, Chair-New York City Planning Commission, on “Reshaping New York: Major Land Use Developments in NYC”
- **May 13th** – First Joint Program with Met Section ITE: Presentation on The Frank R. Lautenberg Rail Station at Secaucus Junction: Challenges to Success by Rob Edwards, NJ Transit Project Manager
- **June 9th** – Speaker Elaine Dezinski of Homeland Security on Cargo and Supply Chain Security
- **July 21st** – WTS Open House & Network Night at the offices of Barbara Thayer PC
- **September 29th** – Speakers Eva Lerner-Lam and David Gaier, transportation and security experts, on “The 9/11 Commission Report: Implications for the NY-NJ Metro Area”
- **October 26th** – Annual Scholarship Awards Program, and Speaker Frank Lombardi, Chief Engineer, on “The Role of the Engineer: A Project Overview of The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey”
- **November 10th** – Secaucus Interchange Project Tour led by Richard Raczynski, Chief Engineer of the New Jersey Turnpike Authority
- **December 10th** – 2nd Annual Diversity Leadership Award Program, Stephanie Pinson, President Gilbert Tweed Associates

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Advisory Board Members

- **Stephanie Pinson**
  Gilbert Tweed Associates (Advisory Board Chair)
- **Michael Della Rocca**
  STV Inc.
- **Deborah Wathen Finn**
  HNTB Corporation
- **Saundra Lautenberg**
  Siemens Transportation Systems
- **Barbara Spencer**
  MTA NYCT
- **Janette Sadik-Khan**
  Parsons Brinckerhoff
- **Sam Schwartz**
  Sam Schwartz, LLC
- **Marilyn Jordan Taylor**
  Skidmore Owings & Merrill
- **Laura Toole**
  Michael Baker Jr. Corp
- **Thomas Waldron**
  DMJM+Harris
- **Martha Walther**
  MTA Bridges and Tunnels
- **WTS-GNY Board Liaison, Past President**
- **L. Dédi Gonga**
  MTA NYCT

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A special thanks goes to …

Amy Geller, the designer of the GNY-WTS newsletter and this report. Amy has worked as a graphic designer for PB since 1994 and is also a fine artist and illustrator. She has participated in open studios at her studio in LIC and exhibited her artwork in galleries around New York City.
This year, the WTS-GNY Board set forth a daunting task to identify certain goals that would help strengthen and improve the chapter’s member services. To better understand the chapter’s member services, the Board took steps to define a financial plan to improve budget development. Analyzing the costs incurred by the chapter prompted the Board to adopt some measures to help reduce overall costs and help improve member services. The highly popular newsletter and successful Mentoring Program were identified as significant costs to the WTS-GNY Chapter, so measures were taken to help reduce the costs without affecting the quality of these services. In addition, the Board wanted to establish a fundraising event to help raise revenue solely for scholarships. In August, the Scholarship Committee was successful in achieving our goal. The Membership Committee broadened the free networking nights throughout the year which have been very successful. The WTS-GNY Board is proud to have achieved these tasks that were only made possible with the support and encouragement from our members.

Below is a summary of our chapter expenses and revenues received from 2002 to present that was used to establish a budget for 2005. The Board approved this budget on December 13, 2004. Please note the expense and revenue in 2004 has not been finalized.

### Revenues

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>$300.00</td>
<td>$300.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
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<td>Interest (bank &amp; Money Market account)</td>
<td>321.74</td>
<td>362.38</td>
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<td>Monthly Programs &amp; Workshop</td>
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<td>Fundraising (Gala Event)</td>
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<td>76,100.00</td>
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<td>Student Affairs</td>
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<td>100.00</td>
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<td>W/M/DBE EXPO</td>
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<td>1,450.00</td>
<td>1,850.00</td>
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<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>$156,313.44</strong></td>
<td><strong>$135,420.38</strong></td>
<td><strong>$46,970.11</strong></td>
<td><strong>$143,725.00</strong></td>
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### Expenses

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<td>Membership (Event/Network Night)</td>
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<td>Treasurer (Bank Fees)</td>
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<td>Credit Card</td>
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<td>Student Affairs</td>
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<td>243.00</td>
<td>128.00</td>
<td>800.00</td>
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<td>Board Conference Call/Retreat/Dinner</td>
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<td>Corresponding Secretary</td>
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<td>Job Bank</td>
<td>0.00</td>
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<td>0.00</td>
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<td>Mentoring</td>
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<td>1,451.84</td>
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<td>6,050.41</td>
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<td>0.00</td>
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<td>Public/Media Relations</td>
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<td>800.00</td>
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<td>800.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Website /Media Relations</td>
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<td>119.00</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>4,000.00</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>2,059.63</td>
<td>2,510.63</td>
<td>1,912.43</td>
<td>2,500.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expense</strong></td>
<td><strong>$136,615.43</strong></td>
<td><strong>$138,568.36</strong></td>
<td><strong>$47,265.31</strong></td>
<td><strong>$143,725.00</strong></td>
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Net revenue after distributions

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scholarship (<em>includes golf outing)</em></td>
<td>$940.00</td>
<td>$2,125.00</td>
<td>$14,324.00</td>
<td>$20,000.00</td>
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### Scholarship

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revenues (Fundraising)</td>
<td>$940.00</td>
<td>$2,125.00</td>
<td>$14,324.00</td>
<td>$20,000.00</td>
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<td>Expenses &amp; Scholarship Awards</td>
<td>3,000.00</td>
<td>3,049.89</td>
<td>15,168.62</td>
<td>16,200.00</td>
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WTS Greater New York Chapter Annual Report 2004
WTS Scholarship Program

The Greater New York Chapter’s Annual Scholarship Awards Program in October was marked by a plethora of activity. The program began with the presentation of the scholarship awards. This year’s recipients were: Kerri Madden, the Susan Miczkowicz Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship; Carla Prieto, the Louise Moritz Molitoris Leadership Award for Undergraduates; and Laynie Weaver, the Leonard Braun Memorial Graduate Scholarship. A silent auction was also held to benefit the scholarship fund.

Longtime member and mentor Carl Selinger signed copies of his newly-published book, Stuff You Don’t Learn in Engineering School: Skills for Success in the ‘Real World,’ which is being published by Wiley-IEEE.

The highlight of the night’s program was Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Chief Engineer Frank Lombardi’s discussion, “The Role of the Engineer: A Project Overview of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey,” through which Lombardi conveyed his passion and enthusiasm for the engineering field and the importance of reconciling one’s technical and people skills. He gave an overview of the challenges the Port Authority encountered when trying to dewater the New Jersey abutment of the Bayonne Bridge to work on the bridge’s foundation. As another example of the intensity and stimulation an engineer can garner from a project, he pointed to the Authority’s work on Jamaica Station to create a gateway to John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK).

Lombardi also gave a preview of the Authority’s 2005 planned design projects for JFK, LaGuardia, Newark and Teterboro airports; its ports; PATH; and its tunnels, bridges and terminals.

Golf Outing Fundraiser

WTS fundraising golf outing and barbecue was initiated on August 20, 2004. It was a great success raising more than $5,500 for the WTS Scholarship Fund. Over sixty players, members and non-members alike, turned out for a great day of golf, barbecue and fun in the Bronx at the Van Cortlandt Golf Course.

Several attendees went home with a smile as they collected their gift bags and raffle prizes, such as a gift certificate from Tiffany’s, a spa treatment from Elizabeth Arden, and several other items generously donated by our event sponsors.

Seasoned pros and amateurs alike had a wonderful time on the newly renovated Van Cortlandt Golf Course. This was a great event that will be held on an annual basis.

Left to right: L. Dédi Gonga, Deborah Wathen Finn, Christine Stoddart, Larry Reuter, Martha Walther, Nick Ivanoff.
The 9/11 Commission Report

At a WTS breakfast program held September 29, Martha Walther, Vice President of Operations for the MTA Bridges & Tunnels, introduced the distinguished speakers, Eva Lerner-Lam and David Gaier, who spoke of their concerns regarding the 9/11 Commission Report and its implications for the New York-New Jersey regions. Eva Lerner-Lam has an extensive background with the transportation industry. David Gaier is a security expert who is devoted to the cause of improving our nation’s security.

Eva Lerner-Lam provided an overview of the report highlighting key findings, such as a “failure of imagination.” She noted how the report reveals U.S. failure to realize the threat against America and how deep that hatred is seeded within certain cultures.

David Gaier urged members to be more proactive in ensuring transportation security. He encouraged inter-agency effort and collaboration at both the city and state levels and noted that all of our transportation and intelligence agencies must figure out what will work to keep our transportation safe from terrorism.

W/M/DBE Expo

April ushered in the 7th Annual Chapter Transportation Expo, which focused on women- and minority-owned companies that provide services to the transportation industry. The 14 exhibitors represented a range of specialties from architectural/engineering companies to bus and transit parts providers. Abramov Engineering LLC, Barbara Thayer PC, Donna Walcavage Landscape Architects, Eng-Wong, Taub & Associates, Keville Enterprises, and Medina Consultants displayed samples of their work. Other exhibitors highlighted their fields of expertise in such areas as marketing and communication, transportation, environmental, geology, geophysics, lighting design and real estate.

The program was proof of the invaluable cooperation between the W/M/DBE business community and WTS. The diversity of participants highlighted the importance of WTS as an organization that supports different trades within the industry and provides firms a unique opportunity to promote themselves by increasing public awareness and building name recognition.

The program also featured Amanda Burden, chair of the New York City Planning Commission and director of the New York City Planning Department, who spoke about major economic development initiatives around the City, including the Brooklyn waterfront redevelopment; the Commission’s involvement in Lower Manhattan; and the Fresh Kills master plan.

The program closed with the presentation of the Member of the Year Award to L. Dédi Gonga.
The GNY Chapter Mentor Program was designed to help mid-level managers develop the skills necessary to achieve senior level responsibility. There are four levels of participants in the program: Apprentices, Mentors, Advisors and Mentoring Committee Members. Since the mentor program started in 2001, 20 WTS members have completed the annual program. Of these, eight graduates have been promoted. Further, 14 of the graduates have increased their involvement in WTS by serving on committees, and three graduates have furthered their commitment to WTS and are currently serving on the Greater New York Chapter Board of Directors.

2004 Mentoring Program

**Apprentices**
- Alexandra Gagliotta
  - NYCT
- Mary Gennuso
  - NYCT
- Kimberly Gilbert
  - Systra Consulting
- Camille Gonzalez
  - URS
- Amy Kaufman
  - MTA
- Felicia Jones
  - NYCT
- Yevgeniya Shpigel
  - NYCT

**Mentors**
- Jean McCall
- Parsons Brinckerhoff
- Carl Selinger
- Carl Selinger Services
- Bobbie Athey
- MTA Bridges and Tunnels
- John Miskulin
  - Performance Management Group
- Maxine Finkelstein
  - Interactive Elements
  - Incorporated
- Janet Clark
  - New Jersey Transit

**Advisors**
- Gregory Bradley
  - Vice President Human Resources and Diversity,
  - Metro North Railroad
- Lillian Borrone
  - Assistant Executive Director (Ret.) Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
- Connie Crawford
  - Senior Vice President and Chief Engineer, MTA New York City Transit
- Beverly Dolinsky
  - Executive Director, Permanent Citizens Advisory Council to the MTA
- Deborah Wathen Finn
  - Vice President, HNTB
- Laurie Gutshaw
  - Vice President, DMJM + Harris
- Jolene Molitoris
  - President and CEO, GeoFocus
- Stephanie Pinson
  - President, Gilbert Tweed Associates
- Janette Sadik-Khan
  - Senior Vice President, Industry Director of U.S. Transit Programs,
  - Parsons Brinckerhoff
- Barbara Spencer
  - Executive Vice President, MTA New York City Transit

**Noteworthy News of Chapter Members**

**Robert Olmsted** received the American Society of Civil Engineering History and Heritage Award at its annual meeting in Baltimore in October. A long time WTS member, Bob has more than 50 years of experience in planning, design and construction of transportation facilities.

**Janette Sadik-Khan,** Senior Vice President of Parsons Brinckerhoff, and **Elliott (Lee) Sander,** Senior Vice President of DMJM+Harris, were appointed to a 12-member NYSDOT Advisory Panel on Transportation for 2025.

**Robin Malacrea** was appointed Vice President of Structure Tone, a general construction contractor based in Manhattan. She was a National WTS Board Member, longtime Chapter Member, as well as a former Chapter President and Member of the Year.

**Daniella Bernett,** Research Specialist for STV Incorporated, had her poetry collection published by the Maryland firm PublishAmerica. Her collection of 50 poems, entitled “Timeless Allure,” was released on December 11th.

**Lillian C. Borrone** received the 2005 Thomas B. Deen Distinguished Lectureship Award of the Transportation Research Board. On January 10, she presented her lecture on “Sparkling the Globalized Trade and Transportation Connection: Supplying Freight System Responses to Global Trade Demands” at the 84th Annual TRB meeting in Washington, D.C.
Diversity Leadership, Stephanie Pinson

Stephanie Pinson, President and a member of the Board of Directors of Gilbert Tweed Associates, an executive search and consulting firm, received the Diversity Leadership Award for her outstanding efforts locally and nationally to mentor and otherwise encourage and develop women and minorities in positions within the transportation industry. A member of the Greater New York Chapter for more than 10 years, Ms. Pinson is currently serving her second term as Chair of the Chapter’s Advisory Board and is active in the Chapter Mentoring Program, which became a model for the national WTS program. She is a founding member of the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Task Force for the Workforce Development Initiative which has focused efforts on making the transit industry the employer of choice with an emphasis on diversity. She is currently involved in a national study to benchmark diversity in the transit industry as a basis for next steps.

Employer of the Year, Sam Schwartz LLC

Sam Schwartz LLC, a transportation engineering and planning firm founded in 1995, received the Employer of the Year award for commitment to excellence and quality, achievement on affirmative action, continuing education, and supporting WTS and professional development of women in the transportation industry. The firm has almost 60 employees and two offices in New York City and Newark, NJ. In New Jersey, the firm is certified as an Emerging Small Business Enterprise (ESBE). Its services include traffic engineering, transportation and transit planning, resident engineering inspection services, permitting, environmental planning, urban design, emergency operations, and community outreach/media services. Mr. Schwartz, his Vice President Janet Campbell and a number of the firm’s employees who participate in WTS events were on hand for the award presentation.

Woman of the Year, Flora Castillo

Flora Castillo, a successful businesswoman and member of the NJ Transit Board of Directors, was honored as the Woman of the Year at a dinner in Newark. Ms. Castillo gave an inspiring speech about the role models in her life including her hardworking mother, who was present. She said that one person can make a difference in others’ lives, noting that one person helped her mother become a citizen and bring her two children to America. Originally from El Salvador, Flora recalled her first memories of transportation, traveling on the bus and the bus driver helping her with her English. She spoke with pride about her efforts to increase the representation of women and minorities at all levels of employee ranks and a new strategic plan that focuses on leadership development and succession planning.

Member of the Year, L. Dédi Gonga

L. Dédi Gonga, immediate Past President and Liaison to the Advisory Board, was honored as Member of the Year for her continuing support and dedication to the Chapter. During Ms. Gonga’s tenure, membership increased by 15% making Greater New York the largest chapter. She also initiated the first gala fundraising event which was very successful in supporting the chapter and in promoting the reputation of WTS within the industry. She was elected to the National Board and continues to advocate for the needs of WTS-GNY and to bring National initiatives and ideas back for use at our chapter. She has encouraged chapter members to be active at the national level – six of our chapter’s members are active nationally – as well as committee contributors, committee chairs, and members of our Advisory Board.