WTS-GNY ANNUAL REPORT 2015
2015 was a year of tremendous growth for WTS-GNY, which regained prominence as the largest WTS chapter. In this second year of its term, the Board presented a range of programs and networking events to our members and other industry professionals. The Board continued to focus on:

- Offering opportunities for leadership and career development
- Delivering programs and events for professionals at all stages of their careers
- Presenting a variety of event forums and topics to target the varying needs of our members
- Providing high-caliber speakers to attract broad event attendance
- Visiting industry firms and agencies to introduce WTS to employees
- Demonstrating the value of membership

After a snowstorm pre-empted our typical January annual meeting, the program was held in March and honored members’ contributions to the chapter, and to diversity and innovation in the workplace. Dr. Michael Horodniceanu, president of MTA Capital Construction, was the featured speaker. At this sold out event, the annual W/M/S/DBE Expo offered much networking between our small business corporate partners and industry professionals.

In June, a panel of accomplished women, Polly Trottenberg (NYCDOT), Mary K. Murphy (NJTPA) and Marilyn Shazor (FTA), shared their insights about capital plan development and implementation. Then in November, the chapter awarded its first Legacy Award to Maxine Finklestein during the 35th WTS-GNY anniversary celebration to recognize her efforts as a founding member and the inaugural president. The program also featured Meera Joshi, commissioner of the NYC Taxi and Limousine Commission, who imparted knowledge about the quickly evolving taxicabs and for-hire vehicles business in the City.

The chapter concentrated on expanding and improving our Mentoring program, the Transportation YOU Committee and Scholarship initiatives. Efforts are underway to expand Transportation YOU programming into New Jersey. With a focus on young professionals, two Trending Topics events, with a variety of short talks by panelists, explored falling in love with one’s career.

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GNY Chapter’s 2015-2016 Corporate Partners

DIAMOND
- AECOM
- General Contractors Association of New York
- Greenman-Pedersen, Inc.
- HAKS
- HDR
- HNTB
- Jacobs
- STV
- Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.
- WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff

RUBY
- Cubic Transportation Systems, Inc.
- AKRF
- Arup
- CH2M
- Dewberry
- Parsons

 Emerald
- Cambridge Systematics
- AKRF
- Arup
- CDM Smith
- Gannett Fleming
- NY Building Congress
- Railroad Construction Company, Inc.
- Sam Schwartz Engineering
- Stantec Inc.
- Thornton Tomasetti

SAPPHIRE
- Armand Corporation
- Arora Engineers
- B. Thayer Associates
- Envision Consultants, Ltd.
- Interactive Elements Inc.
- Malick & Scherer
- Marine Tiger Technologies
- Stellar Services
- Studio L’Image
- Wilson Ihrig

W/M/S/DBE

The Greater New York Chapter would like to take this opportunity to thank all the companies, agencies and individuals who have generously contributed to WTS-GNY and supported our programs and services. We look forward to your continued support in 2016.

COVER ART: Betty Lin and Amy Geller
**Woman of the Year**

Polly Trottenberg was sworn in by Mayor Bill de Blasio as Commissioner of the NYC Department of Transportation on January 27, 2014. Trottenberg’s 22 years of government experience include over four years at the U.S. Department of Transportation, most recently as the under secretary of Transportation for Policy, where she developed key initiatives for the Obama administration including the groundbreaking TIGER discretionary grant program. In 2008, Trottenberg was named first executive director of Building America’s Future, a non-profit organization that advocates for increased investment in infrastructure and major transportation policy reform.

During her 12 years on Capitol Hill, Trottenberg worked with U.S. Sens. Charles Schumer, Daniel Patrick Moynihan and Barbara Boxer. Prior to her work in Congress, she served at the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey. Trottenberg also serves on the MTA Board. She holds a B.A. in History from Barnard College and a Master’s in Public Policy from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

**Member of the Year**

Polina Knaster’s career in transportation has spanned both the private and public sectors. She participated in, and was responsible for, transportation projects totaling over $500 million in construction costs. During her tenure at NJDOT, she served as a project manager of Capital Projects, as well as a program manager for ROW Acquisition and Access Management. After her distinguished NJDOT career, Knaster joined HDR as senior project manager and New Jersey client manager. At HDR, she has been involved in a number of high-profile projects such as the Bayonne Bridge and several design-build initiatives nationwide.

Knaster has served in many professional organizations throughout her career, often in myriad leadership roles. She has been a WTS member since 2010. During that time, she served as co-chair and chair of the New Jersey Programs Committee and in 2014 and 2015 was WTS-GNY vice president for New Jersey. Promoting the organization and its continued success has always been one of her priorities. She facilitated a “Meet-and-Greet” event at NJDOT; arranged several technical presentations in New Jersey; and also has been responsible for organizing technical tours and professional development events.

Knaster graduated from Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute of New York with a B.S. in Civil Engineering and holds a Master’s in Engineering Management from NJIT. She is a professional engineer and a certified project manager professional (PMP).

**Employer of the Year**

Jacobs is one of the largest professional services firms in the world, with over 200 offices in more than 25 countries. Jacobs consistently ranks among the top firms in the engineering industry; however these statistics only hint at the diverse talent that its more than 75,000 professionals possess. In the New York and New Jersey offices, approximately 20 percent of its employees are women. Fifty percent of the women in the two offices are professionally registered (PE, RA, AICP, AIA, CCM) and many serve as senior-level managers. In addition, each summer Jacobs hires interns from area colleges. Over the past several summers a large portion of these interns in the New York and New Jersey region have been women. The firm also maintains Co-Op students who work in its offices performing engineering assignments. For several semesters, its electrical and structural engineering Co-Op students have been female.

Employee talent is the cornerstone of the firm’s success. At Jacobs, every employee contributes to value-added performance and the firm values the safety and well-being of each and every one. Jacobs strives to offer personnel a positive, caring environment that respects each individual and promotes well-being, safety, and keeping and opportunity for everyone.

WTS plays a large role in the professional development of Jacobs employees. Jacobs is proud to be a Guardian level international sponsor and a Diamond corporate partner of the Greater New York Chapter. Jacobs also actively participates in the Transportation YOU program. The firm’s home-grown Professional Women’s Development Network also helps to advance women in the diverse workforce. The network’s goal is to provide women and men with the opportunity to build multinational networks; develop leadership and technical skills; and enhance their careers. Meanwhile, the Jacobs Future Network helps to develop future leaders throughout the organization via professional development activities and networking opportunities.
The programs in 2015 focused on the transportation industry’s need to adapt to a changing world and to confront the major problems facing the nation: a transportation funding shortfall, the lingering impacts of the recession, population growth, traffic congestion, global warming and hardening of infrastructure against future natural disasters. Sustainability was a recurrent theme. Also, to meet members’ needs, WTS-GNY offered several jobs skills and entrepreneurial workshops.

WTS-GNY also continued its efforts to increase its New Jersey presence by holding several meetings in the state.

The following is a summary of the variety of topics and fascinating speakers at our 2015 programs.
MAY

General Membership Meeting
Transportation YOU “Effective Communications Workshop”

JUNE

4th Annual Summer Solstice Celebration
“Getting It Done: Capital Plan Development and Implementation” Panel Discussion
Speakers
Stephen Dilts, HNTB, Vice President
Polly Trottenberg, NYCDOT Commissioner
Marilyn Shazor, FTA, Region 2 Administrator
Mary K. Murphy, NJTPA, Executive Director

JULY

5th Annual “Take Me Out to the Ballgame” Membership Appreciation Night

AUGUST

Brown Bag Presentation at LIRR
Speaker
Patrick Nowakowski, LIRR President

SUMMER

Learn From A Leader Roundtables
Speakers
Lamis Malak, NJ Turnpike Authority, Senior Engineer
Sally Librera, NYCT, Vice President for Subway Operations Support
Domenica Stasiak, CH2M Ports & Maritime Group, Project Manager and Structural Engineer,
Priscilla Cheung, MTA, IT Strategy and Program Management Office
Audrey Dagnachew, PANY&NJ, Program Manager, LaGuardia Airport Physical Plant & Redevelopment
Patty Clark, PANY&NJ Senior Advisor of Aviation Policy
Zenobia Fields, NJTPA, Dept. of Planning Director
Elisa Speranza, CH2M, Chief Communications Officer & Corporate Director
Lamis Malak, NJTPA, Acting Supervising Engineer
Marie Corrado, NYSDOT, Director of Major Projects Office

2015 TransConOpps session speakers from left: Steve Santoro, assistant executive director NJ Transit; Michael Venuto, director of Engineering/chief engineer, Delaware River Port Authority; Dave Lambert, state transportation engineer and director of Project Management, NJDOT; Ron Monaco, assistant director for Cost Management, PANY&NJ; Rob Fischer, chief engineer, NJ Turnpike Authority; and Brad Heigel, chief engineer, Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission.

The June Capital Plan panel discussion. From left: WTS-GNY Vice President (NY) Julia Kerson (NYC Mayor’s Office of Capital Projects Development); WTS-GNY President Beth DeAngelo (WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff); Stephen Dilts, HNTB; NYCDOT Commissioner Polly Trottenberg; FTA Region 2 Administrator Marilyn Shazor; NJTPA Executive Director and WTS-GNY Immediate Past President Mary K. Murphy.

The June Summer Solstice celebration. From left: Sam Knaster, Ammann & Whitney, and WTS-GNY President Beth DeAngelo (WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff).

Take Me Out to the Ballgame event in July. From left: Manasvi Menon and Crystal Cummings both of Parsons Brinckerhoff.

From left: WTS-GNY NJ Programs Committee Co-Chair Colleen Connolly (Malick & Scherer); Lynn Middleton, NJDOT; Tam Sillick, WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff; WTS-GNY Vice President (NJ) Polina Knaster (HDR); Veronica Murphy, NJDOT at the Summer Solstice celebration.

From left: WTS-GNY Young Professionals Co-Chair Aimee Jefferson (NJTPA); Meghan Myers, Arora & Associates; Carolyn Trueman, USDOT at the Summer Solstice celebration.

From left: Catherine Chardon, RATP Dev; WTS-GNY Director-At-Large Linda Travis (NY Life); WTS-GNY Advisory Board Member Marcia Shapiro (Marine Tiger Technologies); Michael Robinson, a guest, at the Take Me Out to the Ballgame event.
PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

OCTOBER

Annual Gala Cocktail Reception

Technical Tour of the NJ State Transportation Management Center

Speakers
Ruth Rodrigues, Floor Manager
Henry (Chip) Eibel, Director of Operations
Alfonso Voza, NJ Turnpike Authority, Electrical Engineer and ITS Specialist

Technical Tour of the George Washington Bridge

Speakers
Enrique Ramirez, PANY&NJ, Deputy General Manager
Bob Kearney, PANY&NJ, Resident Engineer
Kristen Derewecki, PANY&NJ, Engineer
Daniel Rondon, PANY&NJ, Engineer

WTS-GNY 35th Anniversary in November. From left: Janis Bietzer, a WTS-GNY past president; Victoria Cross Kelly; WTS-GNY Advisory Board Members Marcia Shapiro (Marine Tiger Technologies) and Jenny Kapelyan (WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff); WTS-GNY Immediate Past President Mary K. Murphy (NJTPA); Maxine Finkelstein, Interactive Elements; WTS-GNY President Beth DeAngelo (WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff); Carl Selinger, Carl Selinger Services.

The October Technical Tour of the NJ State Transportation Management Center.

NOVEMBER

WTS-GNY Young Professionals Committee Member Tiffany Carson (Stanite) and panelists James Lynch (Insurance Information Institute), Steve Dills (HNTB), Solomon Caviness (NJTPA) at the November Trending Topics event.

Trending Topics Series: “The Driverless Car”

Speakers
Stephen Dilts, HNTB, Vice President
Solomon Caviness, NJTPA, Planning and Operations Special Projects Manager
James Lynch, Insurance Information Institute, Chief Actuary and Director of Information Services

DECEMBER

Holiday Party at Morton’s Grille in the Flatiron District

WTS-GNY Newsletter Subcommittee Chair Daniella Bernet (STV) signed copies of her newly released mystery novel at the holiday party.

From left: WTS-GNY Young Professionals Committee Co-Chair Portia Henry (PANY&NJ); Young Professionals Committee Member Megan Veregge (PANY&NJ); Ece Hoch, AECOM, at the holiday party.

George Washington Bridge Tour in October.

The Holiday Party in December. From left: Paul Gessner, Gessner Transportation Consulting; WTS-GNY Special Events Committee Co-Chair Ani Toncheva (Wilson Ihrig); WTS Scholarship Committee Chair Keri Cibelli (AKRF).

WTS-GNY President Beth DeAngelo (WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff) flanked by Columbia University graduate students Janelle Mills and Laura Ripley at the holiday party.
2015 ANNUAL GALA

Experienced trailblazers and a new generation of bold, innovative thinkers. These are the individuals that the transportation industry needs, and whom WTS-GNY holds in high esteem and seeks to venerate at its prestigious Annual Gala, which was held this year on October 7th at the elegant Battery Gardens Restaurant in Lower Manhattan.

With a murmur of music in the background and breathtaking views of New York Harbor, the Statue of Liberty and Governors Island to feast their eyes upon, New York-New Jersey transportation leaders gathered to honor NYCDOT Commissioner Polly Trottenberg as the 2015 Woman of the Year and the chapter’s six scholarship winners.

WTS-GNY was pleased to welcome National Infrastructure Advisory Council Member Joan McDonald, a former NYSDOT commissioner who was the 2011 Woman of the Year, and Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANY&NJ) COO Stephanie Dawson as special guest speakers. WTS International Chairwoman Beverly Swaim-Staley and International Director Paula Hammond also were on hand to extend their congratulations to Trottenberg. (Dawson is an International board member as well.) Also in attendance were MTA Chairman Thomas Prendergast, MTA Vice Chairman Fernando Ferrer, MTA Capital Construction President Michael Horodniceanu, Metro-North Railroad President Joseph Giulietti, LIRR President Patrick Nowakowski, Acting NYCT President Jim Ferrara, New York Building Congress President Richard Anderson and New Jersey Transit Executive Director Veronique Hakim.

WTS would like to thank the Special Events Committee overseen by WTS-GNY Board Liaison Ella McLeod; Director-At-Large Linda Travis served as advisor; co-chairs Jing Du (MTA Bridges & Tunnels), Ani Toncheva (Wilson Ihrig & Associates) and Lisa Pompei (Garden State Engineering, Surveying and Planning); and members Laura Azze-Singh (MTA-NYCT); Daniella Bernet (STV); Wilhemina Brown (MTA-NYCT); Lian Duan (ARUP); Desiree Gazzo (B. Thayer Associates); Nina Harvey (ARUP); Amy Kaufman (WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff); Juliet Williams (MTA-NYCT); and Jacqueline Woodley (MTA-NYCT). Our thanks also go out to all those who donated items to the Silent Auction, which raised $3,745 for the Scholarship Fund.

From left: WTS International President Beverly Swaim-Staley; NJ Transit Executive Director Veronique Hakim; WTS-GNY President Beth DeAngelo (WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff); Woman of the Year Polly Trottenberg; National Infrastructure Advisory Council Member Joan McDonald; WTS International Board Member & PANY&NJ COO Stephanie Dawson.

From left: NJ Transit Executive Director Veronique Hakim; MTA Board Member Susan Metzger; Metro-North Railroad President Joseph Giulietti.

From left: LIRR President Patrick Nowakowski; MTA Vice Chairman Fernando Ferrer; MTA Capital Construction President Michael Horodniceanu; MTA Chairman Thomas Prendergast; New York Building Congress President Richard Anderson.

Woman of the Year Polly Trottenberg (center) with the 2015 scholarship winners.
**Mentoring Program**

The WTS-GNY Mentoring Committee, under the direction of Co-Chairs Nicole Bucich and Sarah Steib with guidance from Board Liaison Lisa DiTaranti, embarked on a traditional mentor program in 2015. However, the committee also made several significant changes, such as arranging for a professional motivational speaker and extending the program into January to make it a full year.

The apprentices found their mentors in January through a speed-matching exercise, which allowed them to efficiently determine shared goals. The 10 apprentice-mentor pairs met monthly to participate in official sessions focused on a wide range of topics including work-life balance; the importance of networking; managing up/down; balancing priorities; social media in the professional world; and presentation skills. Each pair also met on their own to track goals; discuss personal issues; and handle career challenges. The program concluded with the graduation in January at which the featured speaker was 2015 Woman of the Year Polly Trottenberg, the NYCDOT commissioner. The mentor program graduates are strengthening the transportation community in Greater New York. Congratulations to this year’s apprentices and grateful thanks to those who have so generously mentored.

**2015 Mentoring Program**

**Apprentices**
- Margarita Calbitaza
- Lian Duan
- Blythe Eaman
- Sandra Forte
- Rumana Haque
- Kahina Lasfer
- Carmen Oleksinski
- Anne Patrone
- Elizabeth Paul
- Becky Taylor

**Mentors**
- Vicky Kelly
- Deborah Chin
- Sarah Rios
- Julie D’Orazio
- Sandra Persaud
- Debra Moolin
- Maria Grazia Bruschi
- Lois Goldman
- Monica DaCosta
- Maxinne Leighton

**Young Professionals**

2015 marked the second year of the revitalized Young Professionals Committee. The committee, led by Co-Chairs Portia Henry and Aimee Jefferson, as well as Board Liaison Liz Hynes, based the year’s programming largely off the successes of the previous year. The group’s annual calendar included monthly committee meetings, the “Trending Topics” speaker series at a midtown bar; a Transportation Trivia night jointly hosted by American Planning Association-WTS-Young Professionals; and a fall tour of the iconic George Washington Bridge. The committee also programmed its first volunteer event at the Newark Bike Exchange and assisted in coordinating cross-committee networking socials prior to scheduled WTS-GNY chapter events.

In addition, Young Professionals’ leadership represented the committee at several larger WTS-GNY programs, including the Membership Committee Workshop and a Transportation YOU meeting. The Young Professionals Committee also helped to facilitate local partnerships, including identifying a speaker and attending the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning & Public Policy’s Women’s Leadership Conference in New Brunswick.

**Scholarship Committee**

The Scholarship Committee would like to take the opportunity to shed the spotlight on this year’s winners. It is rewarding for WTS to see that our scholarship awards are providing the financial support to advance women in transportation.

**Leonard Braun Memorial Graduate Scholarship**

Alexandra Gore is a Master of Science candidate in Transportation Planning and Engineering at the New York University Polytechnic School of Engineering. She received her B.S. in Civil Engineering from Cornell University in May 2012. Currently, Gore works full-time as a traffic engineer at WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff in New York City.

**President’s Legacy Graduate Scholarship**

Mia Moffett is a Master of Urban Planning student at Hunter College focusing on transportation. She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. Moffett is currently pursuing her career in transportation planning as an intern in the pedestrian projects group at the New York City Department of Transportation.

**TransitCenter Transit Policy Innovator Graduate Scholarship**

Melissa Plaut is a third-semester Master of Urban Planning student at Hunter College, focusing on the relationships between innovative technologies and transportation. She first became interested in transportation and urban planning in 2004 when she was a New York City yellow taxi driver, an experience she documented in a
Susan L. Kupferman Scholarship

Diane Xiao graduated from Tottenville High School on Staten Island in 2012 with honors. Xiao is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the NYU Polytechnic School of Engineering in Brooklyn and will graduate in May 2016. She is the vice president of Institute of Transportation (ITE) student chapter at her school, as well as a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). Xiao is proud to be the first generation of her family to attend college and plans to continue her studies in transportation engineering at the graduate level.

DEAR VALUED MEMBER
continued from page 2

and driverless cars. Our young professionals also participated in the Newark Boys and Girls Club bike exchange to give back to our communities, and toured the George Washington Bridge. What a view they had.

To appreciate our members, the fifth annual “Take Us Out to the Ballgame” offered perfect weather with a front row view of center field at Yankee Stadium. The Summer Membership Mixer attracted many new and prospective members. The December party was a festive affair, with members networking with an ice breaker and holiday treats for all to share. Our New Jersey winter and summer solstice networking events offered new members opportunities to learn about WTS-GNY. Our second summer of free member-exclusive “Learn from a Leader” programs, comprised of weekly roundtable discussions for 15 to 20 professionals, were hosted by successful women leaders.

My second year as president of the GNY chapter has been an overwhelmingly positive experience, with so many opportunities to promote the advancement of women. I feel privileged to have worked with a dedicated and impassioned Board of Directors, whose collective energy is unparalleled. I look forward to supporting Polina Knaster, the incoming president, as she leads the chapter forward and plans the best WTS International Conference ever, hosted by WTS-GNY in 2017.

Sincerely,
Beth P. DeAngelo
President 2014-2015
A critical financial objective of 2015 was replenishing our scholarship fund, which had been dwindling gradually over the past several years. To this end, we dedicated the proceeds from last year’s increased corporate partnership revenue to the scholarship account, which is separate from the chapter’s operating and savings accounts. These monies, along with revenues from our annual Gala and silent auction scholarship fundraising efforts, allowed us to donate over $37,000 to our scholarship account in 2015. Advancing the next generation of women in transportation has always been a core mission of WTS-GNY, and keeping our scholarship account flush enables us to do just that.

We also continued to focus on growing and retaining our membership, as well as providing the robust programming the transportation community has come to expect from WTS-GNY. Aside from our dinner programs and other large events aimed at a more general audience, the rejuvenated Young Professionals Committee offered a slate of new and exciting activities. We will continue all of these efforts in 2016 while also fundraising for the additional money required to host the WTS International Conference in 2017, a great honor for our chapter.

### Revenues

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<td>Membership Dues</td>
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<td>Bank Interest</td>
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<td>$173.34</td>
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<td>Monthly Programs and Workshops</td>
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<td>$21,888.47</td>
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<td>Membership Events</td>
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<td>$2,705.00</td>
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<td>Corporate Partners (fundraising)</td>
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<td>Other Fundraising</td>
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<td>$29,988.00</td>
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<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
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<td>$171,946.20</td>
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### Expenses

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<td>President</td>
<td>$118.40</td>
<td>$625.00</td>
<td>$590.49</td>
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<td>Board Training</td>
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<td>Credit Card Processing Fees</td>
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<td>Board Expenses*</td>
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<td>International Conference Attendance Scholarships</td>
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<td>$3,914.75</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
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<td>$118,994.08</td>
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<td>Money Raised for WTS Scholarship</td>
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<td>$4,712.00</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenses including Deposit to Scholarship Account</strong></td>
<td>$117,714.12</td>
<td>$123,706.08</td>
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### Net Revenue After Distributions

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<td><strong>Net Revenue After Distributions</strong></td>
<td>$17,636.77</td>
<td>$9,138.73</td>
<td>$39,620.53</td>
<td>$23,262.53</td>
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WTS Scholarship Account Balance (December 2014) $26,141.47
WTS Scholarship Account Balance (December 2015) $42,514.38

* Board Expenses include food at board meetings, conference call line, communications tools, and supplies.
WTS-GNY Board of Directors 2014–2016

President
Beth DeAngelo
WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff
DeAngelo@pbworld.com

Vice Presidents
Julia Kerson
NYC Office of the Mayor
jkerson@gmail.com
Polina Knaster
HDR
polina.knaster@hdrinc.com

Treasurer
Elizabeth Hynes
Parsons
Elizabeth.Hynes@parsons.com

Secretary
Stephanie Camay
WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff
camays@pbworld.com

Directors-At-Large
Rena Barta
Jacobs
rena.barta@jacobs.com
Lisa DiTaranti
VHB
LDiTaranti@VHB.com
Deborah Hyman
MTA NYCT
dehborah.hyman@nyct.com
Ella McLeod
MTA NYCT
ella.mcleod@nyct.com
Linda Travis
NY Life
lndtravis@aol.com

Immediate Past President
Mary K. Murphy
NJTPA
mkmursphy@njtpa.org

WTS-GNY Committee Chairs 2015

Communications
Amy V. Kaufman
WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff
kaufmanav@pbworld.com

Newslette Subcommittee
Daniella Bernett
STV
daniella.bernett@stvinc.com

Corporate Relations
Janice Li
CH2M Hill
Janice.Li@ch2m.com

Membership
Sandra Forte
VHB
SForfe@VHB.com
Barbara Kearse
LIRR
bkearse@lirr.org

Mentoring
Nicole Bucich
WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff
bucichna@pbworld.com
Sarah Steib
Jacobs
sarah.steib@jacobs.com

Programs
Alexa Gangemi (NY)
CH2M Hill
Alexa.Gangemi@ch2m.com
Kerri Tyerman (NJ)
Dewberry
kttyerman@dewberry.com
Kellyann Valentine (NY)
PANYNJ
kvalentine@panynj.gov
Colleen Connolly (NJ)
Malick & Sherer
cconnolly@malickandscherer.com

Scholarship
Keri Cibelli
AKRF
kcibelli@akrf.com

Special Events
Jing Du
MTA Bridges & Tunnels
Jing.du@mtahq.org
Lisa Pompei
Garden State Engineering,
Surveying and Planning
LPompei@gesp.com
Ani Toncheva
Wilson Ihrig & Associates
Atonecheva@wiai.com

Young Professionals
Aimee Jefferson
Rutgers/Bloustein School
aimeejefferson@gmail.com
Portia Henry
PANYNJ
p1h2f@virginia.edu

Transportation YOU
Taylor Reiss Gouge
NYCDOT
treiss@dot.nyc.gov
Alyssa Pichardo
Regional Plan Association
apichardo@RPA.org

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