



Heart of Texas Chapter Newsletter

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Summer 2005
Volume 2 Number 2

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Message From the President

- Liz Smith, P.E.

It's hard to believe that just one year ago, a group of six WTS members got together and decided to re-invigorate the Heart of Texas (HOT) Chapter of WTS. Those six members now comprise our board and key officers: Tina Walker, Susan Charles, Susan Mooney, Wendy Travis, Michelle Dippel, and me. I'll let the numbers tell the story: in 2003, HOT had 6 members; in 2004, we grew to 18 members; as of August 23, 2005, we have 52 members! That's a tremendous amount of interest and support for our organization, and now we need to work to maintain our momentum.

Here is a quick look at our accomplishments since August of 2004:

- We have had regular monthly meetings with outside speakers;
- We revised our bylaws and our WTS-HOT Corporation;
- We held an annual meeting as required by the bylaws;
- We set up the WTS Scholarship (WTSS) non-profit fund for our chapter so that we can support our local college students in the scholarship competitions;
- We had a wonderful Gala fundraiser for our WTSS fund (our first ever) and we put over \$8,000 in the bank as our seed money;
- We have really put WTS on the map in Central Texas!

Our new board has worked hard and made a lot of progress. But we can't stop now! Next year we will have an even MORE fabulous Gala to continue our scholarship fundraising (and it will be planned well in advance). Tina and I attended the WTS annual Leadership Training, where we learned of the many events and opportunities available in WTS. All of us learned a lot from our Gala this year (especially me - next year we'll have a full script for the MC!), but we will continue to make sure everyone has a lot of FUN in the process. (Otherwise, it would just be more work...and we all work hard enough in our day jobs.)

So what's coming up for this year? We will continue our monthly speaker meetings with interesting speakers and timely topics. We will schedule our monthly meetings far enough in advance so we can all plan for them. We have already scheduled the date for our Gala event - mark your calendars now for April 7, 2006 (a Friday night so everyone can really relax and enjoy the evening!). Get those babysitters lined up now!

Everyone seems to enjoy fun gatherings, so we are planning a holiday party for early January (it will be a great opportunity to re-gift those items you received but don't really care for). Incidentally, we selected January because the month of December is usually too crazy for all of us - a client has an RFP out with a December 31 due date; we have celebrations with our children, extended families, and friends; and we foolishly travel to visit relatives or they come and stay too long with us; or we attempt to get away to ski with the family. Who has time for WTS too? So, we'll take the opportunity to share our holiday stories/nightmares and give away white elephants in mid-January. I'm already looking forward to the fun!

--Liz



WTS MEMBER STATS CORNER
52 members of our Heart of Texas Chapter
of the WTS! We are growing!

Membership Application Form for the HOT WTS Chapter is attached to this Newsletter.



National WTS Highlights

Our mission is the success of women in transportation.

One of the goals of WTS is:

Redefine "success" for women in the transportation industry by supporting women in fulfilling their own definition of "success"

From WTS International President:

Membership 4000 Campaign - It was at the annual conference where I officially launched the Membership 4000 campaign with a brief demonstration of my belly dance at the annual business meeting. As I promised at that meeting, there will be more to come at the 2006 conference in Dallas if we reach our target goal of 4,000 members by March 15, 2006. We are developing strategies for recruitment and retention, and we are working closely with our chapters to reach this goal. But we need your help. Let's make this goal a reality by reaching our target of 4,000 members for the first time in the history of WTS. We are only about 600 members away from achieving this goal. You can help make WTS history by becoming active in the recruitment campaign. Have all your colleagues joined WTS? No? Tell them why you're a member, and then e-mail us at wts@wtsinternational.org and we'll send you a recruitment packet.

London Chapter is on Board - With great pleasure and pride, I announce the launch of our brand new international chapter in London, England. The WTS Executive Board voted to approve the WTS London Chapter at the May board meeting. Led by Valerie Todd (Transport for London, or TfL), the London Chapter is starting strong with about 25 members and support from TfL—London's largest transportation agency—as well as from British Telecom

WTS was founded in 1977 - the Women's Transportation Seminar was created through the efforts of 40 women involved in transportation in the Washington, DC, area who recognized that a mechanism was needed to enhance professional and personal advancement of women in the field of transportation.

For additional information on membership please contact Wendy Travis, HOT WTS Membership Chair at wtravis@hntb.com or visit our website at www.wtsinternational.org.

HOT WTS Transportation Gala – A Success!

– Sally Victor, Scholarship Chair

The Heart of Texas WTSS Committee received a really terrific initiation at the First Annual WTS Gala Silent/Live Auction on April 28, 2005. Congratulations to all the attendees, donors, and bidders who helped accumulate \$8,940 in scholarship aid. Table sales for the event included a portion dedicated to the WTSS. Representative Mike Krusee, Senator Gonzalo Barrientos and Hope Andrade, TxDOT Commissioner received WTS HOT Chapter Honorary Membership.

Many thanks to the Gala Scholarship Committee including Sangeeta Jain, Kathie Goldsmith, Ruth Mathews, and Bonnie Lister. All were adept at locating special items that stirred the bidding pot.

The top money maker was a dove hunt and steak dinner donated by David Singleton and Jim Mills from CTRMA for 16 individuals that brought in \$5000. The bidding war was really active, climbing to \$4000, when all four bidders decided to up the pot to \$5000 and each take four places on the hunt. That team spirit was a terrific bonus to WTSS. The four participants were Richard Ridings at HNTB, Clint Harris with Kleinfelder, Mike Weaver at Prime Strategies, and Bill Dowd with HDR.

Other items donated included a GPS unit from an anonymous donor, Hot Tuna tickets from Tina Walker for the play "Red, White and Tuna", hand painted china from Dr. Edna Spiller, crystal bowl from Tiffany's from the Los Angeles Chapter of WTS, dinner delivered by Two Straight Guys Cookworks, six unique jewelry sets from Ann Irwin, a stunning lapis necklace and earrings from Annette Dolan, summer writing camp and autographed book from Spike Gillespie, music packages from Waterloo Wind Quartet and Susan McDonald, Austin view prints from David Singleton, a sequined shawl from Sangeeta Jain, gourmet coffee from Starbucks, and a baby poncho from Stacey Lewis. Gift certificates came in from, HEB, Zygmunt Chiropractic Center, and the Driskill Hotel. Gift baskets included a chocolate delight gift basket from Ann Koby, three decorative gift baskets from Debbie Taylor, Ardi Kalter, Tabitha Racki, and spa services from VP Salon & Gifts and Jack & Liz Smith. Other items included a ceramic cat plate and framed prints.

**\$8,940 was raised during the HOT WTS Transportation Gala.
This money will fund scholarships.**

Scholarships for Women in Transportation

– Kathie Goldsmith, Student Liaison

The WTS Scholarship (WTSS) program is dedicated to advancing educational opportunities for women pursuing careers in transportation. There are three scholarships available for students. They are the Helene M. Overly Memorial Graduate Scholarship, the Sharon D. Banks Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship, and the Louise Moritz Molitoris Leadership Award for Undergraduates.

To apply for these awards, please download an application from WTS website at www.wtsinternational.org, then click on Professional Development, and then Scholarships. All applications must be returned to Kathie Goldsmith by November 7, 2005 (kgoldsmith@mbakercorp.com, or Kathie Goldsmith, c/o Michael Baker Jr., Inc., 7700 Chevy Chase Drive, Building 1, Suite 210, Austin, TX 78752).

For more information please contact Kathie Goldsmith, WTS HOT Student Liaison at kgoldsmith@mbakercorp.com.

Please feel free to post this newsletter in your lunchrooms or forward it to your colleagues in transportation (yes, men too!). We appreciate all of our members - new, old, and future!



Member News

Each quarter we will publish information about what's going on with WTS members. If you have changed jobs, been promoted or are working on a new and exciting project, please send us your news! Address your emails to the HOT WTS Newsletter Chair: Asia Sobala at joanna.sobala@hdrinc.com.

HOT Chapter Scholarship Chair, **Sally Victor**, has recently joined HNTB as a Senior Transportation Planner. Sally has worked as a historian for over 25 years, as a consultant and as a Senior Historian for another engineering firm in Austin. She is based at the South Park Office and will be working with the Environmental Division of HNTB at the Dallas, Houston, Austin, and San Antonio offices. "I am really pleased to join HNTB and to be able to develop a budding cultural resources program within the company. It is a terrific opportunity and a challenge for me." You can reach Sally Victor at svictor@hntb.com or at 691-2203.

Joanna (Asia) Sobala, Project Controls Manager with HDR Engineering, recently joined the HOT WTS Officers as Newsletter Chair. In her new role Asia will work with all WTS members to publish quarterly newsletters and maintain the Heart of Texas Chapter WTS part of the web site under www.wtsinternational.org.

Announcements

Save the date for WTS Transportation Gala, April 7, 2006. Now calling for committee volunteers to start planning in October 2005. For more information contact Tina Walker.

Article Highlights

An article describing the 2005 WTS National Conference in Scottsdale, AR, was published in the ENG-NEWS Record:

"In a land of pink stucco, palms and countless bottles of water, scores of the nation's top women transportation officials-and their male compatriots-gathered last month to talk business. The site was Phoenix, where appropriately enough highway and light rail construction plans are going like gangbusters..." to read more go to: <http://enr.ecnext.com> and search for 'wts'.

Have you or any of your colleagues written an article recently? Would you like to share it with the HOT WTS members? If so please send such articles to our HOT WTS Newsletter Chair Asia Sobala at joanna.sobala@hdrinc.com.

2005 WTS Conference in Scottsdale, AZ

The 2005 WTS National Conference was held in Scottsdale, Arizona May 26-28, 2005. Ann Koby (on the right) attended the event. The conference was attended by over 400 WTS members from around the country and abroad and was hosted by the WTS Metropolitan Phoenix Chapter.



The 2005 Conference theme, "New Frontiers: Trailblazing through Changing Times," was selected to represent the two-fold nature of this year's approach to the conference. Arizona is traditionally known as a frontier state, and Phoenix, the state's largest and busiest metropolitan area, hosted the conference using a technical retreat model. This model supports the need to provide tools to address increasingly rapid technological advances being made in the transportation industry. Additionally, WTS is a leading transportation organization and our members and supporters represent those who work toward advancing the changes within our industry. The 2005 Conference showcased these advances and gave participants the opportunity to learn from them.

For additional information regarding the 2005 National Conference, please feel free to contact Melissa Boyles, Conference Chair at mboyles@valleymetro.org.

WTS Luncheon Update

May 2005 Guest From TxDOT Aviation Planning and Programming Division

Each month (Summer 2005 is an exception) WTS conducts a luncheon with a guest speaker on a wide range of issues and topics. During our May 2005 HOT WTS Meeting we had Daniel Benson from TxDOT's Aviation Planning and Programming department. Daniel, an airport planner and pilot, presented an overview of the Aviation Division and discussed some of the programs ongoing in TxDOT Aviation.

September 20, 2005 - Status of Austin-San Antonio Regional Commuter Rail System

Join us on September 20, 2005 for an up-to-the-minute status report of the Austin-San Antonio Regional Commuter Rail System. Board of Directors Chair, Sid Covington, will give us an update of the study process, the results of the public meetings, and status of the application for Federal Transit Administration New Starts funding for the Locally Preferred Alternative. Created in 2002 in response to enabling legislation passed in the 1997 Texas Legislature, the Austin-San Antonio Intermunicipal Commuter Rail District is responsible for developing a plan for commuter rail service extending from Georgetown to San Antonio.

Location: Carmellos Italian Restaurant, 504 E. 5th, Austin. RVSP deadline is Noon, Sept. 19, 2005. Please RSVP Susan Mooney at smooney@hntb.com or call 374-2307 with your choice of entrée: Lasagna Carmello, Grilled Chicken Caesar Salad or Eggplant Parmesan. Tea or Coffee and dessert included. Members \$15, Non-Members \$25.

If you would like to recommend a guest speaker for one of our monthly luncheons, please contact Tina Walker, our Program Chair at walkert@pbworld.com. You don't have to be a member to attend monthly meetings. We look forward to seeing you!



Why Join WTS?

There are many reasons why you should join or encourage others to join the Heart of Texas (HOT) Chapter of WTS! First of all, joining this chapter gives you access to both local and national services and activities within WTS. As a WTS member, you will have the opportunity to network and interact with other professional in the transportation industry through the Local and National Membership Directory, the WTS Annual Conference and through local chapter monthly programs. There are also many professional development opportunities provided, such as career development seminars in the transportation sector.

Each quarter, a chapter newsletter is sent that highlights events in the transportation industry and recognizes the success of members both locally and nationally.

All this in addition to annual awards, job bank, scholarships and training programs that recognize, inspire and challenge members to advance their professional careers in transportation.

Don't wait any longer; join the HOT Chapter of the WTS today!

Welcome New HOT WTS Members:

Hope Andrade, Texas Transportation
Commissioner

Gonzalo Barientos, Senator

Mike Krusee, State Representative

Cherie Kittle, Federal Highway Administration

Jaclyn Hanifen, Kimley-Horn and Associates

Dianna Noble, TxDOT

Casey Toycen, TxDOT

Darcie Schipull, TxDOT

Bonnie Lister, TxDOT Austin District

Dianna Tapps, North Central Texas COG

Loretta Schietinger, HNTB Corporation

Ruth Mathews, Michael Baker Jr., Inc.

Soheir Michel, CPM Consultants

Shirley Nichols, Chiang, Patel & Yerby, Inc.

Stacey Benningfield, HNTB Corporation

Keri Johnson, ATG Inc.

Kari Banta, ATG Inc.

J. Steven Brooks, Jones & Stokes

Ann M. Irwin, Carter & Burgess, Inc.

Aseemita Malhotra, Kleinfelder, Inc.

Kiranmayee Akunuri, Kleinfelder, Inc.

Dawn Scheel, Quantm

Tricia LaRue, PBS&J

For additional information on membership please contact Wendy Travis, HOT WTS Membership Chair at wtravis@hntb.com. You can also check our Website at www.wtsinternational.org.

Upcoming Events

Innovations in Travel Modeling 2006 - Transportation Research Board Conference to be held in Austin in Spring 2006

Conference Description

This conference will showcase the state of the art in travel demand forecasting techniques, emphasizing activity and tour-based methods. Practitioners will share experience and lessons learned from implementing advances. Researchers and practitioners will share knowledge and experiences, particularly advances in integrating social, demographic, land-use, economic, transportation supply and technological characteristics of the activity-travel environment. The two and one-half day conference will draw approximately 300 experts from the transportation planning community who are active in travel model development and applications, and in the collection of data to support these models.

Policy Context

Travel demand forecasting models were initially developed to answer questions which now seem fairly simple - how much traffic will a given highway carry in 20 years, how many lanes should the facility have, would people ride a bus in this corridor, etc. Over the years decision makers have been asking increasingly more sophisticated and complex questions that span a variety of decision making horizons and contexts. New Demands include:

- short term operational improvements,
- medium term planning (e.g., homeland security)
- new facilities and services,
- time-of-day pricing strategies,
- demographic and social shifts in the population,
- technology evolution,
- fundamental travel decisions and how they can be affected
- the linkages between economic competitiveness, social equity and welfare, transportation and air quality
- estimation of market demand and revenue from toll facilities and other infrastructure financing options.

Funding for the research needed to develop models that can respond to these critical issues was very scarce for many years. With the establishment of the Travel Model Improvement Program and the funding of several major research efforts (such as TLUMIP and TRANSIMS), research is now changing the profession and its models.

Technical Context

Relatively little research and almost no practical implementations of activity-based travel models; and their integration with economic, demographic, and network models; had taken place when the last major travel demand forecasting conferences took place. In the intervening time a considerable amount of research and several promising applications have been completed. Such models are on the verge of broad professional acceptance and widespread implementation - they represent one of the most important advances in travel modeling in several decades. These advances have been chronicled in professional journals and presentations at the TRB annual meeting, but neither forum has allowed for the in-depth presentation and discussions necessary to effectively institutionalize them in the wider profession. At the same time that the modeling methods have advanced, the data needs to support the analysis of the relevant policy issues have also changed, as models are only as good as the data going into them. Thus, advances and requirements for survey and other data collection methods to obtain activity-travel data require dissemination and discussion.

Please contact Johanna Zmud at jzmud@nustats.com to find out more about this event.

Survey Become an Individual Member

Tell us about yourself so that we might better serve your interests:

Gender: Male Female

Age: <25 25-35 36-55 >55

Years in Transportation: <5 5-10 11-15 16-20 >20

Highest degree attained: _____

Sector: Public Private Private/Non-Profit

Mode: Transit Aviation Freight Passenger Rail
Highway/Auto Maritime/Port Non-Mortorized
Multimodal Other: _____

Profession: Engineer Planner Management
Marketing/Sales Environmental Public Relations Law
Finance/Economics Construction HR Academia
Other: _____

Race/Ethnicity: Caucasian African-American Hispanic
Asian-American Other: _____

Does your employer reimburse your:

WTS membership dues? Yes No

WTS event fees? (luncheons, conference) Yes No



Membership in WTS is for twelve months beginning on the payment date. Applications are accepted all year round.

Individual dues are based on one's income level. WTS membership dues are tiered in order to allow a larger level of diversity in our membership and to encourage a wider range of transportation professionals to join the organization, from entry level to senior and executive level, and from the public sector as well as the private sector.

To calculate your dues, follow the instructions on the "Membership Worksheet" on the back of this panel to determine your membership level (based on your annual salary) and dues rate.

WTS Chapters

Atlanta	Orange County (CA)
Baltimore	Philadelphia
Boston	Metropolitan Phoenix
Central Florida/Orlando	Middle Tennessee
Central Illinois	Portland
Central Pennsylvania	Puerto Rico
Greater Chicago	Puget Sound
Colorado	Sacramento
Columbus	San Diego County
Connecticut Valley	San Francisco
Greater Dallas/Fort Worth	South Florida
Heart of Texas/Austin	Metropolitan St. Louis
Houston	Strait of Georgia (BC, Canada)
Los Angeles Area	Tampa Bay
Michigan	Tucson
Minnesota	Washington, DC
Greater New York	Wisconsin
North Carolina	

Questions?

For further information, please contact:



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202.496.4340 • 202.496.4349 fax

wts@wtsnational.org

www.wtsnational.org

Rates effective December, 2004.

For more information, please call 202-496-4340 or visit www.wtsnational.org.

Membership Worksheet

- Find your dues level based on your income/status.
- If you would like to be a member of more than one chapter, add an extra \$30 for each additional chapter affiliation.
- New Members** (or if you did not renew last year); add the \$10 New Member processing fee [C].

1 DETERMINE YOUR DUES LEVEL

Find your dues level based on either your annual salary [A] or membership type [B].

NOTE: Except for the Member-At-Large level, all membership dues listed below include the dues for your primary chapter affiliation.

A Regular Membership

MEMBERSHIP LEVEL	ANNUAL SALARY	MEMBERSHIP DUES
Level 1	\$0 to \$49,999	\$ 95
Level 2	\$50,000 to \$74,999	\$ 130
Level 3	\$75,000 to \$99,999	\$ 170
Level 4	\$100,000 and above	\$ 210

B Other Membership Types

Member-At-Large / International <i>(50 miles from nearest chapter)</i>	\$ 150
Retired	\$ 100
Full-time Student	\$ 210

Primary Chapter Affiliation (included in dues):
[Does not apply to Members-At-Large]

Your Membership Dues Rate: \$ _____

List Additional Chapter Affiliation(s):

of Additional Affiliations x \$30: \$ _____

C Add \$10 if you are a new member or you did not renew last year: \$ _____

Your Total Membership Dues: \$

2 ENTER THE INFORMATION ON THE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please enter your membership level and rate information on the attached application. You may detach this worksheet from the application before returning.

APPLICATION CONTINUES ON THE BACK OF THIS PAGE

PLEASE PRINT

NAME _____

TITLE/POSITION _____

EMPLOYER _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY/ STATE/ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ FAX _____

E-MAIL _____

*Directory Listing
If different from above*

ADDRESS _____

CITY/ STATE/ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ FAX _____

Chapter Affiliation

PRIMARY CHAPTER *(Included in Dues)* _____

ADDITIONAL CHAPTER(S) *(See Worksheet)* _____

Dues, Fees and Donations

Membership Level or Type *(See Worksheet)* _____

Calculated Dues *(See Worksheet)* \$ _____

OPTIONAL FEES & DONATIONS

Listing in W/M/DBE Firm Directory Yes
(IF CHECKED, YOU WILL BE BILLED \$100 SEPARATELY)

WTS National Scholarship donation* \$ _____

WTS Chapter Scholarship donation* \$ _____

CHAPTER: _____

TOTAL DUE \$ _____

Payment

MC VISA AMEX Discover Check PAYABLE TO WTS

CREDIT CARD NUMBER _____

CARD HOLDER SIGNATURE _____ EXP. DATE _____



WTS offers secure online registration. Visit our web site at www.wtsnational.org and click on "Membership" or mail form with payment to: WTS National, P.O. Box 18993, Washington, DC 20036. You will receive confirmation within four weeks of receipt.

*Donations to WTS Scholarship, an independent charitable organization, are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

REMOVE AND RETURN APPLICATION : RETAIN WORKSHEET FOR YOUR RECORDS

