



# Heart of Texas Chapter Newsletter

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Summer/Fall 2006  
Volume 3 Number 3

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## Message From the President

- Liz Smith, P.E.

Dear WTS Colleagues,

We are in a season of change - I think of Autumn as a time to let the leaves fall to the ground so you can sweep them away and start fresh. I dug up the wilted flowers in my garden, and got the pansies and mums to plant for my "winter" color. It's time to dust off sweaters and jackets and close-toed shoes (besides cold weather, that's my least favorite thing about fall - having to wear "real" shoes). I lived in Maine in the late 1980's, and fall started right after Labor Day; that's when they stopped serving iced tea in the restaurants. Being from the south, I could never wrap my mind around that - if you insisted, they would offer hot tea with a glass of ice. I never figured out what they drank with their meals that wasn't alcoholic (maybe that was the point). That was a change I didn't live with for long...less than 2 years, in fact. I'm so glad to be in Austin with year-round iced tea and the long, hot summer. I tell my kids we can go visit snow and cold weather (if necessary).



Speaking of change, last month I transitioned to a new firm. I hadn't done that in nearly 10 years, and I found myself doing a lot of reflection and soul searching in the process. This was a major event for me (the decision to resign, not the soul searching part). In fact, it was one of the most difficult personal decisions I have had to make in a long time.

Change is hard. And I think the hardest part about it is choosing to change *yourself*. Ultimately, that's what you have to do to make a real change - whether it's deciding to change your job, move to another city, have a child, marry or divorce, reorganize your company, or terminate an employee. These are all major changes that have to be carefully considered. We weigh the "what-if" scenarios, ponder the "what if I don't" scenarios, and consider how our decision will impact the people around us. I think the hardest part is making that final decision, because that is the reflective part of the process. After that, you can get on with it - whatever it is. We've all told others, "Make up your mind and get on with it." That's easy to say, but when it's a major life event, somewhat harder to do.

Once you make up your mind, you're ready for action. Just do it. Make it happen. Move on. In conversations with some of my close friends, we have noticed that when our professional women friends make a tough decision, it's just about impossible to change their minds. When I resigned from my last position, I was asked if there was anything that could make me change my decision. My response was, "No. It's time for me to make a change."

There is an article in the Summer 2006 Transcript (that I just read) regarding the stagnant rates of women in engineering (see <http://transcript.wtsinternational.org>) that states:

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## Welcome New HOT WTS Members!

Shelley Randolph, HNTB

Julie Wilke

Evie Worsham, Pharos Corp

Judith McCulley, U.S. Environmental  
Protection Agency

Susan Wilder, HNTB

For membership information, please contact Wendy Travis, HOT WTS Membership Chair at [wtravis@hntb.com](mailto:wtravis@hntb.com) or go to [www.wtsinternational.org](http://www.wtsinternational.org)

## 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](mailto:joanna.sobala@hdrinc.com).

AUSTIN, Texas ---Terracon's Austin, Texas office has hired Elizabeth Smith, P.E., G.E., as a senior geotechnical engineer and associate principal. Ms. Smith brings more than 20 years of engineering experience, and has managed hundreds of geotechnical design projects for clients. She has conducted evaluations and provided recommendations for conventional and design-build transportation infrastructure projects, including most recently the 183A Turnpike design-build project in Austin, a \$178 million, 11.6 mile toll road.

Ms. Smith earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in civil engineering from Virginia Tech and is a registered professional engineer in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California. She is the president of the Heart of Texas (Austin) Chapter of WTS, and is active on the Virginia Tech Civil and Environmental Alumni Advisory Board and the ASCE Geoinstitute's Deep Foundations Committee.

Terracon is an employee-owned consulting engineering firm providing geotechnical, environmental, construction materials and facilities services from more than 80 offices nationwide. Terracon employs a staff of over 2,000 and is currently ranked 50th on Engineering News-Record's List of Top 500 Design Firms. For additional information about Terracon, please visit them on the Web at [www.terracon.com](http://www.terracon.com).

## Our HOT Website

Check out our WTS HOT Chapter website at <http://www.wtsinternational.org>, then click on "Chapters" and select "Heart of Texas".

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The Society of Women Engineers CEO and Executive Director Betty Shanahan says: "The challenge is to get away from 'fixing the woman,' and look at making the environment inclusive." She also notes that part of the problem has been internal perceptions women engineers have about their work environment; for instance, many believe that their hard work will be recognized and do not feel the need to seek out promotions. Meanwhile, some male supervisors assume "women aren't asking for a promotion because they aren't interested," she says. However, engineering firms or those firms seeking out engineers should keep in mind that diversity often requires an extra effort..."

So, here's the point. We all have to change, and it takes extra effort, whether it's to promote diversity or any other plan of action. We have to recognize what change is necessary and then we have to do it. Whining and complaining won't change anything. Action will. You can choose to make a change; you just can't change the weather.

We are approaching a major change for our Chapter, and our members are going to have to make the effort to be involved. In December, I will complete my two years as President, Tina Walker will be moving up to President, and our Secretary Susan Charles and Treasurer Michelle Dippel are both stepping down from the Board. We have lots of positions in which our members can choose to be involved. We will need a new Vice President, Secretary and treasurer (we don't have pre-requisites - you just do it). We also have numerous opportunities to join an existing committee or start new committee. Some of these committees include Scholarship, Membership, Mentoring, Student Liaison, Diversity, Job Bank, Newsletter, Scholarship Gala Planning, and Corporate Partnership.

We have grown from 9 to 65 members in the last two years, and now it's time to show our strength! Check out our Chapter web page (I just updated it myself) - oh, there's another role for someone - web site! You can find other members there, update your information online, and see what committees we already have. If you still aren't confident, jump in because WTS will train you in your role within the organization! Chapter Leadership training is held each February, and this year it will be in Houston! A great opportunity for our leadership to learn from other successful WTS members all about making our Chapter succeed. It just takes the effort of going. And it's great fun, too.

I hope to see all of you at the fun events our new programs co-chairs Mitzi and Samantha have planned for us this fall!

Liz

## PR Kickoff at Malaga Wine & Tapas

*Event Synopsis*

Mitzi Bowman and Samantha Soules, the new PR co-chairwomen for WTS Heart of Texas Chapter, hosted a kickoff happy hour on August 2, 2006 at Malaga Wine & Tapas Bar downtown. The objectives of the PR Chair for the next year are to streamline the process of getting feedback from members for WTS activities, and to enhance the identity of WTS by promoting industry and community involvement.

Bowman and Soules developed a survey to gather input on activities that are relevant to the current WTS members and how events can provide strategic added-value to existing membership benefits. The social setting of happy hour was the place of choice to introduce the new co-chairwomen as well as these initiatives.

With a turnout of approximately 25 attendees, the evening offered meet-and-greet opportunities for potential members and plenty of networking for established members. Surveys and Speaker/Presentation Suggestion forms were completed throughout the evening, offering Bowman and Soules a sturdy foundation for building a PR plan that meets the needs and interests of WTS HOT members.

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## Did You Know?

- ◆ More than one-quarter of the 594,000 bridges in the country are functionally obsolete or in bad condition, and 18% of the miles of roadway are in need of repair.
- ◆ China has 3,112 toll charge points and 71.4 percent of the 140,000 kilometers of tolled roads in the world.
- ◆ Between 1980 and 2004, people drove 94 percent more highway miles, according to Federal Highway Administration statistics. But the number of new highway lane miles rose by only 6 percent.

## Why Join WTS?

For many reasons! Joining Heart of Texas 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.

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! If you have not yet renewed your membership, feel free to do it online at <http://www.wtsinternational.org>

## Mark Your Calendars

October 13, 2006—Deadline for 7th Annual WTS Leadership Program, Class o 2007. More info attached to this Newsletter.

October 20, 2006—WTS HOT Luncheon discussing TxDOT's TxTAG Program.

October 22, 2006, 7 am - 2 pm—Sneak Preview Central Texas Turnpike Project and on November 1, 2006 beginning at 10 am—Central Texas Turnpike Project Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony. For more information visit <http://www.centraltexasturnpike.org>.

## National WTS Highlights

*Our mission is the success of women in transportation.*

One of the goals of WTS is:  
Leverage partnerships with industry associations, women's organizations, and other strategic allies

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Responses showed a high interest for events that provide environments in which to network, as well as events that provide opportunities to give back to the community.

Volunteering together as a WTS chapter is hoped to not only root HOT in its region as a collective member of the community, but also assist in integrating members from other chapters into their new surroundings. Feedback was also positive in regards to designating days for monthly standing meetings/presentations and monthly happy hours; an idea that is expected to increase availability and therefore attendance for events.

Using this valuable feedback, Bowman and Soules are prepared to create a Public Relations plan to present to the WTS HOT Board in an effort to generate a vision for the next year of WTS events.

For more information contact Samantha Soules at [stsoules@pbsj.com](mailto:stsoules@pbsj.com).

## WTS HOT Luncheon Updates

### October 20, 2006 - TxDOT's TxTag Program



Join us on October 20, 2006 for a presentation on TxDOT's TxTag Program. Learn about the unique approaches and individuals that are bringing the first toll roads to Central Texas (opening next month). You will also have the opportunity to get your TxTag at the luncheon. The toll tag is free when you activate your prepaid toll account with \$20, so bring your vehicle information and check or credit card payment with you.

### September 22, 2006 - Federal Highway Administration's 50-Year Plan

For the September program luncheon, Mr. Achille Alonzi (Assistant Division Administrator for Texas Division, FHWA) gave a presentation on the Federal Highway Administration's 50-Year Plan. Approximately 50 people were in attendance at the meeting which was held at PBS&J's Millennium Building.

For more information about SAFETEA-LU visit <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/safetealu/index.htm>.

## Letter from International President

Dear WTS Members and Friends,

The 2006-2008 International Board and Committee Chairs are excited to be serving WTS over the next two years. The board members and committee chairs are listed in the Leadership section. Here are some highlights of what your new board is working on:

· Congratulations and sincere thanks to the Dallas/Ft. Worth chapter, WTS staff members, and others who helped to make the 2006 WTS Annual Conference a success.

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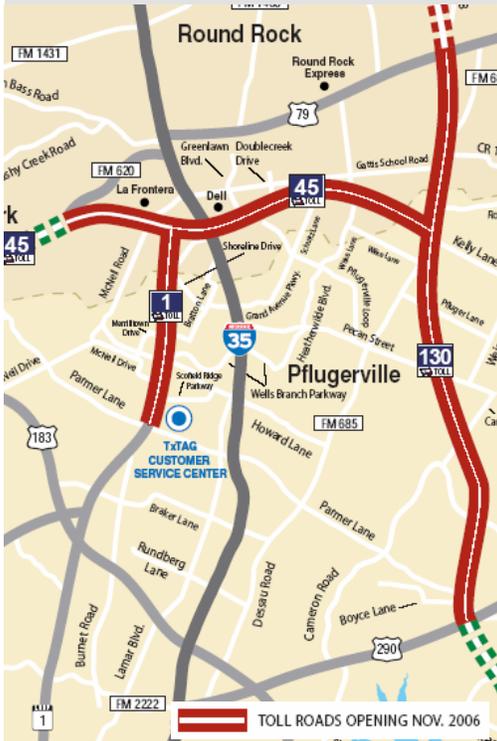


Please feel free to post this newsletter in your lunchrooms or forward it to your colleagues in transportation (yes, men too!). We appreciate all of our members - new, old, and future!



## Austin Toll Roads Will Open Early on November 1, 2006

In just two weeks, motorists can enjoy an easier, faster, shorter commute in north Austin and Round Rock instead of their daily crawl through congestion. For more information visit <http://www.centraltexasturnpike.org>.



### WTS Article Highlights

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 Alvord at [joanna.sobala@hdrinc.com](mailto:joanna.sobala@hdrinc.com).

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Now that we are transitioning from a volunteer/management company to an executive director/staff organization, we need to understand how the changes will affect WTS and prioritize what we need to accomplish. As a result, we have embarked upon a strategic planning process and hired a facilitator to help us. The strategic planning process involves all WTS entities: Chapters, WTSS, and the Advisory Board. The goal is to present the strategic plan to the membership in May 2007.

There are 22 US gubernatorial elections being held on Tuesday, November 7th and WTS has 29 chapters in 17 of those states. Beverly Mason and Sophie Hartshorn, the International Appointments Co-Chairs, are starting the process to identify potential candidates for gubernatorial appointment.

We certified our 39th chapter - WTS Central Virginia. They are 23 members strong. Please welcome them to the WTS family. Cynthia Hughes Adler, International Chapter Development Chair, helped the Central Virginia Chapter obtain its certification and continues to work with other potential WTS chapters.

WTS will be celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2007 and Jamie Rennert, International Director, is leading the task force that is formulating the celebrations. Stay tuned and hear what they have in store for us.

The 2007 WTS Conference is being held in San Diego, May 2nd-4th. The conference theme is "Reinventing the Wheel." Linda Culp and David Schumacher, the 2007 Conference Co-Chairs, are promising a spectacular event. If you are interested in presenting a paper at the conference, abstracts should be submitted by September 30th.

We look forward to working with each of you to enhance the WTS experience for members and to further advancing women in the transportation industry.

Sincerely,  
Ann L. Koby  
International President

Source: <http://www.wtsinternational.org>

## FALL ANNOUNCEMENTS

In December, Liz Smith will complete her two years as President. Thank you for all your work Liz! Tina Walker will be moving up to President, and our Secretary Susan Charles and Treasurer Michelle Dippel both are stepping down from the Board. We have lots of positions in which our members can choose to be involved. We will need a new Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer (we don't have pre-requisites - you just do it). We also have numerous opportunities to join an existing committee or start new committee. Some of these committees include Scholarship, Membership, Mentoring, Student Liaison, Diversity, Job Bank, Newsletter, Scholarship Gala Planning, and Corporate Partnership.

**Let us know your interests and suggestions. We need your involvement!!!**

# 2007



*Advancing Women in Transportation*

## 7th Annual Leadership Program, Class of 2007

**January 28<sup>th</sup> – January 31<sup>st</sup>**

### **Leadership for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Managing People, Policy and Politics**

#### **WHEN & WHERE**

The WTS Leadership Class of '07 will be held January 28-31, 2007 at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ. Applications must be submitted by October 13, 2006; fourteen finalists and one alternate will be selected, and notified of the results by December 15, 2006.

#### **WHO CAN ATTEND**

The WTS Leadership program was created for members of WTS who are transportation professionals in mid-career and who, in their professional and personal lives, have demonstrated strong leadership potential. The program is offered at no cost for room, board, and tuition; selected candidates are responsible only for their transportation costs to and from the three day session. As has been evident in prior years, those who have successfully completed the program have in turn provided benefits to WTS and the transportation industry by applying their leadership skills to further WTS goals, to solve transportation challenges, and by mentoring younger women and professionals.

#### **PROGRAM CONTENT**

During the three-day program, participants will meet established transportation leaders to discuss policy issues, learn about leadership

style, and address personal career challenges. Diagnostic tools will be utilized to assist the process of self-evaluation and reflection. Panel discussions, opportunity for networking and one-on-one discussion with industry leaders will enable a range of both transportation and personal topics to be covered. Most of all, participants will learn from WTS colleagues who have a variety of professional experiences, educational disciplines and diverse backgrounds to share.

#### **APPLICATION PROCESS**

In order to apply, candidates must be WTS members who have a minimum of five years experience in the transportation industry, with at least two years in a management or supervisory position. You must have a willingness to mentor. You must submit an application package consisting of: 1) A resume describing your professional and educational background; 2) A letter of recommendation supporting your participation in the program; and 3) A personal statement (limited to 500 words) addressing your interest in the program. Your statement should address a career challenge or transportation issue and should serve to demonstrate your potential for leadership growth and development.

#### **SUBMISSION INFORMATION**

There is no application form or specific format required. You are encouraged to provide all the information requested, but not to embellish the submittal with "packaging" or "design". Five copies of your application information should be sent to Margaret Mullins at WTS International, 1701 K Street, NW, Suite 800, Washington, DC, 20006, no later than October 13, 2006.

#### **QUESTIONS?**

If you have questions about the program or the application process, please contact Margaret Mullins, at [mmullins@wtsinternational.org](mailto:mmullins@wtsinternational.org) or (202) 955-5085. Or you can contact the Leadership Program Co-Chairs, Maxine Finkelstein, at [mxfi@ieitransit.com](mailto:mxfi@ieitransit.com), or Janette Sadik-Khan at [sadikkhan@pbworld.com](mailto:sadikkhan@pbworld.com). For more information, please visit us at [www.wtsinternational.org](http://www.wtsinternational.org)

There have been six prior classes of WTS Leadership graduates. The names of the 2001-2006 program alumnae are listed on the WTS website. If you'd like to learn more about the program, you are encouraged to contact an alumna, who would be happy to describe her experiences and answer your questions about the program.

## Survey

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



## Become an Individual Member

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:



Advancing Women in Transportation

1666 K Street NW, 11th Floor  
Washington, DC 20006

202.496.4340 • 202.496.4349 fax

[www.wtsinternational.org](http://www.wtsinternational.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](http://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

