



# Heart of Texas Chapter Newsletter

## INSIDE



**WTS**

Advancing Women in Transportation  
Heart of Texas Chapter

- 1 President's Message
- 1 HOT Transportation Gala
- 2 Breakfast Buffet
- 2 WTS Luncheon Update
- 3 HOT Chapter Awards

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## Message From the President

- Liz Smith, P.E.

Dear WTS Colleagues,

As members, we know that a major part of our ongoing professional development involves our active participation in various WTS and industry-related functions throughout the year, both at the local and national levels, and as our schedules (and bosses!) permit.

For me personally, one of the highlights has always been the Transportation Research Board's Annual Meeting, and this year was no exception. Along with several WTS colleagues, I again had the pleasure of attending what was TRB's 85th Annual Meeting held from January 22-26 in Washington, D.C. As always, this was an information-packed program that attracted more than 9,000 transportation professionals from around the world. The TRB Annual Meeting program covered all transportation modes, with more than 2,600 presentations in 500 sessions addressing topics of interest to all attendees-policy makers, administrators, practitioners, researchers, and representatives of government, industry, and academic institutions. For me, however, this year was particularly special because of the Texas "flavor" that was present throughout the week. WTS Heart of Texas Chapter Honorary members and friends Hope Andrade (Texas Transportation Commission), Mike Krusee (Texas State Representative) and Amadeo Saenz (Texas Department of Transportation) were all in attendance, and their inspiring outlook for the future of Texas transportation was, in a word, contagious.

I left the TRB Annual Meeting more excited than ever about the roles that we individually, and collectively, play in helping to meet the transportation needs of the Lonestar state, and in particular, the greater Austin area that is represented by the WTS HOT Chapter we serve. 2005 was a year to remember for WTS, both locally and nationally, and 2006 is full of promise for even greater success. Not only does the HOT Chapter continue to reach new heights in membership, we have already made a difference in the lives of three first-time WTS HOT Chapter scholarship recipients. Plans are now in full swing for our 2nd Annual Transportation Gala and Scholarship Fundraiser to be held on Friday, April 7 at the Four Seasons Hotel in downtown Austin - so save the date, line up those babysitters and get involved in this important event. And remember, as Bob Bullock - the inimitable, late lieutenant governor of Texas - once said, "It is amazing how much can get done as long as no one cares who gets the credit!".

Best, Liz

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual WTS Transportation Gala

The 2006 WTS Transportation Gala will be at the Four Seasons Hotel, Friday April 7, 2006. The reception will be from 5:30 to 6:30 pm and dinner will begin at 6:30 pm. The silent auction items will be available in the foyer overlooking Town Lake during the reception.

### WTS MEMBER STATS CORNER

65 members in our Heart of Texas  
Chapter of the WTS! We are growing!

Continued on Page 2





## Welcome New HOT WTS Members!

Debbie Spillane, Texas Transportation  
Institute

Patricia De la Pena, Nossaman

Cecilia Green, PBS&J

Deven Rohrer, PBS&J

Christine Freeman, Parsons Brinckerhoff  
Quade & Douglas, Inc.

For membership information, please contact Wendy  
Travis, HOT WTS Membership Chair at  
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).

Stacey Benningfield was promoted to Associate Vice President within HNTB.

Christine Freeman was recently promoted to Business Development Associate within Parsons Brinckerhoff Quade & Douglas, Inc.

Wendy Travis with HNTB was recently promoted to Environmental Manager, TTC-35 Corridor Engineering Team.

## Did You Know?

- ◆ SH 130 construction is using 7.9 million square yards of concrete - That's almost twice the amount of concrete in the Hoover Dam (the 2nd largest dam in America)
- ◆ SH 130 has 190 bridges
- ◆ SH 130 is using 16,200 tons of steel
- ◆ There are 61 percent more cars on Texas roads today than in 1980
- ◆ The average age of a road on our state highway system is 45 years

## Our HOT Website

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

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

### 2nd Annual WTS Transportation Gala

Continued from Page 1

The program will include chapter awards, presentation of the 2005-2006 scholarships, honorary membership presentations and a keynote speaker. Last year, the event focused on the opportunities created in Central Texas by the State's adoption of toll financing as a way to deliver highway projects. This year, the event will recognize the opportunities in rail, both freight and passenger.

For more information, contact Tina Walker, HOT WTS Vice-President/Program Chair at [walkert@pbworld.com](mailto:walkert@pbworld.com).

## HOT Chapter Provides Breakfast Buffet for Transportation Officials

By Kathie Goldsmith

From January 30 through February 2, the Department of Transportation, Environmental Affairs Division (ENV), and the Texas Division of the Federal Highway Administration, hosted the "Linking, Planning, and NEPA" Executive Seminar and Managers' Workshop in Austin, at the Red Lion Hotel. This workshop was developed by the National Transit Institute (NTI) and Rutgers University.

The state-specific workshop was designed to provide a forum and facilitate group discussion among and between TxDOT; MPOs; Federal, Tribal, and State environmental, regulatory and resource agencies; and FHWA/FTA representatives in order to develop a State specific action plan to strengthen linkages between the transportation planning and NEPA processes.

TxDOT graciously allowed the WTS Heart of Texas Chapter to provide a breakfast buffet for Executive Seminar attendees on January 30th. A representative from the Heart of Texas Chapter was present to distribute information about WTS and to discuss ongoing WTS events with current and perspective members.

The WTS Heart of Texas Chapter would like to thank TxDOT/ENV and FHWA/Texas for allowing our organization to reach out to members of the transportation community to strengthen ties within the transportation field while promoting women's roles in transportation.

For more information, contact Kathie Goldsmith at [KGoldsmith@mbakercorp.com](mailto:KGoldsmith@mbakercorp.com).

## WTS Luncheon Updates

### February 16, 2006 - Annual Membership Meeting

WTS HOT members met over lunch at Carmelo's Italian Restaurant on February 2006 for the Annual Membership Meeting. Most of the discussion focused on the upcoming 2006 Transportation Gala and HOT Chapter Awards. **The Scholarship Auction Committee is requesting donations.** Items already donated include deluxe coffee gift basket, get-away fun basket, and exotic flavors from India. We are looking for rail related items, such as Hill Country Flyer tickets, train related memorabilia, etc. Kleinfelder donated its Round Rock Express Luxury Suite which includes 10 tickets, food, beverage, and parking for June 23, 2006. Just use your imagination! Many thanks to all who already donated.

### March 23, 2006 - WTS HOT Luncheon

During our March 2006 luncheon we will welcome Phil Russell as our guest speaker. Mr. Russell is the director of the Texas Turnpike Authority Division of the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT). Under his direction, the division is responsible for the development and operation of a system of toll roads, bridges and tunnels on the state highway system. He became director in November 1998. During our luncheon he will focus on conflict of interest policy for CDA projects. Location: TTC-35 Project Office at 7745 Chevy Chase Dr, Suite 300. For more information, contact Tina Walker at [walkert@pbworld.com](mailto:walkert@pbworld.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!



## 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>

## National WTS Highlights

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

One of the goals of WTS is:

Earn recognition for WTS membership and involvement as discriminating factors in employment and promotion

*From the WTS International President:*

"2005: A Year to Remember! ... We can now add to that list the fact that WTS has surpassed its target of 4,000 members for the first time in its history, reaching new heights in membership. With more than 4,150 members as of mid November, WTS has met my challenge and proved to me that even bigger and better things are possible for us. I am grateful to every member of WTS for making my dream a reality, and for continuing to support this great organization..."

## Mark Your Calendars

March 23, 2006—Luncheon with Phil Russell

March 24, 2006—HOT Chapter Awards Nomination Deadline

April 7, 2006—WTS HOT Transportation Gala

April 30, 2006—Spring 2006 Newsletter Deadline

May 17-19, 2006—Dallas/Fort Worth—WTS 2006 National Conference

May 20-24, 2006—Austin, TX—Innovations in Travel Modeling 2006 Conference

**PLEASE NOTE:** The deadline for the next issue of Heart of Texas WTS Newsletter is April 30, 2006. Members are welcome to submit articles and photos to be included in our next issue.

## WTS Heart of Texas Chapter Awards

The Heart of Texas Chapter of the WTS is initiating local HOT Awards. We are excited to begin the process of nominations for the:

- ◆ **Heart of Texas Member of the Year**—Recognizes WTS HOT member who has made extraordinary contributions to the success of our chapter
- ◆ **Heart of Texas Woman of the Year**—Honors a woman who is an outstanding role model and has contributed to the advancement of women and minorities in transportation
- ◆ **Heart of Texas Employer of the Year**—Recognizes a business for its support of the goals and purpose of WTS

Detailed award criterion is the same as for the WTS International Awards emailed earlier in February to everyone. To submit a nomination include; the name of the person or employer you are nominating, the award the nomination is for, and a description of how the nominee fulfills the established criteria for the award you are nominating them in. Nominations may be based on activities and commitments over time, not just this past year. To nominate you must be an active member of WTS. Nominations will be compiled and emailed to members only for final voting the week of March 27. Recipients of these awards will be recognized at our 2nd Transportation Gala on April 7, 2006.

**Deadline for nominations is Friday, March 24, 2006.**

Take the time to recognize those in our chapter or area. You can be sure they will appreciate it. Send nominations by email to Susan Charles at [scharles@kleinfelder.com](mailto:scharles@kleinfelder.com) or call her at (512) 926-6650 to make other arrangements.

## WTS 2006 Conference

Don't forget about this year's WTS 2006 National Conference. It will be Wednesday through Friday in Dallas/Fort Worth, May 17-19, 2006. For more information visit WTS website at <http://www.wtsinternational.org>, then click on "News & Events", "Conference".



## National News

### Women In Construction Vision & Achievements Awards

The National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) Crystal Vision and Crystal Achievement Awards recognize individuals who have advanced and promoted the role of women in construction through initiatives and/or policies. If you would like to nominate an individual for either of these awards, you may request an application from NAWIC's Kara Roberson at [karar@nawic.org](mailto:karar@nawic.org) or (800) 552-3506, ext. 13. Applications for the 2006 program must be received at the NAWIC Office by February 28, 2006.

### Mary Peters Offers Insight into Transportation Issues

Mary Peters, former administrator of the Federal Highway Administration and now HDR's National Director of Transportation Policy and Consulting, recently visited with Tom Warne, a well-known transportation consultant, about issues facing the transportation industry and the future of transportation. Go to <http://tomwarnereport.com/inside-transportation.html> to listen to the interview.

### 50th Anniversary of U.S. Interstate Highway System

The year 2006 will mark the 50th anniversary of the federal law that brought America its unparalleled Interstate Highway System. This 46,508-mile web of superhighways has transformed our nation and our economy. It is a symbol of freedom and a tribute to human ingenuity—although some of the changes it has brought our nation have been controversial. For more info visit <http://www.interstate50th.org> or <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/interstate/homepage.cfm>

## 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* *Membership Application*

- 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

