President's Message

Let's the joyous news be spread…unfurl the red carpet…and grab the noisemakers. WTS Philadelphia is 40!

Since 1979, WTS Philadelphia has focused on promoting the advancement of women and men in the local transportation industry.

You may have heard the story of how the Women’s Transportation Seminar got started. Women were discouraged from participating in professional associations – unless the activities were deemed educational. So a group of pioneers whipped up a plan to escape the office – typically during the work day at lunch – under the guise of attending a seminar. I picture it as a sort of Mad Men lunch, with martinis and shrimp cocktail – minus Don Draper. No one suspected a thing. Once there, they did what we do today – they supported each other, forged partnerships, strategized over projects and career moves. Sure, there was a learning component…but there was an even greater emphasis on networking, professional development, and connecting.

Today, the Philadelphia chapter is one of the most vibrant, part of an international organization linking more than 40,000 transportation professionals. The execution might have changed a bit over the years…more fireworks, perhaps…but the goals remain the same.

WTS Philadelphia has a tremendous team working hard to maximize the returns on the investment made in us by our members and sponsors. This year, we have 40 key events planned – all different, all special, all meant to make a difference in the way we do business. We have a Past Presidents Retrospective coming out soon that will highlight our before and our after. We have our eyes, too, trained on the next 40 years, implementing changings now that will impact the leaders of the future.

As the old adage goes, the best is yet to come. Cheers to 40!

Introducing Our 2019-2020 Board!

The WTS Philadelphia Chapter is possible thanks to the support of a dedicated team of board volunteers. We are excited to kick off the 2019-2020 term with our board and have many exciting things in
Executive Board

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Patti Gibson May

PRESIDENT-ELECT
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VICE PRESIDENT
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Christine Baker, Vice Chair | Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission

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Jennifer Lanning, PE, Vice Chair - WTS Works | Pennoni Associates
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Jasmine Narcisse, Chair | Jacobs

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Maxime Damis, Social Media Task Leader | JMT

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Stephanie Sperber, Graphics Guru | JMT

STUDENT OUTREACH COMMITTEE
Helene Brennan, PE, LEED AP BD+C, EnvSP, Chair | STV
We LOVE Our Sponsors!

Thank you to our 2019 sponsors for their generous support of WTS Philadelphia.

Because of this, we are able to offer top-notch networking and professional development opportunities to transportation enthusiasts throughout the region. Our chapter hosts dynamic programs that target current industry trends, topics, and issues, and with our 40th Anniversary this year, we are definitely stepping up the game.

Want to be a part of our fantastic voyage? Consider becoming a sponsor. We have many levels of sponsorship that provide a multitude of benefits for your company and your staff. Contact Jaclyn Whelan, the Chair of our Sponsorship Committee at 215.606.9985 or jaclyn.whelan@aecom.com for more information.
GET YOUR MOTORS RUNNING

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2019 HONOREES!

We proudly support Api Appulingam, P.E., an esteemed member of our Executive Board, her husband, Ryan Ketro, and their precious twins, Quin and Nandhan (age 1) as this year’s TB&C Ambassador Family.

WTS Philadelphia Supports the March of Dimes’ TB&C Awards Luncheon
The Delaware Valley March of Dimes hosted its 26th Annual Transportation, Building & Construction (TB&C) Awards Luncheon on Wednesday, March 13th at the Pennsylvania Convention Center.

Honorees included the City of Philadelphia’s Division of Aviation, and past WTS Philadelphia Woman of the Year, Chellie Cameron, SEPTA, PennDOT, Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission, and Amtrak. For a full list and details, check out www.marchofdimes.org/events/Event.aspx?eventid=20471&

The Chapter’s Corresponding Secretary, Api Appulingam, PE, of RS&H, her husband, Ryan Ketrow, and their twins, Nandhan and Quin, served as this year’s Ambassador Family. Api shared a first-hand account of how the March of Dimes helped her family when the boys arrived early and spent time in the NICU.

WTS Philadelphia is a strategic partner with the March of Dimes for this event.

Introducing New Committees!

We are excited to introduce three new committees for the 2019-2020 term!

Programs Council
The Programs Council is a senior-level group of professionals, experts in their fields, tasked with planning keynote events related to intermodal transportation topics. Focus is heavily placed on content and impact. Programs have always been backbone of WTS Philadelphia, as we strives to provide optimal networking opportunities with relevant speakers on timely topics. Members of the Programs Council Eileen Della Volle (KS Engineers), Sharon Jean-Baptiste (Jacobs), Nick McLaughlin, PE (C&S), Orla Pease, PE, PTOE (AECOM), Caitlin Gallagher, PE (JMT), and Danielle Eisenstock (Urban Engineers, Inc.).

Emerging Leaders
New to the Philadelphia Chapter for the 2019-2020 term, Emerging Leaders was created as a forum for women in the early stages of their transportation careers. And by transportation careers - we mean everyone - engineers, planners, researchers, marketing gurus, admin queens, financial wizards, architects, construction managers, train conductors, construction managers, etc. Diversity adds spice to this recipe! This group will meet monthly to explore solutions and strategies to enhance professional and personal development. It is open to members and non-members (who we hope will become members!). Please email Kim Waters at KWaters@jmt.com with any questions.

PhilaLink
PhilaLink enhances the Chapter by encouraging stronger connections with northern Delaware and southern New Jersey. This committee was created to bridge the gap and expand existing programs into these areas. PhilaLink identifies opportunities where the Chapter can deliver its services to a broader pool of members, sponsors, and agency representatives. Alyssa May, PE (Rybinski), Nicole Kahn (KMA), and Megan Roscia (Jacobs) are leading this initiative.
Upcoming Events!

WTS Philadelphia's First Ever Golf Outing
Mark your calendars now… WTS-Philadelphia is having its first ever REAL golf outing on Monday, June 24th at the Bala Golf Club. Details, like a smart pair of golf trousers, are being ironed out. Stay tuned!

Back on My Feet 5-Miler
Time to lace up your sneakers! Please join WTS Philadelphia’s team for the Stroehmann Bakeries Back on My Feet (BoMF) 5-Miler, on Saturday, March 30 at 7:30 AM. This is the Chapter’s third year participating in the marathon. Entrance fees support BoMF Philadelphia, which is committed to combating homelessness through the power of running, community support, and essential housing, and employment resources. WTS Philadelphia is a strategic partner with BOMF. As your prize for finishing, participants head home with two free loaves of Stroehmann bread…carb lovers, start your engines! Email Anna Hooven, PE, at ahooven@septa.org to join the WTS team.

March 20
ASHE Delaware Valley WTS Joint Event – Ross Fording Road Bridge over Octoraro Creek Historic Truss Rehabilitation (PDH credits) | Radisson Hotel Valley Forge (evening)

March 21
Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission and the Free Library Presents The Future of Transportation | Free Library of Philadelphia (evening)

March 22

March 26
DRBA Program Michelle Hammel, Esquire – Counsel and Chief Ethics Officer Dave Hoppenjans, PE - Chief Engineer | Sonesta (morning)

March 27
South of the Boarder

March 30
Back on My Feet 5-Miler | Art Museum

March 30
Transportation Camp PHL | Drexel University
April 3
Emerging Leaders Kick-Off | McCormick Taylor (evening)

April 5
Professional Development Seminar –
Esther McGinnis | Gannett Fleming (lunch)

April 11
Student Chapter Firm Crawl | Various Locations (afternoon)

April 22
Ladies’ Golf Clinic (clinic…not the outing) | Bala Golf Club (morning/afternoon)

April 24
DOT Program | Westin Mt. Laurel (lunch)
Leslie Richards, PA Secretary of Transportation
Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti, NJDot Commissioner
Jennifer Cohan, DelDOT Secretary of Transportation

May 3
BINGO! A March of Dimes Fund-the-Mission Event | Old Pine Community Center (evening)

Delaware Valley Engineer's Week Recap

Members of WTS Philadelphia attended the 2019 Opening Ceremony for the Delaware Valley Engineer’s Week (DVEW) on February 14th at the DoubleTree Philadelphia Hotel. The evening began with a cocktail hour which allowed attendees to network and meet with scholarship winners, Science Fair winners and other attendees. Opening remarks were made by Christopher Holiday, President of the Engineers’ Club of Philadelphia (ECP), whom provided some history regarding Engineer’s Week and ECP. The evening continued with the keynote speech by Ed Cunningham, the “voice of WHYY”. After dinner, Robert Wright, the DVEW Committee Director, began the award portion of the night. Awards were presented to winners of the Future City Competition, the Delaware Valley Science Fairs, Undergraduate Studer Paper Awards and the Outstanding High School Students. Next, several scholarships were presented to both undergraduates and graduates of Delaware Valley area colleges. During dessert, Mr. Wright presented the Young Engineer of the Year Award to Eleanor Small, PhD. Upon acceptance and remarks, Mr. Wright continued by presenting the Outstanding Service Award to Leo Leonetti. The final award of the night was presented to John Pierce, Jr, as the 2019 Engineer of the Year. Mr. Pierce was introduced by his son, John, and upon acceptance of the award spoke about his family run engineering company and life as a geotechnical engineer. His speech ended with tremendous applause from the attendees and committee.

The Engineers’ Week Opening Ceremony was attended by several members of WTS, including Section President Patti Gibson. This year, WTS was honored to support Engineer’s Week as a Washington level sponsor. Engineers’ Week was held from February 14th to 23rd as a celebration of the profession and to recognize engineering accomplishments throughout the Delaware Valley.
Get Involved in a Committee!

On February 28, 2019, WTS Philadelphia hosted a Committee Expo at SEPTA to introduce members and newcomers alike to the many opportunities it affords folks within the Chapter's organizational structure. Students, agency partners, members, and non-members attended to meet board leadership and find out how they can be more involved in WTS Philadelphia. If you are interested in participating in one of the 12 WTS Philadelphia committees, please email Membership Chair, Lauren Ohotzke, PE ohotzke@taylorwiseman.com.

Don't Miss Your Opportunity to Join Transportation Camp Philadelphia (TCPHL19)!

Saturday March 30th, 2019
Drexel University, Papadakis Integrated Sciences Building
3245 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104

Join us for a day filled with ideas at the intersection of transportation, technology, and urbanism. Transportation Camp is a participant-driven, thought-provoking conference that follows the "unconference" format. TCPHL is organized by a group of passionate Philadelphians with the Philadelphia chapters of Young Professionals in Transportation (YPT) and Women’s Transportation Seminar (WTS), and Drexel University’s Lindy Institute for Urban Innovation. Sign up today to secure a space! We are still looking for sponsors and volunteers! Please email Cory.Wyffels@wsp.com to become a sponsor or volunteer!
The Philadelphia Chapter of WTS was formed by 12 women on June 21, 1979. Since its formation, the Philadelphia Chapter has focused on promoting the development and advancement of women in the transportation industry.