President’s Message

Now that I am working in the city full-time, I’ve noticed a lot about people’s office attire.

Especially – their choices in acceptable footwear.

NOT IN A GROSS WAY…just as a means of transport.

Like…some shoes are made for walking…and others, well, they are best reserved for Uber rides and SIPS Wednesdays.

For one, guys now wear exotic socks. This comes as a shock, since at the May Family Laundromat, the only varieties come in the standard Engineer’s Palette – black, navy, tan, and sometimes, charcoal.

I mean – I knew that a glorious spectrum of stripes and patterns existed…but I never knew this had become, like a REAL THING.

Some don’t even wear socks anymore! It’s like a resurgence of James Spader in Pretty in Pink clones!

Then, since it’s summer, there are tons of sandals and wedges walking around our streets.

WEDGE? Why would anyone force their feet into something called a ‘wedge’?

In any case, I also spend a lot of time questioning people’s commitment to weekly pedicures. We don’t want to see any cheaters in meetings! Trust me!

I realize that my Cute Shoe Days are over and I’ve joined the army of middle-aged folks who make important shoe decisions based on a sole (pun intended) factor: comfort.

I have a great deal of respect now for sneakers-with-skirts, Easy Spirit sales at Boscov’s, and of course, my preferred – the moldable corked footbed from Birkenstock.

Sorry. Not sorry.

While my youthful joie de vivre has dissipated…I take solace in solid footing, skid-proof bottoms, and tootsie wiggle room.

It’s ok to trade in the heels (ok, one-inch, in my case, and they were from Naturalizer…we’re not talking about Irene Eells’ collection here).

We make our way to our destination at our own pace, in our own gait, with our own directions.

After years of podiatrist-interventions and soft slippers, we know what feels better and works best.

But…that’s only after we try on thousands of pairs and risk blisters and boo-
boos.

You learn from experience…and you gain experience from trying things out.

Which brings me to my point:

At WTS Philadelphia, we develop amazing leaders. One of the best parts on my journey as president is getting to watch them emerge and/or flourish as they forge their missions on behalf of the overall group. The paths taken are always different. Each volunteer has her/his own approach, style, and pace. But when we all meet at the finish line…wow…that’s some fancy footwork!

Please enjoy this latest edition of our newsletter.

Safe Travels,

Patti

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**Summer Lovin’**

On Thursday, August 15, 2019, WTS Philadelphia thanked its corporate sponsors and agency partners for their support and commitment.

Our second annual Summer Lovin’ event featured enhanced networking, superior nibbles, and - true to Chapter tradition - a few grand surprises. Members from the new Emerging Leaders Committee met industry leaders from across the region. It was a no-strings-attached evening with one mission – and we had fun! There was even a contest for best “Nautical-Themed Outfit.”
Learn from a Leader Summer Series!

The 2019 Learn from a Leader Summer Series (LFAL) kicked off on Monday, July 8, 2019. As a special initiative of the Chapter’s Professional Development (PD) Committee, LFAL focuses on personal aspects of self-improvement and evolution. Smaller sessions create intimate settings for discussion, connection, and honesty. The rapid-fire format takes place over two months, at convenient times: during breakfast, at lunch, or post-work. HDR’s Raquel Donahue, PE, Vice Chair of PD, is responsible for organizing all of the events.
Last Session, Breast Cancer Awareness

One in three women will discover breast cancer. That's a statistic. A scary one, but still...something we file away in the back of our minds until the next mammogram or check-up. The raw and emotional side of this disease rarely discussed in the open. Well, this special session – maybe our most special ever – is going to get real. Hear from two awesome ladies – survivors – about their journey from discovery to recovery – and its aftermath. Registrants are asked to wear pink as sign of solidarity, and should probably bring a stockpile of tissues too. Join us Thursday, August 29th!

Sign Up!
1st Annual Golf Outing

WTS Philadelphia held its First ANNUAL Golf Outing on July 24, 2019 at the Bala Golf Club. Proceeds benefit the WTS Philadelphia Foundation, which funds the Chapter’s educational program.

It was a sell-out crowd - with half the participants being female, many of whom had never played in an 18-hole outing. The expert golfers were quick to help out the novices, and everyone had a fabulous time on this very special, albeit sweltering, day. Event co-chairs, Kirsten Brown, of Urban Engineers, Inc., and Andrew Cushman of Grant Integrative Facilities Management, worked with a dedicated team of volunteers to ensure that the outing was both fun and successful. Next year, though, we need a sprinkle tent and a water ice station.
Professional Development Services

The Professional Development (PD) Committee, led by Kelly Freeman, RA, LEED AP, of Sowinski Sullivan, is tasked with holding monthly programs that emphasize learning, discussion, and collaboration. Kelly and her team develop, organize, and facilitate sell-out sessions on a myriad of career-oriented topics to engage and educate the Chapter’s members and other supporters. Keep an eye out for an online survey where we will be looking for your feedback and input on what you’d like to see in future PD sessions!

Sessions included: 

Above: “Preparing for a Management Role” / Esther McGinnis, Director of the MidAtlantic Region and the first female member of the Board of Directors at Gannett Fleming / April 5, 2019 / Gannett Fleming


“Energy Leadership” / Beverly Williams, Owner of Continuum Executive Coaching and Master Practitioner in the Energy Leadership Index / June 11, 2019 / Municipal Services Building

“Navigating the Gray Areas of Ethics” / Matthew Marquardt, PE, Senior Vice President at Urban Engineers / July 11, 2019 / Urban Engineers
"DOT-ted Line" Connected WTS Philadelphia With Regional DOT Leaders

On April 24th, WTS Philadelphia hosted a panel discussion at the Westin Hotel in Mt. Laurel, NJ, featuring PennDOT Secretary Leslie Richards, NJDOT Commissioner Diane Gutiereez-Scaccetti, and DelDOT Secretary Jennifer Cohan. The event was moderated by AECOM’s Orla Pease, PE, PTOE.

These three powerful mavens of movement discussed policy, technology, projects, and leadership in each state’s department of transportation and shared how they work together to influence and impact transportation in the tri-state region. This event was also an opportunity to get to know these industry leaders on a more personal level, as all shared bits about their unique career paths.

**Lessons learned at the program?**
- Nothing is too big to achieve. Persevere and build up a network of strength around you.
- Collaboration is an essential component of growth.
- Learning to work with others for the larger goal can be impactful in your project's goals.

Running to Help End Homelessness: BoMF Treadmill Challenge Recap

Team WTS helped Back on My Feet (BoMF) celebrate Global Running Day on Wednesday, June 5, 2019, at its annual Treadmill Challenge. BoMF raised over $52,000 to end homelessness and provide meaningful employment and housing to those who need it most. Collectively, the 22 treadmill teams ran over 850 miles. For the third year in a row, Team WTS came in first place for...
fundraising efforts. The team raised nearly $4,000 and ran 45 miles over the course of the day, with participants on the treadmill continuously from 11:00 AM – 7:00 PM. SEPTA’s Anna Hooven, PE, organized the event on behalf of the Chapter.

PHL DBE Day

On May 16, 2019, WTS Philadelphia participated in the PHL DBE 2020-2022 Goal Setting Stakeholders Meeting. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss and provide insight to the City of Philadelphia’s Division of Aviation (DOA) on its goal methodology regarding inclusion and building business capacity at Philadelphia International Airport (PHL). Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission’s Christine Baker, the Chapter’s Vice Chair of Diversity & Inclusion, attended on behalf of the Chapter. In attendance were various leaders of organizations such as Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO), Philadelphia Industrial Development Corporation (PIDC), Asian American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Philadelphia, Eastern Minority Supplier Diversity Council, the Philadelphia African American Chamber of Commerce, and the Philadelphia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

The DOA provided demonstrable evidence of their commitment to level the playing fields for DBEs in professional services, construction, commodities, and concession Vendors by establishing a two-step goal setting process. The goals are reviewed every three years and adjusted based on local market conditions. This year’s goals included input from the City of Philadelphia’s 2017 Disparity Study.

As the DOA has exceeded its current goals, these conditions will factor into the use and establishment of future race-conscious goals.

The DOA also shared the various partnering opportunities they have that support business-capacity building:

– Workforce Diversity and OSHA Requirements for Airport
– Construction Projects
– Preparing for Capital Project Opportunities at Philadelphia International Airport
– Doing Business with Regional Transportation Agencies
– Negotiating and Managing Joint Venture and Concessions Agreements Workshop
– Responding to Professional Services Requests for Proposals

PHL’s Annual Business Opportunity Forum is scheduled for October 4, 2019.
WTS Bingo Recap

WTS Philadelphia held its 3rd Annual Bingo Night on May 3, 2019 at the Old Pine Community Center. The event was a fund-the-mission benefit for the March of Dimes’ Transportation, Building, and Construction (TB&C) Awards Luncheon.

TB&C Chair, David Didier, PE, of AECOM, joined us. The fundraiser netted $5,000 to help keep moms and babies healthy.

Awards were given for Best Table Theme this year. AECOM’s Monica Steel and Taylor Wiseman Taylor’s Lauren O’Hotzke outdid themselves as WTS Phanatics, with honorable mentions going to HNTB, David Mason, Helene Brennan, and Burns Engineering.

Lots of family members and outside-the-industry friends came to this event. Finally, they got to see WTS Philadelphia Magic in action!

Co-chair of the Chapter’s Past President’s Circle, Megan Syrnick, PE, led the event, with support from the board in terms of mobilization, volunteerism, donations, and execution. Thanks to all, especially the planning committee: Erica Antoine, PE; Linell Homentsosky, CM; Api Appulingam, PE; Abbey Gancz, PE, LEED® AP; Monica Steel; Jaclyn Whelan, PE; Assunta Daprano; Tamara Nicholson, PMP; Annemarie Byrnes, PMP; Kirsten Brown; Donna Powell; Keyia Kersey; Karen Gelman, MPP, PMP; and Helene Brennan, PE, LEED AP BD+C, ENV SP, PMP.
"Up & Down...In & Out...Over & Across


Panelists included NJ Transit's Senior Vice President of Capital Planning & Programs Eric Daleo, PATCO's General Manager John Rink, and DRPA’s Chief Engineer Michael Venuto. Jacobs’ Sharon A. Jean-Baptiste, PE, chair of the chapter's Programs Council, organized and moderated the session.

Attendees learned more about the concerted collaboration amongst agencies in the southern part of the Garden State...as well as the projects that will become major game-changers for the region.
WTS PA & NJ Chapters Collaborate

Great collaboration occurred between two of WTS’ finest chapters...Philadelphia and Greater New York...at the NJ Transaction Conference held in Atlantic City on April 16-18, 2019. We shared a booth and had the opportunity to see and talk with so many of our clients, sponsors, members, and friends. Awesome networking, sessions, and salt water taffy!

WTS Works is Officially Working

WTS Works, WTS Philadelphia’s new internship program, is officially off the ground!

The pilot program, established to place current members of Transportation YOU and the WTS...
Philadelphia Student Chapter with internships and shadowing opportunities with participating firms and women leaders in our industry, has attracted amazing young women interested in expanding their experience and committed firms to make it all happen.

The goal of the program is to advance young women in transportation by allowing them to gain real-world experience in an environment that celebrates their talents and diversity and encourages professional development. This summer we have one college student and three high school seniors entering college who are doing six-to-eight week internships, as well as six high school students who will shadow a female leader during a typical work day. AECOM, JMT, Burns Engineering, and PennDOT 6-0, are providing the internship opportunities to the students, along with HDR, WSP, STV, Jacobs, KMJ, PHL, and PennDOT providing shadowing opportunities.

Jenn Walsh, PE, of HDR, Jen Lanning, PE, of Pennoni, and Kim Waters, PE, of JMT are leading the program. WTS Philadelphia hopes to expand WTS Works in the future. Look for more information in the next issue once the pilot is complete!

Apply: Mid-Career Advancement Initiative

“The Mid-Career Advancement program was a small investment of time for a great return.” – 2018 Participant

WTS Philadelphia invites chapter members at the mid-level to apply for the Mid-Career Advancement Program (MCAP.) MCAP is a new chapter initiative created by the Executive Women’s Roundtable in 2018. MCAP is designed to be a short-term engagement with the goal of providing guidance and support in advancing (technical and non-technical) women in the transportation industry. To achieve this goal, we will pair selected mid-level career professionals (MLPs) with members and/or partners of the WTS Philadelphia Executive Women’s Roundtable according to the MLP’s career objectives. The pair will meet for two to three one-on-one sessions focused on how the MLP can best prepare themselves for the next move in their career. Confidentiality is a priority in this program.

Apply!

Emerging Leaders

Emerging Leaders was created as a forum for women in the early stages of their transportation careers. This group of 35 women meets monthly to discuss various topics to help them thrive as they grow in their careers. The first meeting allowed each member to develop a list of their ideal focus areas and bounce them off others with similar interests and concerns. Karen Jehanian, President and Owner of KMJ Consulting Inc., joined Emerging Leaders in the second meeting to share her insights and experiences faced throughout her career. The group's third meeting revolved around tips and case studies for successfully navigating the work place. The remaining meetings for Emerging Leaders will continue to expand on focus areas and identify ways to promote personal growth!
WTS Women's Foursome Places 2nd!

WTS Philadelphia was proud to support the COMTO Philadelphia Chapter in its 21st annual Golf Outing. The event was held at the Manufacturers’ Golf and Country Club on August 5th and benefits the COMTO Scholarship Fund. The WTS foursome comprised of Abbey Gancz, PE, LEED® AP, Tamara N. Nicholson, PMP, Colleen Nauss, PE, and Cory Wyffels, E.I.T. placed 2nd out of the women’s foursome teams. **Congrats to our women golfers!**
WTS Observes the Women’s Suffrage Centennial

On June 4, 1919, the U.S. Congress proposed the 19th Amendment, ultimately giving women the hard-fought right to vote. Over the next 14 months, state after state ratified the amendment. It was the single largest extension of democratic voting rights in our nation’s history. Here’s to celebrating important anniversaries in the name of equality and justice for all!

Upcoming Events!

8/26 - Women’s Equality Day - Vision 2020 “Toast to Tenacity” | Drexel University
8/29 - LFAL - Breast Cancer Awareness | Kimley-Horn
9/12 - Art of Planning in Delaware Panel | The Delaware Contemporary
9/16 – Professional Development Event - Charting Your Professional Path | Urban Engineering
10/16 – ULI Inside the Urbanist’s Studio | FMC Tower at Cira Center
11/6 – Diversity & Inclusion Committee’s Inter-Generational panel | Philadelphia Marriot Old City
Mid-Sept – SCHOLARSHIP SEASON KICKS-OFF
12/5 - Awards Gala | Vie

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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.