

Founded in 1977, WTS is an international organization of over 5,000 members whose mission is to “transform transportation through the advancement of women.”

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2014 Awards Gala

“What a view!” was the topic of most discussions during the social hour at the Annual Awards Gala held January 29, 2015. This year’s event location was the stunning 17th floor banquet room of the Zions Bank Building in downtown Boise. As the 105 guests settled into the evening with a buffet dinner catered by Berryhill and Company, Transportation Jeopardy entertained the crowd. Game show host, Megan Bryant, of Idaho Laugh Fest and contestants ACHD Director Bruce Wong; ITD Chief Deputy Scott Stokes; VRT Executive Director Kelli Fairless; and FHWA Administrator Pete Hartman were very competitive with providing the answers to many Idaho-themed questions.



Scott Stokes won by a narrow margin, just edging out Pete Hartman.

The true focus of evening was the recognition of the award winners. The highlight of the awards presentation was recognizing the Treasure Valley’s first Woman of the Year: Kelli Fairless of VRT. Kelli has greatly contributed to WTS and is a community leader who is very deserving of this award. Member of the Year, Toni Tisdale, was honored for her outstanding work with the Scholarship auction and her service on the Programs and Transportation You Committees.



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2014 Awards Gala (continued)



COMPASS was named Employer of the Year. Executive Director Matt Stoll accepted the award on behalf of the organization and spoke of the important role women play in the transportation industry.

Don Carnahan of Keller and Associates and Rhonda Jalbert of VRT, accepted the award for Innovative Transportation Solutions award for the Happy Day Ford Transit Center.



Tommy Ahlquist of Gardner and Company was named Transportation Leader of the Year for his prominent role in the public/private partnership with the Multimodal Center, currently under construction at 8th and Main Street.

Sara Baker, ACHD Commissioner, accepted the award for Partner of the Year. ACHD was chosen for its outstanding contribution to the Chapter as a partner.



The final award was a special Lifetime Achievement Award given to Dick Jacobson, who recently retired from CH2M Hill.

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2014 Awards Gala (continued)



This year WTS also held a Silent Auction to raise money for Transportation You and the scholarship fund. The auction item was lunch for two with Lieutenant Governor Brad Little. Dave Butzier purchased the lunch, which was donated by Berryhill.

The evening concluded with recognizing the 2015 Corporate and Agency Partners whose logos are displayed in this newsletter and at all our Chapter events.

Want to get involved?

The awards committee is looking for volunteers to help with planning next year's gala and chapter awards. If you are interested, please contact Tracy Olsen at tracy.olsen@hdrinc.com.

A BIG Thank you to the 2014 Awards Committee



Carrie Applegate, Stephanie Borders, Melissa Hennessy, Tracy Olsen, Samantha Strasser, HDR; Roxann Hansen, JUB; Robyn Kennedy, TO Engineers; Karie Davidson, Horrocks; Dave Butzier and Bonnie Stinson, AECOM



Advancing Women in Transportation
Treasure Valley Chapter

The Transportable Times

Join WTS Treasure Valley on Facebook. “Like” our page to keep up to date on upcoming events, networking, and volunteer opportunities.

WTS launches the Northwest Region – we need your help!

Have you heard the saying “together everyone achieves more?” Well, that’s the motto of a newly formed council of WTS leaders focused on expanding our reach to attract, retain and advance women in transportation. The boundary of the new Northwest Region includes many of the nation’s most beautiful places – Alaska, British Columbia, Washington State, Oregon, Idaho, Utah, Colorado, Montana, Wyoming and Nevada.

At a high clip, the focus of the Regional Council is to: help bolster existing chapters where more members and volunteers are needed to sustain the WTS vision; start chapters in states where there are not active members or enough active members to constitute a chapter; encourage collaboration between chapters within the region through events and communications; and grow WTS membership and participation overall.

Here’s how you can help: do you or your agency or company have contacts in the Northwest Region—particularly in Alaska, Vancouver BC, Montana, Wyoming or Nevada? If so, please visit the link below where you can share the details with us so we can help strengthen existing and start new chapters!

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WTS_NWR



Be the first to find the unusual phrase and you’ll win a free WTS luncheon! Email the phrase, the page number, and the article title where you found the phrase to treasure.valley.wts@gmail.com.

Thank you WTS Members!

WTS Treasure Valley Chapter Members donated the most non-perishable food items during the Inter-Agency December 11th Holiday Social held at the Cylos Lounge in Eagle, Idaho. The four agencies at the Holiday Social were ISPE of South-west Idaho, ASCE of Southern Idaho, ITE Idaho Chapter, and WTS Treasure Valley Chapter.



STAY CONNECTED WITH WTS

The WTS newsletter is published quarterly. The newsletter focuses on the people, organizations, and events that are helping WTS “Advance Women in Transportation” in the Treasure Valley and beyond.

WTS Treasure Valley welcomes its newest DBE Member - Bionomics

Bionomics Environmental, Inc. is an environmental consulting company that performs specialized studies in many areas and is mainly focused on environmental support (such as NEPA documentation, cultural resource studies and biological assessments) for state and federal agencies, and private companies. Bionomics is a Disadvantaged/Minority Business Enterprise (DBE/MBE) in the state of Idaho and Oregon.



Located in Eagle, Idaho, Bionomics primarily focuses on the Northwest and continues to expand its expertise in several areas including: expert witness, environmental assessments, environmental evaluations, archaeological/cultural resource studies, and wildlife studies. Bionomics has ongoing projects with various government agencies including ITD and ACHD, and also does work for private clients such as wind developers.

For more information about projects, services and key personnel, visit Bionomics website at: www.bionom.com

March 3rd Idaho Transportation Coalition Luncheon



WTS Treasure Valley Chapter hosted a lunch and learn for the Idaho Transportation Coalition. The Idaho Transportation Coalition provided an update on the efforts and the prospects for additional transportation funding during the 2015 Idaho Legislative Session. The panel of experts are heavily

involved in the effort to get the word out about the need for additional funding for transportation and provided useful information pertaining to what you can do to help make the effort successful.

The expert panel included:

- Stuart Davis, Executive Director of the Idaho Association of Highway Districts
- Jeremy Chou, Attorney with Givens Pursley and Lobbyist for ACEC of Idaho

The luncheon was moderated by Dave Butzier, AECOM and President of the Idaho Transportation Coalition.

We especially want to thank the Local Highway Technical Assistance Council (LHTAC) for the use of their Training Room for this lunch and learn.

If you would like to find out more information about the Idaho Transportation Coalition, visit their webpage <http://idahotransportationcoalition.com/>

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Transportation YOU! and STEM Day Event

Transportation YOU is participating in an upcoming event hosted by the Girl Scouts of Silver Sage. STEM Day is an event that brings together a variety of professionals who host activities for girls from 4th to 12th grade. This year it is being held at Sacred Heart School in Boise, on May 30th from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. We have some fun activities planned for the event that involve team work, communication, physics, construction, ingenuity and design. We are excited to participate in the event and invite any of our corporate sponsors or WTS members to be a part of our activity. Please contact Karie Davidson at karied@horrocks.com if you are interested in helping!

Transportation YOU is also working on getting involved in more activities happening at schools in the area. Summerwind STEM Academy is hosting a Cardboard Challenge event on May 27th, where the students will build and display something they have designed to be made out of cardboard (inspired by Caine's Arcade). The school has been working on collecting supplies for the challenge and we wanted to give everyone the chance to help them obtain more supplies. The list of possible supplies is below and they can be dropped off directly to Summerwind (3675 North Jullion Way, Boise, ID 83704) or you can contact Karie Davidson and she can work with you on getting the supplies to the school crazy looking Easter rabbit. Thank you so much in advance! This is a great way to not only get involved with Transportation YOU, but with the local schools and youth as well.

List of Suggested Materials:

- Used cardboard boxes
- Cereal or shoe boxes
- Empty strawberry containers
- Empty cupcake containers
- Empty bottles and bottle caps
- Egg cartons
- Milk cartons
- Paper towel and toilet paper tubes
- Old fabric scraps
- Old stuffed animals and toys
- Dollar store toys (bouncy balls, army men, mini soccer/basketballs, etc.)
- Tape
- Scissors
- Markers/pencils
- Paint and paint brushes
- Assorted paper
- Yarn



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WTS Treasure Valley Gold Sponsor CH2M HILL

An employee-owned firm, CH2M HILL was founded in Corvallis, Oregon, in 1946 as a professional partnership of four men—Cornell, Howland, Hayes, and Merryfield. The name “CH2M” came about in the 1940s as an abbreviation of the founders’ initials. Over the years, the original firm grew and in 1971, it merged with Clair A. Hill & Associates to become CH2M HILL. The Boise office was started in 1950 and was the first expansion of the company outside of Oregon. Since that time, the Boise office has completed thousands of projects throughout Idaho and the Northwest. Now headquartered in Denver, Colorado, CH2M HILL is a global leader in consulting, design, design-build, operations, and program management for civil, government, industrial and energy clients. The firm’s work is concentrated in the areas of transportation, water, environmental, energy, facilities, and resources. With more than \$5 billion in revenue and over 25,000 employees around the world, the company maintains an integrated network of offices, including almost 200 multi-disciplinary staff in Boise.



As a WTS Strategic Partner, CH2M HILL is committed to the vision of transforming the transportation industry through the career advancement of women-in North America and around the globe. That is why the firm is ranked as one of the best companies to work for. In addition, CH2M HILL is the first engineering firm to receive the Catalyst award for our efforts in advancing the careers of women, and is on the Ethisphere World’s Most Ethical Companies list again for 2014. CH2M HILL is proud to continue its support of the WTS Treasure Valley Chapter in its efforts in the advancement of Women in Transportation.



Advancing Women in Transportation
Treasure Valley Chapter

The Transportable Times

JOIN WTS
TREASURE VALLEY

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

President Note

We are off to a great start for 2015. The WTS Awards Gala, held the end of January, was a memorable evening of honoring the award winners and a little game show fun. We appreciate the game show participants for their good humor. I was personally impressed beyond words by the amazing speeches from the award winners. The first lunch and learn was held on transportation funding and the great efforts by the Idaho Transportation Coalition.



Fresh from the Awards Gala, the twelve members of the WTS Treasure Valley Board met in early February to set goals for the organization for 2015. Following are a few of the 2015 goals:

- Three Transportation You Events – we can always use more volunteers
- Three Meet and Greet Events
- Lunch and Learns to include a variety of transportation topics and a tour
- Maintain existing membership
- Increase corporate and agency partnerships

Thank you to our corporate and agency partners, as well as all of our members, for your continued support. We hope to see you at our upcoming lunch and learn on the Treasure Valley Transportation Systems to be held March 31st.

Melissa Hennessy, P.E.

President