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## WTS Treasure Valley Holds First Annual Awards Banquet

The Treasure Valley Chapter of the Women's Transportation Seminar International (WTS) honored Idaho Senator John McGee of Caldwell as the Transportation Leader of the Year and Gloria Chigbrow of Boise as the Member of the Year at their first annual awards banquet held in downtown Boise on Thursday, February 12.



*Kelli Fairless (left) and Lisa Vernon congratulate Idaho Sen. John McGee of Caldwell on receiving the Transportation Leader of the Year Award.*

“Senator McGee was an easy choice for this award because of his leadership on the Senate Transportation Committee, stated Lisa Vernon, president of the Treasure Valley Chapter. “The Senator has worked closely with policy-makers and citizens to raise awareness of the funding crisis in our transportation system and continues to build bridges with other leaders to bring about solutions to meet the needs of Idaho’s citizens.

Gloria Chigbrow has been a member of the Treasure Valley Chapter since 2007. Chigbrow works as a service development manager for Valley Re-

gional Transit, the regional transit authority for Ada and Canyon counties. She has served as the events committee chair since joining WTS.

“Gloria is very creative and innovative in her approach to planning events,” states Vernon. “She brings a high level of infectious enthusiasm to her job.”

The event was coordinated by Monica Crider, awards chair. It took place at the Hampton Inn Suites in downtown Boise. The 35 attendees enjoyed an entertaining and informative presentation about the evolution of downtown Boise presented by Pam Sheldon, planning director from the Capital City Development Corporation (CCDC). The CCDC is the urban renewal district for the City of Boise.

In addition to the awards and presentation, Vernon presented certificates of appreciation and recognition to all of the Treasure Valley WTS corporate sponsors. The chapter has been successful at raising \$ 4,600 from 10 corporate sponsors for 2009.

The next awards event is scheduled for December 2009. Contact Monica Crider at [monica.crider@itd.idaho.gov](mailto:monica.crider@itd.idaho.gov) for more information about the annual event.



Advancing Women in Transportation  
Treasure Valley Chapter

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

## EVENT CALENDAR

### APRIL

Social/Networking  
After-hours Event  
Wednesday,  
April 15<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 p.m.,  
Burger and Brew,  
4295 W. State Street

### MAY

FHWA Meet and Greet  
with Gus Shanine and  
John A. Perry  
Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup>,  
5:30 p.m.,  
WH Pacific  
Conference Room

(Please RSVP to Glo-  
ria Chigbrow at [gchigbrow@valleyregionaltrainsit.org](mailto:gchigbrow@valleyregionaltrainsit.org))

### JUNE

WTS Monthly Lunch-  
eon and Speaker  
Wednesday, June 17,  
WH Pacific Conference  
Room  
(Program TBD)

### JULY

WTS Monthly Lunch-  
eon and Speaker  
Wednesday, July 15  
(Program and Loca-  
tion TBD)

# Note from the President

On March 28, 2009 the executive board for WTS Treasure Valley held a retreat. The purpose of the retreat was to reflect on the accomplishments of our chapter over the past year and to solidify the goals for our current year.

Our major accomplishments in the past year include the implementation of our corporate sponsorship program under the leadership of Pat Klampe, and the establishment of the WTS awards program and banquet under the leadership of Monica Crider. We spent time talking about the roles of the committees and the

**“The strength of our Chapter will grow out of this spirit of volunteerism and everyone’s willingness to roll up their sleeve and become involved.”**

committee chairs so that we can establish practices that lead to the best results. Be assured that the board is working hard for the betterment of the chapter.

I have been pleased to see the level of commitment from the executive board members. The strength of our chapter will grow out of this spirit of volunteerism and everyone’s willingness to roll up their sleeves and

become involved. These opportunities are varied and range from attending our monthly meetings to volunteering on committees or for particular events.

In future months we will be conducting surveys to inquire from our membership how we can make your WTS experience valuable and meaningful. Please don’t wait until the survey comes out to share your interests. I encourage you to notify the executive board members if you have ideas for programs and events, or if you want to volunteer in any particular area.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to wish Pat Klampe a very happy retirement and thank him for his hard work and dedication to building our WTS chapter. The entire executive board will miss him. Rex Hansen has graciously agreed to step in and fill the vacant Corporate Relations/Sponsorship Chair position on the board.



Sharing our clients' vision from start to finish has become the bedrock of our success, as evidenced by our long-term, repeat customer base. Our people are managing contracts valued at more than \$12 billion while being recognized as one of the safest workforces in the world.

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Advancing Women in Transportation  
Treasure Valley Chapter

## What is going on at WTS International

Registration has initiated for the upcoming WTS International Conference held this year in Seattle, Washington, May 20-22. The theme for the conference this year is Transportation: Bringing Cities to Life. WTS is well-known for the quality of their conferences. This is a great opportunity to learn innovations in the transportation industry, network with other transportation professionals, and become more involved in WTS International.

Early bird registration continues until April 20, 2009. Please go to the WTS website at [www.wtsinternational.org](http://www.wtsinternational.org) to learn more about the conference or to register online.

*The Transportable Word is published four times a year by the Treasure Valley Chapter of WTS International. Please send questions and comments to Kelli Fairless at [kfairless@valleyregionaltransit.org](mailto:kfairless@valleyregionaltransit.org)*

# Corporate Sponsor Profile

The Washington Division of URS is one of the first Gold Level corporate sponsors under the Treasure Valley Chapter's newly implemented corporate sponsorship program. URS employs more than 50,000 employees worldwide. Headquartered in Boise, Idaho, the Division is a leader in design, design-build and design-build-operate-maintain services for transportation projects, including highways, airports, mass transit systems and toll roads. The Division specializes in engineering, construction, start-up, modification and maintenance of every form of power-generating facilities, as well as the systems that transmit and distribute electricity.

In addition, the Division manages high-risk, technically complex programs and facilities, including nuclear waste management and disposal programs for the U.S. Department of Energy and other federal agencies. The Division also is a leading mining contractor and provides engineering, construction, and facility management and maintenance services to commercial and industrial clients worldwide.

"URS is excited about the future of the WTS organization, the enthusiasm and continued dedication of their members, and the field of engineering itself", states Jeff Storti, employee for the Washington Division of URS. "This region contains many rich opportunities for those of us in the engineering field. We want to make sure that we are involved at the highest level as we go forward with this worthwhile organization promoting the advancement of women in the rewarding field of engineering."

## WTS Member Profile

Gloria Chigbrow joined WTS Treasure Valley Chapter in fall 2007. She immediately became involved as the program committee chair. Under Gloria's leadership the programs offered to our membership at the monthly meetings have been well received as demonstrated by the increases in attendance each month. Gloria was recently named Member of the Year for 2008.

Gloria is the Service Development Manager for Valley Regional Transit. She is responsible for mobility programs and regional coordination projects that benefit the residents of Ada and Canyon counties. Gloria's hobbies include golfing, reading, and collecting quotations. WTS benefits greatly from Gloria's participation on the board.

