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A Message from the Chapter President

My term as your Chapter President began with two historic blizzards that brought much of the Mid-Atlantic to a standstill. Buses, trains, and planes came to a halt, schools were closed, and driving was next to impossible. However, the WTS Baltimore Chapter's mission to bring our members timely programs that highlight the achievements and challenges facing the transportation industry continues in earnest.

We began this year with our *A Conversation With* series on February 24th which featured the Maryland Transit Administration's (MTA) new Administrator, Ralign T. Wells. *A Conversation With* is a 10 year-old Baltimore Chapter tradition that allows WTS members to meet one-on-one with Maryland transportation leaders. Thanks to the unwavering support of our private consultant community here in Baltimore, we are able to continue to offer programs like *A Conversation With* at no cost or at a nominal cost to our members. Kudos to our new program chair Barb Hoage and her committee for successfully putting this event together under less than perfect weather conditions.

Our Chapter's Past Presidents, Janie Tiedeman and Karen Saab also hosted a WTS event, "Introduce a Girl to Engineering," as part of this year's Engineers Week activities. Sixty high school students from Caroline and Baltimore counties spent the day with professional women representing the public and private sectors of transportation engineering here in Baltimore. Please read our *Chapter News* section on page 2 of this newsletter for more information about these two WTS events.



As we anxiously await the arrival of spring, our program committee is preparing for our annual Secretary's Luncheon where we honor Maryland's Secretary of Transportation, Beverley Swaim-Staley. This event is scheduled this year for April 22nd at the Engineers Club, so please save the date. Our region is also gearing up for the WTS 2010 Annual Conference being held in Washington, DC from May 19th to May 21st. This year's conference will highlight the latest policy and legislative updates that are impacting the transportation industry. The keynote speaker for this year's conference will be Ray LaHood, Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation. The WTS Annual Conference gives chapter members from all over the US the opportunity to meet and interact with the transportation policy makers in government and private industry. I hope to see the Baltimore Chapter well represented at this year's conference activities.

I want to thank our officers, directors, committee chairs, members, corporate sponsors, and friends of the Baltimore Chapter who continually support our efforts to advance women in transportation.

- Windy

CHAPTER NEWS

WTS Welcomes New MTA Administrator

On Wednesday, February 24th, the WTS Baltimore Chapter continued its *A Conversation With* series and welcomed the MTA's recently appointed Administrator, Ralign T. Wells as the event speaker. Administrator Wells is a long time MTA employee who held positions as a bus operator, superintendent, deputy director of bus operations, and most recently prior to becoming Administrator, Deputy Administrator for Transit Operations. He shared his experiences and his plans for the MTA's Light Rail, Metro Subway, Bus, and Mobility program with the 35 chapter members in attendance. He briefed attendees on the MTA system's average daily ridership, the 2009 operating budget, which was \$605 million, and his priorities for MTA including quality service initiatives, the MTA Police Cadet Program, and increased emphasis on statewide transit services.



*Ralign T. Wells,
MTA Administrator*

The event was the first of the 2010 *A Conversation With* series and was hosted by Whitman, Requardt, and Associates (WRA) at WRA's offices in Baltimore City. WRA is a WTS Baltimore Chapter corporate platinum sponsor.

WTS Participates in "Introduce a Girl to Engineering"



WTS Baltimore along with the Engineering Society of Baltimore hosted the *Introduce a Girl to Engineering* program at the Engineer's Club on Thursday, February 18, 2010 as part of the celebration of National Engineers Week. Past Presidents Janie Tiedeman and Karen Saab co-chaired the annual event attended by high school students from Caroline County Public Schools and Pikesville High School. Students were introduced to different types of engineering careers, participated in a hands-on exercise that showed them how a team of engineers interacts to design a project, and enjoyed a lively and interactive lunch.

Speakers included Cathy Proot, A. Morton Thomas; Tawanda Carter, MTA; Lauren Buckler, Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson; Felicia Alexander and Melinda Peters, Maryland State Highway Administration; and Tracee Strum-Gilliam, Parsons Brinkerhoff.

WTS Baltimore would like to thank the volunteers who helped in the planning of this educational program. A special thanks to Heather Murphy, Nicole Katsikides, Leanne Costas, Heidi VanLuven, Dan Cheng and Bill Gluck for their help and support in making this year's event a success!

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WTS OFFICER HIGHLIGHTS

Jessica Klinefelter elected Secretary of WTS Baltimore Chapter

Jessica was elected as Secretary of the WTS Baltimore Chapter in December, 2009. She has been a member of WTS Baltimore for four years, previously serving as Co-Chair of the Membership Committee for the past two and a half years. As the Membership Co-Chair, she was responsible for membership recruitment and retention, organizing membership drives, and maintaining current membership information. She received the WTS Member of the Year Award in 2008 in recognition of that work. She holds a Master's Degree in Wildlife Biology and joined A.D. Marble & Company after graduate school in 1998. She is currently a Vice President working out of their Owings Mills, MD office.



URS Promotes Janie Tiedeman, P.E. to Environmental and Planning Group Leader

URS Corporation is pleased to announce the promotion of Janie L. Tiedeman, P.E. to Group Leader of the Environmental and Transportation Planning Division in the Hunt Valley, Maryland, office. In this role, Janie oversees the Transportation Planning, Traffic, Environmental Planning and Science, Environmental Construction Monitoring, and Landscape Architecture departments. Janie has been with URS since 1992, when she was hired as a structural design engineer in the Bridge Department. From 1995 to 2000, she led proposal efforts before joining the Environmental and Transportation Planning Group in 2000 as a Transportation Engineer.



Janie has been a member of the WTS Baltimore Chapter for eight years, serving as President from 2007 through 2009. She currently serves as the Chapter's Immediate Past President and continues her involvement with helping to grow the Chapter's membership and ensure the success of its events.

Have a job opening announcement or WTS member update you would like displayed on the WTS Baltimore Chapter website? Send your information to Chapter President Windy Dorn at windy.dorn@aecom.com

The WTS Baltimore Chapter 2009 Annual Meeting & Awards Luncheon



The Annual Meeting & Awards Luncheon announced the Chapter's Woman of the Year, Member of the Year, and Employer of the Year



Janie Tiedeman, former Chapter President, and Neil Pedersen, Administrator of SHA, present Melinda Peters, SHA, with the Woman of the Year award.



Janie Tiedeman and Ralign T. Wells, Administrator of MTA, present Denise Hagans, MTA, with the Member of the Year award.



MTA was awarded Employer of the Year.



Members of the WTS Baltimore Chapter Board, from left to right, Barb Hoage, Valorie LaCour, Denise Hagans, Glenn Litsinger, Tracee Strum-Gilliam, Janie Tiedeman, Jessica Klinefelter, Windy Dorn, Sarah Gary, Karen Saab, Katharine Arner, and Tracy Seymour.