

# news



Advancing Women in Transportation

Central Florida Chapter

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## The President's Message

The mission of WTS is, "The success and advancement of women in transportation." The best way to benefit from this organization is to become involved in it. It has been my experience as a member of the WTS Board for the past six years that, "the more you put into it; the more you get out of it." I know that my involvement in WTS has generated opportunities that I would never have had otherwise; to meet and get to know agency representatives and local officials, as well as transportation industry leaders and individuals from other transportation related firms.



Attending the WTS International Annual Conferences and Leadership Training is another way to get involved. These events provide work sessions, speakers, and activities that offer professional development and leadership training. It is a wonderful experience to get to know other WTS members on an international level and learn about the challenges they face and the successes they are having.

We are currently in the process of nominating and voting for electing the new 2008 WTS Board. There is also a continuing need for committee chairs and committee members. If you are interested in participating in WTS contributing in some way, please don't hesitate to contact me or one of the other board members. We would be happy to answer your questions and are eager to have you join us as we plan the activities for the rest of the 2007 year and begin preparations for our Annual Scholarship and Awards Banquet and Silent Auction. I hope that each of you, as WTS members, will consider becoming more active in this wonderful organization and take advantage of the benefits it provides.

Sincerely,

Eileen LaSeur, WTS Central Florida Chapter President

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# upcoming events

## 2008 WTS Annual Conference

Save the date for the 2008 WTS Annual Conference in Atlanta, Georgia on May 14-16, 2008. Topics include:

*International and Global Transportation Issues*

*Leadership Management Skills for Public and Private Sector Transportation Professionals in the 21st Century*

*Noteworthy Environmental and Sustainable Transportation Practices*

*Funding transportation systems in the future*

## The Summit: "High Speed Rail for the East Coast – It's Time"

Join rail industry leaders and government and elected officials from across the nation in Raleigh, North Carolina to discuss the future of High Speed Rail. The one-day summit will be held on October 22, 2007 and will focus on the nation's east coast rail corridors with emphasis on the connection between passenger and freight rail. Topics include:

*Identifying and Defining the Corridors*

*How It All Comes Together*

*Benefits of Integrating High Speed Rail Corridors (Passenger and Freight)*

*Lessons Learned*

*Corridor Challenges – Policy and Funding Challenges*

Online open registration is now available at [www.wtsncevents.org](http://www.wtsncevents.org). For more information, contact Julie Hunt at [jhunt@moffattnichol.com](mailto:jhunt@moffattnichol.com) or 919-781-4626.

## Upcoming Community Events

### *Making Strides Against Breast Cancer 5k Walk*

The Making Strides Against Breast Cancer 5k Walk is to celebrate all breast cancer survivors and to communicate the importance of yearly screenings and exams. Since 1993, over 3.5 million walkers nationwide have raised more than \$230 million through Making Strides events. Donations will go to the American Cancer Society to fund cutting-edge research, provide up-to-date cancer information and education, advocate for all people to have access to critical cancer screenings and follow-up care and offer free programs to improve the quality of life for patients and their families.

*When: October 27, 2007*

*Time: 7:00 - 8:15 am Registration*

*Walk begins at 8:30 a.m.*

*Location: Lake Eola, Downtown Orlando*

*Corner of N. Eola Drive and Robinson Street*

To join the WTS team for the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk please click the following URL or copy and paste the URL in your internet browser.

[http://makingstrides.acsevents.org/site/TR/MakingStridesAgainstBreastCancer/MSABCFY08Florida?pg=entry&fr\\_id=3455](http://makingstrides.acsevents.org/site/TR/MakingStridesAgainstBreastCancer/MSABCFY08Florida?pg=entry&fr_id=3455)

Then choose join a team. Select WTS from the drop down list and follow instructions to complete registration for our team. Team t-shirts will be provided to each participant who signs up by October 20th. Please send an email to Eileen LaSeur at [eglaseur@pbsj.com](mailto:eglaseur@pbsj.com) or by calling (407) 806-4493 to request your t-shirt size. For more information, please contact LaChant Barnett, Media Relations Chair at (407) 657-9210 or [barnett@tindaleoliver.com](mailto:barnett@tindaleoliver.com).

Our fundraising goal is set at \$250.00. Lets all work to exceed this goal. See you at the walk and thanks for your participation!

### Save the date...Upcoming November Luncheon

Please join us on November 29th with guest speaker Mr. Warren Geltch, Assistant County Administrator for Orange County Florida. He will be speaking on Professional Services Survey and Recommendations.

Mr. Geltch has over twenty-five years experience in public procurement as Purchasing Director with Orange County, Palm Beach County, Pasco County, and Hillsborough Community College, and as Purchasing Agent with the University of South Florida. He currently oversees the divisions of Purchasing and Contracts, Information Systems and Services, Business Development, Professional Standards and handles special projects. In addition to three purchasing certifications (CPM, CPPO, and CPCM), he has a Masters Degree in Business Administration from the University of Tampa and a BA in Marketing from the University of South Florida.

# WTS Central Florida Scholarship Application

Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS) strives to help "established and upcoming professionals" develop their capabilities. The primary philanthropic effort of the WTS Central Florida Chapter is the award of two undergraduate scholarships each year and one graduate scholarship for women pursuing careers in transportation. Winners of the Central Florida awards could potentially receive an additional WTS scholarship from WTS International. For fiscal year 2007/2008, the WTS Central Florida Chapter will award three scholarships:



1. Frankee Hellinger Leadership, Undergraduate Scholarship (\$1,000)
2. Frankee Hellinger Undergraduate Scholarship (\$1,500), and
3. Frankee Hellinger Graduate Scholarship (\$2,500).

In order to be considered eligible, Frankee Hellinger Scholarship applicants must:



- Be a woman,
- Have a GPA of 3.0 or higher,
- Currently enrolled in a transportation related degree program, and
- Plan to pursue a career in a transportation-related field.

The WTS Central Florida Chapter will be accepting completed applications through October 26, 2007, but we are encouraging the submittal of early applications. For more information about WTS Central Florida Chap-

ter Scholarships, please contact Hong-Ting Chen at 407-806-4191/hchen@pbsj.com or click on the link provided below:

[http://www.wtsinternational.org/sub.php?section=chapters&section\\_id=05.07&chapter\\_id=5](http://www.wtsinternational.org/sub.php?section=chapters&section_id=05.07&chapter_id=5)

Please feel free to send this information to anyone who you think might be interested in these scholarships. We appreciate your assistance in spreading the word about this exciting financial opportunity.



*Contributing back to the community is important and plays a vital role in the success of our communities. One of the best ways to make a difference is by volunteering our time to support local events, fundraisers, programs and other services.*

*WTS is not only dedicated to transforming the transportation industry through the advancement of women, but also to supporting programs and services that are important to our members. If you have any upcoming events, please let us know and we will share the date, time and location with our members. Community development begins with each and every one of us. Let's join together to make this a better place to live.*

## Welcome New Board Members

WTS Central Florida would like to welcome Pamela Richmond from MSCW as our new WTS Fundraising Co-Chair. Pamela will assist Tiffany Homler in fundraising for our yearly events and activities as well as the Annual Silent Auction and Scholarship Banquet.

Laura Duncalf of Data Transfer Solutions, LLC has joined the board as the website chair, Hong-Ting Chen has joined the board as a Scholarship Co-Chair and Karin Campblin of Planning Communities has joined the board as the Community Relations and Mentor-Protege Chair. Thank for your support. If you are interested in joining the board or helping out with one of the committees, please contact any board member for questions or additional information. The Central Florida Chapter currently has the following openings:

### *Historian:*

The Historian insures that the history of the Chapter is documented. This includes printing and/or storing all information related to Chapter events and filing it in chronological order so that it will be available as a history and as a reference.

If you are interested in volunteering or would like to obtain a list of the specific responsibilities for the above openings, please contact any the board members listed on page 1 of the newsletter.

## Membership Update

As of August 1, 2007, WTS Central Florida chapter has 72 members. Thank you to the following members who have renewed their membership and "Welcome!" to our new members who have recently joined.

*(Re)New Members*  
*Laura Duncalf (Website Chair)*  
*Carolyn Foster*  
*Michelle Hooker*  
*Cynthia Pendarvis*  
*Janey Wallner (Student)*

In upcoming newsletters, we would like to publish information about our members. Please let us know if you have changed jobs, been promoted or are working on a new and exciting project. Send your emails to Joedel Zaballero at [jzaballero@vhb.com](mailto:jzaballero@vhb.com).

## Volunteers Needed

We need 3 volunteers to form the scholarship evaluation team. The volunteers will be asked to review and score the scholarship applications. The scores from each committee member will be tallied to determine the three scholarship recipients. All evaluation team members will receive the applications for review on October 31, 2007. Scores are due to Hong-Ting Chen ([HChen@pbsj.com](mailto:HChen@pbsj.com)) by Friday, November 16, 2007.

If there are more than three volunteers, it will be up to the WTS board members to decide who will be selected to form the scholarship evaluation team.

## Gearing up for the 2008 Scholarship Fund Raiser

The chapter is gearing up for the 2008 Awards Banquet and Silent Auction to raise money for the chapter Scholarship fund. We are looking for volunteers to help put together the event as well as asking members to help acquire silent auction items. More information to follow.



## Vote For The WTS Central FL 2008 Officers!

The slate of candidates for Officers serving on the WTS Board of Directors for 2008 have been nominated and they are:

*President: Teresa Townsend*  
*Vice-President: Jennifer Lewis*  
*Secretary: Purvi Shah*  
*Treasurer: Kory Alger*

Election ballots will be distributed via email along with the nominees biographical information on Monday October 15, 2007 and voting will end on October 26, 2007 at 5:00 p.m.

***DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!***

## WTS 30th Anniversary Gala

The 30th Anniversary Gala at Union Station in Washington, DC featured a policy seminar, a luncheon on Capitol Hill, and an evening of celebration, including the very first Lifetime Achievement Award given by WTS.

The Policy Seminar, entitled “Global Climate Change: What is Transportation’s Role?,” included presentations on “The Big Picture”, “Changing Transportation Behavior”, “Transportation Technology & Infrastructure” and “Modal Perspectives”.



**Barbara Stiles, Carter & Burgess, enjoys the Gala with Hal Lindsey, Lea+Elliott, and his wife, Lori.**

award, recounted times when she was the only woman at the table for a meeting and that doors did not open so easily for women. She credited WTS for helping to advance the industry and the positions of women within it.

Presiding over the evening’s activities, President Ann Koby concluded the event surrounded by fellow past presidents on stage and offered a toast to the next 30 years.

Central Florida Chapter member and WTS International Director Barbara Stiles attended the Gala. “I was honored to be able to participate in the WTS 30th Anniversary Gala. Every member of this organization should be proud of the remarkable strides we have made towards advancing women in transportation. I can’t wait to see what the next 30 years will bring.”

Lunch was held at the Hart Senate Office Building and included a presentation by Bettina Poirier, the Environmental and Public Works Committee Staff Director and Chief Counsel. Poirier, longtime aide to Senator Barbara Boxer, is the first woman ever to serve in this position.

Industry leaders, dignitaries, and WTS members gathered in Union Station’s East Hall for a celebration of our 30 year history and presentation of the first WTS Lifetime Achievement Award to U.S. Secretary of Transportation Mary Peters.

Peters, touched by the presentation and the



**US Secretary of Transportation Mary Peters is the first recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award.**



**WTS International Past Presidents toast to the future of WTS.**

## July Social Event

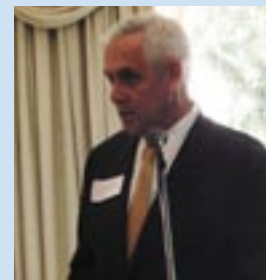


The WTS Central Florida Chapter Member Appreciation Social was held on July 20, 2007 at The Wine Room in Winter Park. A crowd of about 20 gathered to enjoy samples of wine while catching up with old friends as well as making some new ones.



## September Luncheon

Mr. Harry Barley, Executive Director of METROPLAN Orlando, was the guest speaker at the September 20th



Luncheon at Maison Jardin. Mr. Barley presented the latest plans for Central Florida’s regional transportation system and METROPLAN ORLANDO’s

vision by the Year 2025 in which Central Florida will have a regional, integrated multi-modal transportation system that safely and efficiently moves people and goods. Smart growth along with alternative modes of transportation and funding will be essential in meeting the METROPLAN’S 2025 vision.