



Advancing Women in Transportation

Transline

news from the greater chicago chapter

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TRANSLINE is a Greater Chicago Chapter publication and is produced to share news and views with our members.

Please e-mail story ideas, employment opportunities and recent promotion information to Christine Baker at cbaker@cbaker.net.

For more information on WTS, visit www.wtsinternational.org/chicago.

Keep Going

Letter from the President

Looking for inspiration? Current events offer plenty of real-life examples to motivate, encourage and move us. Michael Phelps earning a phenomenal eight gold medals in one Olympic Games. Witnessing Dara Torres, at age 41, show unbelievable sportsmanship just seconds before a race to equalize the playing field. We watched Hillary Clinton hold her head high and acknowledge Barack Obama as the Democratic presidential candidate, while reminding Americans that there are now "18 million more cracks in the glass ceiling."



Right here in our own backyard, WTS members and guests were inspired by our recent guest speaker, Cindy Szadokierski, who climbed the ranks during her 23 years at United, progressing from reservation specialist to Vice President of United Express and Airport Operations Planning. Cindy spoke to us sincerely, and from her heart, outlining the enormous challenges she faces every day, while simultaneously taking personal responsibility to engage and empower her employees.

Individuals like Michael, Dara, Hillary and Cindy -- with an undeniable drive to achieve, succeed and make a difference -- cannot be stopped from reaching their goals. It is innate that WTS is made up of such people. At each program or event you attend, you will mix with professionals starting their own businesses or taking on new positions and using the WTS network to increase their opportunities. We are gaining more and more members, as they realize their investment in the organization is providing a greater return than imagined.

Connecting women and men is the strength of WTS. In fact, connections occur across the nation -- not just here in Chicago. This is the core principle: WTS works hard to provide avenues that open doors for you, keeps you informed about trends and activities in the marketplace and enhances your own professional self worth.

I urge you to reach for your goals and, always, keep going.

Maggie Walsh,

President, WTS Greater Chicago Chapter

Awards banquet fetes transportation industry's finest

On May 20, the WTS Greater Chicago Chapter honored three women and one company for their contributions to the advancement of women in transportation. The 2008 Recognitions Dinner was a stellar event for Chicago's transportation community, with the newly inaugurated WTS International President, Elaine Dezenski, introducing

keynote speaker, former U.S. Secretary of Transportation, the Honorable Norman Mineta. Elaine and Secretary Mineta joined chapter sponsors, Advisory Board members and the chapter's Board of Directors at a special reception prior to the Recognitions event, which was held at the elegant Metropolitan Room on the 66th floor of the Sears Tower. This location, as IDOT Deputy Director and Region 1 Engineer Diane O'Keefe noted during her introduction of Employer of the Year, Ray Chin of R.M. Chin & Associates, was especially fitting with all of Chicago's transportation systems visible from the room's wall of windows.

The dinner was attended by more than 250 WTS members and supporters of the Chicago transportation community. Prior to the award's presentation, Secretary Mineta delivered a keynote address in which he acknowledged Chicago as a pacesetter for the world, with transportation to, from and within the area being a major factor in the influence our city wields. He also praised Mayor Daley as being "one of the country's true transportation visionaries" and spoke of WTS as playing an integral part in the "debate that's shaping our nation's [transportation] policies."



Last year's Woman of the Year, Rosemarie Andolino, with this year's Woman of the Year, Lori Healy, chief of staff to Mayor Daley.



Former U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta with WTS International President Elaine Dezenski and WTS Chicago President Maggie Walsh.

For the presentation of awards, the Chapter was pleased to welcome last year's Woman of the Year, Rosemarie Andolino, and 2007 Diversity Leader, Sandi Llano. Ms. Andolino presented the 2008 Woman of the Year award to Lori T. Healey, chief of staff to Mayor Daley, citing her many accomplishments

in making the community more accessible and her role in Chicago's development. Ms. Llano presented the Diversity Leadership Award to Smita Shah, president and CEO of SPAAN

Tech. In addition to the important work done by her company, Ms. Shah's many efforts in support of women and minorities have had a huge impact on the Chicago transportation community.



Diversity Leadership Award Smita Shah with past award winner Sandi Llano.

Recently appointed Chicago Commissioner of Aviation, Richard Rodriguez, presented the Member of the

Year award to Christine Baker, noting her contributions to the Chapter.

Ms. O'Keefe presented the 2008 Employer of the Year award to Mr. Chin, president of, R.M. Chin & Associates, an engineering and development company with a great history of supporting the WTS Greater Chicago Chapter and women in transportation.

The evening concluded with the traditional Scholarship Fund raffle that raised a record-setting \$800 for the chapter's scholarship fund.

Event volunteers: Michelle Link, Christine Baker, Garry Alden, Robin Martel, Yvonne DeKayie, Charlinda Jones, Berna Sunman Sidal, Audrey Wennick, Harvind Singh, Jessie Slaton and Leslie Pritkin



Member of the Year Christine Baker with Chicago Department of Aviation Commissioner Richard Rodriguez.



IDOT's Diane O'Keefe presents the Employer of the Year award to Ray Chin of R.M. Chin & Associates.

CTA ads introduce WTS to Chicago area commuters Greater Chicago Chapter launches advertising campaign

If you're a frequent CTA rider, you may have noticed a familiar organization on some of the banner advertisements overhead this past Spring.

Beginning in March and running well through June, advertisements touting WTS and its benefits appeared on



several CTA bus and rail lines. The advertising campaign was underwritten in part by our generous chapter sponsors who were listed on the ads, extending a publicity return to their investment in our organization.

After last September's Strategic Planning Session, the Greater Chicago Chapter began looking for ways to increase the organization's visibility among transportation professionals across the City. Approached by Titan Worldwide, the agency responsible for advertising on CTA trains and buses, about a possible WTS ad campaign, the Board of Directors saw a unique opportunity to gain exposure through advertising on the CTA.

"In a city with so many transportation professionals, we wanted to do something a little different to promote the organization. This ad campaign introduced WTS to thousands of riders each day who may have never heard of us otherwise," said WTS Vice President Robin Martel.

The banner advertisements began running in early March on the Blue Line, which travels from Forest Park through downtown to O'Hare International Airport, and in buses along the City's North Side. Later in the spring, the ads popped up on the CTA's Pink Line, which travels through the Loop and along the City's Southwest Side.

Response to the campaign has been overwhelmingly positive among WTS members and corporate sponsors.

"We've heard from many members or sponsors who have seen the ads, or who have heard about the ads from friends or family.

We've definitely felt a sense of pride and excitement among those who have seen the ads," Martel said.



WTS Board members Christine Baker and Vida Morkunas travel on a Blue Line train displaying a WTS advertisement.

Flying high - One woman's journey to the top

August Program Recap

Cindy Szadokierski began her professional career as a French teacher. But several trips to France with her students, she got the itch to travel and joined United Airlines as a reservations agent. Twenty-three years and several titles later, Ms. Szadokierski is now the Vice President of United Express and Airport Operations Planning for one of the world's largest airlines.

Ms. Szadokierski shared her personnel career journey and discussed some of the challenges and opportunities facing the airline industry at a luncheon program on August 26 at Maggiano's. She touched on the challenges of rising fuel costs, decreases in flight capacity and higher ticket prices and additional fees. But she also discussed United's plans

to improve its on-time performance and baggage handling processes, as well as its methods to decrease fuel consumption and improve customer and employee satisfaction. As the largest carrier at O'Hare International Airport, Ms. Szadokierski also shared the airline's anticipation of the completion of the new runways at the airport, which are expected to reduce delays during inclement weather.

Herself a product of perseverance and strong mentors, Ms. Szadokierski praised WTS for its efforts in bringing increased opportunities to women in the transportation industry.

Event Volunteers: Roxann Belle, Nancy Kiernan, Berna Sunman-Sidal, Harvind Singh, Leslie Pritkin

Stir the Soul:

How the 2016 Olympics could impact Chicago's transportation system

Transportation infrastructure and facilities improvements continue to take center stage as the City of Chicago finalizes its bid for the 2016 Olympic Games. More than 100 WTS members and guests crowded into Maggiano's on June 30 to hear a discussion with Robert DuBoe, vice president of Metro Transportation Group, who highlighted the plans and processes the City may undertake to become Olympic-ready and the positive impact the games may have on Chicago's transportation system.



Rob DuBoe discusses Chicago's 2016 Olympics transportation planning efforts.

The selection of Chicago as a 2016 candidate city acknowledges that the City has proved its capacity to host

this major, international event. One significant factor that has contributed to Chicago's candidacy is the availability of accessible transportation into and around the city. During the next 15 months, Chicago and Illinois transportation professionals will be working to ensure that the promised services will be delivered and available.

According to Mr. DuBoe, transportation will take on a greater importance than most people realize because the Olympic venues will, for the most part, not be accessible by private cars. With both security and congestion as major concerns, the intent is to provide remote parking locations with either public transportation or dedicated shuttle service to bring athletes and ticket holders to and from event venues. The framework for transportation and construction and/or conversion of existing structures to accommodate housing and competition is well defined, with planners, architects and engineers standing ready to complete the details once the bid is awarded in October 2009.

Mr. DuBoe's presentation included graphic illustrations of the proposed Olympic Stadium in Washington Park

where opening ceremonies and athletic events would be held and an Olympic Village along the south lakeshore, where participants from all over the world would be housed. Other venues include McCormick Place, Northerly Island, various locations in Lincoln Park and the Lakefront, the United Center, Soldier Field, Allstate Arena and many city and suburban university facilities.



Event Volunteers: Nancy Kiernan, Roxann Belle, Harvind Singh, Berna Sunman Sidal, Leslie Pritkin, Jessie Slaton and Christine Baker

From Chicago to Beijing

Garry Alden, principal engineer with Jacobs Engineering and a founding member of the Greater Chicago Chapter, was a guest of the Chinese government as a member of the Harper College Festival Chorus, singing at the opening ceremonies of the 2008 Summer Olympics. One of five regional choruses from the U.S., Garry's group represented the Midwest. On July 23rd, they sang in Beijing, opening with the Olympics' theme song, "One World, One Dream," and performed a repertoire ending with Beethoven's Symphony No. 9. They repeated their performance in Shanghai, where Garry expected to ride the Shanghai Maglev train and check out as much of China's transportation system as possible.

Maps & Legends mentor program wraps up first year

The WTS Greater Chicago Chapter wrapped up the first session of the Maps & Legends mentoring program in April. The program was a huge success. According to some of the mentors, the program was an eye-opening experience that gave them hope for the future of the industry. Achievements of the protégés included a raise, a new job, a better resume and courage to stretch for goals and new friendships.

Fourteen industry leaders and emerging leaders paired off in October 2007 to embark on a six-month mentoring relationship.

The pairs met independently to give and receive guidance and establish new relationships. The program was structured with three cornerstone meetings, facilitated by ClearSpace, LLC. The meetings were designed to help the mentor pairs get the most out of their relationship and the program.

Special thanks to Stacey Meekins for chairing the Maps & Legends program.

WTS is looking for enthusiastic people who may be interested in participating in the program as either a mentor or a protege. For more information, contact Stacey Meekins at stacey.meekins@tylin.com.



Hand Me My Tiara, Please

What do you want to do with your life? We say, go for it. If you are looking to make an investment in your life, contact ClearSpace, LLC, the facilitators of the Maps & Legends program and sign up for their program called "Hand Me My Tiara, Please"

Hand Me My Tiara, Please ... is a powerful program designed to engage women in an inquiry that will deepen self awareness, uncover true desires and create a supportive community while providing a lighthearted, easygoing atmosphere.

The program is a 12-month growth and development course that begins with a visioning day, followed by a series of 12 monthly sessions. Participants have access to two experienced, professional Tiara Program Coaches throughout the course of the entire program. The program results in each woman achieving her top priority outcomes.

In their own words:

Maps & Legends participants share their insights

When asked how the program met expectations:

"Developed relationships with key personnel to help me further develop my business development skills." – Roxann Belle, CTE, protégé

"I made a contribution to one woman in the industry." – Joan Berry, EJM, mentor

What was the most valuable item you got out of the program?

"To become an effective leader as a mentor." - Amar Rajpurkar, CTE, mentor

"The confidence to go after what I want." - Audrey Wennink, Cambridge Systematics, protégé

Did it provide something surprising?

"I did not expect to get as much satisfaction out of this as I got. I really enjoy doing this!" – George Vukelich, mentor

WTS is looking for a few good volunteers

WTS is always looking for volunteers for any of our seven committees. Or, if you'd rather help on an event-by-event basis, join our volunteer pool and help out whenever you can. Volunteering is not only a great way to become more involved in WTS, it's also a great way to expand your network and increase your skill set. Make the most of your WTS membership and volunteer!

Communications Assist in writing, editing and layout of communications materials for chapter membership. Assist other committees by providing communications support, maintain photographic coverage of monthly programs and events, provide media outreach when appropriate.

Contact: Robin Martel at Robin.Martel@hdrinc.com

Diversity Responsible for the planning and implementation of endeavors related to diversity. Assist other committees to ensure a diverse focus is maintained throughout all programs and services implemented in the Chapter. Foster and maintain relationships with other professional organizations. Strive to expand the diversity of industry professions to mirror the society that WTS serves; take advantage of opportunities from an ever-greater variety of individuals to influence our practices and our professional lives. Committee meetings are typically monthly.

Contact: Kamal Kannan at kamal.kannan@earthtech.com

Membership Participate in recruitment of new members and retention of current members, welcome new members, initiate and run programs to increase membership, including our "Membership 300" drive, and special events for members. Committee meetings are typically monthly.

Contact: Vida Morkunas at morkunasv@rtachicago.org

Professional Development Organize professional development events, material and partnerships on topics such as communication skills, PowerPoint presentations, investing, etc. Responsible for determining topics, getting speakers and choosing venues. Committee meetings are typically monthly.

Contact: Cathy Benjamin-Ostrander at cathy.benjamin-ostrander@cte.aecom.com

Newsletter Gather information and write articles for quarterly newsletter. Provide design and layout, publish and distribute to WTS members.

Contact: Christine Baker at cbaker@cbaker.net

Programs Responsible for monthly programs, special receptions and assisting other committee's events throughout the year. Programs include luncheons, special receptions, a holiday party, tours and networking events. Committee members are encouraged to take the lead coordinator role for at least one month. Opportunities as a committee member include working with decision makers in the community, tapping all modes of transportation for speakers and topics and event planning and logistics. Committee meetings are typically monthly.

Contact: Nancy Kiernan at nkiernan@FHPaschen.com or Roxann Belle at Roxann.belle@cte.aecom.com

Recognitions Responsible for soliciting award nominations for four local awards, distributing ballots and forwarding award winners to WTS International. This committee manages the yearly awards banquet, typically held in May or June. Additionally, identify members and activities to be recognized via newsletter or other mediums throughout the year. Planning for 2009 will begin in September when the committee meets to develop a schedule and determine committee member responsibilities. From then on, committee meetings are typically bi-monthly with more activity as needed.

Contact: Christine Baker at cbaker@cbaker.net

Scholarship Solicit, review, select and secure applicants from area colleges and universities for three annual scholarship awards. Manage a monthly raffle in support of the scholarship fund and promote scholarships through fundraising, articles in our newsletter and on the website. Manage the yearly scholarship banquet, which typically occurs in February. Committee meetings are typically bi-monthly. More activity as needed.

Contact: Jennifer Drake at jdrake@hwlochner.com

Volunteer Pool WTS is always looking for day-of event volunteers. Consider including your name on this list if your time commitment is limited, yet you eagerly want to be involved.

Contact: Robin Martel at Robin.Martel@hdrinc.com

Upcoming Programs

Transportation Agencies Panel Discussions

Tuesday, Sept. 30, CTA Offices 567 W. Lake, Conference Room 2B

WTS and HACIA are co-sponsoring a transportation agencies panel discussions and Q&A program. Representatives from the USDOT, IDOT, CTA and Metra will be on-hand to provide an overview of the organization and recent and/or upcoming changes, requirements for working with the agencies, and certification programs for disadvantaged and minority- and women-owned businesses.

"All About You," a Professional Development Half-Day Seminar

Wednesday, Oct. 22

Mark your calendars for this exciting half-day seminar, "All About You." The program will feature discussions on speaking in public/presentations, image and wardrobe and health and nutrition. Participants will have the chance to win one of six \$100 Macy's gift cards. Watch your e-mail or contact Cathy Benjamin-Ostrander at cathy.benjamin-ostrander@cte.aecom.com for more information on this program.

2008 WTS Board of Directors

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IDOT

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US General Services Administration

WTS news briefs

Greater Chicago Chapter Board meetings open to all members

Chapter Board meetings are open to all WTS members. We meet on the second Thursday of each month at 5 p.m. If you are interested in attending a Board meeting, please contact Secretary Melissa Thomson at melissa.thomson@m-e.aecom.com.

WTS Leadership Program now accepting applications

Applications are available for the 9th annual WTS Leadership Program. The three-day program will be held February 1-4, 2009 at Rutgers University. This prestigious program is designed for mid-career transportation professionals who have demonstrated strong leadership potential in both their professional and personal lives. For more information on eligibility and application requirements, visit www.wtsinternational.org.

2009 Annual Conference Call for Abstracts

The 2009 WTS Annual Conference will be held May 20-23 in Seattle, Washington. The conference theme is "Transportation . . . Bringing Cities to Life." WTS seeks presentation abstracts that showcase leadership, sustainability and the future of urban communities. No papers are required – the abstracts are for conference presentations only. More information can be found on the Call for Abstracts located at www.wtsinternational.org.

Welcome New Members!

Najla Bae Shen
URS Corporation

Patricia Casler
BNSF

Kelly Cheeseman
Knight E/A

Ted Coffey
Jacobs Edwards and Kelcey

Carolyn Helmke
Chicagoland Bicycle Federation

Addie Husbands
BNSF

Marty Joyce
HDR

Tim Martin
CTE

Griselda Monsivais
TranSystems

WTS scholarship applications now available

Applications for the 2009 Scholarship awards are now available at www.wtsinternational.org/chicago. Each year, the Greater Chicago Chapter awards scholarships to dynamic young women pursuing careers in transportation. The Greater Chicago Chapter offers three scholarships, the Sharon D. Banks Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship (\$2,000), the Helene M. Overly Memorial Graduate Scholarship (\$4,000) and the Molitoris Leadership Scholarship (\$2,000). Local winners are then forwarded on to WTSS National for consideration at the National level.

Graduate students are also encouraged to apply for the President's Legacy Scholarship, which is awarded at the National level only. A local candidate will be forwarded to National for consideration.

Scholarship applications must be submitted to Scholarship Chair Jennifer Drake by no later than Monday, November 10. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer at jdrake@hwlochner.com.

Members on the move

Congratulations to WTS Advisory Board Member Nuria Fernandez on her new position with CH2MHill! As Senior Vice President and Director for Global Sales, Nuria will be responsible for the company's International Business Development in the transportation market sector.



WTS Job Bank

Looking for a new job? Let the WTS Greater Chicago Chapter help. These opportunities and more can be found in the Chapter's job bank, located at www.wtsinternational.org/chicago.

Director of Business Development, Cotter Consulting

Chicago-based Cotter Consulting, Inc. is seeking a Director of Business Development who will be responsible for corporate strategy, lead generation, client relations, opportunity pursuit preparation, strategic alliances, and marketing. The ideal candidate will have 10+ years BD experience with at least five years in professional services. If you are interested, please submit your resume and cover letter to careers@cotterconsulting.com.

Operations Research Analysts U.S. Department of Transportation / Volpe National Transportation Systems Center

The Motor Carrier Safety Division within the Volpe Center is seeking Operations Research Analysts with varying levels of experience to join a team of Analysts and IT Specialists in conducting assessments of the effectiveness of safety regulations and programs and developing approaches to measure the effectiveness of agencies in meeting their organizational safety goals, improving safety information systems and increasing safety awareness. Submit application package to Liz Turner at turner@volpe.dot.gov.

WTS
Advancing Women in Transportation
Greater Chicago Chapter

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