



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.

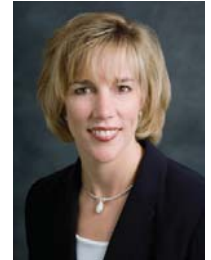
Please e-mail story ideas, employment opportunities and recent promotion information to Christine Baker at cbaker@cbaker.net.

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

Reaching Out – by the numbers

Letter from the President

As an organization that continues to fire on all pistons, we are not only reaching out to members and potential new members, we are truly connecting and, at times, changing lives. We are accomplishing this feat with a strong momentum that is building from well-attended and relevant programs and events, individual achievements within our industry and opportunities to challenge our growth. So, as I begin this message, I would like to lead with my thanks and appreciation for the hard work and dedication of all those involved in WTS. You are responsible for the success of this Chicago chapter.



This newsletter is a reflection on events held just this year, with some perspective to our numbers. For example, three talented students earned WTS scholarships totaling \$8,000 - the highest in our history. Fourteen individuals mapped out their professional journey with new ideas, goals and tools in the Maps and Legends program, guided by seasoned industry professionals. Twenty-two companies are participating in our annual sponsorship campaign and their generous financial contributions are helping to maintain our chapter as one of the best in the nation. Twenty-five individuals identified their leadership style through a fun, interactive and thought-provoking “Styles Training” session and now have an understanding of where they fall on the broad leadership spectrum and, most importantly, how to improve the quality of their business relationships. And finally, nearly 375 people have attended a WTS event since the year began. This is truly outstanding, and, as President, a personally fulfilling number to report.

This year, we gained an extra day in our calendar with Leap Day in February. How did you celebrate your gift of 24 hours? For WTS, the day did not pass like any other – we used our time wisely by sharing it with each other and, especially, with those just entering our exciting, challenging and professionally-rewarding field. Our professional network continues to reach out to those who want to make a difference in an industry that touches anyone who drives, commutes, crosses a bridge or crosses a crosswalk.

Part of the WTS goal of fostering the professional development of women in transportation is seeking valuable input about ways to encourage bright professionals to enter and thrive in transportation. We look to you – those in the trenches - for ideas, support and mentorship to keep these goals alive and attainable. Pablo Picasso once said: “Action is the foundational key to all success.” Action and momentum are two aspects of my informal platform as President – so, let’s keep it rolling.

Maggie Walsh,
President, WTS Greater Chicago Chapter

WTS awards \$8,000 in scholarships at annual lunch



Scholarship award winners Mackenzie Nicholson, Eli Fini and Laura Riegel.

IDOT Secretary Milt Sees and Director of Highways and Chief Engineer Christine Reed joined WTS members and guests in honoring our three scholarship winners at the annual WTS Scholarship luncheon, held on Friday, Feb. 29 at the Standard Club. More than 200 WTS members and guests attended the event. Scholarship recipients included University of Illinois PhD candidate Eli Fini, winner of the Helene M. Overly Memorial Scholarship, Laura Riegel, a Northwestern University undergraduate, who received the Sharon D. Banks Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship, and Mackenzie Nicholson, a Northwestern University student, who received the Louise Moritz Molitoris Leadership Scholarship.

Following lunch, Chapter President Maggie Walsh introduced Secretary Sees. A longtime supporter of WTS, past speaker and scholarship fund contributor, Secretary Sees received a warm welcome from the audience. He spoke about some of this past winter's transportation challenges and the proposed \$25 billion Illinois Works capital investment plan before introducing the keynote speaker and IDOT's first female Director of Highways and Chief Engineer, Christine Reed.

Ms. Reed expanded on Secretary Sees' comments, emphasizing the huge economic impact that a failure to fund infrastructure repairs and transportation system improvements would have, not only on the State of Illinois, but on the nation as a whole. She cited our competitors in the acquisition of resources and technology as being world-wide, with development soaring in places like China and Dubai. For Illinois and the rest of the country to keep pace with the rest of the world, Ms. Reed noted that local, state and federal governments must push capital plans, such as the Illinois Works plan. According to an IDOT press release, the proposed Illinois Works capital plan is expected to support more than 700,000 jobs, fix the state's deteriorating roads and bridges, build and repair schools statewide and provide resources for statewide economic development.

"IDOT takes great pride in our state's transportation network," said Ms. Reed. "But without additional investment in our infrastructure, many communities will face delays when it comes to making badly needed repairs to our bridges and roads."

Ms. Reed concluded her address by factoring in the future success of talented women, like the three scholarship winners, as being instrumental to the process and progress that she was promoting.

Following the keynote address, WTS Chicago Scholarship Chair Jennifer Drake introduced each scholarship winner and presented them with checks. This year's awards were substantially increased to \$4,000 for the Helene M. Overly Memorial Graduate Scholarship, \$2,000 for the Sharon D. Banks Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship and \$2,000 for the Louise Moritz Molitoris Leadership Scholarship. This increase was possible, in large part, due to the generosity of our WTS Corporate Sponsors and the success of the scholarship raffles at WTS events during the year.



Secretary Sees, a longtime WTS supporter, past speaker and scholarship fund contributor, received a warm welcome from the audience.

"As an organization that is dedicated to excellence in transportation and recognizes the vital role that our transportation system plays in maintaining the health of our economy, we agree that it is important for Illinois to invest in its infrastructure. Whether we are talking about roads, mass transit, railroads or airports, Illinois needs to invest in its future in order to maintain our position as a national transportation hub."
- Maggie Walsh, WTS Greater Chicago Chapter President



IDOT's first female Director of Highways and Chief Engineer, Christine Reed, concluded her address by factoring in the future success of talented women, like the three scholarship winners, as being instrumental to the process and progress that she has been promoting.

Our scholarship winners: Impressive talents are worth reading about

Elham (Eli) Fini – Helene M. Overly
Memorial Graduate Scholarship

Elham (Eli) is a PhD Candidate in Pavement and Material Engineering, at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She is planning to complete her PhD requirements in Spring 2008. Eli is currently teaching the Geometric Design of Roads and hopes to become a faculty member in Transportation Engineering after her graduation. Because of her keen interest in teaching, research and learning, she envisions herself motivating and inspiring students to become successful engineers who are proactive in their profession and society.

Eli is a member of the Transportation Research Board (TRB) Committee on Sealants and Fillers for Joints and Cracks (AHD25), and is also a member of the organizing committee of the Sixth RILEM International Conference on Cracking in Pavements to be held in Chicago in June 2008. She serves on the Graduate Affairs Committee of the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department at the University of Illinois and is also the president of the Graduate Housing Council at the University of Illinois.

During her PhD program, Eli authored or co-authored five refereed journal papers and seven refereed conference papers. Her research and academic performance have earned her numerous awards in the past two years including the Eisenhower Graduate Fellowship from Federal Highway Administration, Dissertation Grant and C.E. DeLEUW Travel Award from the University of Illinois, and Association of Asphalt Paving Technologists scholarship.

Laura Riegel – Sharon D. Banks
Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship

Laura is in her fourth year of a five-year CO-OP Program at Northwestern University. She will receive her Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering, with a Minor in Transportation and Logistics, in 2009.

Aside from her studies, Laura is active in organizations at Northwestern. She is Executive Vice President of the Northwestern SWE Section and served on the committee that brought the 2007 SWE Region H Conference to Northwestern as the Director of Hotel and Food. This conference was the most successful SWE conference to date by having the largest sponsorship and attendance in the region's history. Laura is also a member of the CO-OP Honors Society (Kappa Theta Epsilon) and a mentor in the McCormick Fellows Program.

Laura is currently finishing up her CO-OP at S&C Electric Company. At S&C, she has worked on manufacturing planning and efficiency.

Mackenzie Nicholson – Louise Moritz
Molitoris Leadership Scholarship

Mackenzie is in her final year at Northwestern University in Civil Engineering and Transportation and Logistics. She completed her Cooperative Education experience with Kittelson & Associates in Portland, Ore. and Baltimore, Md. and in conjunction with its partner Cardno Eppell Olsen in Queensland, Australia in traffic engineering and transportation planning.

Mackenzie demonstrates her leadership skills at Northwestern through the Associated Student Government contributing to the Senate, Executive Committee, and External Relations Committee. In addition, she served on the executive board of her sorority, as a peer instructor for the fundamentals engineering course as part of Gateway Science Workshop, and as a counselor in engaging new students in urban development and issues through the Freshmen Urban Program. Mackenzie is involved with Northwestern's chapter of ASCE, Society of Environmental and Ecological Development, Society of Women Engineers, and the Office of Student Affairs.

Mackenzie's love of transportation developed while riding the Metro in Paris. From that point on, she became an avid fan of transit, especially at international destinations.



WTS Chicago Scholarship Committee Chair,
Jennifer Drake, presents the Sharon D. Banks
Scholarship to Laura Riegel.

We Did It!

Musings and Reflections from State Rep. Julie Hamos

Updated March 20, 2008

WTS members already know that the General Assembly and Governor agreed to an important measure that will provide long-term funding, coupled with reform, for the transit system. Here are some personal, behind-the-scenes reflections as the Chair of the House Mass Transit Committee and chief sponsor:

The result: On January 17, the legislature finally passed HB 656 (Public Act 95-0708), our comprehensive transit bill. This 233-page bill includes long-term funding through a modest increase in the regional sales tax and a Chicago real estate transfer tax; reforms of the CTA pension and retiree healthcare plans; and RTA reforms to make the entire system more efficient, coordinated and accountable. As everyone now knows, the Governor used his power of amendatory veto to add a new program providing free rides on transit for all seniors – a program that could cost \$30 million per year in the RTA region alone. With an impending doomsday deadline, the supporters faced a “take it or leave it” dilemma so we voted to accept the amendatory veto. Visit my website for a comprehensive fact sheet of the final bill and the latest media coverage: www.juliehamos.org

A partisan vote: HB 656 passed in the House by a vote of 61–47, and in the Senate by a vote of 32–19. The bills needed 60 and 30 to pass, so there were barely any votes to spare. While we celebrate the bill’s passage, I was disappointed in the final vote – only 3 Republican votes in the House and 3 Republican votes in the Senate. This was true despite the fact that we had built an active, bipartisan House Mass Transit Committee; the business community is dependent on transit for workers to

reach their workplaces; a transit system is the economic engine of a thriving and competitive region; and a modern, state-of-the-art transit system is essential to attracting the Olympics in 2016. Transit should not be a partisan issue!

The Governor’s input: Although he continuously threatened to veto the bill, the Governor’s major input was a new policy to provide free rides for seniors statewide. The program is being well received by seniors, with over 30,000 seniors registering in the RTA region in the two weeks before the first day in mid-March – in addition to 243,000 seniors who already had reduced fare cards that now offer rides for free.

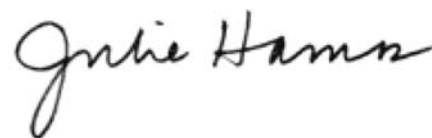
The Illinois House of Representatives had a different approach but it’s now too late to turn back the clock to implement it. We believed that the program should be expanded to disabled riders as well as seniors, but limited to those most in need. We passed a companion “trailer” bill as House Amendment #1 to Senate Bill 1409 to piggy-back on the existing state “circuit breaker” program, which provides benefits for seniors and the disabled under certain income eligibility guidelines. The bill passed the House by wide margins but was not called in the Senate for a vote. This spring there is work underway to add free rides for the disabled – with the Governor again pushing for a universal program.

Next steps: While I did not agree with the tactic of the Republicans and Senate downstate Democrats to hold the transit bill hostage for a capital infrastructure bill, the reality is that the state does need a capital bond program. A capital infrastructure program would fund not only transit capital (new buses, rail lines, station improvements) but also roads,

bridges, state and university buildings, and school construction throughout the state. Our last capital bond program was Illinois FIRST, a 5-year program adopted in 1999. Nine years later, this is clearly overdue and should be the next priority of the state.

The civics lesson: It took three doomsdays and much political posturing to pass the comprehensive transit bill. But we did pass the bill just a few weeks before the primary election, with two taxes included – something that seemed impossible in our Springfield political climate. This would suggest that the Illinois legislature can and should tackle other major issues facing Illinois, but here are the key ingredients: (1) a sustained effort with involvement of a critical mass of legislators, from both parties and both legislative chambers; (2) an open, collaborative process that includes the key stakeholders; (3) due diligence to develop an independent analysis of the problem – in our case, the first-ever independent audit of the transit system by the Illinois Auditor General; (4) a comprehensive, long-term solution that couples funding with system reform; (5) coalition-building to engage the key constituencies in a sustained effort – in our case, the very worried transit riders, advocacy and business organizations, civic leaders, elected officials and editorial boards. . . and (6) it helps to have a budding crisis that requires action.

Again, thanks to all,



Source: www.juliehamos.org

Meet the 2008 WTS Board of Directors

The election of the 2008 Chapter Board of Directors took place in December. The officers of the board have been on the move and taking on great initiatives both professionally and with WTS. The Chapter's elected officers are:

Maggie Walsh

President

Chapter President Maggie Walsh has been recently promoted to Associate Vice President at CTE, an AECOM company. She leads business development activities for the Midwest Region and also manages the marketing production activities for the central United States. Prior to her work with CTE, Maggie spent nearly 10 years with HDR, where she was the national strategic planning manager.

Maggie holds an MBA from Northeastern University in Boston and a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Business from Xavier University in Cincinnati.

Maggie is serving her second elected term as Chicago Chapter President, in addition to six months serving as interim president when Lisa Maurath relocated to California taking a position with Carter Burgess. Maggie has served in various board positions, including two terms as Vice President and three terms as Programs chair. A highlight of her WTS career was receiving the Member of the Year award in 2004. She has been a member of WTS since 1997.



Robin Martel

Vice President

Robin Martel, the Chapter's Vice President, recently joined HDR as a Transportation Planning Project Manager. When asked why she chose to go to HDR, she said "because of the outstanding reputation for transportation planning and NEPA documentation, their family/work philosophy, and the quality of people that I will be working with." Robin further commented that "current and past employees of HDR speak highly of the firm and the Chicago office, so I know I am going to a great place." Previous to HDR, she worked at Wight & Co. for five years as a Senior Project Manager.

Robin holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Geology and is a LEED AP (Leadership in Engineering and Environmental Design Accredited Professional).

Robin is also serving her second elected term as a board officer. Prior to the 2007 election, Robin was appointed Vice President when Maggie became President. Robin served three terms as Chapter Secretary and has served on both the Scholarship and Programs committees. She has been a member of WTS for seven years.



"In addition to the organization's foundation—great scholarships, informative programs and fabulous networking—it is my personal goal to be the leader of an organization in which every member gains value from the many assets the organization has to offer. My message to members and prospective members is, frankly, to just get involved. What you give will be returned tenfold. Start today!"

"As an officer of WTS, I want to give back to the organization what I have gained in professional leadership and friendship. I am committed to using my expertise, knowledge, and position to advance WTS as the premier professional organization in Chicagoland."

Meet the 2008 WTS Board of Directors

Melissa Thomson

Secretary

In April, Melissa Thomson, our Secretary, accepted a new role at Metcalf & Eddy, an AECOM company. She is a Marketing Specialist working with the Midwest region's Environmental and Water groups.



Melissa holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Journalism with a concentration in Strategic Communications from the University of Kansas.

Like Maggie and Robin, Melissa is serving her second elected term. Before being Secretary, she served the Greater Chicago Chapter for four years as the Communications/Website Chair. She also served on the International Communications Committee from 2004 to 2006 and was WTS International Website Chair from 2005 to 2007. Melissa joined WTS five years ago and in that short time gained the appreciation of the chapter and was awarded the 2007 Member of the Year.

Lillian Yan

Treasurer

Lillian Yan joined STS, an AECOM company, as a Senior Project Manager in 2007 responsible for leading transportation related activities in the Midwest. She was previously a program/project manager for HNTB Corp. in California.



Lillian holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from UCLA and a Certificate of Management from UC Irvine and is a registered Professional Engineer.

Shortly after arriving in Chicago, Lillian joined the WTS Greater Chicago Chapter. She had been an active member of the Los Angeles chapter for four years and brought her experience and enthusiasm from one of WTS' largest and most active chapters to our chapter. Lillian first became involved in the Greater Chicago Chapter last September when she attended the Strategic Planning Session. Soon after, she made herself available to fill the open Treasurer position and was promptly elected to the Board.

"I would encourage WTS members to consider becoming more involved in the organization and really reap the benefits of their membership. A WTS membership can help you build confidence, provide leadership, public speaking and networking opportunities and introduce you to some of the most interesting, influential and dynamic people."

"As Treasurer, one of my goals is to ensure our Chapter continues to be financially responsible to its valued members. I hope to help promote WTS Chicago Chapter strategic goals and objectives for 2008."

Upcoming Programs

More information on these programs can be found at www.wtsinternational.org/chicago

Transportation Planning for the 2016 Olympics Monday, June 30

As one of four finalists for the 2016 Summer Olympics, the City of Chicago has been challenged to develop transportation facilities that can effectively accommodate the thousands of athletes, media personnel and spectators who may descend upon the City. Join WTS for a luncheon program on Monday, June 30 at Maggiano's to hear about the City's plans to become Olympic ready and how the games will affect Chicago's transportation system.

"Your Golden Rolodex – How to Network for Results" Wednesday, June 25

Networking is one of the most critical skills in business, yet many people avoid doing it. Join WTS for "Your Golden Rolodex - How to Network for Results," a professional development breakfast program, on Wednesday, June 25 at the RTA offices. Vicki Austin, business, career coach and founder of CHOICES Worldwide, will share her "Top 10" list of ways we can and should network.

Committee Chairs

Vida Morkunas,
Membership Chair
RTA

Jennifer Drake,
Scholarship Chair
HW Lochner

Christine Baker,
Recognitions & Newsletter Chair
O'Hare Airport Transit Systems

Michelle Link,
Recognitions Chair
HDR

Nancy Kiernan,
Programs Co-Chair
FH Paschen

Roxann Belle,
Programs Co-Chair
CTE

Kamal Kannan,
Diversity Chair
EarthTech

Cathy Benjamin-Ostrander,
Professional Development Chair
CTE

Advisory Board

Rosemarie Andolino
City of Chicago OMP

Lynnette Ciavarella
Metra

Natalie Cornell
Cornell Health and Nutrition

Toulla Constantinou
Retired / consultant

Nuria Fernandez
Transportation Consultant

Noelle Gaffney
Chicago Transit Authority

Rep. Julie Hamos
Illinois Representative, 18th District

John LaPlante
T.Y. Lin

Melinda Metzger
Pace

Leanne Redden
RTA

Christine Reed
IDOT

Danielle Stewart
IDOT

Paula Thibeault
US General Services Administration

WTS Rewind: A look back at recent WTS programs

Annual Business Meeting and Luncheon with Guest Speaker Marcia Jimenez on CREATE

The January 23 luncheon program was a sell-out event, with more than 60 WTS members and friends gathering at Lloyd's to hear CDOT's CREATE Project Director Marcia Jimenez. Her presentation included statistics about the increasing congestion caused by the Chicago area's rail and trucking traffic, the goals of the 78 programs planned to address these goals and how the programs will be financed. Marcia's CREATE presentation can be viewed on the web at <http://www.psrc.org/projects/freight/roundtable/create010507.pdf>.

The luncheon program also served as the Chapter's annual business meeting where the 2008 Board was introduced and the state of the organization presented.

Professional Development - Leadership Styles Training Workshop

The Winter professional development program was held on March 6 during a breakfast gathering at the RTA headquarters. Chapter President Maggie

Walsh and Jim Klug of CTE/AECOM lead the group with tools and techniques designed to teach them how to identify their own personality styles and how they appear to others, learn characteristic strengths and weaknesses of each style and which one works best in any given situation and how to recognize those characteristics in others in order to relate to them more effectively.

Joint WTS/ASCE Luncheon – CDOT Commissioner Thomas Byrne

WTS teamed with ASCE in the March 12th luncheon held at the University Club of Chicago. More than 135 transportation professionals came together to hear CDOT Commissioner Thomas Byrne discuss upcoming CDOT Programs.

Transit Chat

After months of planning and negotiation, the Illinois General Assembly passed a Transit Finance Bill, championed by State Representative Julie Hamos, in late January 2008. On April 28 the WTS Greater Chicago Chapter became the first local transportation organization to give all four

Chicago-area service board chairmen a forum to discuss their perspectives on the new legislation. The more than 150 guests who attended the event were treated to a salon-like discussion, moderated by Rep. Hamos, a WTS Advisory Board member, featuring Chicago Transit Authority Chairman Carole Brown, Pace Chairman Richard Kwasneski, Metra Chairman Carole Doris and Regional Transportation Authority Chairman Jim Reilly. Rep. Hamos directed the conversation to various topics, including future challenges and opportunities for the area's transit agencies and the service boards' responsibilities to make difficult and sometimes unpopular decisions in order to maintain the best level of service with the funding available.



Transit Chat panel members: Pace Chairman Richard Kwasneski, Chicago Transit Authority Chairman Carole Brown, Metra Chairman Carole Doris and Regional Transportation Authority Chairman Jim Reilly.

Chicago Transportation News

Opportunities to do business with the City of Chicago

Many transportation-related bid opportunities are available with the City. Sign up to receive weekly email notifications on City of Chicago procurement news, bid opportunities and events. To register for email notifications, click on DPSAlerts@cityofchicago.org or send an email from your email account to DPSAlerts@cityofchicago.org.

Chicago's Bid for the 2016 Olympics

Stay informed about Chicago's 2016 Olympic bid at www.chicago2016.org. Sign up for the newsletter and learn what is being done to take Chicago from an "Applicant City" to being named the host of the 2016 Summer Olympics. Every step of this ambitious endeavor includes the transportation community (from the website's FAQ's):

Q: Is traffic and transportation a concern?

A: Chicago's extensive rail, transit and motorways infrastructure, combined with the world-class O'Hare and Midway International airports, make Chicago one of the most accessible cities for local residents and international visitors.

While we are still in the early stages of planning, smooth transportation for athletes, spectators and the citizens of Chicago going about daily lives is one of the Chicago 2016's highest priorities. Detailed plans will be available in the future.

WTS Baby Boom Continues! Congratulations to all

WTS Scholarship Chair Jennifer Drake and husband Jeffery welcomed Rachel Ella on May 6.



WTS past President and Advisory Board member Danielle Stewart and husband Cory welcomed their second daughter, Daphne, on April 23.

WTS Programs Committee member Harvind Kaur Singh and husband Swaranjeet welcomed their second child, Jind Kaur, on January 11.



Chapter Sponsors

We would like to thank our corporate sponsors for becoming part of a growing, vibrant organization that is influencing transportation in Chicago and around the country.



Welcome New Members!

Sheila Clements
Parsons

Paula Pienton
HDR

Janine Farzin

Ann Rosen

Deborah Finn
Baxter Woodman
Consulting Engineers

Canadian Consulate
General

Lynn Sapyta
CTA

Amanda Gagliani
Dynasty Group

Berna Sunman Sidal
CDM

Carol Gregory
URS

Jessica Slaton
Jacobs Engineering

Renee Henningfeld
EDAW

Michael Sutton
Infrastructure Engineering

Charlinda Jones

Nancy Kiernan
FH Paschen

John Trotta
Parsons Brinckerhoff

Bridget Malinowski
CTE

Mary Wells
Metro Strategies

Doris Martin
CityLink

Dianne Williams
IDOT

Caroline Merrey
Parsons Brinckerhoff

Kristina Woodward
Ricondo & Associates

Sharon Nault
CTE

Emily Ziring

Erin O'Donnell
City of Chicago,
Dept. of Aviation