



Advancing Women in Transportation

Transline

news from the greater chicago chapter

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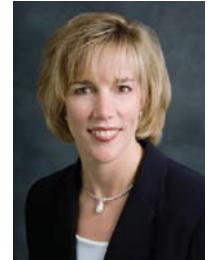
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Making a Difference

Letter from the President

November’s world-changing election will, surely, affect all of our lives. It is a time of anticipation and a time for monumental change to unfold. Personally, I have never been more eager for the future to begin. And, perhaps, for the first time, the United States is taking a keen interest in our transportation industry, viewing its many facets as opportunities to not only build the physical infrastructure of this country, but also, to put our citizens back to work. Transportation will play a key role in this country’s recovery. Our industry is now the place to be!



Now is the best time to be part of WTS because this is where you, as individuals, will take part in revolutionary change. Members and their guests make this organization a leader in planning, designing and rebuilding a world-class transportation system that includes all modes and disciplines. Now is the time to tell your friends and colleagues about not missing out, by not being a part of the WTS community that truly is making a difference.

Leading this organization has been thrilling, invigorating and challenging. I recommend that each of you take into consideration how you can get more involved and strengthen your leadership skills. Your contributions can make our communities better places to live, work and play. For the WTS legacy to survive, we need you. The time is right now. Let’s all be a part of the journey that has already begun, and, not just watch as the world’s events unfold. Let’s make history.

Maggie Walsh,
President, WTS Greater Chicago Chapter

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 Eileen Chin at eileenc@rmchin.com or Midge Dinou at mdinou@grisko.com.

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

Remember When?

President Barack Obama joined WTS at the 2005 Awards Banquet

As the excitement of the historical 2008 election has evolved into the anticipation of the new administration, many Greater Chicago WTS members have recalled the stellar Recognitions Awards Dinner of June 1, 2005. Not only was that the first year that we awarded the Diversity Leadership Award, but it was the night that more than 400 members of the Chicago area transportation community gathered to honor the award recipients and hear the evening's keynote speaker, President Barack Obama, then a U.S. Senator, as he spoke of WTS' accomplishments and the issues he was working on in Congress.

Having only been a U.S. senator for six months at the time of this speech, President Obama had already established himself as someone to watch. So, when he agreed to join us at the June Recognitions Dinner, an event that WTS



President Barack Obama greets WTS member Harvind Kaur Singh at the 2005 Awards Banquet.

members always eagerly anticipate, the dinner became a "have to be there" evening.

We hope that President Obama's connection to WTS will continue as he paves the way for the future of transportation in the U.S.



The 2005 WTS Board of Directors with then-U.S. Senator, now President Barack Obama.

WTS celebrates the holidays

WTS held its annual holiday party on December 9 at the Townhouse Restaurant and Wine Bar in Chicago. Many thanks to those who braved the elements to join us in celebrating the holidays.

And a special thank you to everyone who donated books to our annual book drive for the Cabrini Green Tutoring Program and participated in our scholarship raffle. Your generosity is appreciated!



Fall Programs Rewind

Take a look back at last fall's WTS programs

Transportation Agencies Panel Discussions

WTS and HACIA co-sponsored a transportation agencies panel and Q&A seminar on September 30. Held at the Chicago Transit Authority offices, representatives from federal and state transportation agencies, including USDOT, IDOT, CTA and Metra provided attendees with an overview of programs and recent and/or upcoming changes, requirements for working with the agencies and certification programs for disadvantaged, and minority- and women-owned businesses (S/D/M/WBE). Presenters included Jackie Gomez, USDOT, Gloria Camarena and Carol Lyle, both with IDOT, Donald Mayes, CTA, and Sandi Llano, Metra.

After formal presentations from each agency, guest speakers answered questions and met one-on-one with attendees after the program to answer questions regarding working with the federal and state transportation agencies.

WTS and HACIA extend a special thanks to the CTA for hosting this event.

It's All About You

On November 6th, WTS members and guest gathered to attend an informative and fun half-day seminar, "It's All About You" The seminar was crafted to provide attendees with helpful information for personal and professional development. Guest presenters included Sarah Wortman from V3 Associates, two personal shoppers from Macy's on State Street and Natalie Cornell, Cornell Health & Nutrition.

These experts offered invaluable information and insight and priceless tricks and tips for public speaking and presentations, image and wardrobe and its relationship to career advancement and growth, and how proper health and nutrition correlate with your work performance and stress level.

WTS extends a sincere "thank you" to guest speakers and attendees for taking time to from your busy schedules to attend this enlightening seminar.

"Innovation in Chicago Transportation" – A Tour of the Chicago Center for Green Technology

The sustainability-themed November 13 Diversity event included a tour of the Chicago Center for Green Technology (CCGT), which is located at 445 N Sacramento Blvd. Featured speakers for this event included: Carolyn Helmke, Chicagoland Bicycle Federation, Julia Kim - Friends of the Bloomingdale Trail, Keith Privett - Chicago Department of Transportation, Grace Rink - AECOM Sustainability Expert and Andrew Vasalinovich – Public Land Trust.

CCGT is a LEED Platinum facility. The tour gave a thorough overview of what it takes to build green. Some of the highlights of the center include its accessibility of the site to public transit, bike racks and private showers. In addition, 3 percent of parking spaces are available for re-fueling electric vehicles.

Ms. Rink, the sustainability expert, gave an excellent tour of the facility. A tour was given at the beginning and at the end of the main presentation. The main presentation was on the proposed Bloomingdale Trail. Prior to the this program, the City of Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) released its Request for Proposal for the Bloomingdale Trail. CDOT representatives shared details of the project to program attendees. The Bloomingdale Trail is an old rail line that the City wants to turn in to an elevated multiuse bike and walking path. Each speaker took a turn presenting their perspective on the proposed project, which was followed by a question and answer session.



Carolyn Helmke of the Chicagoland Bicycle Federation gives a presentation at the tour of the Chicago Center for Green Technology.

Chapter Board members attend Leadership Training

WTS Greater Chicago Chapter board members Roxann Belle, Leslie Pritkin and Melissa Thomson attended WTS International's annual Chapter Leadership Training session in Denver this past November.

The two-day Leadership Training allows chapter leaders from around the country to meet International leadership and other chapter leaders and share best practices in the areas of membership recruitment and retention, financial planning, WTS scholarship and other areas of chapter development.

Next year's Leadership Training is slated to be held here in Chicago, and we'll need your help in making it a success. Watch your e-mail for more information on a planning committee and help us make the Greater Chicago Chapter even stronger!



WTS board members Leslie Pritkin, Melissa Thomson and Roxann Belle at Chapter Leadership Training in Denver.

Upcoming Programs

Watch your e-mail for more information on these upcoming WTS programs

February Luncheon Program, featuring LuAnn Hamilton, Deputy Commissioner of Project Development, Chicago Department of Transportation
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 11:30 a.m.
Maggiano's - 516 N. Clark Street, Chicago

"Building the Future," the 2009 Scholarship Awards Banquet
Keynote Speaker: Diane K. Duren, Vice President and General Manager of Chemicals, Union Pacific Railroad
Monday, March 16, 11:15 a.m.
The Standard Club - 320 S. Plymouth Court, Chicago

March Luncheon Program, a joint program with the Construction Management Association of America, featuring Rosemarie Andolino, Executive Director, O'Hare Modernization Program
Thursday, March 19, 11:30 a.m.
Maggiano's - 516 N. Clark Street, Chicago

Welcome New Members!

Ijeoma Ejezie
Parsons Brinckerhoff

Gilbert Feliciano
RTA

Hilary Hatton
TechKnow

Taura Johnson

Trent Lethco
Arup

Kirsten Mawhinney
HDR

Annah Mitchell
RTA

Gail Steffen
Peralta Garcia Solutions

Beth Tatro
Illinois Road & Transportation Builders Association

Looking for a few good volunteers!

WTS is always looking for volunteers for any of our seven committees - Communications, Scholarship, Recognitions, Membership, Diversity, Professional Development and Programs. 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! For more information, contact WTS Vice President Melissa Thomson at melissa.thomson@aecom.com.

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Advancing Women in Transportation
Greater Chicago Chapter

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A Special Thanks

My involvement with WTS has been an extraordinary experience. An experience that has made an extraordinary difference in my life. As a member of the Board of Directors since 2002, and serving as President for the past two-and-a-half years, I owe my sincere gratitude to every board member who took action and made so much happen for the WTS Chicago Chapter. The men and women that I have worked with contributed great insight, inspiring ideas, and shared the same enthusiasm for advancing our profession and the goals of this organization. At times, it's been pure excitement. It is a remarkable place in time, because, while I am stepping down, the active leaders on the 2009 board will continue the momentum of one of the greatest WTS chapters in the world! And, there is no exaggeration in that comment. It is truly inspiring to be around so many people who are actively involved and making a tangible difference.

Cheers to keeping the organization filled with opportunities to enhance leadership skills, make connections and improve industry knowledge!

Thank you for a great ride.

All the best,
Maggie

2009 WTS Board of Directors

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HDR

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AECOM

Jennifer Drake, Secretary
HW Lochner

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Lynnette Ciavarella
Metra

Natalie Cornell
Cornell Health and Nutrition

Toulla Constantinou
Retired / Consultant

Nuria Fernandez
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Chicago Transit Authority

Rep. Julie Hamos
Illinois Representative, 18th District

John LaPlante
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