

## WTS-GNY Board of Directors and Committee Chairs 2004-2006

### **President**

Pippa Woods  
(732) 932-6812 x684

### **Vice President**

Jenny Kapelyan  
(212) 465-5338

### **Recording Secretary**

Deborah English  
(718) 694-1525

### **Corresponding Secretary**

Lori Biscaglia  
(917) 418-6070

### **Treasurer**

Rajani (Jani) Nair  
(646) 252-4745

### **Directors-at-Large**

Felice Farber  
(917) 855-3923  
Malinda Foy  
(718) 521-7283

Sylvia Isabel  
(718) 694-3450

Barbara Thayer  
(212) 564-2750

Rachel Weinberger  
(215) 746-4263

### **Immediate Past**

#### **President/Advisory**

**Board Liaison**  
L. Dédi Gongá  
(718) 694-5268

#### **Corporate Relations**

Barbara Thayer  
(212) 564-2750  
Gail Spears  
(212) 803-3657

#### **Diversity and**

**W/M/DBE**  
Cheryl George  
(646) 252-1379

### **W/M/DBE Expo**

**Convener**  
Donna Walcavage  
(718) 834-0224

### **Job Bank**

Maria Garcia  
(718) 482-4563

### **Marketing/Public Relations**

Nora Madonick  
(845) 855-7077

### **Membership**

Joanne Boiano  
(347) 643-5109  
Yevgeniya Shpigel  
(646) 252-3349

### **Mentoring**

See Director Felice Farber

### **Newsletter**

Catherine Sweeney  
(646) 252-7421

Catherine Revis  
(212) 631-3712

Deena Hamdani  
(212) 631-3749

Daniella Bernett  
(212) 614-7632

Karen Lockwood  
(212) 973-2912

### **Photography**

Leila Weissling  
(718) 575-8726

### **Professional Development**

Marie Tocci  
(212) 340-3266

Harry Tom  
(646) 252-3228

### **Programs**

See Vice President

### **Recognitions**

Saundra Lautenberg  
(212) 672-4085  
Silvia Militello  
(212) 631-3873

### **Scholarship**

Karen Counes  
(212) 510-2140

### **Student Affairs**

LeAnn Waletzko  
(212) 973-2900  
Stefanie Cassin  
(914) 993-2049

### **Website**

Jennifer Jordan  
(973) 491-8163



*Advancing Women in Transportation*

Greater New York Chapter

P.O. Box 989

New York, NY 10116-0989

ANNUAL REPORT 2004



Advancing Women in Transportation

Greater New York Chapter





Dear Members and Potential Members,

The Greater New York Chapter of WTS Advancing Women in Transportation had a very active and productive year in 2004, our 25th year in existence. Board strategic planning sessions focused on financial plans and have strengthened our scholarship and program goals. Our public programs provided an impressive list of speakers from a variety of transportation fields and has focused on topics from future redevelopment and transportation in lower Manhattan, to land use developments in New York City, cargo and supply chain security issues to a timely report on the 9/11 Commission Report – all serving to inform and educate our membership and potential members. Our Advisory Board is involved and invaluable, our sponsors are loyal, our mentoring program flourished and our Woman of the Year was a member of the NJ Transit Board

of Directors who immigrated from El Salvador as a child. We arranged for on site tours of rail and highway projects, and set up lunch time presentations on WTS at four work places to recruit members. I can also report a number of ‘firsts’ including our joint program with the ITE Metropolitan Section, our golf outing to benefit the scholarship program, no-fee networking nights, and a book signing for a book about engineering by a member. And these are just the highlights. It is an honor to serve the membership as your President and I look forward to another exciting year in 2005. And if you are reading this and are not yet a member please consider joining us. You will not regret it.

Sincerely,  
Pippa Woods, President  
www.wtsnational.org

## 2004 Calendar

- February 11th – Annual Meeting/Awards Program, L. Dédi Gongá, Member of the Year, and Sam Schwartz Company, Employer of the Year. Speaker Stefan Pryor, Chief of Staff of Lower Manhattan Development Corporation, on Future Redevelopment and Transportation in Lower Manhattan
- March 16th – Annual Woman of the Year Program, Flora Castillo, member of the NJ Transit Board
- March 31st – WTS Open House and Network Night at Metro Grill
- April 8th – W/M/DBE EXPO and speaker Amanda Burden, Chair-New York City Planning Commission, on “Reshaping New York: Major Land Use Developments in NYC”
- May 13th – First Joint Program with Met Section ITE: Presentation on The Frank R. Lautenberg Rail Station at Secaucus Junction: Challenges to Success by Rob Edwards, NJ Transit Project Manager
- June 9th – Speaker Elaine Dezenski of Homeland Security on Cargo and Supply Chain Security
- July 21st – WTS Open House & Network Night at the offices of Barbara Thayer PC
- September 29th – Speakers Eva Lerner-Lam and David Gaier, transportation and security experts, on “The 9/11 Commission Report: Implications for the NY-NJ Metro Area”
- October 26th – Annual Scholarship Awards Program, and Speaker Frank Lombardi, Chief Engineer, on “The Role of the Engineer: A Project Overview of The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey”
- November 10th – Secaucus Interchange Project Tour led by Richard Raczynski, Chief Engineer of the New Jersey Turnpike Authority
- December 10th – 2nd Annual Diversity Leadership Award Program, Stephanie Pinson, President Gilbert Tweed Associates

## Advisory Board Members

**Stephanie Pinson**  
Gilbert Tweed Associates  
(Advisory Board Chair)

**Michael Della Rocca**  
STV Inc.

**Deborah Wathen Finn**  
HNTB Corporation

**Sandra Lautenberg**  
Siemens Transportation  
Systems

**Barbara Spencer**  
MTA NYCT

**Janette Sadik-Khan**  
Parsons Brinckerhoff

**Sam Schwartz**  
Sam Schwartz, LLC

**Marilyn Jordan Taylor**  
Skidmore Owings & Merrill

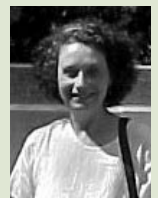
**Laura Toole**  
Michael Baker Jr. Corp

**Thomas Waldron**  
DMJM+Harris

**Martha Walther**  
MTA Bridges and Tunnels

**WTS-GNY Board Liaison,**  
**Past President**  
**L. Dédi Gongá**  
MTA NYCT

*A special thanks goes to ...*



Amy Geller, the designer of the GNY-WTS newsletter and this report. Amy has worked as a graphic designer for PB since 1994 and is also a fine artist and illustrator. She has participated in open studios at her studio in LIC and exhibited her artwork in galleries around New York City.

# BUDGET REPORT

This year, the WTS-GNY Board set forth a daunting task to identify certain goals that would help strengthen and improve the chapter's member services. To better understand the chapter's member services, the Board took steps to define a financial plan to improve budget development. Analyzing the costs incurred by the chapter prompted the Board to adopt some measures to help reduce overall costs and help improve member services. The highly popular newsletter and successful Mentoring Program were identified as significant costs to the WTS-GNY Chapter, so measures were taken to help reduce the costs without affecting the quality of these services. In addition, the Board wanted to establish a fundraising event to help raise revenue solely for

scholarships. In August, the Scholarship Committee was successful in achieving our goal. The Membership Committee broadened the free networking nights throughout the year which have been very successful. The WTS-GNY Board is proud to have achieved these tasks that were only made possible with the support and encouragement from our members.

Below is a summary of our chapter expenses and revenues received from 2002 to present that was used to establish a budget for 2005. The Board approved this budget on December 13, 2004. Please note the expense and revenue in 2004 has not been finalized. ■

Revenues	2002 Actuals	2003 Actuals	2004 Actuals (YTD)	2005 Budget
President	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
Membership	12,135.00	15,645.00	9,930.00	12,000.00
Interest (bank & Money Market account)	321.74	362.38	257.16	275.00
Monthly Programs & Workshop	35,100.00	41,370.00	34,432.95	48,550.00
Diversity	–	3,193.00	n/a	5,000.00
Fundraising (Gala Event)	106,806.70	73,000.00	0.00	76,100.00
Student Affairs	–	100.00	0.00	0.00
W/M/DBE EXPO	1,650.00	1,450.00	1,850.00	1,500.00
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$156,313.44</b>	<b>\$135,420.38</b>	<b>\$46,470.11</b>	<b>\$143,725.00</b>

Expenses	2002 Actuals	2003 Actuals	2004 Actuals (YTD)	2005 Budget
President	\$2,120.48	\$2,036.00	\$0.00	\$1,500.00
Membership (Event/Network Night)	7,500.00	7,676.94	1,176.38	4,425.00
Treasurer (Bank Fees)	217.32	269.25	14.80	50.00
Credit Card	0.00	1,347.09	186.44	500.00
Monthly Programs & Workshop	37,931.00	38,914.83	35,200.82	47,800.00
Diversity	0.00	5,085.00	n/a	5,000.00
Fundraising (Gala Event)	54,289.00	52,153.00	0.00	60,000.00
Student Affairs	20.00	243.00	128.00	800.00
Corporate Relations	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,700.00
Advisory Board	0.00	0.00	425.30	500.00
Board Conference Call/Retreat/Dinner	1,524.79	1,406.30	500.00	1,900.00
Corresponding Secretary	19.00	0.00	0.00	50.00
Bylaws	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Job Bank	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mentoring	20,662.21	12,445.32	1,451.84	4,150.00
Newsletter	8,993.00	10,663.00	6,050.41	4,500.00
Recognitions	0.00	2,775.00	0.00	750.00
Photography	581.00	124.00	218.89	300.00
Professional Development	103.00	0.00	0.00	1,500.00
Public/Media Relations	0.00	800.00	0.00	800.00
Website /Database	500.00	119.00	0.00	4,000.00
Miscellaneous	2,054.63	2,510.63	1,912.43	2,500.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$136,515.43</b>	<b>\$138,568.36</b>	<b>\$47,265.31</b>	<b>\$143,725.00</b>

<b>Net revenue after distributions</b>	<b>\$19,798.01</b>	<b>(\$3,147.98)</b>	<b>(\$795.20)</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
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Scholarship (*includes golf outing)	2002 Actuals	2003 Actuals	2004 Actuals*	2005 Budget
Revenues (Fundraising)	\$940.00	\$2,125.00	\$14,324.00	\$20,000.00
Expenses & Scholarship Awards	3,000.00	3,049.89	15,168.62	16,200.00

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## WTS Scholarship Program

The Greater New York Chapter's Annual Scholarship Awards Program in October was marked by a plethora of activity. The program began with the presentation of the scholarship awards. This year's recipients were: Kerri Madden, the Susan Miczkowicz Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship; Carla Prieto, the Louise Moritz Molitoris Leadership Award for Undergraduates; and Laynie Weaver, the Leonard Braun Memorial Graduate Scholarship. A silent auction was also held to benefit the scholarship fund.

Longtime member and mentor Carl Selinger signed copies of his newly-published book, *Stuff You Don't Learn in Engineering School: Skills for Success in the 'Real World,'* which is being published by Wiley-IEEE.

The highlight of the night's program was Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Chief Engineer Frank Lombardi's discussion, "The Role of the Engineer: A Project Overview of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey," through which Lombardi conveyed his passion and enthusiasm for the engineering field and the importance of reconciling one's technical and people skills. He gave an overview of the challenges the Port Authority encountered when trying to dewater the New Jersey abutment of the Bayonne Bridge to work on the bridge's foundation. As another example of the intensity and stimulation an engineer can garner from a project, he pointed to the Authority's work on Jamaica Station to create a gateway to John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK).

Lombardi also gave a preview of the Authority's 2005 planned design projects for JFK, LaGuardia, Newark and Teterboro airports; its ports; PATH; and its tunnels, bridges and terminals. ■



Left to right: Carl Selinger, Pippa Woods, Kerri Madden, Laynie Weaver, Frank Lombardi, Carla Prieto and Karen Counes.



"The Winning Foursome," Ted Hryczyn, Larry Reuter, Brian Semler and John Ruggiero.

## Golf Outing Fundraiser

WTS fundraising golf outing and barbeque was initiated on August 20, 2004. It was a great success raising more than \$5,500 for the WTS Scholarship Fund. Over sixty players, members and non-members alike, turned out for a great day of golf, barbecue and fun in the Bronx at the Van Cortlandt Golf Course.

Several attendees went home with a smile as they collected their gift bags and raffle prizes, such as a gift certificate from Tiffany's, a spa treatment from Elizabeth Arden, and several other items generously donated by our event sponsors.

Seasoned pros and amateurs alike had a wonderful time on the newly renovated Van Cortlandt Golf Course. This was a great event that will be held on an annual basis. ■



Left to right: L. Dédi Gongá, Deborah Wathen Finn, Christine Stoddart, Larry Reuter, Martha Walther, Nick Ivanoff.

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## The 9/11 Commission Report

**A**t a WTS breakfast program held September 29, Martha Walther, Vice President of Operations for the MTA Bridges & Tunnels, introduced the distinguished speakers, Eva Lerner-Lam and David Gaier, who spoke of their concerns regarding the 9/11 Commission Report and its implications for the New York-New Jersey regions. Eva Lerner-Lam has an extensive background with the transportation industry. David Gaier is a security expert who is devoted to the cause of improving our nation's security.

Eva Lerner-Lam provided an overview of the report highlighting key findings, such as a "failure of imagination." She noted how the report reveals U.S. failure to realize the threat against America and how deep that hatred is seeded within certain cultures.

David Gaier urged members to be more proactive in ensuring transportation security. He encouraged inter-agency effort and collaboration at both the city and state levels and noted that all of our transportation and intelligence agencies must figure out what will work to keep our transportation safe from terrorism. ■



**Left to right: Jenny Kapelyan, Martha Walther, speakers David Gaier and Eva Lerner-Lam, and Chapter President Pippa Woods.**

## W/M/DBE Expo

**A**pril ushered in the 7th Annual Chapter Transportation Expo, which focused on women- and minority-owned companies that provide services to the transportation industry. The 14 exhibitors represented a range of specialties from architectural/engineering companies to bus and transit parts providers. Abramov Engineering LLC, Barbara Thayer PC, Donna Walcavage Landscape Architects, Eng-Wong, Taub & Associates, Keville Enterprises, and Medina Consultants displayed samples of their work. Other exhibitors highlighted their fields of expertise in such areas as marketing and



communication, transportation, environmental, geology, geophysics, lighting design and real estate.

The program was proof of the invaluable cooperation between the W/M/DBE business community and WTS. The diversity of participants highlighted the importance of WTS

as an organization that supports different trades within the industry and provides firms a unique opportunity to promote themselves by increasing public awareness and building name recognition.

The program also featured Amanda Burden, chair of the New York City Planning Commission and director of the New York City Planning Department, who spoke about major economic development initiatives around the City, including the Brooklyn waterfront redevelopment; the Commission's involvement in Lower Manhattan; and the Fresh Kills master plan.

The program closed with the presentation of the Member of the Year Award to L. Dédi Gongá. ■



**Exhibitors present their material.**

# THE GNY MENTORING PROGRAM

**T**he GNY Chapter Mentor Program was designed to help mid-level managers develop the skills necessary to achieve senior level responsibility. There are four levels of participants in the program: Apprentices, Mentors, Advisors and Mentoring Committee Members. Since the mentor program started in 2001, 20 WTS members have completed the annual program. Of these, eight graduates have been promoted. Further, 14 of the graduates have increased their involvement in WTS by serving on committees, and three graduates have furthered their commitment to WTS and are currently serving on the Greater New York Chapter Board of Directors. ■



**Graduation of the 2004 mentoring participants, from left to right: Janet Clark, Felicia Jones, Alexandra Gagliotta and Carl Selinger. Standing, from left to right, are: Felice Farber, Mary Gennuso, Bobbie Athey, Jean McCall, Yevgeniya Shpigel, Amy Kaufman and Jean Laird.**

## 2004 Mentoring Program

### Apprentices

Alexandra Gagliotta  
NYCT

Mary Gennuso  
NYCT

Kimberly Gilbert  
Systra Consulting

Camille Gonzalez  
URS

Amy Kaufman  
MTA

Felicia Jones  
NYCT

Yevgeniya Shpigel  
NYCT

### Mentors

Jean McCall  
Parsons Brinckerhoff

Carl Selinger  
Carl Selinger Services

Bobbie Athey  
MTA Bridges and Tunnels

John Miskulin  
Performance Management Group

Maxine Finkelstein  
Interactive Elements Incorporated

Janet Clark  
New Jersey Transit

## Advisors

Gregory Bradley  
Vice President Human Resources and Diversity, Metro North Railroad

Lillian Borrone  
Assistant Executive Director (Ret.) Port Authority of New York and New Jersey

Connie Crawford  
Senior Vice President and Chief Engineer, MTA New York City Transit

Beverly Dolinsky  
Executive Director, Permanent Citizens Advisory Council to the MTA

Deborah Wathen Finn  
Vice President, HNTB

Laurie Gutshaw  
Vice President, DMJM + Harris

Jolene Molitoris  
President and CEO, GeoFocus

Stephanie Pinson  
President, Gilbert Tweed Associates

Janette Sadik-Khan  
Senior Vice President, Industry Director of U.S. Transit Programs, Parsons Brinckerhoff

Barbara Spencer  
Executive Vice President, MTA New York City Transit

## Noteworthy News of Chapter Members

**Robert Olmsted** received the American Society of Civil Engineering History and Heritage Award at its annual meeting in Baltimore in October. A long time WTS member, Bob has more than 50 years of experience in planning, design and construction of transportation facilities.

**Janette Sadik-Khan**, Senior Vice President of Parsons Brinckerhoff, and **Elliott (Lee) Sander**, Senior Vice President of DMJM+Harris, were appointed to a 12-member NYSDOT Advisory Panel on Transportation for 2025.

**Robin Malacrea** was appointed Vice President of Structure Tone, a general construction contractor based in Manhattan. She was a National WTS Board Member, longtime Chapter Member, as well as a former Chapter President and Member of the Year.

**Daniella Burnett**, Research Specialist for STV Incorporated, had her poetry collection published by the Maryland firm PublishAmerica. Her collection of 50 poems, entitled "Timeless Allure," was released on December 11th.

**Lillian C. Borrone** received the 2005 Thomas B. Deen Distinguished Lectureship Award of the Transportation Research Board. On January 10, she presented her lecture on "Sparking the Globalized Trade and Transportation Connection: Supplying Freight System Responses to Global Trade Demands" at the 84th Annual TRB meeting in Washington, D.C. ■

# AWARDS

## Diversity Leadership, Stephanie Pinson

Stephanie Pinson, President and a member of the Board of Directors of Gilbert Tweed Associates, an executive search and consulting firm, received the Diversity Leadership Award for her outstanding efforts locally and nationally to mentor and otherwise encourage and develop women and minorities in positions within the transportation industry. A member of the Greater New York Chapter for more than 10 years, Ms. Pinson is currently serving her second term as Chair of the Chapter's

Advisory Board and is active in the Chapter Mentoring Program, which became a model for the national WTS program. She is a founding member of the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) Task Force for the Workforce Development Initiative which has focused efforts on making the transit industry the employer of choice with an emphasis on diversity. She is currently involved in a national study to benchmark diversity in the transit industry as a basis for next steps. ■



## Employer of the Year, Sam Schwartz LLC

Sam Schwartz LLC, a transportation engineering and planning firm founded in 1995, received the Employer of the Year award for commitment to excellence and quality, achievement on affirmative action, continuing education, and supporting WTS and professional development of women in the transportation industry. The firm has almost 60 employees and two offices in New York City and Newark, NJ. In New Jersey, the firm is certified as an Emerging Small

Business Enterprise (ESBE). Its services include traffic engineering, transportation and transit planning, resident engineering inspection services, permitting, environmental planning, urban design, emergency operations, and community outreach/media services. Mr. Schwartz, his Vice President Janet Campbell and a number of the firm's employees who participate in WTS events were on hand for the award presentation. ■

## Woman of the Year, Flora Castillo

Flora Castillo, a successful businesswoman and member of the NJ Transit Board of Directors, was honored as the Woman of the Year at a dinner in Newark. Ms. Castillo gave an inspiring speech about the role models in her life including her hardworking mother, who was present. She said that one person can make a difference in others' lives, noting that one person helped her mother become a citizen and bring her two children to America. Originally

from El Salvador, Flora recalled her first memories of transportation, traveling on the bus and the bus driver helping her with her English. She spoke with pride about her efforts to increase the representation of women and minorities at all levels of employee ranks and a new strategic plan that focuses on leadership development and succession planning. ■



## Member of the Year, L. Dédi Gongá

L. Dédi Gongá, immediate Past President and Liaison to the Advisory Board, was honored as Member of the Year for her continuing support and dedication to the Chapter. During Ms. Gongá's tenure, membership increased by 15% making Greater New York the largest chapter. She also initiated the first gala fundraising event which was very successful in supporting the chapter and in promoting the reputation of WTS within the industry. She was elected

to the National Board and continues to advocate for the needs of WTS-GNY and to bring National initiatives and ideas back for use at our chapter. She has encouraged chapter members to be active at the national level – six of our chapter's members are active nationally – as well as committee contributors, committee chairs, and members of our Advisory Board. ■