

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Dear Charlotte Metro Members and Friends of WTS:

Happy Holidays everyone! We've had a busy fall and are now planning exciting events for the upcoming year. I want to thank all our volunteers and members for their hard work and support in making this year a success.



Two of our events this fall built partnerships with other professional organizations, the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) and the American Society of Highway-Engineers (ASHE). We look forward to additional opportunities to work jointly with these groups. WTS members also got a "sneak peak" at the NASCAR Hall of Fame. Many thanks to City of Charlotte special projects manager Jeff Furr, who

gave us a great tour of both the conference facility and office building and the Hall of Fame exhibit areas, under construction.

Last month, I had the pleasure of attending the WTS Chapter Leadership Training November 6-7, 2009 in Miami, Florida. The training brought together over 90 WTS chapter leaders from all across the U.S. to hear great advice on various aspects of WTS chapters, from membership and scholarship to volunteers and policies. A special focus was on leadership and the importance of attitude in achieving the results we want. I look forward to telling you more about it at our Annual Members Meeting on January 20, 2010. We will also hear from special guest, Odalys Delgado, WTS International Board member, about exciting initiatives underway at WTS International.

For the first time, in 2010 the WTS Charlotte Metro will be awarding a scholarship to a student seeking a career in the transportation field. We've recently completed our outreach to college students to solicit applications, and a number of outstanding applications were received. The winner will be honored at our Annual Awards Banquet in April 2010. A special thanks to Celia Gray, Scholarship Chair, and Edith Peters, Scholarship Committee member, for successfully getting this program going.

A reminder to all members that WTS Charlotte Metro is seeking nominations for our first chapter awards: Member of the Year, Employer of the Year, and Innovative Transportation Solutions. Please send your nominees to Eliza Rodriguez, Recognitions Chair, at eliza.rodriquez@hdrinc.com by December 31, 2009.

Finally, I'd like to acknowledge and thank the following corporations for re-newing their corporate sponsorships: Platinum Level: HDR International, Mulkey Engineers & Consultants, Parsons Brinckerhoff, PBS&J, and STV/RWA Incorporated. In addition, I'd like to welcome and thank our new Gold Level sponsor, Envision Consultants Ltd. Thank you also to Candice Crago, WTS Corporate Sponsorship Chair, for her hard work in putting an excellent sponsor package together.

As always, please call or e-mail me with any questions or if want to get involved with our chapter. I look forward to seeing you soon!

Kelly Goforth

Chapter President

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Advancing Women in Transportation
Charlotte Metro Chapter

In Motion

Fall 2009

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

The Charlotte Metro WTS Chapter continues to expand our programs to reach transportation professionals throughout the Charlotte region. We have also partnered with other local organizations to increase our outreach.

NASCAR Hall of Fame Tour – Where the Race Lives On! (September 23, 2009)

Members of Charlotte Metro WTS were invited to tour Charlotte’s newest attraction – the NASCAR Hall of Fame – while under construction. Jeff Furr, City of Charlotte Special Projects Manager, and Kim Meester, Hall of Fame External Communications Manager, hosted this members-only tour.

With the Grand Opening scheduled for May 11, 2010, this state-of-the-art facility will honor the past, present, and future of NASCAR. For visitors from the Charlotte region and across the country, this unique facility will capture the spirit of racing, honoring the history and heritage of NASCAR and create an enduring tribute to the competitors and others who have impacted the sport.

Groundbreaking ceremonies were held in January 2007 and construction began in May of that year. Building design concepts have been completed and exhibit themes and interior layouts are nearing completion. The NASCAR Hall of Fame is one component of the NASCAR Hall of Fame Complex, located in uptown Charlotte, adjacent to the Charlotte Convention Center. The Complex will include:



- **The NASCAR Hall of Fame:** A 150,000 square foot state-of-the-art hall of fame, entertainment attraction, and museum.

Allow yourself approximately 3 hours if you want to tour the whole museum. NASCAR 101 is available for guests who don’t know much about the sport. For the adventurous fans, Glory Road will simulate banking at different famous race tracks.



- **Convention Center Expansion/New Ballroom:** A 102,000 square foot expansion to the Convention Center including a new 40,000 square foot ballroom with seating capacity of 5,800; 2,400 when banquet style and over 4,200 in the theater style. This ballroom size is double that of the Charlotte Convention Center ballroom, putting Charlotte on the map to host massive events. A 275 seat theatre will be available for private rentals and includes a stage built to allow more space and no obstructive views.

- **NASCAR Plaza Office Tower:** A 390,000 square foot, 19 story Class A office building developed by Lauth Properties and NASCAR. NASCAR and NASCAR Images will be primary tenants and include full scale studios to be operated by NASCAR Images, occupying floors 1-6 and 19-20. The remainder of the office tower is available for leasing.

- **Parking Facilities:** There is a 3 story parking deck under the building. The adjacent parking garage will accommodate over 1,000 additional vehicles.

The NASCAR Hall of Fame will be owned by the City of Charlotte and operated by the Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority. This project is funded by a 2-percent hotel/motel tax. The City is only funding a portion of the parking facility.

For additional information visit the website at www.nascarhall.com.

Women in Power, "The Tight Rope of Life," Professional Development Seminar (November 2, 2009)

The Charlotte Metro WTS co-sponsored Women in Power "The Tight Rope of Life" with the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) and Women in Nuclear (WIN). The fall Professional Development Seminar was a great success. Debbie Reeves, RN, CNOR, MS, CNO presented "The Tight Rope of Life," sharing strategies on work-life balance and leadership.

The work-life balance portion included methods to help participants achieve balance at work and home by promoting personal time and maintaining a positive attitude. Comments centered on being able to identify pessimistic thoughts and to refocus them to have a more positive attitude. The leadership session centered on the elements of leadership and fostering more cohesive relationships. The elements discussed included: trust, authenticity, communication, credibility, likability, listening, respect, and displaying emotion. A great rhetorical question was "Would You Follow You?" Lastly we were provided with some tips on staying mentally and physically healthy.

ZMax Dragway (November 4, 2009)

The WTS Charlotte Metro Chapter joined with ASHE Carolina Piedmont Chapter to host a presentation and tour of the new ZMax Dragway in Concord, NC. The event began with the annual officer inductions for ASHE.



Christian Byrd began the presentation by offered insight regarding the challenges of the project from the owner's point of view. David Wasiela, PE from ERM along with Brian Welch, PE and Joseph Bruno, PLS both from ESP gave a presentation of the design and construction of the ZMax Dragway. One obstacle the project had to overcome was to meet accelerated schedule in order to be open in time for a scheduled event. Ground broke in early 2008 and almost 2,000 workers were involved in the construction. The facility was completed by the Open House Event in August 2008.

The state-of-the art drag racing facility is located on the Lowes Motor Speedway property across from the Speedway on US Highway 29. Currently it is the only four-lane drag strip in the United States. The pair



of two-lane quarter-mile strips are located side-by-side. Asphalt extends the strip over another half a mile beyond the concrete quarter-mile. Two tunnels are located under the strip to connect the grandstands.

Following the presentations, attendees were treated to a barbeque dinner. After dinner, attendees were given a tour of the ZMax Dragway and invited to stay for the Hungry Man Showdown Race at the dirt track.

CHAPTER EVENTS:

WTS Charlotte Metro Annual Members Meeting & Luncheon: *Wednesday, January 20, 2010, 11:00 am – 1:30 pm*

Join us for our members-only annual meeting. Odalys Delgado, WTS International Board of Directors, will be our special guest speaker, sharing WTS International Initiatives with us. This is also our opportunity to share comments on the 2009 programs, provide suggestions for 2010 programs, and establish chapter goals for 2010. We will learn some social media tools and have lots of FUN throughout the meeting. Lunch is provided by WTS for the annual meeting.

WTS Charlotte Metro First Annual Awards and Recognitions Banquet: *April 2010*

Be on the lookout for additional information. The banquet is scheduled for April 2010. In addition to recognizing chapter members, employers, and local projects, WTS will have a dynamic speaker for this event.

LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS:

Local Scholarship Program

WTS Charlotte Metro is awarding our first local scholarship to a student seeking a career in the transportation field. This year's recipient is Ms. Priyanka Alluri. Ms. Alluri is currently pursuing her Doctoral Degree in Civil Engineering from Clemson University. Her dissertation topic is "Development of Safety Performance Functions for the Southeastern States." We hope everyone will be able to meet Ms. Alluri at the April awards banquet.



Ms. Alluri's application has been forwarded to WTS International to compete for the 2009 WTS Helene M. Overly Memorial Scholarship.

Congratulations Priyanka Alluri!

Annual Awards and Recognitions Program

WTS Charlotte Metro is starting our Annual Awards and Recognition Program. We are seeking nominations to honor members, employers, and area projects with our new local recognitions program. This is a way to recognize other members, employers, and projects for going above and beyond for WTS Charlotte Metro. Awards will be given in the following categories this year:

- **Member of the Year:** To recognize a WTS member who has made extraordinary contributions to the success of the organization.
- **Employer of the Year:** To recognize a business for its support of the goals and purpose of WTS.
- **Innovative Transportation Solutions Award:** To honor an innovative transportation project or service that improves the quality of life for its users and the community.

Application forms were distributed to all WTS members by email. Completed nominations are due back by December 31, 2009. The local board will determine the recipients, and the winners will be sent on for consideration for the International selection. A special awards

banquet is being planned for April 2010, and the winner of the Member of the Year will be given free participation at some of the events next year. Don't miss this opportunity!

Any questions? Contact Eliza Rodriquez, Recognitions Chair, at eliza.rodriquez@hdrinc.com.

NEW: Knowledge Sessions/Job Search Resources Going Back to School?

As a way to help unemployed members, the WTS Charlotte Metro Chapter is considering the inclusion of a regular newsletter article about opportunities in a tough job market. The idea is to offer suggestions regarding the job search, or regarding other alternatives such as going back to school, an increasingly attractive option at this point in time.

According to a new website, www.opportunity.gov:

Americans with more education and training have more secure jobs and higher earnings. With jobs hard to find, it may be a good time to consider going back to school.

The President recently announced that unemployed workers receiving unemployment benefits may qualify for a special hand in paying for education and training. And aid can be significant: In particular, the Federal Pell Grant program can provide up to \$5,350 for educational costs at community colleges, colleges, and universities, and many trade and technical schools. This is only one example of several federal student aid programs available to assist unemployed workers.

If you are interested in going back to school, the following websites are just a few that you may want to explore:

<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/index.htm>

<http://graduateschool.uncc.edu/>

<http://engineeringonline.ncsu.edu/>

If there are topics you would like us to address or you have information to contribute about job search resources, please contact Susan Paschal at spaschal@hntb.com.

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP:

WTS Charlotte Metro welcomes our new members to the organization. Spread the word about the benefits of WTS membership. We encourage all members to become involved in a committee and attend our programs to get the most out of your membership.

To become a member of WTS Charlotte Metro, join online at www.wtsinternational.org. For more information, please contact our Membership Committee Chair, Brock LaForty, at brocklaforty@stvinc.com.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

Greg Jones, PE, LEED® AP
Principal
Charlotte Branch Manager
Mulkey Engineers & Consultants



- 1. Can you provide a brief description about what you do?** I serve as the Branch Manager for Mulkey's Charlotte Office. In this role, I am primarily responsible for business development, client relationship maintenance, quality assurance, and office administration. Mulkey provides services to both public and private sector clients related to transportation planning and design, water resources, natural resources, construction administration and inspection, surveying, utility services, site/civil design, and building structural design.
- 2. How long have you worked in the transportation industry?** I have worked in the transportation industry for 22 years. I began with NCDOT in 1988 and worked for 9 ½ years. I later worked for a highway contractor for 5 ½ years and have been with Mulkey for 7 years.
- 3. What do you like most about your job?** I really enjoy interacting with the people within the industry. Client contacts, employee mentoring, and industry group involvement are the highlights of my job.

- 4. Why did you join WTS?** I joined WTS because our firm is women-owned and we have common concerns and interests with WTS.
- 5. How long have you been a member of WTS?** I have been a member and Mulkey has sponsored WTS since the chapter was formed here in Charlotte.
- 6. What do you think are some of the challenges facing professionals in transportation in the current economic environment?** Obviously, this economic downturn has affected the way we do business and how we approach business opportunities. We have and will continue to look for ways to cut internal costs and still meet the needs of our clients. We also must pay close attention to strategic planning for a return to a more normal marketplace.
- 7. What are some of the achievements you've seen for transportation professionals?** There are so many achievements that have happened during my career. In just over 20 years, I have seen design plan production change from hand-drafted to computer-aided design. The capabilities of engineers today are mind boggling. Another significant achievement is the creative contract mechanisms used to fast track transportation projects. One example of this is the Design-Build process which allows design and construction to be completed simultaneously, speeding up the delivery of a project to the public.
- 8. What would you like to share about your personal interests and goals?** I really enjoy spending time with my family (I have a wife and two children) and my church family. When I do have time outside of work and home activities, I really enjoy playing golf with friends.



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CORPORATE SPONSORS:

WTS Charlotte Metro would like to thank our corporate sponsors for their continued support. Corporate sponsorship has been a key part of our chapter's success! We have recently sent out a letter requesting that companies renew their sponsorship or become a new sponsor. These commitments will allow us to continue bringing meaningful speakers to the transportation community and will support new initiatives for local scholarship and recognition programs. Corporate sponsors for 2009-2010 are listed below. For more information on sponsorship benefits and opportunities, contact Kelly Goforth at kgoforth@charlottenc.gov or Candice Crago at cheintz@mulkeyinc.com.



PLATINUM

HDR Engineering
Mulkey Engineers & Consultants
Parsons Brinckerhoff
PBS&J
STV / Ralph Whitehead Associates

GOLD

Envision Consultants, Ltd.

If you have a suggestion, announcement, or great idea for this newsletter please contact a member of the newsletter committee. We'd love to hear from you!

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Thank you to our newsletter contributors for keeping us In Motion this quarter: Kim Bereis, Claire Brinkley, Judy Dellert-O'Keef, Kelly Goforth, Greg Jones, Susan Paschal, and Paige Yandle.

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