

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Charlotte Metro Members and Friends of WTS:



Happy Anniversary, WTS Charlotte Metro! May 12th marked one year since the Charlotte Metro Chapter was chartered at last year's conference in San Diego, California. Since then, this chapter has held four technical programs, three non-technical programs, two members-only events, and three networking/social events.

So what now? We keep doing what we've been doing. In addition, now that we have "planted our roots" we want to place a bigger emphasis on reaching goals for student outreach and scholarships as well as membership value and recruitment.

Those are just a few of the things the chapter board will discuss at our retreat this month. Yes, we finally coordinated our busy schedules to hold what was supposed to be a spring event. On July 11th our board will meet for a half day to discuss a host of items including tentatively scheduling our programs for the next calendar year. As always, we are open to your suggestions about who you'd like to see present and what transportation or non-technical topics you want to hear about in the future.

Finally, the WTS International Annual Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, on May 14-16th was fantastic! Check out Kelly's overview of the conference in this issue. And mark your calendars for next year – the 2009 conference will be in Seattle, Washington, on May 19-24th. The Seattle chapter played a video at the final plenary luncheon, and I can tell it is going to be a conference to remember!

See ya soon (hopefully at our anniversary event...look inside for more details)!

Kim Bereis

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PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

Is Your Life In Balance?

Eve White, Editor, Charlotte Parent Magazine

In today's busy world, we occasionally need to hear the voice of reason. Thank you, Eve White, editor of *Charlotte Parent Magazine*, for reminding us about the benefits and need for having work-life balance. Work-life balance is defined as a person's control over the conditions in their workplace. White expands on this stating work-life balance is "a constant state of monitoring the personal and professional demands of life and finding peace in how they coexist in your daily routine." How can you accomplish this? Don't become your job. Be proud of your work and your accomplishments, but separate your identity from it.

Who needs work-life balance?

- Working Moms with young kids.
- Women caring for aging parents.
- 'Empty nesters.'
- Corporate climbers.
- Married women.
- Single women.
- All women (and men)!

What are some signs of imbalance?

- Constantly overwhelmed.
- Strained relationships.
- Poor work performance.
- Overly emotional.
- Insomnia and fatigue.
- Headaches, frequent illnesses.



White shared some interesting statistics with us about how the work-life balance has changed over the last few generations. With more women working outside the home, our family-life expectations are changing. The table below shows how our focus has changed.

Families	Then	Now
Eat dinner together	91%	80%
At home after school	78%	61%
Attend religious services together	72%	59%
Attend children's special events (sports, plays, etc.)	76%	90%

White encouraged everyone to take a look at their own life. Are you in balance? Are there aspects of your life you can change or improve? Ultimately, balance is your choice, as White states, "The world we live in...the world we want... is the world we create."

So, how can we achieve balance in our lives? Identify and prioritize what is important to you and give up the rest. Create private time for yourself and protect it. Utilize your support group of family, friends, and co-workers. Finally,

relax and make time for fun! Rewards come with a balanced life too. When your life is in balance, you often sleep more restfully, experience renewed energy, become more productive at work, and feel healthier, both physically and mentally. So, create a plan and reclaim your life today!

Each year *Charlotte Parent Magazine* hosts a Moms At Work Luncheon. For more information about this event, log onto www.charlotteparent.com/events.

An Update from the New Leader Keith Parker, CEO, Charlotte Area Transit System

Keith Parker, new Director of Public Transportation and CEO of CATS, joined us in May to give an update on one of the fastest growing transit systems in the country. CATS is being recognized nationwide for its growth and success in the transit industry.

Since the passage of the half-cent sales tax in 1998, there has been tremendous growth to Charlotte's transit system. The system expansion has included:

- Expanded service hours.
- Greater service frequency.
- More local routes.
- Countywide ADA service.
- Regional expansion with express bus services.
- Improved safety and reliability.



In November 2007, Charlotte entered a new era in public transportation with the opening of North Carolina's first light rail line, the LYNX Blue Line. People are enjoying using the LYNX Blue Line generating over 13,000 daily trips, exceeding our first year projections by over 40 percent. In addition to attracting riders, the City of Charlotte has been successful in combining development with transit. The South Corridor has generated over \$1.5 billion in actual and proposed corridor development through 2011. "Consistently high ridership numbers plus the amount of development happening along the corridor demonstrate the project's benefits to the community," said Parker. "The LYNX Blue Line is a milestone project for the region that will have positive impacts on our quality of life, now and in the future."

CATS is continuing to move forward with additional rapid transit projects. The LYNX Purple Line (North Corridor) and LYNX Blue Line Extension (Northeast Corridor) are currently in the preliminary engineering phase. The West Corridor will see enhanced buses in operation in 2009. CATS is coordinating with NCDOT on the Independence Boulevard widening project to ensure preservation of right of way for the LYNX Silver Line (Southeast Corridor); a future bus rapid transit or light rail transit line. City Council recently approved funding for an Economic Impact Study if the Center City Streetcar Corridor, which is currently underway. The streetcar line would provide an east-west connection, from Rosa Parks Place on Beatties Ford Road to the Eastland Transit Community Center on Central Avenue.

In addition to the rapid transit corridors, CATS is growing in other areas as well. Improvements have continued for the local and express bus routes. Studying the routes to increase service frequency and add additional buses where needed is done on a continuous basis. Additional transit centers are being designed for construction. The art-in-transit division continues to expand and has become much more visible.

CATS is proud to work towards accomplishing their mission, "to improve the quality of life for everyone in the greater Charlotte region by providing outstanding community-wide public transportation services while proactively contributing to focused growth and sustainable regional development." For more information about CATS and their services visit www.ridetransit.org or call 704.336.RIDE.

Members Breakfast

Diane James, WTS Executive Director

On June 5th, seven members of our chapter joined Diane James, Executive Director of WTS International, for breakfast and an informal discussion. The members-only breakfast was held at the Original Pancake House.

Diane joined WTS International in 2006, when the WTS International office in Washington, D.C., was established. Our members described our recent programs to Diane and our upcoming anniversary social.

We would like to express our thanks to Diane for visiting our chapter. We appreciate her advice and encouragement!

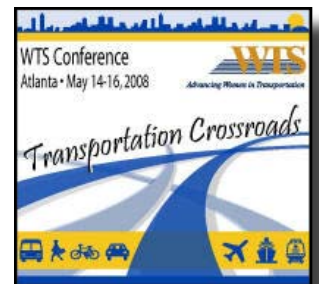


CHAPTER EVENTS

One Year Anniversary Celebration Social: July 29th, 6 PM - 8 PM, City Tavern, Hearst Tower (214 N. Tryon Street). Join us as we celebrate our anniversary! The WTS Charlotte Metro chapter has had a successful first year with great members, programs, speakers, and sponsors. We hope to see you July 29th and look forward to another great year.

NATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Two Charlotte Metro Chapter officers attended this year's WTS Annual Conference in Atlanta, Georgia – Kim Bereis, Chapter President, and Kelly Goforth, Chapter Vice-President. The conference, titled "Transportation Crossroads," was held May 14-16th, 2008. Attendees were inspired and informed by women transportation leaders from across the country.



Topics ranged from international transportation issues to sessions on leadership and diversity. We heard about the challenges of growth from China to Montreal, land use and transit as part of the sustainability solution, and the need for infrastructure investment in the U.S. to support megaregions. Sessions on leadership discussed how to be a good manager and the characteristics of leaders. One speaker described leadership as Courage + Competence.

One of the most interesting sessions was Marilyn Moats Kennedy, who spoke in an engaging and often hilarious way about the generational differences in the workplace, including what motivates "Baby Boomers" versus the "Netsters".



Advancing Women in Transportation
Charlotte Metro Chapter

In Motion

Summer 2008

Another highlight of the conference was the Annual Awards Banquet, where Cynthia Alder, who was a tremendous help in launching our chapter, received the Member of the Year award. The Banquet also honored the Employer of the Year, CH2M Hill, Corporate Sponsors, and the 2008 Scholarship winners.

The conference was a great opportunity to learn new ideas, network with other women in the transportation industry, and be inspired by stories of success. Consider attending the 2009 Annual Conference, which will be held in exciting Seattle, Washington, May 19-24th.

LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS:

WTS Needs You!

Looking for a way to get more involved? Want to meet some new people? The WTS Charlotte Metro chapter needs you. We are looking for volunteers to serve as **Program Committee Chair**, **Program Committee member**, and as **Website Chair**. The Program Committee is responsible for coordinating our monthly programs and speakers. You will not have to work alone. As a new chapter, the Board meets to brainstorm for program topics and appropriate speakers. The Website Chair is responsible for updating and maintaining our chapter website, which is part of the WTS International website www.wtsinternational.org. Again, you will have support and assistance from the Board. Participating on the Board is a great way to network within our WTS chapter and the transportation community. Please contact Kim Bereis at kdbereis@pbsj.com if you are interested.

NEW CHAPTER MEMBERS

WTS Charlotte Metro welcomes our new members to the organization. We are now at 28 members! 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.

Eliza Rodriguez
HDR Engineering

Virginia Schaar
PBS&J

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 blaforty@stv.com.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Jennifer Green
Scholarship Chairman, WTS Charlotte Metro Chapter.

Negotiator. Translator. Listener. Fire fighter. Advocate.

These are just a few of the hats worn by Jennifer Green of the Charlotte Area Transit System (CATS). She is the Community Relations Manager for the LYNX Blue Line and Blue Line Extension- two light rail projects with budgets totaling over \$1 billion. She is tasked with incorporating meaningful public participation into the decision-making process and ensuring the public has ownership in transit projects.

Jennifer has been with CATS and City of Charlotte for over eight years. Her responsibilities include communications, public involvement, and issues management for transit planning and construction programs. Prior to her work with CATS, Jennifer served as a public information specialist with the Columbia Housing Authority in South Carolina.



Jennifer Green, right, riding LYNX during Grand Opening

With over a decade of experience in community relations and public affairs, Jennifer specializes in strategic and tactical public relations; corporate and project-related message development; communication of complex, technical issues; and public outreach, relationship-building and issues resolution.

Jennifer holds a master's degree in Mass Communications and a bachelor's degree in English from the University of South Carolina. In addition to WTS, she is a member of the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) and the City-County Communications and Marketing Association (3CMA).



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Board of Directors/Committee Chairs 2007-2008

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Jennifer Green
Charlotte Area Transit System

Newsletter
Kelly Goforth- Co-Chair
Charlotte Area Transit System

Judy Dellert-O'Keef- Co-Chair
Charlotte Area Transit System

CORPORATE SPONSORS

WTS Charlotte Metro is proud to announce its inaugural list of corporate partners. We would like to thank all sponsors for their generous support of WTS and making the start-up of our local chapter possible! For more information on sponsorship benefits and opportunities, contact Kim Bereis at 704.665.4404.

PLATINUM


HDR Engineering



GOLD

HNTB Corporation



Mulkey Engineers & Consultants 

URS Corporation



SILVER

Kimley-Horn Associates



PBS&J



STV / Ralph Whitehead Associates



If you have a suggestion, announcement, or great idea for this newsletter please contact a member of the newsletter committee:

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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, Jennifer Green, and Kelly Goforth.