

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Dear Charlotte Metro Members and Friends of WTS:

Since our last newsletter, we have begun pushing forward with some of the goals we discussed at our Board retreat last July. Here's what we've been up to:

- Scholarships - With the assistance of Jennifer Green (chapter Scholarship Chair), we are on our way to building a great local scholarships program. Our chapter will be submitting nominations for the National scholarships, which are described inside this newsletter edition. The winners will be presented at the May 2009 Annual Conference in Seattle. How would you like to serve on the committee to review and decide which applications to forward to WTS next month?



Contact Jennifer Green at 704.336.2267 or jagreen@ci.charlotte.nc.us if you're interested.

- Student Membership - On September 29th Brock LaForty (Membership Chair), Edith Peters (Charlotte Metro member and UNCC graduate, 2007), and I spoke to UNC Charlotte transportation engineering and planning students about the benefits of getting involved with professional organizations, particularly WTS. As with other established Chapters, Charlotte Metro wants to see students on our chapter roster as well as the opportunity to forward some great candidates representing our chapter for National scholarships. Thank you again, Dr. Kane for coordinating this presentation for our chapter.

I hope you all are enjoying the cooler weather that is upon us. More than any other season fall reminds me that change is inevitable...and good! Be a part of transforming this chapter and help us continue to build our membership, present your ideas, and be involved. You'll be personally and professionally rewarded with just a little of your time. Like most professional organizations, you get out what you put into your involvement. And you're not alone – we're all in this together!

On that note, I'd like to extend a personal thank you to Crystal Cummings (URS). Crystal is a new member of

the Charlotte Metro chapter of WTS, but is quite familiar with WTS through her involvement in the New York and Philadelphia chapters before moving to Charlotte in June. She has volunteered her time to help out with future program ideas and speakers – going so far as to type a list of topics/presenters that she thinks would make for well-attended programs. We will be sure to implement some of her great suggestions (and to take her up on her offer to assist with programs!). Thanks again, Crystal.

Happy Fall and Happy Holidays! See ya soon...

Kim Bereis

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PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

WTS Celebrates First Year in Charlotte

To celebrate WTS Charlotte Metro Chapter's one-year anniversary, WTS members gathered at City Tavern Uptown for some food and fun in July. We had a great time getting to know one another better, talking about the programs held throughout the year, and the upcoming events for next year. WTS Charlotte Metro continues to grow and we want to thank all of you, our members and program attendees, for making this chapter successful. Come out and join the fun. Here's to another good year!

Advocacy for Transportation Needs

“Once you’ve sold the vision, you need to keep the public informed”- wise words from Natalie Haskins English, Senior Vice President for the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber led the Vote Against Repeal campaign, a grassroots campaign about the benefits of Charlotte’s transit services. Ms. English shared details during WTS’s August meeting about what she calls “The World Series of Campaigns,” reminding Charlotte residents why the City is building light rail, expanding public transit, and improving infrastructure.

Ms. English explained that during any campaign, 20 percent of the people are with you and 20 percent are against. Thus, campaigning is about reaching the 60 percent in the middle that is still undecided - that’s your target audience. Last year’s ½ cent transit sales tax repeal referendum was no different. The Vote Against Repeal campaign brought the community together to oppose the repeal efforts. Four key messages drove the campaign efforts:

1. The need to invest in our infrastructure,
2. The need to insure our quality of life remains the same,
3. The need for businesses to move their goods and services across and through the area, and
4. The need to keep employees happy and able to get to and from work.

Elected officials supported the cause, led forums, and solicited community support. The public learned a lot about the transit industry-not just what it costs, but more importantly what it means to the community.

The campaign focused on key questions about community benefits. What about your employees who don’t drive? What about the disabled members of our community, unable to get to the doctor by themselves? And your child who takes the bus to get to school or to participate in after school activities? This is what transit is about; this is who benefits from transit. And, in the process, the city adds amenities and makes improvements to the whole community. English notes that Charlotte has benefited from more development, better sidewalks, added pedestrian and bike paths, improved street lighting, upgraded water and sewage lines, and much more.

The Committee of 21 is an organized committee working to develop a plan for six counties to coordinate to improve the roads in Mecklenburg and the surrounding counties. In 2009 we will be hearing about the infrastructure initiatives for Charlotte.

What can you do? English encouraged attendees to volunteer for the sake of your community, for your quality of life. The Chamber could use volunteers, funding, and advocates; join a cause for your community. For more information go to www.charlottechamber.org.



Women’s Leadership Series: 6 Critical Skills to Advance Your Career

Audio Conference – Hosted by CATS

Our thanks go out to CATS for inviting WTS to join them for an audio conference in August. “Women’s Leadership Series: 6 Critical Skills to Advance Your Career” was presented by Pamela Jett Aal, an internationally recognized presenter and author on developing leadership skills and improving workplace relationships.

“Communication is like a thread which runs through a pearl necklace. It is invisible. Yet without it, everything would fall apart,” says Pamela Jett Aal. Jett Aal notes, women need to use powerful words for building trust and strong relationships. She offered tips, tricks, and the wording to help women in the workplace. There was also time for Q&A at the end of her presentation with great questions from professional women across the United States. The one-hour audio conference covered the following topics:

- Must have skills to build your image and shape your attitude:
 - Powerful words and phrases for building trust and strong relationships.
 - Handling difficult conversations and situations with confidence.
 - How to eliminate bad habits that will hold you back.

- Removing roadblocks and creating individual action plans:
 - How to ensure that your accomplishments get noticed.
 - Techniques for effectively positioning your contributions.
 - Tips for pitching ideas? Get the support and buy-in you need.
- How to control how others perceive you and project confidence:
 - How to productively work with diverse personality types.
 - Using non-verbal communication tools to enhance your success.
 - How to talk up your accomplishments professionally and with tact.

If you would like a copy of the presentation please contact Judy Dellert-O'Keef at jdellert-okeef@ci.charlotte.nc.us. To learn more about Pamela Jett Aal and seminars available, go to www.jettct.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Business Etiquette and Networking Seminar November 6th



With so many requests for more information on business etiquette and networking skills, we are bringing Savannah Shaw back. Savannah Shaw, an etiquette and protocol consultant, certified by the Protocol School of Washington, will speak on the importance of business networking in professional settings. Included in the presentation will be some of the top "must knows" and some informative, yet entertaining, interactive exercises.

Ms. Shaw has conducted programs for small to major corporations, including Duke Energy and Bank of America. The program will be held Thursday, November 6, 2008,

from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm at the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center in room CH-14. Cost will be \$20 for members, \$30 for non-members. A registration flyer will be sent out in October. Join us for this program! For more information on Savannah Shaw, please visit www.savannahshaw.com.

SWE and WTS to Jointly Sponsor Upcoming Event

Officers of WTS Charlotte Metro and the Society of Women Engineers (SWE) Charlotte-Metrolina Section met recently to discuss ways for the organizations to work together. SWE, founded in 1950, is a not-for-profit educational and service organization. SWE empowers women to succeed and advance in engineering careers and be recognized for their life-changing contributions and achievements as engineers and leaders. The SWE Charlotte-Metrolina Section strives to be a viable support network for female engineers in the Charlotte-Metrolina area, to be visible in the community through outreach activities and corporate relations, and to be a building block for SWE's Southeast Region.

WTS and SWE share a similar mission to advance women in their professional careers – working together we can accomplish even more. For more information about SWE membership and programs, visit their Web site at <http://swe-cm.org/>. Look for an upcoming event jointly sponsored by SWE and WTS, and come out to support these two organizations and benefit from outstanding programs!

LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS:

WTS Elections

It is time to begin the process of electing new officers and board members for the WTS Charlotte Metro Chapter. If you would like to serve on our chapter's dynamic board and are looking to play a role in the growth and advancement of this great organization, step up! Nominations for the new officers are accepted from all WTS members in good standing. Take the time now to propose a candidate who will be an outstanding leader, or nominate yourself for a position where you would like to contribute.

Your nominations must be submitted by Monday, October 27, 2008. Descriptions of the officer and board member responsibilities and related criteria are included on

the next page. The Officer Nominations Committee will screen the nominees, and then the membership will have an opportunity to elect a new slate of officers and board directors beginning in early November. The Committee will prepare electronic ballots and distribute them to the chapter membership via email.

Nomination Submittal Requirements: Nominations will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on Monday, October 27, 2008. Please contact Gina Schaar at 704.665.4417 or vtschaar@pbsj.com if you're interested.

January 2009 – December 2010

WTS Charlotte Metro Officer and Directors at-Large Responsibilities

Election and Tenure: The members shall elect the officers of the WTS Charlotte Metro Chapter for a two-year term of office commencing January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2010. The election will be conducted by internet voting. Voting will begin on or about Wednesday, November 5, 2008 and ballots will be due by Wednesday, November 19, 2008. Results will be announced on or about Friday, November 21, 2008. Any member as of October 1, 2008 with the WTS Charlotte Metro Chapter shall be eligible to hold office. No member may hold more than one concurrent office. No officer shall be eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office.

Board of Directors: The Board of Directors shall consist of the officers of the WTS Charlotte Metro Chapter and the Immediate Past President and elected Directors at-Large. Each member of the Board of Directors must be a member of the WTS Charlotte Metro Chapter. The Board of Directors shall have the authority and the responsibility to direct and manage all affairs of the WTS Charlotte Metro Chapter not expressly precluded by the bylaws. The Board of Directors shall meet four times a year with special meetings called as necessary. A member of the Board of Directors may request special meetings or not less than one-tenth of members having voting rights.

President: The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Corporation and shall chair all meetings of the membership and the Board of Directors and shall have the power to appoint chairs of committees subject to the approval of the Board of Directors. The President may sign with the Secretary any deeds, mortgages, bonds, contracts,

or other such documents with which the Board of Directors has authorized to be executed, except in such cases where the by-laws or statute has expressly delegated the authority to sign to some other officer of the WTS Charlotte Metro Chapter. In general, the President shall perform all duties incident to the office of the President and such duties as may be assigned by the Board of Directors.

Vice President: The Vice President shall preside in the absence of the President or in the event the President is unable to or refuses to act. When so acting, the Vice President shall have all powers of and be subject to all restrictions upon the President. The Vice President shall perform such duties as may be assigned by the President or by the Board of Directors.

Secretary: The Secretary shall be the guardian of the WTS Charlotte Metro Chapter records. The Secretary is responsible for keeping the minutes of all the meetings of the members and the Board of Directors; for keeping a current register of the post office address of each member of the WTS Charlotte Metro Chapter; for all official correspondence and notices of the chapter in accordance with the provisions of the by-laws; and other such duties as may be assigned by the President or by the Board of Directors.

Treasurer: The Treasurer shall be responsible and have charge and custody of all funds, securities, and contracts of the WTS Charlotte Metro Chapter; receive and give receipts for money due and payable to the Chapter; deposit all such monies in the name of the Chapter as approved by the Board of Directors; prepare financial reports and an annual report as of the end of each year; and such other duties as may be assigned by the President or by the Board of Directors.

Scholarship Committee Update

Future Leaders in Transportation

WTS is committed to encouraging and investing in young women who will someday become our future leaders in transportation. Every year, over 70 scholarships are awarded through local WTS chapters across the country and four scholarships are awarded at the national conference.

The Charlotte Metro Chapter is excited about the opportunity to participate in the scholarship program this year. To help local women expand their opportunities in the transportation industry and become successful in our profession, WTS offers the following scholarships:



Advancing Women in Transportation
Charlotte Metro Chapter

In Motion

Fall 2008

Sharon D. Banks Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship

- Honors Sharon D. Banks, CEO of AC Transit in California who pioneered cultural and organizational changes aimed at motivating the public transit work force.
- Awards \$3,000 to women pursuing undergraduate studies in transportation or a related field.

Helene M. Overly Memorial Graduate Scholarship

- Honors Helene M. Overly, the first Executive Secretary of WTS.
- Awards \$6,000 to women pursuing graduate studies in transportation or a related field.

Louise Moritz Molitoris Leadership Award for Undergraduates

- Purpose of the Louise Moritz Molitoris Leadership Award is to motivate and reward women who demonstrate leadership in the transportation industry.
- Awards \$3,000 to women pursuing undergraduate studies in transportation or a related field.

President's Legacy

- Honors the current president of WTS International.
- Awards \$3,000 to women pursuing graduate studies in transportation or a related field.

Applications must be submitted through local WTS chapters. The scholarships are competitive and based on the applicant's specific transportation goals, academic record and transportation-related activities or job skills. Minority candidates are encouraged to apply. The deadline for applications is November 10, 2008.

For more information on WTS scholarships or how to apply, please contact WTS Charlotte Metro Scholarship Chair Jennifer Green at jagreen@ci.charlotte.nc.us.

Membership Drive

You still have time to win a Visa gift card worth \$150! The first WTS member to gather five new members by December 15th will be the winner. Please see the Chapter Membership Contest flyer and the WTS Benefits flyer on pages 7 and 8 for more information.

NATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS:

Chapter Leadership Training

Chapter Leadership Training is held once a year to offer training to current, new, and future chapter leaders on various topics pertaining to chapter management and leadership. The next chapter management training is scheduled for November 14 - 15, 2008 in Denver, Colorado. We are proud to have Kelly Goforth representing our chapter this year!

WTS Professional Development

The WTS Leadership Training Program is a professional development opportunity for those who have demonstrated the interest and potential to enhance their skills and advance within the industry. The program provides personal interaction with leading industry professionals who challenge the analytical and creative skills of participants as they tackle case studies and exercises dealing with complex issues of people, policy and politics.

All WTS members are encouraged to consider their personal and professional career goals and apply for this program. The program will be held February 1 - 4, 2009. The deadline to submit an application was Friday, October 10, 2008.

2009 WTS Conference Call for Abstracts

The 2009 WTS Annual Conference will be held May 20 - 23 in Seattle, Washington. The conference theme is "Transportation . . . Bringing Cities to Life." WTS seeks presentation abstracts that showcase leadership, sustainability and the future of urban communities. No papers are required – the abstracts are for conference presentations only.

For more information, go to the WTS Web site www.wtsinternational.org.

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.

Mary Clayton
Parsons Brinckerhoff

Crystal Cummings
URS Corporation

Celia Gray
Charlotte Area Transit System

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:

Mary Clayton
Parsons Brinckerhoff
Director-At-Large, WTS

Mary Clayton of Parsons Brinckerhoff recently joined the WTS Charlotte Metro Board of Directors as a Director at large. We asked Mary to share some insights about her background and women in the transportation industry.



1. *Can you provide a brief description about what you do?* As a consultant and manager, I am currently working as a senior transportation planner for Parsons Brinckerhoff, and a Local Business Executive, handling Charlotte and South Carolina. This includes offices in Columbia and Charleston. My areas of specialty include transportation demand management (TDM) and congestion management. Occasionally, I am able to do public involvement and meeting facilitation which are truly a great deal of fun..... I oversee the development of people, projects, and clients.
2. *How long have you worked in the transportation industry?* It seems like I have worked in this field most of my life. And I really love it.
3. *What do you like most about your job?* I enjoy the variety of what I do. Hardly any day is the same. Some days

I am on a plane, some days I am in Charlotte. Some days I may be working with people who are trying to solve a staggered work hours problem in Dubai. It is challenging.

4. *How long have you been a member of WTS?* Hmm. I think it has been about 5 years.
5. *What do you think are some of the challenges facing women in transportation?* Transportation is such a growth industry. The opportunities are endless, and we simply need to recognize all of the various “doors” that are open for us. There are training and mentoring mechanisms that we should offer to each other and be sure that we continue to support each other’s goals and various potential. The industry is wide-open.
6. *What are some of the achievements you’ve seen for women in transportation?* Women make great leaders. We have them in various places now in the industry. All of our programs offer “leadership” opportunities, and we have great forms of achievement and should continue to pursue this. There is nothing that we cannot do. No matter what your political “leanings” may be, it is important to strive for a strong position within your community in transportation --various forms of advocacy and support. I have been lucky enough to work alongside of people like Senator Elizabeth Dole, former Secretary of Transportation, and Ann Koby, the President of WTS. Margaret Kluttz, the former Mayor of Salisbury, NC, and a Board member of NCDOT, Janet D’Ignazio, a former Deputy Secretary of NCDOT. There are too many names to mention - -but we are blessed to have these women, and more, among us.
7. *What would you like to share about your personal interests and goals?* I am a “newspaper hound”, and enjoy reading and walking. I have a great family with two terrific kids (a son and a daughter). Personally, I always thought I would write a book some day, and I may make it yet -- it will not be about transportation. I am an urban geographer and have traveled to almost all of our 50 states, and many of the great cities to study the “urban fabric”; it is one of my hobbies.

Women's
Transportation Seminar
Charlotte Metro Chapter



CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP CONTEST

The first WTS Charlotte Metro Chapter member to gather
five **NEW** members by December 15, 2008
will receive a \$150 Visa Gift Card!!!



Member's Name _____

New Member's Name and Join Date:

New Member's Name and Join Date:

New Member's Name and Join Date:

New Member's Name and Join Date:

New Member's Name and Join Date:

WTS Charlotte Metro members in good standing are eligible. Board members not eligible.

★ See attached "WTS Benefits" or visit our website at wtsinternational.org

★ Bring your transportation friends and colleagues to WTS meetings

★ WTS Charlotte Metro has great speakers and events planned

Complete by December 15, 2008 and fax or email to:
Brock LaForty, Membership Chair
704-372-3393
Brock.LaForty@stvinc.com

WTS BENEFITS

WTS provides many opportunities for members (both women and men) to access high level transportation professionals, network with others in the field, as well as professional development opportunities such as Chapter Management training, Eno seat, Annual Conference, Policy Seminar and Leadership initiative. WTS is an international professional organization well-known for its role advancing women in the transportation industry. It is a highly regarded organization for providing outstanding programs and events for professionals in all areas of the transportation industry.

The current benefits of WTS are listed below by the groups that accrue them.

Benefits to Chapters

- High quality programs
- Chapter Newsletter
- Access to local and national leaders
- Website and all of its resources
- Provide annual scholarship opportunities for local students

Benefits to Chapter Leaders

- Annual Chapter Management Training
- Opportunities to serve on task forces to directly impact WTS policy
- Leadership meeting at the Annual Conference

Benefits to Members Active at the Chapter and International Level

- Sharpening leadership, professional, and organizational skills
- Access to Transportation Leaders
- Development of communication skills both written as well as public speaking

Benefits to Individual Members

- WTS/PB Eno Seat
- Leadership Training
- Annual Conference
- Policy Seminar
- Access to Transportation Leaders
- Networking/build relationships with members across modes nationally
- Personalized assistance by International Professional staff
- Professional organization working to advance women in the industry
- Reduced rates for chapter programs
- Access to members-only events
- Personal and professional growth



Advancing Women in Transportation
Charlotte Metro Chapter

**Working to create new
opportunities and advance
the careers of
women in transportation.**





Advancing Women in Transportation
Charlotte Metro Chapter

In Motion

Fall 2008

Board of Directors/Committee Chairs 2007-2008

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*Kim Bereis, AICP
PBS&J*

Director-At-Large

*Mary Clayton
Parsons Brinckerhoff*

Vice-President

*Kelly Goforth
Charlotte Area Transit System*

Treasurer

*Frances Gallagher
Capital Management and Engineering*

Secretary

*Claire Brinkley
Kimley-Horn & Associates*

Programs

VACANT

Membership

*Brock LaForty
STV/Ralph Whitehead Associates*

Media Relations

*Paige Yandle
PBS&J*

Scholarship

*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



Parsons Brinckerhoff



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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Judy Dellert-O'Keef

Co-Chair

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Paige Yandle

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Thank you to our newsletter contributors for keeping us *In Motion* this quarter:

Kim Bereis, Judy Dellert-O'Keef, Jennifer Green, and Kelly Goforth.