

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Charlotte Metro Members and Friends of WTS:

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2008! Since the Fall newsletter, we closed out 2007 with a members-only holiday luncheon, a January program that highlighted alternative transportation funding measures used by our neighbors in South Carolina, and

a networking/social event in February.

Also, inside is information on our upcoming programs, including a non-technical program in March. A little later in the spring we'll also hear from CATS' new leadership, as we were thrilled that Keith Parker is able to fit us into his very busy schedule so soon! We will plan another networking/social event for April, so please plan to join us as we enjoy the warmer weather that is upon us.

One initiative that the board is planning to undertake in the near future is a retreat for a "program planning meeting" to enhance and refine our programs calendar for the year. It is our top priority to provide and engage our members in a broad transportation spectrum. Please do not hesitate to let us who and what you want to hear about in the future.

Now that our chapter has been established for nearly a year, other initiatives on our radar this year include increasing outreach to area students and getting our chapter scholarship program moving forward. If you have any experience or ideas for our chapter scholarship initiatives, please contact our Scholarship Committee Chair. I'm sure Jennifer will welcome the help and fresh ideas!

Finally, I would like to remind everyone that the WTS International Annual Conference will be held in Atlanta this year on May 14-16. This year's theme is "Transportation Crossroads". If you can only attend one conference this year, this should be the one! WTS (and the Atlanta chapter!) will no doubt deliver an outstanding event. Hope to see you there!

See ya soon!

Kim Bereis

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PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

Capital Projects Sales Tax Programs for Counties

How do you put 99 cents of every tax dollar on a project you choose? By taking advantage of a capital projects sales tax program in your county. At our January program, Myron George of Capital Management & Engineering (CME) in Rock Hill explained how beneficial this type of program can be.



York County in South Carolina currently has a one cent sales tax program known as *Pennies for Progress*. This program is for transportation improvements and is an excellent example of what can be accomplished with the "penny":



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- 6 school access improvements
- 340 lane miles of road improvements
- 170 intersections improved
- 308 gravel roads paved (115 miles)
- 65 miles of bikeways constructed
- 40 mile multilane connector between I-77 and I-85

Growing counties are looking for ways to alleviate traffic congestion, address safety problems and deal with expected growth in the future. Infrastructure improvements are needed, but there is not enough funding to address the needs. A capital projects sales tax program can go a long way in addressing these needs, especially since sales tax funding can be leveraged to obtain matching funds. The tax is only collected for a limited number of years, and counties are able to help themselves rather than depending on assistance from state or federal funding. What a difference the “penny” makes!



WTS Celebrates the Holidays

Members enjoyed getting together and enjoying a holiday feast at Cantina 1511 restaurant for the WTS Holiday lunch on December 19. Gift bags and prizes added to the festivities. Thanks to STV/Ralph Whitehead Associates, Capital Management and Engineering, Charlotte Area Transit System, and PBS&J for their donations. Two

special awards were presented: Frances Gallagher received a recognition award for “Most Treasured Member”, for agreeing to step in as our Treasurer, and Vicki Eddleman was recognized as our “Most Driven Member,” for her dedication and efforts in traveling from Salisbury to attend WTS events! Congratulations Frances and Vicki!



Food Drive a Success!

Thanks to all members who participated in the Food Drive for the Second Harvest Food Bank, as part of our Holiday Lunch. We collected 71 pounds of food, as well as a cash donation. With these donations, we provided over 90 meals for needy families in our community!

Second Harvest
FOOD BANK
of Metrolina



February Social Event

On Tuesday, February 26th, WTS Charlotte Metro hosted an after-hours social and networking event at Woods on South, formerly known as South End Brewery. Charlotte area transportation professionals turned out for an opportunity to meet and talk with other transportation professionals from around the area. Members came from Uptown, Ballantyne, Huntersville, and as far away as



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Salisbury. WTS provided free appetizers from Woods on South delicious new menu. We hope to see all of you at the next WTS social!



CHAPTER EVENTS

March Meeting: Eve White, Editor, *Charlotte Parent* magazine, “Work/Life Balance.” March 18th, 12 pm, at the Charlotte Mecklenburg Government Center.

May Meeting: Keith Parker, CEO, Charlotte Area Transit System. May 22nd, 12 pm, location to be decided.

NATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

This year’s WTS Annual Conference, appropriately titled “Transportation Crossroads,” is being held in Atlanta, GA, May 14-16, 2008. With sessions such as “States at a Crossroads: Setting New Directions for Transportation,” “Crossing New Thresholds: Innovative Pricing Strategies for Transportation,” “Transit at a Crossroads: Meeting New Challenges,” and “Transit’s Answer to Climate Change,” WTS is right on track with the most current challenges facing the transportation industry. During each session, you can attend a session in one of three areas: environmental, leadership, or national transportation issues.



Past WTS scholarship recipients are coming to present “The Face of Transportation’s Future.” They will discuss how to bring the next generation of women into the transportation industry, including what it takes to succeed. With something for everyone, visit www.wtsinternational.org for more information.

LOCAL HIGHLIGHTS:

Help Wanted

Are you looking for a way to get more involved in WTS? The WTS Charlotte Metro chapter needs 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, with the assistance and support of our Board. The Website Chair is responsible for update and maintaining our chapter website, which is part of the WTS International website www.wtsinternational.org. Please contact Kim Bereis at kdbereis@pbsj.com if you are interested.

WTS Scholarship Program

WTS is an international organization that relies on its chapters to function and thrive. Each chapter of dedicated transportation professionals offers a unique composition, perspective, and philosophy. Yet we all bond together with a single goal – the advancement of women in the transportation industry. This goal is realized through the WTS scholarship program.

WTS offers scholarships to women at both the graduate and undergraduate level. Scholarships are awarded to women pursuing a career in transportation or related fields. Applications are submitted through the local chapter. Scholarships are competitive and evaluated based on each applicant’s:

- specific transportation goals
- academic record
- transportation-related activities
- job skills

As a new chapter, we wish to get our scholarship program moving forward. If you are interested in being a part of



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the Charlotte Metro Chapter's scholarship program, please contact Jennifer Green, our scholarship chairperson, at jagreen@ci.charlotte.nc.us.

Revised By-laws

On January 14th, 2008, the Charlotte Metro Chapter adopted revised bylaws. The International Board of Directors asked all chapters to revise their chapter by-laws for consistency with the international by-laws.

NEW CHAPTER MEMBERS

WTS Charlotte Metro welcomes our new members to the organization. We are now at 27 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.

Jamie Blackwell

Stantec

Candice Crago

Mulkey Engineers & Consultants

Heather Harkenrider

Mulkey Engineers & Consultants

Jeanne Richter

LPA Group

Yolande Stover

RS&H

Cindy Taylor

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

Brock LaForty, AICP, is the Membership Chairman for the WTS Charlotte Metro Chapter. Brock decided to join WTS to continue and grow his involvement in professional societies in the transportation field. As Membership Chair, Brock hopes to see the chapter meet their goal of 30 members in the first year and then continue to grow membership thereafter.



Brock is a Project Manager and Senior Transportation Planner for STV/Ralph Whitehead Associates in their Charlotte Office. He also serves as Planning Group Leader, overseeing a 6-person group that leads the planning and traffic analysis for all of the firm's transportation projects.

As a native of New York, Brock started his career with the Syracuse Metropolitan Transportation Council. He has also worked for Sear Brown and URS. Brock joined STV/RWA in 2002 as the firm's first certified planner, and has climbed the ranks to his current position.

Brock's skills include NEPA planning documents, feasibility studies, traffic studies/modeling, and public involvement activities. He is somewhat unique in that his skills include freight rail, mass transit, (bus and rail), and highway transportation systems. Brock is currently serving as Lead Planner for the \$750 million CATS Northeast Corridor light rail project, the largest single transportation public works endeavor in the history of North Carolina.



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Media Relations
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PBS&J

Scholarship
Jennifer Green
Charlotte Area Transit System

Newsletter
Kelly Goforth
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, Frances Gallagher, and Kelly Goforth.