

Kathy McClure Uses Firm Resolve to Advance Nationwide Infrastructure Projects



Kathy Simons (WTS-LA Chapter President), Photos © John Livzey, 2017

One thing separates a plan from a dream—hard work. But in today's highly competitive business world, sometimes even hard work isn't enough. To be truly successful, you must also be tactical, strategic, and unrelenting in your pursuit of excellence. Nothing better describes Kathy McClure and her career. President and owner of LKG-CMC, Inc., and newly inaugurated WTS-LA president, she has helped make LKG-CMC one of the most successful comprehensive configuration management/document control/project controls consultants in the industry. Surprisingly, though, Ms. McClure didn't initially seek to lead the firm.

"I joined LKG in 1992, in South Florida. And my main goal was to expand the firm's presence in the South Florida region. I was particularly focused on the Miami area and marketing efforts in the Southeast US. But after 12 years as vice president of the South Florida region, I moved to corporate headquarters in Glendale. And the rest, as they say, is history."

And a glorious history it is. Celebrating its 30th anniversary, LKG-CMC has expanded its mandate considerably under her direction. One of the nation's top transit configuration management/document control/project controls providers, LKG-CMC now vies as a prime on signature projects, as well as a key subconsultant partner on others. Respected and sought after nationwide, LKG-CMC is also very much a California firm with an outstanding client roster that includes the California High-Speed Rail Authority, Los Angeles World Airports, and Metro, to name a few. It is also one of the most sought-after



DBE/WBE/SBE firms in the US, working on high-profile projects throughout the nation. And Ms. McClure used her exceptional organizational skills and business acumen to make it so. Without question, her experience in Florida was seminal. But her time there also led to another important fixture in her career.

"My first exposure to WTS was in the 1980s in South Florida. The South Florida chapter was facing a lot of challenges. A tri-county chapter, WTS South Florida faced a lot of problems. Membership was down.

There were very few quality programs. Things were not going well. WTS International reached out to the chapter and offered to provide a mentor, Natalie Cornell. And that was the start of the turnaround. I became Programs chair and within four to six weeks, they said that they needed a new president. So, I went from Programs to the presidency of the chapter in a very short time. It was a baptism of fire, but it was a great way to learn what makes a chapter successful.

“We conducted quite a bit of outreach. We set up meaningful programs. And we generated interest in the chapter. More and more women were willing to work with us. Three years later, we won an award for increasing membership 300%. Our lunch programs went from attracting 10-15 people to hosting more than 100 people, even though our programs switched from county to county each month. So, we gained critical exposure and were able to meet folks within the transportation industry. Most important of all, we provided access for our members and for the transportation community in the tri-county Florida region that the chapter served. Those were very profound lessons for me.”

So, with all of that knowledge and experience in hand, what does Ms. McClure see for her tenure leading WTS-LA?

“WTS-LA is a very successful chapter, certainly one of the most successful in WTS. Obviously, I want to continue to do what works and exploit that for the good of the chapter. But there are things that we could be doing better. So, we’re going to look at everything from the perspective of how things can improve. But there are two things that will be a primary focus for me from the start: *workforce development* and *access*. WTS and WTS-LA’s mission hinges on developing women to advance in the transportation industry. So, that is critical. And one of the best ways to help women advance once they’re prepared is to provide them with unparalleled access. So, again, while everything is on the table, those will be two elements that we will address from the start to help ensure that WTS-LA helps its members advance in the transportation industry.”