



> New Jersey

Advancing women
Advancing transportation

THE JERSEY CONNECTION

Q1 2021 • Issue #1

IN THIS ISSUE

- President's Message
- Event Recaps
- Membership Corner
- 2021 Mentoring Program
- Meet WTS NJ Leadership
- Chapter Champion
- Corporate Sponsorship Opportunities

WE ARE WTS!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Journey to Ratification and What to Expect in the New Year!



We did it! We become so others will become. On November 18, 2020, the Women's Transportation Seminar of New Jersey (WTS NJ) became officially ratified as the 63rd professional chapter and joined the team of over 8,500 WTS International members. We have the privilege of counting ourselves among a membership focused on promoting the advancement of women in the transportation industry – all careers, all levels.

This effort began over two years ago, with the vision and discussions towards forming a NJ chapter - led by Commissioner Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti, the woman overseeing the public transportation industry for the State of New Jersey. Meetings were held on what resources were available towards the contribution of professional development, mentoring, networking, sponsorship and partnership through civic engagement towards the advancement of women.

With the additional efforts of other dedicated women leaders in the industry, the vision grew from discussions with a few to the reality of an official chapter membership over 60 strong. The membership has already hit the ground running with a group of motivated chapter leaders – consisting of a nine-member Board of Directors (four Officers and five Directors-at-Large) and 13 Committee Leaders (six committee Chairs and seven Vice Chairs). The Board and Committees, along with the associated leaders, are listed on page 4. Please join me in congratulating the Chapter on a vision realized and extending a special thanks to Beth DeAngelo of WSP (Nominations

Committee Chair), Carol Rose of STV, Flora Castillo of Pivot Strategies and Polina Knaster of AGES (NJ Regional Council Representative) for guidance in forming the Chapter leadership and by-laws. The formation of a chapter involves the following:

- ✓ Interest from State Leadership (Thank you to Commissioner Gutierrez-Scaccetti)
- ✓ List of 20 members (or more) who have joined
- ✓ List of Officers (President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary) appointed
- ✓ Certification Process – Tax ID number, State Incorporation Certificate, bylaws
- ✓ **RATIFIED**

The Chapter has been busy operating since April, while awaiting official ratification. I hope you have had an opportunity to take part in some of our virtual events. We have convened a Conversation with the Commissioner, in partnership with ACEC-NJ; several monthly mixers, including celebrations of Women's Day and Hispanic Heritage Month; two panels on Addressing Systemic Racism in the Transportation Industry, a national (AASHTO) and State (NJ TransAction) discussion; an Agencies' Capital Programs Discussion with NJ Department of Transportation (NJDOT), NJ TRANSIT, NJ Turnpike, and South Jersey Transportation Authority (SJTA) at NJ TransAction; Transportation YOU events; Career Conversations with Monica Slater-Stokes of United Airlines; and a "Women Who Rule the Rails" panel. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

We also had our virtual Holiday "White Elephant Gift Exchange." We are just getting warmed up! In the first two quarters of 2021, we will kick-off our first Annual Meeting. Also, in February, we will host Open Houses for Membership and Mentorship. Student events, Transportation YOU and college outreach (we are looking for internship and recruitment partners!), will continue as well as various Mixers. This year, we will be showcasing founding Corporate Partners. The Programs Committee will host Lunch and Learns and Career Conversations events. In May, WTS-NJ will partner with ACEC-NJ on another panel at Forsgate Country Club. In the Spring, we will host the Inaugural event, hopefully in-person if health precautions allow. All upcoming events can be found at: Upcoming Events|WTS (wtsinternational.org) Stay tuned, and let us know how we can serve you and your organization. Our email address is:

wtsnewjersey@gmail.com.

Beyond the obvious, 2020 has certainly been a year to remember. As the year closes, we celebrate what we have become and what is yet to come. We thank you all for contributing to an organization where women learn from others, and follow in their footsteps. Through our efforts, we continue to help WTS achieve its mission of Advancing Women and Advancing Transportation. Thank you for joining WTS NJ on our journey. Happy New Year!

Zenobia L. Fields, President

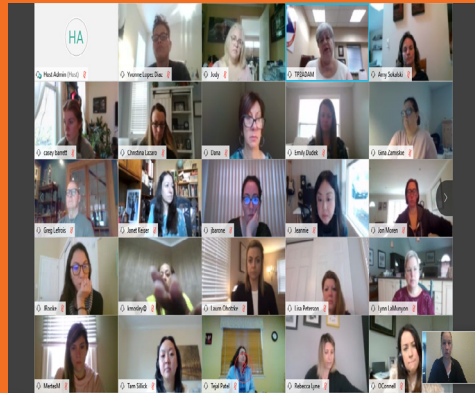
2019-2020 EVENTS RECAP

WTS NJ Holiday Networking Event

As our first event as an upcoming chapter, the ladies of WTS NJ joined together at Harvest Moon in New Brunswick, NJ for a networking reception to spread holiday cheer. Networking, learning about the new chapter, and meeting new members was a part of the experience. Commissioner Gutierrez-Scaccetti, who was a major advocate for the NJ Chapter, was present, sharing her insights to all in attendance.



**Picture was taken pre-COVID 19 pandemic



August and September Virtual Mixers

Both our August and September virtual mixers celebrated Women's Equality Day and Hispanic Heritage Month respectively with themed trivia games. Participants then enjoyed lively and engaging networking sessions within breakout rooms that hosted smaller groups.

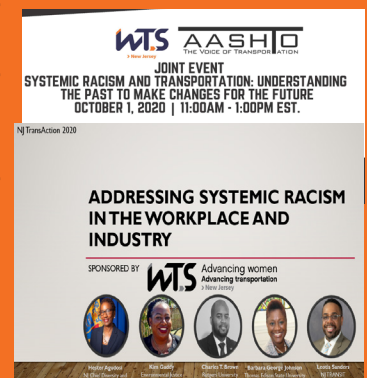
ACEC NJ Joint Event Coffee with the Commissioner

Our first COVID virtual event, held jointly with ACEC, featured Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti, NJDOT Commissioner, who held an intimate question and answer session and shared her advice and experiences on how to be comfortable in a leadership role.



Addressing Systemic Racism in the Workplace and Industry

This panel presented public, private, non-profit, advocacy and academic perspectives. Perspectives include the State's Chief Diversity Officer to moderate and representatives from Environmental Justice Advocacy Groups, NJ TRANSIT, Rutgers, and Urban Mayors Association. Thank you to the following who made this happen. Moderator: Hester Agudosi, NJ Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer; Speakers: Kim Gaddy, Environmental Justice Organizer, Clean Water Action of New Jersey; Charles T. Brown, Adjunct Professor, Rutgers University; Barbara George Johnson, Executive Director, Watson Institute and Urban Mayors Association, Thomas Edison State University; Leotis Sanders, Chief, Office of Civil Rights and Diversity & Inclusion, NJ TRANSIT.





WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

*as of 1/5/2021

Sandra Acuna Pena	Tiffany Lim
Kristen Ahlfeld	Anqi Liu
Rabia Ahmed	Gabrielle Maggio
Olya Arakhouskaya	Stephen McDonagh
Marwa Ayad	Melissa Mertes
Malini Balaguru	Mojgan Mohtashami
Sutapa Bandyopadhyay	Nadereh Moini
Kruti Barot	Kyrra Mosley
Carolyn Brazier	Brianna Noblin
Rosetta Bussie	Patricia Ott
Leticia Caviness	Janki Patel
Pam Cruz	Hina Patel
Jeannine Dash	Dipali Patel
Ma'at Engram	Lisa Peterson
Theresa Fallon	Chelsea Ramos
Jihane A. Fazio	Helene Roberts
Zenobia Fields	Jacqueline Rooke
Rylan Grabis	Falecia Rowe
Lillian Grauman	Tam Sillick
Janella Guillermo	Myrna Sirleaf
Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti	La'Tisha Smith
Raishea Haines	Kimberly Smith
Suzanne Hall	Anusree Sreekumar
Deborah Hartman	Sarah Steib
Elaine Hughes	Joanne Stokes
Joanne Iddon	Joseph Strafaci
Aisha Khadbai	Ana Tatoris
Asrah Khadr	Kara Turiano
Megan Kilcoyne	Deidra Valianti
Jeannie Kwon	Melissa VanDoren
Pallavi Lal	Donna Wilser
Lynn LaMunyon	Michael Wright
Thanh Le	Gina Zamiskie

2019-2020 EVENTS RECAP CONTINUED

Women Who Rule the Rails

This panel showcased several women thriving in the transportation industry, specifically advancing in careers related to rail. In addition to career perspectives from operations, planning, engineering and administration, the conversation was represented from four impactful agencies - NJ TRANSIT, Amtrak, PANYNJ and SEPTA. Thank you to our panelists for being a part of the event: Moderator; Zenobia Fields, Senior Policy & Program Advisor, NJDOT. Speaker; Lisa Fanning, Deputy General Manager Rail, NJ TRANSIT; Petra Messick, Director of Planning for Gateway, Amtrak; Donna Glaesener, Operations Superintendent, PATH; Kate O'Connor, Chief Engineer, SEPTA.

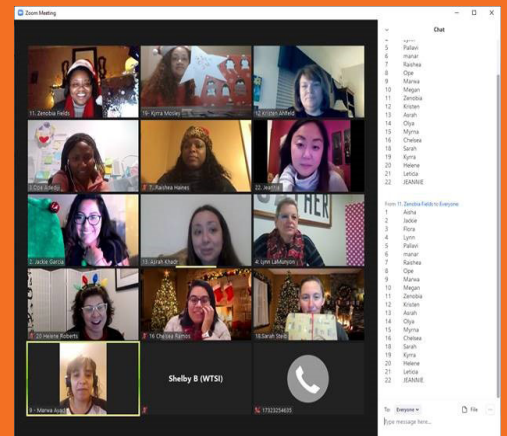


Kick Off Event for the Career Conversations Series

WTS kicked off its Career Conversations Series in October where participants enjoyed a career conversation with Monica Slater Stokes, Managing Director of Corporate and Government Affairs with United Airlines. The conversation was led by Chapter President, Zenobia Fields who also facilitated a Q&A with the audience. The audience had an opportunity to learn how Monica has managed an exciting career and how it's developed over time.

Holiday Virtual Monthly Mixer

On December 16, we hosted our interactive Holiday Virtual Monthly Mixer. This was a members-only event which featured a white elephant gift exchange, shared on camera during the event, and the gifts were mailed to the recipient after the event. A wonderful way to kick off the holiday season in 2020!



2021 Mentoring Program

WTS New Jersey is excited to introduce our 2021 Mentoring Program! Through this program, select candidates will be paired with industry leaders from diverse career paths who will provide them with guidance and support as they navigate their careers. The Mentoring Program will host a series of six meetings throughout the year, where participants will gain the knowledge and confidence necessary to help empower themselves as future leaders within the industry. For more information visit our [Mentoring Program Page](#).

FEBRUARY

10TH- OPEN HOUSE 5:30-7:00PM

24TH- APPLICATIONS DUE

MARCH

10TH- SPEED MATCH 5:30-7:00PM

APRIL

14TH- 1ST MEETING 5:30-7PM

SEPTEMBER

8TH- GRADUATION

SAVE THE DATE!





> New Jersey

Advancing women
Advancing transportation

Meet WTS NJ Leadership

- 1. PRESIDENT-** Zenobia Fields, NJDOT
- 2. VICE PRESIDENT-** Jeannie Kwon, NJ TRANSIT
- 3. SECRETARY-** Tam Sillick, WSP
- 4. TREASURER-** Leticia Caviness, PANYNJ

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

- 5. Jihane Fazio, AECOM
- 6. Raishea Haines, PATH
- 7. Pallavi Lal, HATCH LTK
- 8. Lynn LaMunyon, Ocean County, NJ
- 9. Sarah Steib, French & Parrello

NJ REGIONAL COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

- 10. Polina Knaster, AGES Inc.

PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

- 11. Asrah Khadr- Opal Trail (CHAIR)
- 12. Ope Adediji, HNTB (VICE CHAIR- PROGRAMS)
- 13. Olya Arakhouskaya, NJ TRANSIT (VICE CHAIR- DIVERSITY & INCLUSION)

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

- 14. Kyrra Mosley, Jacobs (CHAIR)
- 15. Asrah Khadr, Area Engineering (VICE CHAIR)

CORPORATE PARTNERS COMMITTEE

- 16. Kristen Ahlfeld, Fitzgerald & Halliday (CHAIR)

MENTORING COMMITTEE

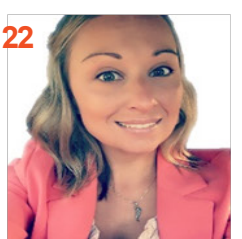
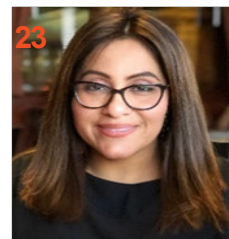
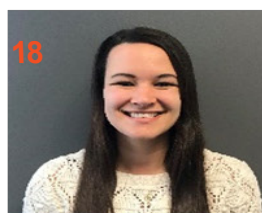
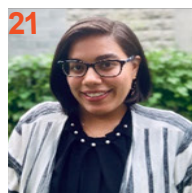
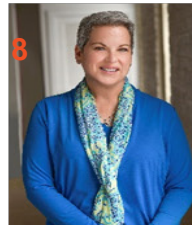
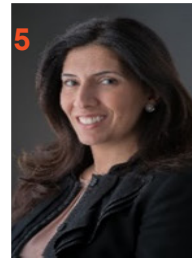
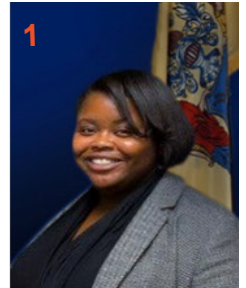
- 17. Tara Bencivenga, WSP (CHAIR)
- 18. Megan Kilcoyne, Hardesty & Hanover (VICE CHAIR)

STUDENT COMMITTEE

- 19. Sutapa Bandyopadhyay, FHWA (CHAIR)
- 20. Carolyn Brazier, Dewberry (VICE CHAIR- TRANSPORTATION YOU)
- 21. Chelsea Ramos, NJ TRANSIT (VICE CHAIR- COLLEGE OUTREACH)

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

- 22. Falecia Rowe, The Naik Group (CHAIR)
- 23. Jacqueline Garcia, JMT (VICE CHAIR)



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WTS NJ Holiday Networking Event
Pre-Covid 19 Pandemic



**CHAPTER CHAMPION..
COULD BE YOU!**

Interested in Becoming a Chapter Champion?

Are you energetic and eager to fully engage with the WTS NJ Chapter? Are you willing to contribute to the advancement of women in the transportation industry and play an important role in the WTS NJ growth?

Chapter Champions have the benefit of acting as an ambassador for our organization and finding out about our events early on. Responsibilities include assisting our committee as the key liaison whom we would contact for membership purposes. Details are forthcoming, stay tuned.

In addition, we are seeking volunteers for our membership committee to help make our events a success. This is a great opportunity for you to become involved in the membership committee and become a part of the team! If interested please contact Akhabdai@areaengineering.net.



THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS!



NJ TRANSIT
The Way To Go.



**PORT AUTHORITY
NY NJ**
AIR LAND RAIL SEA

AECOM



PATH

HATCH LTK

Positive Change for the Next Century



FPA
FRENCH & PARRELLO
ASSOCIATES



American Geotechnical &
Environmental Services, Inc.



HNTB

Jacobs

ARE
ENGINEERING, INC.



Innovative Planning
BETTER COMMUNITIES

HH Hardesty
& Hanover
engineering that moves you



Naik
GROUP



INTERESTED IN BECOMING A 2021 CORPORATE SPONSOR?

We are excited to launch our Corporate Partners campaign for 2021! Click [here](#) for the application. If you need more information or are interested in becoming a member of our Corporate Partners Committee, please contact Kristen Ahlfeld (kahlfeld@fhiplan.com), Corporate Partners Committee Chair, to learn more. We look forward to hearing from you!

GET INVOLVED