



Advancing Women in Transportation
Washington, DC Chapter

2008

Annual Report

2008 Corporate Members

2008 Board Members

President's Message

Committee Reports

2008 Holiday Party and Awards Ceremony

2008 Treasurer's Report

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American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO)

American Public Transportation Association (APTA)

Citizant (formerly Cairo Corp)

District DOT

ENSCO

HDR Engineering, Inc.

Holland + Knight, Jacobs Civil Inc, PBS&J, Railway Supply Institute, Inc (RSI)

WTS MISSION

Our mission is the success of women in transportation.

WTS-DC Diversity Statement

WTS-DC strongly supports increasing diversity in our membership, activities, and leadership positions. WTS-DC pursues greater participation of people from varying backgrounds and supports recruitment, retention and advancement of these individuals in our membership and in the transportation profession.

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Melinda Pagliarello

VICE PRESIDENT

Kay Ryder

TREASURER

Prajakta Chitre

SECRETARY

Erin Mclaughlin

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Jennifer Mitchell

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Diversity Committee Co-Chairs: Tonya Holland, Tracee Strum-Gilliam

Legislative Co-Chairs: Anja Graves, Anne Stubbs

Membership: Michele Jacobson

Professional Development: Courtney Kulck

Newsletter and Communications: Maggie Picard

Programs: Kelly Bobek, Jessica Juriga

Recognitions Co-Chairs: Tonya Holland, Tracee Strum-Gilliam

Scholarship: Erin Morrow

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2008 Board Members

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Dear WTS-DC Members,

2008 was an especially busy year for transportation here in DC. On the local level, we've seen the substantial completion of the Springfield interchange and the Woodrow Wilson Bridge projects in Virginia; the start (and completion) of the South Capitol Street bridge reconstruction in DC; the start of the Inter-County Connector in Maryland, and the inception of HOT Lanes in Virginia. Ridership on Metro reached all time highs, even as the WMATA board enacted fare increases and dealt with the operational needs of the 40-year old system. Finally, jurisdictions across the region continued to identify innovative ways to provide access and mobility to their residents, even with declining resources available to make new capital investments.

On the national front, the tragic collapse of a major bridge in Minneapolis brought renewed focus to the challenges we face in maintaining our highway and bridge infrastructure. The industry began to look ahead to the reauthorization of the surface transportation legislation, currently scheduled to take place in 2009. The aviation industry faces a significant milestone with reauthorization of the nation's primary aviation legislation, which will (hopefully) bring some conclusion to the debate over how the nation's aviation infrastructure should be funded. And transportation users around the country – both passengers and freight providers – dealt with the reality of increasing fuel prices by re-examining their transportation modes and choices.

Looking back on the activities of the WTS-DC Chapter for 2008, I'm pleased to identify the significant accomplishments of the WTS-DC board and our volunteers, particularly in regard to our program offerings, and enhancing our scholarship fund.

Programs: One of our primary goals was to expand the diversity of our program offerings to provide more value to our members. The report below describes over a dozen programs held during the year, including luncheon programs, breakfast briefings, receptions, networking happy hours, and professional development seminars. We addressed a range of topics, ranging from the federal budget, FAA reauthorization, public-private partnerships, and the new Nationals ballpark. WTS members got up close and personal with some of the region's top leaders, including the Administrator of the FAA, the General Manager of WMATA, the Director of DC's Department of Transportation, and the Deputy Administrator of the FTA. And last, but certainly not least, we were honored to co-host a luncheon event with the Secretary of Transportation, Mary Peters. It's a testament to the high regard that our leaders have for WTS, and in particular, the members of the WTS-DC chapter, that they participate so actively in our programs and events.

Scholarship Fund: 2008 was a banner year in our ability to raise funds to grant scholarships to outstanding students. Each year, WTS raises money for the WTS-DC Scholarship Fund during our annual holiday party and silent auction. As described below, we raised over \$3,000 from the 2008 silent auction, plus over \$1,800 in direct donations. In March, we also raised over \$4,000 at the welcome reception for John Catoe of WMATA, which we co-sponsored with the DC chapter of the Council of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO). The funds raised at both events provided a significant boost for the scholarship fund, which will allow us to assist even more outstanding young women as they pursue their educations.

As WTS-DC looks forward, we have a number of things to be excited about in 2008 and beyond. We're pleased many new volunteers have joined us in board and committee positions, which helps us to provide even more services to our members. We can look forward to the dynamic changes that come about in DC with every election cycle, including new opportunities to support political appointments for women to key administration positions. And finally, we will begin preparations for the 2010 WTS International Conference, which we will be held here in Washington, DC.

Thank you for your support in 2008 and your continued support of WTS-DC in the coming years!

Melinda Pagliarello

PROGRAMS

2008 was an active and successful year for Chapter programs, bringing several top-notch presentations to WTS members and guests. Using results from the member survey done in early 2008, the Chapter offered a variety of topics, program types, and times to best accommodate attendees. This resulted in robust attendance, energetic discussions, and generous sponsorship from both the public and private sector.

The Chapter continues to appreciate the support of our program sponsors, which allow us to offer high quality and timely events. Sponsors made several notable programs possible, such as Irving Yass's presentation on London transport, Congressman Jim Oberstar's members-only program, and the Holiday Party.

Program co-chairs squared away the program planning logistics with the venues, speakers, and sponsors and managed advanced registration and on-site check-in.

February: Barbara LaRock, a professional career coach, made a lunchtime presentation to chapter members about **Time Management**. This was the first of **three** 2008 professional development programs, which offered members career guidance in a small-group, informal setting.

April: Blank Rome Government Relations, LLC hosted and sponsored a professional development seminar titled **Lobbying for the Non-Lobbyist**. Paul Honigberg and Eric Wang discussed the new rules governing lobbying including registration, gift and travel rules, and earmarks.

We also held our annual legislative panel in April. This event, titled **Legislative Program Focusing on Intermodalism** included the following panelists:

- Janet Kavinoky, Director of Transportation Infrastructure, US Chamber of Commerce
- Janet Oakley, Director of Policy and Government Relations, AASHTO
- Sarah Kline, Counsel, Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee
- Jennifer Macdonald, Assistant Vice President, Government Affairs, Association of American Railroads,
- Leslie Blakey, Principal, Blakey & Agnew

The diverse panelists discussed what intermodalism means for their organization. PBS&J sponsored this program.

May: Phyllis Scheinberg was the Assistant Secretary for Budget and Programs CFO at the U.S. Department of Transportation. She hosted a members-only informal **Breakfast Conversation on Challenges Facing Transportation Decision-Makers**. CONEG Policy Research Center, Inc. sponsored and hosted this rewarding exchange.

In May, we also went on a site visit to the Washington Dulles International Airport. The **Dulles Airport Construction Tour** gave chapter members a behind-the-scenes look at the airport's capital improvement program and the Aerolink People Mover system currently under construction. The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority hosted this event.

July: Barbara LaRock made a lunchtime presentation to chapter members titled **Negotiating Salary and Promotions: How to get what you want in the work place**. This was the third of three professional development programs this year.

July was a busy month for programs. We also held one of our most exciting events of the year, **A Conversation with Congressman James L. Oberstar**. This exclusive event offered a unique chance to hear from the Chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure at the Rayburn House Office Building.

Finally, we held our annual diversity luncheon in late July. The luncheon focused on the Americans with Disabilities Act and issues related to transportation. This event was held at Clyde's in Gallery Place and was sponsored by Parsons Brinckerhoff and xxx. The speakers are discussed in the Diversity section of this report.

August: We held an evening reception honoring WTS-DC member Elaine Dezenski on her appointment as the WTS International President. Elaine is also the Managing Director of the Global Security Initiative for INTERPOL. This event raised money for the WTS-DC Scholarship Fund. Hatch Mott MacDonald was the lead fund contributor.

September: Steve Van Beek, the President and CEO of the Eno Transportation Foundation, spoke to chapter members and guests at the **Breakfast Conversation on the Current State of Transportation Policy** in September. The Eno Transportation Foundation sponsored this event at the City Club of Washington.

We held another policy program in September, and this one had an international focus. Irving Yass, Companion of the Order of Bath and Senior Advisor for London First presented at the **International Transportation Policy Discussion**. Mr. Yass talked about the exciting transport projects and programs planned and

under construction in London. Parsons Transportation Group and Parsons Brinckerhoff sponsored this event at the Washington Marriott Hotel.

October: Alan Pisarski, author of the popular *Commuting in America* books, spoke at our Annual Diversity Luncheon in October. Parsons Brinckerhoff sponsored this program at Charlie Palmer Steakhouse.

November: WTS chapter members and guests gathered at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOC) in November for a **Breakfast Conversation with Ron Kirby**. Ron, the Director of the Department of Transportation Planning at MWCOC, discussed Transportation and Air Quality in the Washington, DC region. MWCOC sponsored and hosted this event.

December: The **Holiday Party** is always our largest and most social event of the year, and 2008 was no exception. The celebration included a presentation of scholarship awards and recognition awards, a silent auction to benefit the scholarship fund, and networking. The party was held at the City Club of Washington and was sponsored by xxx.

LEGISLATIVE

The Legislative Committee focuses on developing an annual legislative program and building upon our Chapter's relationship with Capitol Hill. The Committee works with the staff of the committees that appropriate and authorize key transportation legislation to facilitate participation in chapter events. Finally the Committee works to inform WTS-DC members about critical legislative issues affecting the transportation industry. Over 60 members and

non-members attended our Legislative Program on Intermodalism held at the Washington Court Hotel on April 23rd. With reauthorization of SAFETEA-LU on the horizon, this event was a great opportunity for our members to begin focusing on key issues for the upcoming bill. The event featured a panel of speakers with varying backgrounds in transportation: Janet Oakley, Director of Policy and Government Relations for the [American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials](#) ; Sarah Kline, Democratic Counsel on the [Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs](#); Jennifer Macdonald, Assistant Vice President for Government Affairs at the [Association of American Railroads](#); Lisa McLean, Director of Transportation Infrastructure at the [U.S. Chamber of Commerce](#); and Leslie Blakey, Executive Director of the [Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors](#).

Discussion began with a recommendation to reduce and streamline the overall number of DOT programs into flexible, effective, performance-based, outcome-driven programs. The conversation then turned to the importance of increasing freight rail capacity as well as improving safety at grade crossings. Lisa McLean, speaking for the business community, described transportation as the "tie that binds" all sectors of the economy together. The panelist covered the importance of growing mega-regions and increased interest in creating a National Infrastructure Bank. In all, the event was a great opportunity for our members to network and learn about the importance of intermodalism and the future of surface transportation.

In July, WTS-DC chapter members met with House Transportation and Infrastructure Chairman James Oberstar of Minnesota. Chairman Oberstar described the creation of USDOT and the evolution of national transportation policy including the creation of the interstate system, national highway system, importance of transit under the Kennedy Administration, and more recent focus on safety. In remarks that reflected his keen humor and passion, Congressman Oberstar described the Committee's wide-ranging accomplishments during the 110th Congress; provided a look at still-pending issues; and offered some insight into surface transportation authorization.

Chairman Oberstar also praised the increasing role of women in the transportation world, mentioning the number of women on his Committee senior staff as well as the emergence of organizations that support and provide networks for women in the transportation sector. With his remarkable command of facts, he noted that the construction sector now has best record for parity in wages, with women's wages in this sector being 86 percent of men's compared to 65-70 percent in other sectors. He also remarked on the increasing number of women in the non-traditional sectors such as trucking and commercial and general aviation.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In 2008 WTS-DC continued to expand its professional development initiative launched in 2007. Building off the 2008 members survey WTS-DC identified additional interests from members for skill building topics. As an annual task of the chapter the membership survey asked members to complete a member's interest survey. We asked members to rate various topics of interest so that we could offer a series of workshops that address the needs and desires of our membership. Based upon the responses we received from our members, we selected topics which had the highest interest generated from our survey. The following professional development sessions were offered in 2008:

- **'Time Management'** (February 19, 2008) with Barbara LaRock a Life Coach who provided great tips for managing our time to employ to be successful both in our professional and personal endeavors.

CORPORATE RELATIONS

Corporate support from public and private institutions is invaluable in enabling WTS-DC to present successful and informative programs and events at a minimum cost to both WTS-DC members and the local transportation community.

Corporate partners benefit from the association with the WTS-DC chapter and its influential membership. There are three main ways in which corporate partners can support WTS-DC:

- Annual Corporate Membership,
- Program Sponsorship and

- **'Lobbying 101'** (April 3, 2008) hosted and sponsored by . This session provided insight on the lobbying process and
- **'Dealing with Difficult People'** (July 3, 2008) with Barbara LaRock a Life Coach who helped us distinguish what it means to be assertive versus being aggressive and how to remain confident and articulate your point in both our professional and personal endeavors.

Participants continue to provide positive feedback regarding the WTS-DC professional development sessions, and the chapter intends to expand these offerings in 2009.

- Scholarship Fund Sponsorship for the annual Holiday Party, Silent Auction & Awards Ceremony and other scholarship fundraisers.

Corporate Members

In 2008 WTS-DC was pleased to have 10 corporate members for the 2008-2009 membership year. These corporate members benefit from receiving two membership rate attendances for their employees at each WTS-DC program and event. Corporate Members are also acknowledged throughout the year with event signage, prominent display of their logo on both the

WTS-DC website and newsletter. Additionally, Corporate Members are given an opportunity to write a feature article in the WTS-DC chapter newsletter on a rotating basis.

The 2008-2009 Corporate Members were: AASHTO, APTA, Cambridge Systematics, DDOT, ENSCO, HDR, Holland & Knight, Jacobs, PBS&J and the Railway Supply Institute.

The Corporate Member designee is recognized as a WTS International member as well as a WTS-DC chapter member. In addition, a second “floating” membership can be shared among any corporate representatives throughout the year. This allows companies to receive WTS International and chapter benefits such as reduced program fees.

Program Sponsors

Organizations who wish to be closely identified with a program or presenter have the opportunity to sponsor a program at various tier levels (\$500, \$1,000, \$2,000, \$3,000). One of the most popular aspects of higher levels of program sponsorship is the opportunity to have staff sit at the speaker’s table; the number of speaker’s table seats available to the sponsor varies with the sponsorship tier level.

Program sponsors are acknowledged on program flyer advertisements and

e-mail notices, on signs or programs at the event, and during the program introduction. Sponsors are also acknowledged in summary articles published in the chapter newsletter. All of these acknowledgements provided a wide range of positive exposure for our program sponsors.

A partial listing of 2008 programs that benefitted from program sponsorship include:

Diversity Roundtable on Post-ADA Transportation: sponsored by Parsons Brinckerhoff

International Transit Event with Irving Yass: sponsored by Parsons, Parsons Brinckerhoff and Hatch Mott MacDonald

Annual Diversity Luncheon with Alan Pisarski: Holland & Knight, Parsons Brinckerhoff, HDR

2008 Holiday Party, Silent Auction & Awards Ceremony: sponsored by AASHTO, B&I Transportation Consulting, Jacobs Consultancy, Lea & Elliott, URS, Mid-Atlantic AAA, AECOM, Association of American Railroads, Kimley Horn and Associates, Parsons Brinckerhoff, PBS&J, Railway Supply Institute.

RECOGNITIONS

The Recognitions Committee is responsible for the submission of our Chapter's nominees for the WTS International recognitions awards, the solicitation of nominations for the Chapter recognitions awards in the fall, and the evaluation and selection of the award winners, also completed in the fall.

During the late summer, work began to solicit nominations for the 2008 recognitions awards. The Co-Chairs placed articles and reminders in the Chapter newsletter, made announcements and utilized our blast communications technology to get the word out about recognitions and to urge Chapter members to submit nominations. Our efforts paid off. This year, we were fortunate to receive strong nominations in each of our four awards categories – Woman of the Year, Member of the Year, Employer of the Year, and the Diversity Award – and the Chapter was able to honor award recipients in each of these categories. In addition, the Chapter added a new award category: Innovative Transportation Solutions

Project. This award is given to an outstanding public transportation project, recently completed, which has shown major improvements and added valuable transportation resources to the local community.

In December, at the annual Holiday Party and Awards Ceremony, the Chapter officially recognized the following five award winners:

Effie Stallsmith, Woman of the Year

Bonnie Shepherd, Member of the Year

COMTO, Diversity

Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority,
Employer of the Year

Frederick Douglas (South Capitol Street) Bridge
Rehabilitation [DDOT], Innovative
Transportation Solutions Project

The Chapter nominated these exemplary award recipients for the WTS International 2009 Awards.

DIVERSITY

In 2008, the primary functions of the Diversity Committees took a different approach to monthly programs and events.

The Diversity Committee was responsible for coordinating the annual luncheon which includes Howard University students studying transportation related subjects.

In Spring, 2008 the Diversity Committee to coordinate a luncheon which acknowledged and honored the topic of diversity within the

transportation industry. We selected Alan Pisarski to speak at the annual Diversity luncheon. The diversity program was well attended and had lively debate over demographics/socio-economic variables affecting transportation issues. An excellent article was written to highlight demographics/socio economic issues and transportation. We decided to repeat the annual affair and include an additional diversity program--diversity roundtable discussing ADA and disability issues relating to American transportation patterns--for FY 2008. Another, article was written to highlight the need to continue

dialogue about ADA issues shaping transportation

Chapter officially recognized the following diversity award winners:

- (diversity winner/brief verbiage about the winner) – Please Add

In December, the annual Holiday Reception and Awards Ceremony, the

MEMBERSHIP

At the close of 2008, the Chapter had retained its 208 members. Throughout the year, membership efforts focused on retention and recruitment activities. Invitations were sent by e-mail to non-members who had shown an interest in the organization and to those who had been members previously. Membership material was handed out at events. Pricing of events was structured to recognize the value of membership and to encourage non-member attendees to join the organization.

Throughout the year, the chair participated in the WTS International monthly membership calls. The reason for these calls was to promote interaction among the various Chapters' membership chairs on best practices as well as to share ideas for retaining and recruiting members. WTS-DC also sponsored happy hour events to encourage existing members to bring prospective members. The Membership Committee's goal in the coming year is to _____.

NEWSLETTER AND COMMUNICATIONS

The Newsletter and Communications Committee is primarily responsible for publishing bi-monthly newsletters, distributing event announcements, and maintaining the chapter website.

The newsletter is broadcast to the WTS-DC Chapter members, WTS International Board, and the WTS Chapter Presidents. The Newsletter and Communications Committee coordinated, edited, and designed each issue. In 2008, five issues of the WTS-DC newsletter were distributed to the members via e-mail. These newsletter editions were also made available on WTS-DC's newsletter webpage. The Communications Chair continued to develop the e-newsletter, which will launch in early 2009

The chapter continued to advise our members and friends of upcoming events via email announcements. The Communications Committee developed and distributed flyers via email for each event of 2008. Reminders were

distributed to members and friends of WTS-DC immediately prior to each event. Event details were also posted on the WTS-DC website in advance of each event.

The WTS International primary website has dedicated sections for each of its 41 Chapters in the U.S., Canada and United Kingdom. The Communications committee maintained the WTS-DC section of the international website, which includes the following subpages: Board of Directors, Committee Chairs, Corporate Partners, Document Library, Events, Job Bank, News, Newsletter, and Scholarships.

SCHOLARSHIP

This year the Chapter e-mailed an informational letter and application to colleges and universities in the Washington, DC metropolitan area to invite students to apply for the WTS scholarships available for the 2008-2009 academic year. The e-mails were sent to professors, staff and student organizations in various transportation-related programs including civil engineering, urban and regional planning, business and public policy.

The chapter received an excellent group of 7 scholarship applicants from different programs/schools including: George Washington University, Howard University, and the University of Maryland.

The pool of applicants was strong with students studying civil engineering, urban and environmental planning, and business. This year the chapter awarded a total of three scholarships: undergraduate, graduate, and graduate runner-up. The winners were:

UNDERGRADUATE AWARD: Shirley Penaloza, George Washington University

GRADUATE AWARD: Carolina Burnier, University of Maryland

GRADUATE AWARD RUNNER-UP: Dina Ribbink, University of Maryland

The undergraduate and graduate winners each received \$2,000, and the graduate runner-up received \$1,000 to help fund their educational expenses. Additionally, the Chapter pays for one year of WTS membership for each of the winners, and forwards each student's application to WTS International for consideration for its annual awards.

As part of student outreach efforts, WTS-DC members presented a career panel for Howard University undergraduate civil engineering students on March 31, 2008. Six WTS members participated and engaged the students in a lively discussion about topics such as job searching, interviewing tips, internships and networking.

2008 HOLIDAY PARTY, ANNUAL AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER

The annual WTS-DC Holiday Party, Annual Awards Ceremony and Silent Auction was held on December 14 at the City Club at Franklin Square in Washington, DC. About 100 members and guests from throughout the transportation industry – government agencies, private business, trade associations, special interest groups, etc. – were in attendance.

This very special evening was an opportunity for our Chapter to recognize and honor our Member of the Year, Woman of the Year, Employer of the Year, and Diversity Leadership Award recipients. (See the Recognitions report for details). These individuals and organizations made extraordinary contributions to the transportation industry as leaders, role models, mentors, and benefactors and they generously support WTS in a variety of ways.

In addition to honoring our award winners, we also recognized four extremely talented and deserving students as recipients of WTS-DC Scholarship Fund endowments. Funded through the annual WTS-DC Scholarship Fund Silent Auction, direct contributions, and programs whose proceeds go to the fund these awards are a way to support our industry's future. (See the Scholarship report for details).

The following companies contributed to the event as Holiday Party Sponsors:

Level 3

B & I Transporation

Lea+Elliott

URS

AASHTO

Jacobs Consultancy

Level 4

AAA

AECOM

Kimley-Horn & Associates, Inc

PBS&J

Association of American Railroads

Railway Supply Institute

PB

The ever-popular Silent Auction celebrated its fifth consecutive year as a part of the Holiday Party. Approximately \$4,000 was raised for the Chapter's Scholarship Fund. WTS-DC would like to thank the organizations and individuals for their contributions of gifts and direct monetary donations. Your generosity in supplying the auction items and monetary donations directly supports the motto of our organization "advancing women in transportation."

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We especially thank everyone that generously bid on the wonderful auction items. Because of your support, we can continue to provide scholarships to deserving female students in transportation related disciplines at area universities and colleges.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

Summary Report

Income		
Dues		\$20,335.00
Program Meeting Registrations		\$11,657.00
Sponsorships		\$15,100.00
Scholarship (not sent to WTSS)		\$4,135.00
Unrealized Gain/Loss (Investments)		(\$4,789.00)
Holiday Party 2008		\$3,833.00
Total		\$50,271.00
Expenses:		
Program Meetings		\$24,242.00
Newsletter/Publications		\$462.00
Unreimbursed Scholarship Expenses		\$5,000.00
Postage and Shipping		\$150.00
Supplies		\$620.08
Travel		\$2,000.00
Board/Ctte Meetings		\$1,490.92
Awards		\$953.00
Chapt Corp Member Dues		\$1,550.00
Holiday Party 2008		\$13,041.00
Total		\$49,509.00
Accounts:		
	1-Jan-08	31-Dec-08
Cash Balance - Checking	\$45,050.08	\$53,616.26
Other Assets:		
Cash Reserve Account	\$38,947.66	\$34,657.00
Accounts Receivable	\$2,000.00	
Liabilities:		
Accounts Payable		\$1,513.52
Total	\$47,050.08	\$52,102.74

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