



Advancing Women in Transportation
Washington, DC Chapter

2004 Annual Report

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2004 Corporate Members

The WTS-DC Chapter wishes to thank and express our deepest gratitude to our 2004 corporate members:

American Association of State
Highway and Transportation Officials

American Public Transportation Association

Association of American Railroads

Bombardier Transportation

Buckley & Kaldenbach

Dewberry

DMJM+Harris

HDR Engineering

Jacobs, Civil Inc.

Parsons Corporation

Railway Supply Institute

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

2004 Board of Directors

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Margaret Mullins

VICE PRESIDENT

Jeanette Kramer

SECRETARY

Jennifer Clinger

TREASURER

Molly Wagner

PAST PRESIDENT

Jamie Rennert

CHAIRS

CORPORATE RELATIONS

Shirley LeBeau

DIVERSITY

Laura Trejo

LEGISLATIVE

Nicole Brewin

MEMBERSHIP

Kay Drucker

MENTORING & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Donna Aggazio

NEWSLETTER

Isabel Kaldenbach

PROGRAMS

Michele Holland

RECOGNITIONS

Tonya Holland

SCHOLARSHIP

Traceé Strum-Gilliam

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 support recruitment, retention and advancement of these individuals in our membership and in the transportation profession.

Dear Members:

In 2004, my goals focused on improving administrative and logistical issues so that the Chapter would operate more efficiently and effectively. The first major undertaking of the year was updating the Chapter's Policies and Procedures manual, which had not been updated since 1997. Since that time, previous Chapter Boards operated on a good faith effort. Moreover, many of the practices stated in the manual were either not suitable or germane. So this year, considerable time was spent reviewing past years' meeting minutes and formally incorporating actions and policy votes into the manual. After much discussion and review, the board in September approved the revised document. If you would like to review it, it is posted on the Washington, DC Chapter section of the WTS website under "Library Documents."



We also made a concerted effort to coordinate the Chapter's activities more efficiently. I formed a Programs Task Force to develop ideas and establish a program schedule for the coming year. By doing this, we hoped it would help you plan your WTS activities more efficiently. We also tried to coordinate the publication of the newsletter, after each monthly program, so we could provide you with a summary of the program, in case you were not able to attend. In addition, we streamlined registration procedures to help expedite check-in at program events.

In addition to accomplishing the above goals, other highlights from the year included:

- Adding 69 new members, bringing total membership to 263, the highest since 1999;
- Providing eight quality programs;
- Implementing a "free lunch" membership recruitment initiative;
- Completing the second year of our Mentoring program;
- Hosting a "members-only" appreciation event with a private tour of the "America on the Move" exhibit at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History;
- Selecting our first-time nominee for WTS National's Diversity Leadership Award; and,
- Partnering with the WNBA Washington Mystics to benefit the scholarship fund.

All that we achieved this year is due to an outstanding group of board members. Their commitment and dedication were unsurpassed and they deserve a great deal of credit and recognition for their hard work.

This has been an unbelievable experience. I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your president. The experience has helped shaped my personal and professional development and I will forever be grateful.

Finally, on behalf of the board, we hope the service we provide helps to advance your professional interest, knowledge, and networking.

Sincerely,

Margaret Mullins
President, WTS DC Chapter

CORPORATE RELATIONS

WTS-DC continued to provide public and private institutions with multiple opportunities to support Chapter activities in 2004. In addition to corporate memberships and chapter programs, organizations were encouraged to sponsor the Annual Holiday Party and Awards Ceremony, as well as to contribute to our Silent Auction to benefit the WTS-DC Scholarship Fund.

The chair continued using the recruitment flyer, which highlights the benefits of corporate memberships, as a way to attract and retain members. This flyer, along with a letter signed by the chair, was sent to all current corporate members and prospective member organizations.

In areas of promoting member benefits, corporate members were encouraged to take advantage of WTS-DC member rates for their representatives at monthly luncheons. Member organizations were also regularly featured and profiled in the Chapter's newsletter and recognized at programs and events. Several corporate members took advantage of the opportunity to share their publications at Chapter events and were encouraged to promote their programs in the Chapter newsletter, further enhancing their member benefits and exposure.

In 2004, the Chapter retained 12 corporate members including American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), American Public Transportation Association (APTA), Association of American Railroads (AAR), Bombardier, Buckley and Kaldenbach, Dewberry, DMJM+Harris, HDR Engineering, Inc., Jacobs Civil Inc., Parsons Corporation, Railway Supply Institute, and Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA).



A special "thank you" is extended to outgoing corporate member Buckley and Kaldenbach who contributed in-kind services by providing production, editorial, and desktop publishing services for the Chapter newsletter for the past few years, including 2004.

Corporate Sponsorships

The WTS-DC Chapter received over \$2,700 in corporate sponsorships for monthly programs. There are three corporate program sponsorship tiers (\$500, \$1,000, and \$2,000) that offer different benefit levels for sponsoring a program. Our program sponsors this year are as follows:

- *(PT)² Public Transportation Partnership for Tomorrow* - WTS-DC Annual Legislative Program
- *DMJM+Harris* - DC Metro Area Transportation Plans and Projects
- *Fitzgerald & Halliday, Inc. and R.D. Mingo & Associates* - Roadway Safety & SAFETEA: Making Roads Safer Places to Drive, Walk & Bicycle
- *Ammann & Whitney* - New Security at Our Harbors and Airports
- *American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators* - Aging Drivers: The New Grand Generation
- *WMATA* - Bus transportation for Members Only Tour of "America on the Move"
- *Dewberry* - Emergency Preparedness in DC Metro Area

There is also a special tier sponsorship program in place to support the Annual Holiday Party and Awards Ceremony. The levels are \$250 (Bronze), \$500 (Silver), and \$1,000 (Gold). In 2004, we received \$3,250 in corporate sponsorships for the holiday party.

DIVERSITY

A new diversity chair was appointed in the summer 2004. The chair worked to increase awareness of diversity issues among the DC Chapter membership by developing a diversity schedule of cultural celebrations. This calendar was published in the December newsletter.

ter. In addition, a candidate was selected and nominated for the first ever WTS National Diversity Leadership Award.

Earlier this year, several DC Chapter members successfully initiated recommendations to the National Board to host a diversity panel at the 2004 National Conference. The DC Chapter assisted the Detroit Chapter in planning this panel discussion, including providing a list of proposed panelists, of which three were selected. The panel highlighted how leadership commitment to diversity can transform organizations to succeed, excel, and gain a competitive market advantage, and also discussed the importance of understanding, valuing and accepting cultural diversity as a standard business practice.

Finally, the chair developed objectives for the coming year including updating the Chapter's diversity strategic plan. The focus will be on developing and implementing an aggressive outreach and recruitment plan to increase the diversity of the Chapter's membership, as well as encourage diverse speaker panels. The Chapter will also seek strategic partnerships with diverse transportation organizations to attract new members. Another focus will be to feature regular newsletter articles during observances of diversity, such as African-American History month and Women's History month.

LEGISLATIVE

The annual legislative program was held in March. WTS-DC invited congressional staff from Senate and House authorizing and appropriations committees to discuss the outlook for the highway reauthorization bill Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21). The bi-partisan panelists included: **Stephen Gardner**, Legislative Assistant for Sen. Tom Carper (D-DE); **Leigha Shaw**, Professional Staff Assistant, House Transportation, Treasury and Independent Agencies Subcommittee on Appropriations; and, **John Brennan**, Professional Staff Member, House Railroad Subcommittee on Transportation. About 70 people attended the event.



In 2005, the legislative activities will continue to build on the momentum of the 2004 activities in order to increase our visibility and maintain those relationships we have developed on Capitol Hill.

MEMBERSHIP

2004 was another encouraging year for the Chapter. As of October 31, 2004, the Chapter gained 69 new members, maintained a retention rate of 75 percent, bringing the total membership to 263 members. This total is the highest since 1999.

The Chapter membership database is an essential tool for the Chapter. It functions as a source of immediate, at-your-fingertips information for members' contact information and is updated on a regular basis with member information extracted from various communications. The database also contains contact information for any prospective member who is interested in Chapter activities, as well as, other industry peers. From our Chapter database, we construct contact lists for our broadcast communications faxes and e-mails. Broadcast communications have become the Chapter's primary notification method for all Chapter events, programs, news and other initiatives.

To recognize WTS DC members, a successful members-only appreciation event was held this year. Transportation curator William Withuhn treated members to a private tour of the "America on the Move" exhibit at the Smithsonian Museum of American History.



Following the tour, the group attended a special reception at the Top of the Hill restaurant on Capitol Hill. Over 30 members took advantage of this event.

Other membership efforts focused on retention and recruitment activities. Retention efforts kicked off with the annual renewal call campaign in March. Recruitment efforts later in 2004 began with the "free lunch" initiative. The Board adopted the policy that if a member brings a non-member to a luncheon program, and the non-member joins, then the current member and new member receive complimentary lunches. Other recruitment activities included staffing a membership table during Chapter events, attending a career fair at the University of Maryland, and hosting an information table during a function in the U.S. Department of Transportation courtyard. The Chair also participated in the National monthly membership calls.

MENTORING & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The 2004 Mentorship Program continued to benefit our members by providing opportunities for professional growth and development as future women of influence in the transportation industry. Mentorship programs were held in March, April and May. The March program featured Rose Sheridan, APTA Vice President of Communications and Marketing; 14 people attended. Her topic focused on **“Steps and Missteps in Managing Your Career for Success.”** An article on this program appeared in the Chapter’s April newsletter. In April, mentors and mentees participated in the well-received program **“How to Better Manage Working with Difficult People,”** presented by consultant Sharon Fitzpatrick. The final program in May was a formal wrap-up session conducted by a certified trainer. Evaluations were disseminated to all participants.



The chapter marked the conclusion of the 2004 mentoring program with the Chapter president recognizing all mentoring program participants before the start of the June 24 program luncheon. Seven mentees received certificates of recognition and a congratulatory letter. At year’s end, an article featuring the personal perspectives of mentee Liisa Ecola and mentor Margaret Ballard was featured in the December newsletter. The pair shared their expectations and what they gained from the program.

In addition, the chair participated in the WTS National quarterly mentoring network conference calls. The chair shared the DC chapter’s progress with other chapters across the country.

NEWSLETTER

Eight issues of the newsletter were sent via broadcast e-mail to members in 2004. The newsletter covered the Chapter’s program events, news from National, mentoring experiences, calendar of diversity events, the diversity tagline, career opportunities, award nominations, Chapter



award recognitions, and scholarship news and opportunities. Again this year, in an effort to familiarize members with WTS-DC leadership, the newsletter continued to carry profiles of individual WTS-DC board members. In addition, the newsletter featured profiles of the Chapter’s corporate members.

PROGRAMS

Seven luncheon programs and one brown bag were offered to WTS-DC Chapter members in 2004.

The year began with an eight-member Programs Task Force that brainstormed ideas for the coming year, drafted a tentative program calendar, and strategically targeted potential corporate sponsors. This approach successfully identified a variety of programs that focused on different transportation modes with broad appeal. Individual members of the Task Force championed a program and most programs in 2004 received a corporate sponsorship.

The first luncheon program was held in February featured **Phyllis Scheinberg**, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Budget and Programs, U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT). Her presentation gave a comprehensive update on the USDOT budget and outlook for transportation projects in the coming year. Also in attendance was Ms. Scheinberg’s guest, Linda Combs, the then nominated USDOT Assistant Secretary for Budget and Programs. Over 60 people attended.

In March, we held our Annual Legislative Program. Please see the Legislative report for more information.

Over 80 people attended the April panel program “DC Metro Area Public Transportation Plans and Projects”, which featured a panel of high-level transportation officials. The panel discussed the status of public transit projects in Washington, DC and Northern VA, and how they relate to planning issues in each jurisdiction. The panelists included



Karen Rae, Director, VA Department of Rail & Public Transportation; **Dan Tangherlini**, Director, DC Department of Transportation; and **Richard White**, General Manager & CEO, WMATA.

For the third year in a row, the Chapter held a “brown bag” lunch program in April to give the 2003 scholarship recipients an opportunity to present their research topics. Graduate winner **Colleen Mitchell** discussed the impacts of highway investment on low-



wage workers' access to employment while undergraduate winner **Colleen Hellman** talked about current issues in transportation. An enthusiastic and supportive group of WTS-DC mem-

bers attended the presentations. The program presented a great networking and presentation skills opportunity for the students and provided new insights for the attendees.

In May, the luncheon program "Roadway Safety and SAFETEA: Making Roads Safer Places to Drive, Walk & Bicycle" featured a panel of three speakers: **Tom Hicks**, Director, Office of Traffic & Safety for the Maryland State Highway Authority; **Martha Roskowski**, Executive Director of America Bikes; and **Jennifer Toole**, Toole Design Group. There were 30 people in attendance.



Elaine Dezenski, Director, Cargo & Trade Policy, Border and Transportation Security for the Department of Homeland Security; and **Joanne Young**, Partner, Baker & Hostetler, LLP, addressed issues relating to "New Security at Our Harbors and Airports". The June program attracted over 60 attendees.



The program held in August focused on "Aging Drivers: The New Grand Generation" and featured **Beth Alicandri**, Federal Highway Administration and **Lori Cohen**, with the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators. Approximately 40 people attended this luncheon.



In November, **Barbara Childs-Pair**, Director of the Washington, DC Office of Emergency Preparedness, was the guest speaker. Her presentation focused on preparing for and surviving emergency situations at home and at work. This program attracted 55 people.



RECOGNITIONS

During the late summer, the chair began to solicit nominations for the 2004 recognition awards. Articles and reminders were placed in the Chapter newsletter, announcements were made at programs and other Chapter events, and broadcast communication was used to get the word out about the recognition awards and urge Chapter members to submit nominations.

This year we received strong nominations in each of our three award categories: **Woman of the Year**, **Member of the Year**, and **Employer of the Year**. The Chapter was able to honor and officially recognize the following award recipients in each of the categories at the 27th Annual Holiday Party and Awards Ceremony (also see page XX).

WOMAN OF THE YEAR

Ann Canby, Surface Transportation Policy Project

MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Margaret Ballard, HDR Engineering

EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR

Cairo Corporation



From Left to Right: Margaret Ballard, Ann Canby, Alba Aleman and Recognitions Chair Tonya Holland.

Furthermore, in anticipation of the first annual **WTS National Diversity Leadership Award**, the DC Chapter was able to announce its nominee at the ceremony. In early 2005, WTS-DC will formally present the American Public Transportation Association as our Chapter's nominee for the National award.

In addition, the chair handled certifying the election for the 2005 officers. Ballots were individually coded with a unique ID key and were broadcast to the membership via e-mail. Members were given the choice to return their completed ballots by either e-mail, fax or mail. Approximately, 15 percent of the members voted.

Proposed 2005 goals for the Chapter recognitions program include facilitating greater involvement in the recognitions program by clarifying and improving awareness of the selection criteria and process. In addition, the chair plans to work with the committees on diversity and programs to arrange a luncheon to honor the Chapter's diversity nominee.

SCHOLARSHIP

The Chapter distributed scholarship applications to Washington, DC metropolitan area universities in September. The WTS-DC Board reviewed several competitive applications and selected **Sara Delmonico** and **Gulsah Ankar** as the undergraduate and graduate scholarship recipients, respectively. Both recipients received \$1,500 scholarships. These young women are highly qualified and displayed great commitment to the transportation field. Based on their outstanding credentials, the Chapter forwarded both scholarship recipients to WTS National for consideration in the nationwide scholarship competition.

Ms. Delmonico is a junior at the Catholic University of America studying civil engineering with a concentration in Environmental Engineering. She is vice president of her school's chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) and is active in the Society of Women Engineers (SWE). This summer she will be investigating hazard mitigation of bridge structures using smart technology under the direction of the National Science Foundation.

Ms. Akar is a Ph.D. candidate in transportation and traffic engineering at the University of Maryland. She also has B.S. and M.S. degrees in civil and transportation engineering from the Middle East Technical University in Ankara, Turkey. Ms. Akar graduated in the top 5 percent of her class and came to the United States to pursue her Ph.D. After earning her degree, she plans to become a lead researcher and professor back in her homeland. While at the University of Maryland, she received a graduate assistantship.

In 2004, the Chapter looked at new ways to help raise funds for the Scholarship Fund. For the first time, the Chapter hosted an evening at a **WNBA Washington**

Mystics game in July as a way to raise funds for the WTS-DC scholarship fund. For every ticket sold, \$5 went to the scholarship fund. It was a popular event with 53 people attending the game.



The second annual **Silent Auction** was held in conjunction with the Holiday Party and Awards Ceremony as another fund-raising endeavor. Twenty-two donated gifts were auctioned off to the highest bidders. Individual members, corporate sponsors, and other Chapter supporters donated gifts, which included two roundtrip Acela tickets, an iPod, a digital camera, themed gift baskets, and Washington Wizards basketball tickets. The Silent Auction raised \$2,250 and \$1,375 in direct donations from members for the WTS-DC scholarship fund at the Holiday Party.



OTHER CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Website

In 2004, WTS-DC worked with National to develop an improved website for the organization. The website launched a new "look" for WTS, and provides a more informative, interactive resource for its members. The website contains expanded and up-to-date information on each chapter, including news, events, job and scholarship opportunities, corporate members, chapter document library, and contact information for board members and chairs. Most importantly, WTS members can now use the website to update their membership information, pay their membership dues, and access information on upcoming WTS events and conferences.



WTS-DC is using the new website as a tool for communicating chapter news, details on upcoming programs, newsletters and job bank listings to our membership. Throughout 2005 the chapter will continue to work with National on ways to enhance the website's capabilities.



From Left to Right:
Scholarship Chair Traceé Strum-Gilliam,
Gulsah Ankar, Sara Delmonico and
President Margaret Mullins

Networking Happy Hours

In 2004, eight Networking Happy Hours were held at a variety of local venues. These Networking Happy Hours were established as the last Thursday of the month. These events are a casual way for members to socialize, introduce prospective members to others and generally network and socialize. The Chapter will continue to offer these networking opportunities on a quarterly basis in 2005.

27th Annual Holiday Party and Awards Ceremony



Great jazz, a silent auction, and the celebration of achievements by women in transportation highlighted the 2004 Holiday Party and Awards Ceremony. The Holiday Party chair for this year's event was

Jennifer Klass. Held in the Omni Shoreham's Diplomat Ballroom, the party was attended by nearly 80 members, friends, and supporters of WTS. Tonya Holland, Recognitions Chair, emceed the Awards Ceremony. The 2003 Woman of the Year, Administrator Mary Peters, Federal Highway Administration, introduced and presented the Woman of the Year Award to Anne Canby, president of the Surface Transportation Policy Project. Margaret Ballard with HDR Engineering received the Member of the Year award from the 2003 recipient Leigh Merino with the Rubber Manufacturers. Debra Herrmann of Jacobs Civil presented the Employer of the Year award to Alba Aleman, president of Cairo Corporation. In addition, the 2004 scholarship recipients were acknowledged by Scholarship chair Traceé Strum-Gilliam.

As mentioned previously, a silent auction was held throughout the evening to support the scholarship fund and add to the festivities. Attendees enjoyed friendly competition and fierce bidding for the 22 gifts on the auction block. This event was very popular and successful.

The Chapter wishes to extend its deep gratitude to all the organizations and individuals who contributed to the success of the 2004 Holiday Party and Awards Ceremony and Silent Auction.

HOLIDAY PARTY SPONSORS

GOLD

Hogan and Hartson, LLP

BRONZE

American Public Transportation Association

Ammann & Whitney

Bectel

Jacobs Civil, Inc.

Parsons Brinckerhoff

Railway Supply Institute

Raytheon

Rubber Manufacturers Association

Vanesse Hangen Brustlin

IN-KIND SERVICES

Dewberry

SILENT AUCTION CONTRIBUTORS

Amtrak

Bombardier

BWI Airport

Dewberry

Earth Tech

George Washington University School of Engineering & Applied Science

HDR Engineering

Hotel Washington

MARC

Operation Lifesaver Inc.

Parsons Brinckerhoff

Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation

Virginia Railway Express

Washington Wizards and Mystics Basketball

Woodrow Wilson Bridge Project

Traceé Strum Gilliam

Molly Wagner

Cheri Widmer

Treasurer's Report

SUMMARY REPORT

		1-Jan-04	31-Dec-04
Cash Balance:		\$6,178.70	\$5,072.45
Other Assets:	Cash Reserve Account	\$25,969.83	\$26,366.83
	Accounts Receivable	\$4,642.08	\$564.95
Liabilities:	Accounts Payable	\$1,577.36	\$743.54
	Total	\$35,213.25	\$31,260.69

DETAILED REPORT

Income:	Amount
Membership Dues	\$4,945.00
Program Meetings	\$9,800.00
Newsletter	\$0.00
Scholarship	\$0.00
Interest	\$0.00
Corporate Memberships	\$7,000.00
Unrealized Gain (Investments)	\$662.18
Unrealized Gain (other)	\$0.00
2003 Holiday Party	\$5,674.95
Other Corporate Sponsorships	\$3,050.00
Total	\$31,132.13
Expenses:	
Program Meetings	\$16,687.71
Newsletter	\$0.00
Scholarship Expenses	\$222.36
Administrative (other direct costs)	\$767.99
Blast Communications	\$6,530.99
Unrealized loss (other)	\$202.34
Recognitions	\$506.15
Professional Development	\$95.95
Mentoring Initiative	\$668.63
Membership Expenses	\$1,129.00
2003 Holiday Party	\$8,273.57
Total	\$35,084.69

2004 Photo Gallery

Programs Cultivate Connections



Around the Holiday Party



Meaningful Mentorships



Networking Happy Hours



*Women's Transportation Seminar
Washington, DC Chapter
P.O. Box 23314 ☞ Washington, DC 20026
www.wtsinternational.org*