



> Greater New York

Advancing women
Advancing transportation

2018 Annual Report WTS Greater New York Chapter

Chapter Board

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Directors-at-Large

Julie D’Orazio, <i>WSP</i>	Kim Haas, <i>Haas Media, LLC</i>	Portia Henry, <i>PANYNJ</i>	Elizabeth Hynes, <i>Parsons</i>	Aimee Jefferson, <i>NJTPA</i>	Beth Zall, <i>WSP</i>
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Committee Chairs

Awards/Nominations

Chair: Alexa Gangemi

Corporate Partners

Chair: Janice Li

Membership

Co-Chair: Carla Artis

Co-Chair: Lian Duan

Scholarships

Co-Chair: Danielle Drake

Co-Chair: Tracey Slochover

Volunteer Champion

Chair: Elizabeth Hynes

Communications

Chair: Leticia Caviness

Foundation

Chair: Beth D’Angelo

Mentoring

Co-Chair: Nicole Bucich

Co-Chair: Sarah Steib

Co-Chair Elect: Janie Chen

Special Events

Chair: Desiree Gazzo

Raffle Co-Chair: Christyn Binder

Raffle Co-Chair: Sarah Colker

Young Professionals

Co-Chair: Tiffany Cummings

Co-Chair: Ece Koch

College Outreach

Chair: Kelly Bird

Glass Ceiling

Chair: Yvonne Lopez-Diaz

Programs

NY Co-Chair: Sofia Berger

NY Co-Chair: Bibi Khan

NJ Chair: Janet Sharkey

Transportation YOU

NY Co-Chair: Laura MacNeil

NY Co-Chair: Erica Swansen

NJ Co-Chair: Yetunde Adelekan

NJ Co-Chair: Sutapa Banyopadhyay

WTS-GNY 2018-19 Corporate Partners

Thank you to the WTS-GNY 2018-19 Corporate Partners! This support helps sustain our chapter.

Diamond Level

AECOM	Arup	GCA	GPI	Hardesty & Hanover	HDR
HNTB	Jacobs	Parsons	STV	VHB	WSP

Ruby Level

AKRF	Cubic	Stantec
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Emerald Level

Louis Berger	LTK	Sam Schwartz
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Sapphire Level

Cambridge Systematics	CDD Smith	CH2M	Dewberry	Gannett Fleming	HAKS
		Systra			

Diamond Level

Arora	Arora and Associates, PC	B. Thayer Associates	Envision Consultants, Ltd	Interactive Elements Incorporated	McKissack
Malick & Scherer, PC	Marine Tiger Technologies	QED National	SI Engineering, PC	Stellar	Studio L'Image
		Wilson Ihrig			

President's Message

Dear WTS-GNY Chapter Members and Friends,

2018 was a banner year for WTS-GNY, with record levels of membership, sponsorship, attendance and demand for events and programs, which is a tribute to the energy and dedication of the Board of Directors. I am privileged to work with such a high-energy and motivated group of board members and committees – their commitment to our mission and the Chapter is inspiring and is the true source of our continued success.

This year, in addition to continuing to provide superior programming, events, and speakers to our members and the greater community, the Chapter focused on outreach, dialog and organization. WTS reached out to gather feedback from our members and the industry, partnered with other organizations to reach a larger audience, expanded committee appreciation and engagement, and focused on improvements to organizational practices and procedures. This report contains additional details about all of the activities of the Chapter and Committees, but some highlights of 2018 are described below.

Our annual meeting in January provided the opportunity to thank the previous Board for their service and to formally welcome the new Board. The Chapter was pleased to recognize individuals and organizations which have demonstrated leadership and excellence in support of the WTS mission, spearheading greater diversity and innovation in the transportation industry. The keynote speaker for this event was Patrick Foye, President of the MTA who discussed leading key innovation and modernization initiatives in addition to supporting the day-to-day management of the agency. This sold-out event also included our annual W/M/S/DBE Expo which offered a wonderful opportunity for networking between our small business corporate partners and industry professionals.

The Chapter hosted several very well-attended events in 2018. In April, New Jersey Programs hosted a panel discussion about "Opening Up the Gateway Program." The panelists included Petra Tordorovich Messick, Director of Planning, Gateway Program, Amtrak and Suzanne Silverman, Senior Director of Contracts and Claims, NJ Transit. The panel was moderated by Zenobia Fields, NJTPA. WTS was also very pleased to host a reception to welcome New Jersey DOT Commissioner Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti, who took office on June 7, 2018.

WTS GNY and WTS Philadelphia jointly sponsored the TransConOpps double session at the annual NJ TransAction conference. Volunteers from the WTS NJ Programs committee and WTS Philadelphia chapter helped to make the session a success with over 200 attendees.

The spring dinner in New York showcased a panel program with Chiefs of Staff from regional agencies discussing their jobs, including the joys and challenges. Moderated by Jeannie Kwon, NJ Transit Assistant Executive Director, Projects & Strategic Investments, panelists included

Midori Valdivia, Chief of Staff of the MTA President, Emily Gallo, NYCDOT Chief of Staff, and Kim Cipriano, NYCDEP Chief of Staff. The fall dinner panel discussed “the Governor Mario M. Cuomo Bridge: The Women Who Made it Happen.” Moderated by Jamey Barbas, New York State Thruway Authority (NYSTA) Project Director, panelists included Maria Lehman, Parsons, Vice President (former Interim Director of NYSTA), Melissa Toni, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Environmental Coordinator, Mei Mei Lee, AKRF, Inc., Project Manager, Environmental and Elena Barlett, HDR, Inc., Project Manager, Construction. The panelists discussed the project’s history and success as well as its coordination and challenges.

WTS GNY continued offering the successful, free member-exclusive summer “Learn from a Leader” roundtable discussions. 2018 was the fifth year for this series, and provided an opportunity for members to interact with successful women leaders in a smaller, more interactive setting limited to about 15-20 professionals.

The Chapter was pleased to offer a number of Professional Development programs for our members. In New Jersey, a networking event was held to discuss the topic “How to Market Yourself During the Year End Review.” In New York, professional development programs offered this year included “Team Collaboration” with Carla Tillery, and a session called “Embracing Your Power: Leading with Edge” led by Ivy Algazy.

The Chapter continued to engage woman at earlier stages of their transportation careers as well. Our mentoring program had exceptional demand this year, and provided a full year of programs for mentors and apprentices related to all aspects of professional development.

The Transportation YOU team in New York continued a full year of regular programs for students and mentors. Transportation YOU also initiated an active outreach program in New Jersey to offer the program and benefits to students across multiple schools in the area, and has coordinated with a larger geographical area to offer benefits to more students.

The Young Professionals Committee was also active in 2018, and offered two successful Trending Topics events; Transportation Trivia, and a walking tour called “Have you met Newark?” Young Professionals also coordinated an annual collaborative event with the Transit Center, a panel called “Women Changing Transportation II – Overcoming Gender Bias in the Workplace.” The Young Professionals also volunteered in the “Recycle a Bicycle” a program where they helped repair old bicycles for a women’s bike ride in honor of Women’s History Month. The annual cardboard kayak event was again a success.

To raise money for WTS scholarships, the Chapter held a wine and beer tasting fundraiser with a raffle for transportation-related prizes. Our first College Chapter which has been established at RPI, has been increasingly active and engaged, with RPI student members attending several of the events in New York, and developing plans for expanded activities next year.

WTS had the privilege of collaborating with the Design-Build Institute of America (DBIA) on an event called “Delivering a New New York.” In this symposium, industry leaders discussed how Design-Build has been used in New York State and the benefits, challenges as well as the lessons learned using this delivery method.

In addition to the wide range of programs and events, the Chapter has also focused this year on initiatives to support our growth from an oversight and management standpoint. This includes gathering, documenting, and communicating our policies and procedures for improved record keeping, education, and succession planning. The team has greatly expanded and streamlined our marketing messaging with expanded outreach on social media and development of marketing materials.

The membership committee began a series of surveys designed expand the dialog between the Chapter and our members. This dialog can help us to tailor our offerings to best meet the needs of current (and future) WTS members. And the Glass Ceiling Committee continued work on data analysis from the baseline survey data gathered as well as development of the associated written report. We look forward to sharing the results next year.

My first year as president of the GNY chapter has been a wonderful experience, and I look forward to the second year of my term and the ways that our Chapter will help to attract, sustain, connect, and advance women’s careers to transform the transportation industry.

Sincerely,

Alexa Gangemi

2018-2019 WTS-GNY Chapter President

Treasurer's Report

A major goal for 2018 was to continue our vast number of events for our members and showing appreciation to our many committee chairs and volunteers. It was a busy year in which we focused on developing and diversifying our slate of programs and workshops, turning increased spending on these activities into higher attendance and greater visibility in the transportation community. We accomplished this by effectively spending our funds and putting on events. We were delighted to see that we had an increase in attendance for most of the events for the year. Along with these increases came an increased revenue amount of \$257,399.41 which represents a 36% increase from the previous year.

WTS Greater New York Chapter

	2015	2016	2017	2018
REVENUES				
Membership Dues	\$13,440.00	\$18,230.00	\$21,179.00	\$16,395.00
Bank Interest	\$186.95	\$182.17	\$185.54	\$113.20
Monthly Programs and Workshops	\$22,268.36	\$51,105.51	\$49,108.14	\$84,634.46
Membership Events	\$2,616.76	\$1,537.23	\$1,040.00	\$370.00
Corporate Partners	\$80,175.00	\$83,075.00	\$101,000.00	\$102,750.00
Fundraising	\$70,936.00	\$33,923.65	\$9,091.00	\$53,136.75
Total Revenue	\$189,623.07	\$188,053.56	\$189,603.68	\$257,399.41
EXPENSES				
President	\$405.80	\$630.36	\$243.35	\$0.00
Board Training	\$12,233.44	\$14,988.19	\$14,433.20	\$14,613.83
Bank Fees	\$75.26	\$52.56	\$71.12	\$116.40
Credit Card Processing Fees	\$1,320.34	\$1,593.77	\$1,747.42	\$2,122.47
Monthly Programs and Workshops	\$38,776.77	\$43,837.87	\$30,287.68	\$75,016.30
Membership Events	\$9,242.24	\$14,468.46	\$15,052.11	\$17,341.07
Fundraising	\$40,913.86	\$43,058.30	\$43,348.23	\$56,112.70
Transportation YOU	\$7,649.49	\$7,977.07	\$12,755.44	\$14,588.25
Corporate Relations	\$58.70	\$55.75	\$49.00	\$0.00
Board Expenses**	\$6,399.70	\$5,438.10	\$4,645.65	\$8,309.08
Board Liability Insurance	\$877.00	\$878.00	\$902.95	\$878.00
Mentoring	\$4,510.68	\$7,397.69	\$8,574.15	\$5,727.88
Photography	\$1,500.00	\$2,000.00	\$1,500.00	\$2,000.00
Young Professionals	\$1,519.85	\$1,563.41	\$2,610.37	\$5,774.46
2017 WTS International Conference Committee	\$0.00	\$11,748.65	\$7,155.88	\$232.34
Miscellaneous	\$137.19	\$0.00	\$105.00	\$0.00
International Conference Attendance Scholarships	\$3,690.22	\$3,357.49	\$3,495.60	\$5,043.75

WTS Greater New York Chapter

Total Expenses	\$129,310.54	\$159,045.67	\$146,977.15	\$207,876.53
Money Donated to WTS Scholarship Fund	\$37,050.00	\$21,275.00	\$5,000.00	\$8,165.00***
Total Expenses including Deposit to Scholarship Account	\$166,360.54	\$180,320.67	\$151,977.15	\$216,041.53
NET REVENUE AFTER DISTRIBUTIONS	\$23,262.53	\$7,732.89	\$37,626.53	\$41,357.88
WTS Scholarship Account Balance (December 2017)	\$62,579.25			
WTS Scholarship Account Balance (December 2018)	\$70,769.39			
* Includes \$4,000 from the 2016-2017 corporate partnership program that was deposited in 2018.				
** Board Expenses include food at board meetings, conference call line, PO Box, communications tools.				
*** An additional \$10,000 – which includes proceeds from the March 2018 scholarship fundraiser event and 2018 Gala raffle, plus individual donations received in late 2018 – was deposited in January 2019 and will be reflected in our 2019 Annual Report.				

Awards

Woman of the Year

Catherine Rinaldi, President, Metro-North Railroad

Catherine Rinaldi has served as president of MTA Metro-North Railroad (MNR) since February 21, 2018. Rinaldi joined MNR in 2015 as executive vice president, overseeing Strategic Planning Initiatives, as well as its Capital Programs, Customer Service and Stations, Planning, Corporate and Public Affairs, Procurement, and Human Resources.

Rinaldi joined the MTA as deputy executive director and general counsel in 2003. In 2011, she was named the MTA chief of staff. She also has served as vice president and general counsel at the Long Island Rail Road (LIRR).



Aside from her breadth of experience in the public sector and her legal background, she has been a fervent advocate of employee personal development and engagement. Rinaldi recently initiated a Lunch and Learn Program and Women’s Book Club for MNR employees. The Lunch and Learn, a monthly program held in different locations, has ranged in focus from the very technical to a women’s transportation panel. Titles the book club has selected include *Lean In*, *I Am Malala*, and *Hidden Figures*. Each program has succeeded in providing opportunities for employees to interact and network, particularly among those in different departments who would not typically cross paths.

Rinaldi graduated summa cum laude from Yale College and received a law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law.

Member of the Year

Beth DeAngelo, NYC Deputy Area Manager at WSP USA

This is an award given to a WTS member who has shown extraordinary commitment to the goals and growth of WTS; promoted the reputation of WTS within the transportation industry; strengthened communications and/or revitalized or expanded a chapter.

Beth DeAngelo is Deputy Area Manager for WSP’s Transportation and Infrastructure Sector in the New York City office. With 30 years in the transportation industry, Beth has served as a business manager, responsible for project delivery, client management, operations and business development, as well as project manager for a variety of infrastructure projects. She currently serves as Project Director for the PANYNJ Authority Operations Center 24/7 oversight project;



Project Manager for the NJDOT Route 40/322 Adaptive Signal Systems Design; and Deputy Project Manager for the Design Joint Venture responsible for the Bayonne Bridge Raising. Ms. DeAngelo is a Professional Engineer licensed in New Jersey. Her commitment to WTS has been unwavering. She has been a member of WTS International since 1994 and is currently serving on the WTS Northeast Region Council and WTS International Governance Committee. She served as the WTS Greater New York Chapter president in 2014 and 2015 and prior to that, served as the chapter's NJ Vice President for two years (2012-2013). She also has served as a board director-at-large (2010-2011) and as liaison to the chapter's professional development, mentoring, Glass Ceiling, and Transportation You committees. Ms. DeAngelo's leadership, hard work, and dedication has made and will continue to make a profound impact on the WTS Greater New York Chapter for years to come. She is also actively engaged in ACEC NY and ACEC NJ, and previously served as President of ASHE and NSPE local chapters.

Employer of the Year

Dewberry

This award goes to an organization that has enhanced the transportation industry through its support of WTS, its commitment to excellence and quality in its services or products, demonstration of an outstanding record of affirmative action in hiring and promotions, and/or that provides internships to women students and supports continuing education of its employees.



Dewberry is a leading, market-facing firm with a proven history of providing professional services to a wide variety of public- and private-sector clients. Recognized for combining unsurpassed commitment to client service with deep subject matter expertise, Dewberry is dedicated to solving clients' most complex challenges and transforming their communities. Established in 1956, Dewberry is headquartered in Fairfax, Virginia, with more than 50 locations, including one in New York City and three in New Jersey, and 2,000+ professionals nationwide. Dewberry is receiving this award because it values and supports women employees through a variety of programs and initiatives, corporate values, and business practices.

Innovative Transportation Solutions Award

Flushing Main Street ADA Station Improvements project Long Island Rail Road

(Project Team: Poonam Punj, Paul Dietlin, Andrew Wilson, Yonelle Baptiste, Todd Colabella, Dewberry and Forte Construction Corp.)

This award goes to a local project or service whose transportation element has contributed to its success. The project or service must support one or more key community values, such as improved accessibility to services, employment, or other opportunities. It must also have made a difference in the lives of its users.

The original project involved the introduction of a satellite station for the LIRR Flushing Main Street station and would have included the installation of two elevators and the incorporation of station improvements to provide ADA accessibility. Due to the excessive distance between the two station entrances and street congestion in the area, the LIRR proposed adding a new third level 95' long pedestrian bridge crossing over the tracks to connect these two station entrances. This added significantly to the project's budget and schedule. It also would have created an extensive structure with associated future maintenance costs and challenges, while providing very little ease of use and customer benefit. The innovative design solution included acquisition of a vacant commercial property adjacent to the north right-of-way of the original station, which allowed for the creation of a new westbound entrance on Main Street; eliminated the need for the 3-story overpass structure; and created a brand-new station environment at Main Street that complements the community which it serves.



Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award

Flora Castillo, New Jersey Transit Board Member and United Healthcare Vice President of Transportation



The Rosa Parks Diversity Award is presented to an individual or organization who has consistently and whole-heartedly supported diversity in the workplace by developing opportunities for women and minorities, as well as having contributed to promoting diversity and cultural awareness within their organization, the industry, or in a project or activity that supports the goals and missions of WTS.

Ms. Castillo takes to heart WTS's mission of advancing women in the transportation industry, and has long been a champion for women and minorities. During her nearly 20-year tenure on the NJ Transit Board of Directors, she has embodied the trailblazing spirit of Rosa Parks. She is a member of the Safety and Administration Committees and currently chairs the Board's Customer Service Committee, where she plays a vital role in ensuring quality services for all NJ Transit customers, including increased seating capacity; cleaner trains and buses; new equipment; and equity in the distribution of all equipment, services and programs. Due in large part to Ms. Castillo's advocacy and guidance, NJ Transit has enjoyed continuous and historically unprecedented improvement both in its relationship with communities of color, and dollars awarded to small, minority, woman-owned and disadvantaged business enterprises (S/M/W/DBEs). Through tireless advocacy, she has given minority communities and those with mobility challenges a seat at the table when it comes to ensuring equal transportation for all, regardless of societal status. As the first Latina to serve on the Board, Ms. Castillo is not only paving the way, she is lifting others who might not otherwise have a voice.

Committee Reports

Communications Committee

The WTS-GNY Communications and Social Media Committee provides members with all of the information they need for what is going on in the Chapter and more broadly in the transportation community through a variety of channels, including email, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, not to mention the Chapter's website. The committee has been growing from a lean team of three to six, and is hoping to grow by two more to accomplish even more. In addition to its maintenance and expansion of the quality and quantity of information on the Chapter's website, the committee also created a much more robust presence for the Chapter through other social media and has a burgeoning group of followers:

- WTS-GNY's Twitter account (@WTSGNY) continues to grow with 304 followers, including a number of transportation industry leaders. The Chapter also "live-tweeted" from a few of its large events (annual meeting, panel discussion, and Leadership Council)
- WTS-GNY's LinkedIn account has 461 members and 205 followers
- WTS-GNY's Facebook page has 145 followers; Instagram is 27 followers.

This has meant an increase in chapter event coverage as followers have uploaded their photos from these programs; n Posted YouTube two phenomenal YouTube videos, the Membership Committee video and the 2017 Annual Conference video to various social media. The annual conference video is proudly shown on the Chapter's website as well; n Hootsuite, a software platform that facilitates management of the many facets of these social media. Through its more traditional email communications, the Committee designed and issued e-blasts, electronic invitations, and save-the-dates for 35 Chapter events and posted them to the WTS-GNY website. To accomplish this, the committee also reviewed and updated the WTS-GNY's Constant Contact account's database of 692 regular mailings, of which 84 go to affiliate members, 82 to Young Professionals, and approximately 2,000 go to general-interest email addresses. The Committee continues to disseminate a monthly newsletter titled WTS-GNY Chapter News. The Chapter website has seen improvements too. There have been numerous event photos posted to the photo gallery as well as the conference video and conference information to the home page. And there is an updated job bank plus updates to other pages. For example, all of the annual reports and newsletters are now available. The Committee is also responsible for organizing and preparing the Chapter's Annual Report and with this document, and has completed its second one with the current committee members.

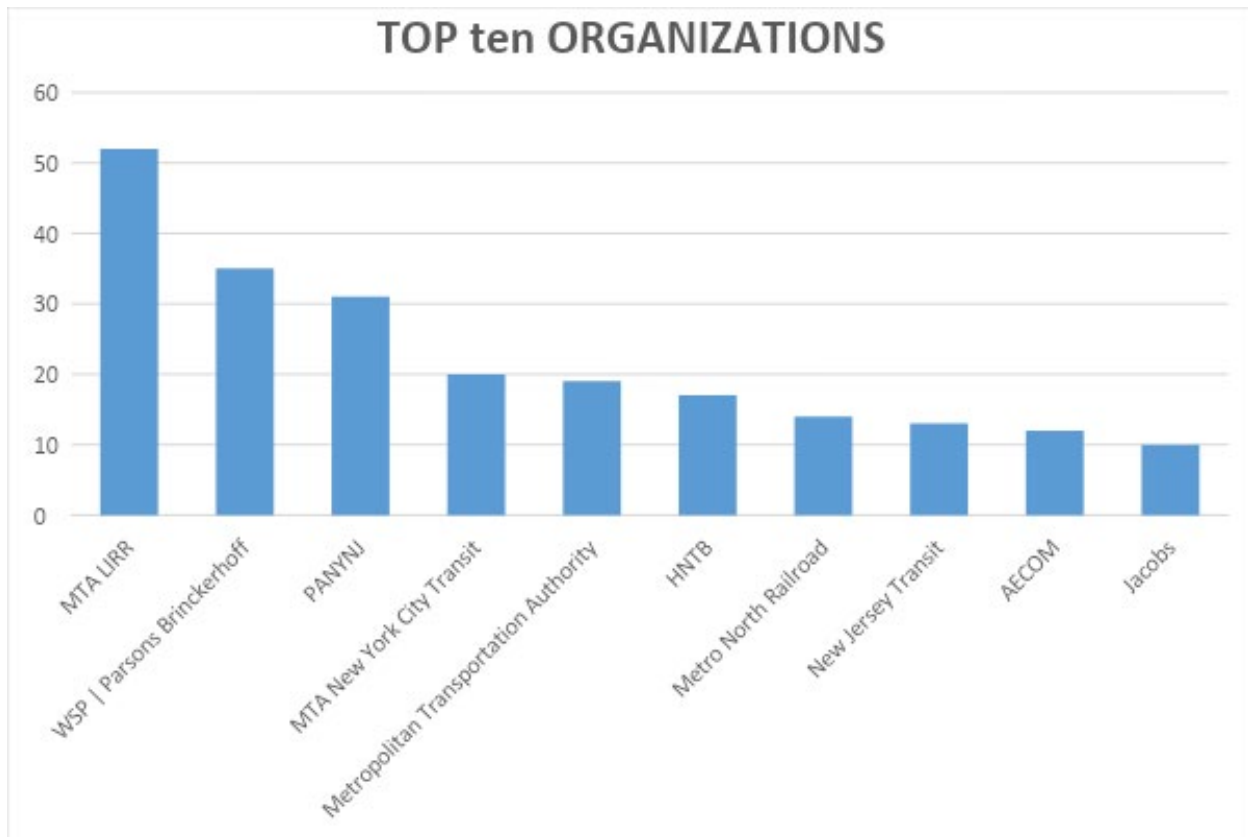
WTS-GNY Communications Committee members include: Leticia Caviness, Committee Chair; Liz Archer, Social Media Lead, Carrem Gay, Photo Gallery Organizer and Job Opportunities, Jilla Moro, Website; Karina Vangani, Newsletter Producer and Job Opportunities, Adrienne Zicklin Kanter, Editor of Chapter News, Newsletter and Annual Report.

Membership Committee

As of the end of 2018, the WTS-GNY has a total of 569 Members, of them 480 are based in the GNY chapter and 89 are based in other chapters but affiliated with GNY. During 2018, we welcomed 158 new members. The Membership Committee is proud of the accomplishments in the last year. To recognize the support and dedication from all the people who work to make WTS-GNY successful, the Committee re-vamped its Membership Appreciation event in the late summer. They hosted both long-standing and new members at a rooftop happy hour overlooking the Empire State Building. At this event, the newest members were publicly welcomed to the chapter and presented with welcome letters, WTS pins, and recognition from their colleagues.

Membership Organization Summary

The active members are from more than 200 different organizations in the region. Among the top ten organizations, six are public agencies. The six agencies are: MTA LIRR, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, New York City Transit, Metro-North Railroad, MTA Headquarter, and New Jersey Transit. The other four organizations are from private sector, with WSP|Parsons Brinckerhoff leading the list by contributing 35 active members to the chapter. Followed on the list are HNTB, AECOM, and Jacobs Engineering.



Survey Summary

In the third quarter, the Membership Committee launched its most recent initiative, WTS-GNY Surveys. The first survey was issued in November with the intent of collecting general information from the GNY mailing database. Of the responses, the following are notable takeaways:

- More than 90% of the respondents are women
- Over two-thirds are current members
- A majority are employed in the private sector
- More than half work in the passenger transportation domain, and specifically in bridges, tunnels, and highways
- Approximately 1/3 work in planning
- Most respondents live in Manhattan, Brooklyn, or Northern New Jersey
- A majority work in Manhattan
- More than half have their yearly dues paid for by their companies, but about half pay for their own event costs, making the costs of events highly important to them

Plans for 2019

The Membership Committee plans to use the feedback from this initial survey to develop more targeted questionnaires in the new year. To achieve this, a different committee will be highlighted each month. Once results are tabulated, the Membership team will analyze them and provide the valuable information to the highlighted committee, as well as action items. In the event there are enlightening insights or takeaways that require responses, the Membership Committee will compile and issue them to the mailing list through the Monthly Newsletter on a quarterly basis.

Furthermore, the Membership committee intends to utilize this information to better serve and engage current members, as well target new members. Based on feedback from the survey, the Membership Committee plans to host a more intimate membership event in early 2019. We are also planning to increase our presence at events in the new year in order to highlight membership benefits to new members and be available as resources for our current member base. In conjunction, we will roll out our New Member Buddy program to make new members feel more welcome at events and help them become more intimately involved with the chapter. At our yearly membership appreciation event, we plan to embrace our new members and honor our long-standing members, making it an inclusive event for everyone. We look forward to utilizing the collected information to provide the best experience for our members in 2019 and beyond.

Mentoring Program

In 2018, the WTS GNY mentored 10 transportation professionals, representing an array of disciplines, agencies and corporations. After pairing our mentors and apprentices in our “speed matching” workshop, we got right to work establishing individual goals and setting the topics for the program’s monthly meetings. In addition to our traditional development topics such as networking and delivering engaging presentations, we had a professional trainer coach our apprentices (and mentors, too!) in communication and in projecting a good image. We also introduced two new sessions to this year’s program, “Breaking the Glass Ceiling,” featuring guest speakers Eve Michel, MTACC Program Executive, Senior Vice President & Chief Architect and Julie D’Orazio, Senior Vice President, National Market Leader for Transit and Rail, WSP USA and a “Book Club” session where we read *Take the Lead* by Betsy Myers, an inspirational and practical book on leadership and management.

The apprentices also met one-on-one with their mentors to discuss their goals throughout the year. In the summer, the mentors and apprentices participated in a relaxing yoga session followed by a social event. As is our tradition, the WTS GNY Woman of the Year, Catherine Rinaldi, President of Metro-North Railroad, dedicated a wonderful hour to our apprentices at their program graduation, answering an array of questions and providing insightful and thought-provoking advice.

Nicole Bucich of WSP and Lisa Santoro of LTK Engineering Services, served as Co-Chairs of the 2018 Program. After a terrific tenure of leading the Mentoring Program for several years, Nicole Bucich has stepped down after the 2018 Program, with Janie Chen of LIRR and Lisa Santoro serving as Co-Chairs for next year’s program.

See the list below for the names of our 2018 Mentors and Apprentices including the organizations for which they work:

<i>Apprentice</i>	<i>Mentor</i>
1. Nicole Yang	1. Lisa DiTaranti
2. Olya Arakhouskaya	2. Patricia Lodge
3. Dina Ferraiuolo	3. Wendy Ho
4. Angela DeVita	4. Judy McClain
5. Suzie Heap	5. Lisa Schreiberman
6. Alexandra Gore	6. Eileen Rodriguez
7. Erin Stehlgens	7. Janie Chen
8. Mashal Ali	8. Tammy Petsios
9. Lucy Accardo	9. Deb Moolin
10. Yonelle Baptiste	10. Mary Ameen



Back Row: Patricia Lodge (Mentor – NYCT), Judy McClain (Mentor – NYCT), Mary Ameen (Mentor – NJTPA), Yonelle Baptiste (Apprentice – LIRR), Eileen Rodriguez (Mentor – LIRR), Alexa Gangemi (WTS-GNY President), Mashal Ali (Apprentice – InfraTech Engineering), Wendy Ho (Mentor – AKRF), Nicole Bucich (Mentoring Program Co-Chair – NEC Commission)

Front Row: Suzie Heap (Apprentice - Amey Consulting), Janie Chen (Mentor – LIRR), Lisa Schreibman (Mentor – NYCT), Olya Arakhouskaya (Apprentice – NJ TRANSIT), Angela DeVita (Apprentice – Hardesty and Hanover), Lucy Accardo (Apprentice – MNR), Nicole Yang (Apprentice – Arup), Lisa DiTaranti (Mentor – VHB), Dina Ferraiuolo (Apprentice – VHB), Alexandra Gore (Apprentice – WSP), Lisa Santoro (Mentoring Program Co-Chair – LTK Engineering Services).

Transportation YOU

NY Program

In 2018, the Transportation YOU NY Program continued to mentor female students at City Polytechnic High School of Engineering, Architecture & Technology. The program focused on introducing students to Transportation-related careers and continuing to improve their professional development skills. During the second half of the 2017-2018 school year we held several events for the students, including:

- Shadow Your Mentor Day – Students traveled to their mentors’ office to see what a day in the life of a professional consists of. They met co-workers, attended meetings and presentations, and practiced their networking skills
- MTA Subway Simulator – Students were taught how to operate a subway train in a simulated environment; they got to try out the same simulator that real subway operators train on. where students were able to drive a train in the subway simulator
- John F. Kennedy International Airport – Students were given a behind-the scenes tour of the airport, including a bus tour to see airside operations.
- 2018 Graduation - Students participated in Transportation Jeopardy! and received Transportation YOU T-shirts.

Over the summer, the mentors worked with the school to revamp the Transportation YOU NY program, with focus on in-school sessions so the students would be able to develop a more meaningful one-on-one relationship with their mentor. Activities for the first half of the 2018-2019 school year included:

- Kick-off Event- We began the year with a speed-matching session where students were able to meet with each mentor for three minutes, and then ranked which mentors they’d like to be paired with.
- In-School Session - The matched students and mentors connected over an in-school session that focused on office life, including email dos and don’ts, dress, behavior and other topics.
- “The Hate U Give” Movie Activity – Students and mentors read “The Hate U Give” and then watched the movie together. Afterwards, mentors discussed reactions and take-aways from the movie and book with their mentees.
- Professional Development Workshop with Katen Consulting – Katen Consulting gave a “First Impressions” presentation to the students, teaching them about handshakes, eye contact, professional dress and behavior etc. The students learned that it only takes seven seconds to make a first impression but takes several more interactions to undo or change that first impression.
- Escape the Room – Students and mentors participated in a team-building event at Escape the Room to learn how to work with each other to accomplish a common goal.

The Transportation YOU NY Program has several more exciting events scheduled for the students in 2019.



WTS GNY Transportation YOU NY Program 2017-2018 Graduation



MTA NYCT Subway Simulator



JFK Tour

NJ Program

The New Jersey program was established in 2015 and is based out of Newark. 2018's format was different from the past two years in that it gathered students from multiple schools rather than focusing on just one school. As such, the 2018-2019 cohort includes students from the cities of Orange, Newark and Linden. Five events were held with students, including tours of the Newark light rail facilities and the Newark Airport. The committee itself also came together to conduct four outreach events and a happy hour for mentors to network with one another.



Transportation YOU New Jersey students kicked-off the 2018-2019 school year with remarks from Flora Castillo (Pivot Strategies), Mary Ameen (NJTPA), and Mary K Murphy (PANYNJ). Also pictured are Israe Zizaoui (HDR), Jennifer Sneed (NJ TRANSIT), Director-At-Large Aimee Jefferson (NJTPA), Yetunde Adelekan (HDR), Kathleen Swindler (WSP), and Sutapa Bandyopadhyay (NJTPA).



New Jersey students touring the facilities with one of the mentors, Danni Brooks (NJ TRANSIT).



Road safety audit workshop with Aimee Jefferson (NJTPA), Danny Brooks (NJ TRANSIT), and Yetunde Adelekan (HDR).

Young Professionals

2018 marked the fifth year of the revitalized Young Professionals' Committee. The committee, led by Co-Chairs Tiffany Cummings and Ece Koch, as well as Board Liaison Portia Henry, based the year's programming largely off the successes of the previous years. The group's annual calendar included monthly committee meetings, volunteer events, the "Trending Topics" speaker series, a joint APA-WTS-YPT Transportation Trivia night, technical tours, and a holiday happy hour. In 2018, the Committee also engaged in collaborations with other organizations including-- a panel event with TransitCenter and a East Harlem/Randall's Island Park bicycle tour with APA and NYC DOT. More details about all of our events are provided below:

- Recycle-a-Bicycle Volunteer Event – Held 3/13 at Recycle-a-Bicycle Long Island City Workshop, Queens, NY. Volunteers refurbished old bicycles which were eventually raffled during the Women's Bike Ride on March 25th.
- TransitCenter Panel: "Women Changing Transportation" – Held 4/3 at TransitCenter Office, NY, NY. Speakers were Naomi Doerner (Seattle DOT), Nicole Garcia (NYC DOT), Midori Valdivia (State of NY MTA), and Laura Weins (Pittsburghers for Public Transit) and moderator Julia Ehrman (TransitCenter).
- Transportation Trivia – Held 4/17 at Smithfield Hall, NY, NY in partnership with the American Planning Association (APA) and Young Professionals' in Transportation (YPT).
- Newark Spring Tour and Happy Hour – Held 5/20 in downtown Newark, NJ with Have You Met Newark? tour guides. The knowledgeable tour guide with a planning background led a guided walking tour exploring transportation infrastructure followed by a networking happy hour.
- Autumn Bike Tour and Happy Hour – Held 9/17 between East Harlem and Randall's Island Park in partnership with NYC DOT and APA. NYC DOT Bicycle staff led a guided bike tour exploring new and innovative infrastructure followed by a networking happy hour.
- Trending Topics Series: "The Future of Midtown: The Cross-Section of Rezoning, Real Estate, and Transportation" – Held 11/5 at Public House, NY, NY. Speakers were Nancy Doon (Northeast Regional Director of Environmental Services at VHB), Robert Schiffer (Managing Director at SL Green Realty Corp), and Christine Berthet (Co-Chair of the Transportation Committee of Manhattan Community Board 4).
- Holiday Happy Hour – Held 12/10 at Latitude, NY, NY. Members networked with fellow professionals to celebrate the end of 2018 and contributed all registration fees to the WTS-GNY Scholarship Fund.

In addition, Young Professionals' leadership represented the committee at several larger WTS-GNY activities, including the Annual Meeting, Spring Dinner, Gala, Membership Appreciation Event, and Holiday Party.



Program Highlights

The New York Programs Committee began 2018 with the 38th Annual Meeting and 21st W/M/S/DBE Expo held on January 25th at Club 101. The event, which featured the annual awards ceremony honoring Member of the Year, Beth DeAngelo, NYC Deputy Area Manager at WSP USA; Employer of the Year, Dewberry; Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award, Flora Castillo, New Jersey Transit Board Member and United Healthcare Vice President of Transportation; plus the presentation of the Innovative Transportation Solutions Award to Flushing Main Street ADA Station Improvements project Long Island Rail Road (Project Team: Poonam Punj, Paul Dietlin, Andrew Wilson, Yonelle Baptiste, Todd Colabella, Dewberry and Forte Construction Corp.). Patrick J. Foye, President of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, gave the keynote address.





The Spring Dinner, held on May 8, 2018, was a Chief of Staff panel discussion and moderated by Jeannie Kwon, NJ Transit Assistant Executive Director, Projects & Strategic Investments. The event featured esteemed panelists: Midori Valdivia, Chief of Staff of the MTA President; Emily Gallo, NYCDOT Chief of Staff; and Kim Cipriano, NYCDEP Chief of Staff.



Following those exciting events, New York Programs held its fifth annual “Learn from a Leader” summer roundtable series from June through August. The series featured Connie Crawford, Senior Vice President at Louis Berger; Gricelda M. Cespedes, P.E. VP and Chief Engineer of Disputes in the Program Services group in the office of Capital Program Management in MTA New York City Transit; and Madeleine Ehrlich

WTS Greater New York Chapter

McDonnell is the Director of Special Projects for the Office of the COO at the New York City Department of Transportation (NYCDOT).

The Fall Dinner, held on November 19, 2018, was entitled “Tappan Zee Bridge: The Women Who Made it Happen.” The panel was moderated by Jamey Barbas, New York State Thruway Authority (NYSTA), Project Director and the panelists included Maria Lehman, Parsons, Vice President (former Interim Director of NYSTA); Melissa Toni, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Environmental Coordinator; Mei Mei Lee, AKRF, Inc., Project Manager, Environmental; and Elena Barnett, HDR, Inc., Project Manager, Construction.



We then ended the year with our fun Holiday Party. 2018 proved to be quite an exciting year in the world of Programs!



2018 Annual Gala

WTS- GNY once again hosted their Annual Gala on a beautiful October evening to a sell-out crowd. After mingling on the patio of the Battery Gardens Restaurant in Lower Manhattan, attendees headed upstairs for the formal presentation where WTS- GNY President Alexa Gangemi offered welcoming remarks. Special Guest Host Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti, Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Transportation, also spoke.

Lysa Scully, general manager of LaGuardia Airport, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey – the airport’s CEO - introduced this year’s eight winners of the scholarship awards, which amounted to over \$20,000, including:

- TransitCenter Transit Policy Innovator Graduate Scholarship – Jessica Murray
- Leonard Braun Memorial Scholarship - Anna Stokes
- Susan Misknowicz Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship – Emily Raque
- Molitoris Leadership Scholarship for Undergraduates – Hio Juan “Elsa” Kong
- Susan L. Kupferman Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship – Huan Ying Zhang
- Junior College/Trade School Scholarship – Tyra Brown
- Transportation YOU High School Scholarship – Savita Angira
- Leadership Legacy Award – Sofia Perez-Guzman

Cathy Rinaldi, 2018 WTS-GNY Woman of the Year, was introduced by Ronnie Hakim, managing director of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA). Ms. Rinaldi, who has served as president of MTA Metro-North Railroad (MNR) since February 21st of this year, inaugurated her career at MTA in 2003 as the agency’s deputy executive director and general counsel. In 2011, she was named MTA chief of staff. Prior to that, she had served as vice president and general counsel at the Long Island Rail Road (LIRR). Having initiated a lunch and learn program as well as a women’s book club for MNR employees, she is credited for her great advocacy on behalf of the MTA employees with whom she works. Each program has offered opportunities for staff to interact and network, particularly among those in different departments who would not typically cross paths.



Ms. Hakim, who as always, added a lot of humor and spirit to her remarks, pointed out that there were many MNR staff who had paid their own way to pay tribute to Ms. Rinaldi. She also highlighted that the

two have much in common, having both arrived with backgrounds as lawyers to the field of transportation. Ms. Hakim went on to herald Ms. Rinaldi's drive and high expectations for herself and fellow employees in providing the best quality of service for customers. Then, addressing the scholarship winners, she added that in Ms. Rinaldi, they have a great role model. "You might be surprised by this, but in our industry, we sometimes get criticized," with feigned surprise.

When it was Ms. Rinaldi's turn at the podium, she opened by thanking her mother as well as other women who had served as role models, stressing that it is in the "spirit of friendship, the spirit of shared purpose that makes this job the most rewarding one that I ever could have imagined."

She reflected back on her career and her beginnings as an undergraduate at Yale where she majored in English and then as a law student at the University of Virginia. She expressed her appreciation for her education and early career as a lawyer in burnishing her skills as a good reader and writer as well as listener, strengths that have served her well throughout her many roles within the MTA.

Ms. Rinaldi posited that as a female leader she has a greater sensitivity to the work-life balance, recognizing the obligations of family all along the continuum, as well as the need to take one's professional responsibilities seriously. Citing the adage that "a woman is like a teabag - you can't tell how strong she is until you put her in hot water," she remarked she's already found herself in hot water a few times in her new role.

In closing, she told the story of a day last May when a tornado swept through the MNR area, halting trains on all three lines. There was one train on the Beacon line that had been stranded for hours. The train crew called a local pizzeria that remarkably was both open and handling deliveries in spite of the weather and ordered pizza for all of those stuck on the train, assuring that they wouldn't go hungry. She praised the crew for their "complete professionalism, compassion, and concern for their customers' comfort and safety," attributes to which she aspires in her own role as MNR president.



Before the event came to a close, names for the scholarship raffle were drawn. Thanks to our many generous donors, the raffle generated a record-breaking \$4,427. Great appreciation as well to the Special Events Committee for organizing this tremendously successful event, particularly Desiree Gazzo, chair; Beth Zall, liaison; Ani Toncheva, past liaison; as well as volunteers Daniella Bernett, Chrystin Binder, Sarah Colker, Pamela Daley, Gabriela Kappes, Aviva Laurenti, Ella McLeod, Janet McPherson, Julie Polak, Linda Travis, Daniela Zellers, and Jane Huang; as well as volunteers outside the Special Events Committee including Sheriza Majid, Bibi Kahn, Cherise Meyers, KellyAnne Valentine, Sofia LaFrance Brooks, Fiona Robe, Teresa Cannone, Jilla Moro, and everyone else who made the event possible.

Scholarship Awards

TransitCenter Transit Policy Innovator Graduate Scholarship



Jessica Murray is a doctoral student in developmental psychology at The Graduate Center, CUNY and a graduate fellow with the Futures Initiative. She co-chairs a cross-campus group called the CUNY Disability Scholars and manages its communications and website. Her dissertation project is “Our Mobility—a research study designed to learn more about individual differences in mobility in New York City (OurMobility.org).” She received a BFA in Design from the University of Texas at Austin in 2003 and worked as a creative professional for nearly 10 years before returning to school. Her master’s thesis at The Graduate Center (2014) was entitled, “Work-Life Experiences for People with Mobility Disabilities Living in New York City,” and examined the structural and environmental issues for these individuals. As her research has progressed, Murray has expanded this topic to better understand the barriers that impact those with all types of disabilities. She has been active in advocating for accessibility improvements to New York City Transit’s system and plans to continue working toward this goal after completing her degree.

Leonard Braun Memorial Scholarship

Anna Stokes, AICP is both a full-time student pursuing a Master of Science in Urban Planning program at Columbia University’s Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation, as well as a part-time Transportation Planner II at the multidisciplinary consulting firm Milone & MacBroom. An experienced professional, Stokes earned her bachelor’s degree in Public Policy, with minors in Urban Planning and Music Performance, from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2010. She has worked in the transportation industry ever since. Her professional experience has encompassed roles across the public, non-profit, and private sectors concentrating on the implementation of sustainable and active transportation projects from Maine to Georgia. In graduate school, Stokes has built on her professional foundation by focusing on urban analytics and urban resilience, subjects she believes necessary to develop and design responsive and equitable transportation systems. Upon graduation, Stokes plans to undertake roles in both professional practice and academia, as she feels that transportation planning field could be elevated further through a greater collaboration between these worlds.



** WTS-GNY would like to thank the University Transportation Research Center for once again making a \$1,000 donation to the Leonard Braun Memorial Scholarship recipient.*

Susan Miskowicz Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship



Emily Raque is in her senior year at Stevens Institute of Technology, pursuing an undergraduate degree in Civil Engineering. She participates in a co-op program that allows her to gain work experience, while completing her eight semesters of undergraduate study during five calendar years. Through the program, Raque has had the opportunity to work for Granite Construction, where she served as a field engineer on the World Trade Center PATH Hall project. She also had the opportunity to work for two different departments at Stantec, including 10 months with its transportation unit. During that time, she had the opportunity to use HCS, Synchro, and SimTraffic to analyze traffic conditions at several locations in New York City, New York state and Connecticut. She also performed an independent summer internship with NASA. On campus she served two years as K-12 outreach chair for the Stevens chapter of Society of Women Engineers. When she graduates, Raque plans to continue in the transportation field and hopes her work will have a positive impact on the lives of others.

Molitoris Leadership Scholarship for Undergraduates

Hio Kuan “Elsa” Kong is pursuing a bachelor’s degree in Civil Engineering, with a minor in Construction Management, at New York University. Last summer, she worked on a research topic entitled, “Monitoring Bus Arrivals for Headway Control Strategies,” at the NYU Department of Civil and Urban Engineering. She used the Python code to extract the real-time bus data and created cumulative diagrams to monitor the bus arrivals. She also used the QGIS to visualize the real-time data on the map. This research piqued her interest in transportation. She joined as one of the E-board members in the Intelligent Transportation Society (ITS) and Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) at NYU. This summer, she served as an intern at a construction firm.



Susan L. Kupferman Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship



Huan Ying Zhan will be an upcoming Civil Engineering transfer student at New York University’s Tandon School. Previously at City College of New York, she worked alongside Dr. Alison Conway as a research assistant, where she served as a field data collector for freight transportation of the Clear Curb and Clear Lane enforcement. This summer, she was an intern at NYS Department of Transportation Region 11 in the Traffic and Safety Mobility Group. During her internship, Zhan participated in design of expressway signs through MicroStation GuildSIGN; analyzed quality control of Traffic Ball Banking Reports for 24 highways; and assessed field inspections.

Junior College/Trade School Scholarship

Tyra Brown grew up in Jamaica, West Indies. She graduated from the Convent of Mercy Academy “Alpha” High School in June 2015. Brown immigrated to the United States in August 2017. In January 2018, she enrolled at Vaughn College, where she is currently a freshman studying Airport Management and Air Traffic Control. Brown’s career goal is to become an air control specialist and to work at one of the nation’s major airports.



Transportation YOU High School Scholarship



Savita Angira is an Engineering major at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and intends to pursue Civil Engineering. During high school, she was a member of the Coding Club, Speech & Debate Club, and Science Research Program, and served as president of Science Olympiad, Key Club, and the National Honor Society. These activities helped her to discover and develop a passion for innovation, as well as leadership. Outside of school, Angira participated in several different programs, including: Canstruction, where she directed and assisted her team in building a large structure using cans of food; Pioneer Academics, where she researched the effects of science and technology in modern society; and the National Grid Engineering Pipeline Program, which has educated her about the importance of engineers and allowed her to gain exposure to the engineering industry. Meanwhile, her love of community service and academic excellence has garnered her many honors and awards, including the Presidential Volunteer Service Award; the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Medal Award; and the Senator Kemp Hannon Youth “Community” Leadership Award.

Leadership Legacy Award

Sofia Perez-Guzman is a second year Ph.D. student in Civil and Environmental Engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. In 2017, she earned her B.S. in Industrial Engineering from Universidad del Valle in Colombia. Currently, she is a research assistant at the Center for Infrastructure, Transportation and the Environment CITE. Her ongoing research includes: the assessment of feasibility of sustainable last-leg delivery systems for a project with NYS Energy Research and Development Authority; the assessment of impacts of emerging market and technological trends for freight-efficient land uses, as part of the Transportation Research Board’s National Cooperative Freight Research Program and a Department of Energy project; and conducting research on humanitarian logistics, specifically on more effective ways to conduct post-disaster humanitarian logistics. In addition, Perez-Guzman, co-chaired the organization of the 2018 VREF Advanced Studies Institute on Sustainable Urban Freight Systems held in August 2018 at Rensselaer. Currently, she is the Communications chair for the WTS Rensselaer Student Chapter. Perez-Guzman plans to continue to have a positive impact on society and transportation improvements.

