



Advancing women Advancing transportation Quarterly Newsletter

Q2 2022

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

WTS San Diego County Chapter welcomes you to the midpoint of year 2022! We continue to provide quality programs, support our members, and serve as a platform for voicing concerns that impact our profession, our country, and the world.

We started the second quarter of 2022 with a very successful scholarship fundraiser held in person outdoors and hosted by our Gold Level Sponsor AECOM. If you attended, you experienced firsthand the quality of the event, as well as the wine (it was a wine-tasting fundraiser after all), and the dedication of the Scholarship Chairs Marissa Thomas of TYLin and Jenny Vick of HDR and their committee. Read more about it in this newsletter.

Our re-invigorated Transportation YOU committee, the part of WTS that focuses on introducing school-age ladies and under-represented minorities to the field of transportation, was very busy and effective this quarter. Shannon Gonzales and Eric Meisgeier of MCTC assembled a power team that participated in career fairs and

other events at elementary, middle, and high schools across the region. What a way to attract a future generation of transportation professionals to our field! Great job!

The legend in our region, and the Director-at-Large on our Board, Sunnie House, of Sunnie House Strategies, led the Self-Esteem Workshop beneficial to newbies and veterans alike. Thank you, Sunnie, for always being ready to lend a hand, and for your support and great ideas!

Working with other professional organizations brings synergy and broadens the horizons of the membership. When American Planning Association (APA) came to San Diego for their Annual Conference, WTS and APA held a joint Mixer. Thank you, Fariba Ramos, of Caltrans, for taking the lead!

Many of you were able to join WTS International's Annual Conference in Seattle, the first in-person conference in three years. Over 1,000 participants and guests, impressive speakers, and dignitaries were in attendance. It is very inspiring and uplifting to be among those who support and encourage the professional advancement of women.

And the last WTS San Diego event of the quarter was an in-person June Signature Program on the Federal Infrastructure Bill and what it means for our region and the state. The distinguished panel included women in leadership positions from the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG). I hope you had a chance to be there and get energized by the great opportunities coming to our industry.

We are eternally grateful to our corporate sponsors who enable us to continue awarding scholarships and offering programs and other member benefits.

The world continues to be in the turmoil, with the ongoing war in Ukraine, the rise of inflation, and the disturbing decisions by the Highest Court in the Land. Our role in furthering WTS' mission to attract, connect, sustain, and advance women's careers to strengthen the transportation industry is more essential than ever. If you want to be a part of the solution to create equity, embrace diversity, and channel your energy to affect change, please join us at <https://wtsinternational.org>.



Be well and create opportunities to do well!

Lima Saft, PhD, PE, PMP
WTS San Diego County Chapter President
Caltrans San Diego and SDSU

2022 WTS San Diego Chapter Board

President	Lima Saft	Award Recognitions	Claudia Brizuela
Vice President	Cecily Taylor	Transportation YOU	Shannon Gonzales
Secretary	Julie Froelich		Eric Meisgeier (Co-Chairs)
Treasurer	Melissa Gomez		Chris Wahl
Immediate Past President	Brianna Pilkinton	Corporate Sponsorship	Morgan Wolfe
Director At Large	Lorraine Ahlquist	Membership	Stacy Williams
Director At Large	Sunnie House	Professional Development	Marissa Twite
Director At Large	Eleanor Gonzalez	Communications	Annie Merritt (Co-Chairs)
Annual Awards	Diane Vermeulen		Nensi Lakrori
	Dawn Wilson (Co-Chairs)	Regional Council Chair	Kena Teon
Scholarships	Marissa Thomas	Diversity & Inclusion	
	Jenny Vick (Co-Chairs)		

Meet the 2022 WTS San Diego Chapter Board!



SUBMIT A WOW!

Know an amazing woman co-worker, industry friend, or WTS member and think she deserves recognition? Well we do too!

- 1** Download our brief WOW nomination form at http://bit.ly/WTSSD_WOW
- 2** Fill out the nomination form
- 3** Email the form to wtssd.communications@gmail.com

Wine Night Scholarship Fundraiser – April 7, 2022

By: Marissa Thomas
Engineer II
TYLin Group

The scholarship committee hosted our first fundraiser of the year, Wine Night! The fundraiser was held on April 7, 2022, with approximately 50 attendees. Danielle Faruolo, WSET3, of Quigley Fine Wines poured the attendees four varieties of wine from small producers and family-owned wineries. We raised about **\$3,900**. Look for advertisements for our upcoming wine night this fall!



April Professional Development Program: Empower Yourself and Those Around You April 22, 2022

By: Stacy Williams
Client Services Manager
Twining, Inc.

Our April Professional Development program, titled “Empower Yourself and Those Around You,” was presented by Sunnie House of Sunnie House Strategies on April 22, 2022. This program focused on the power of self-esteem and highlighted the balance of self-esteem and how to channel this power to bring about the best result in your life.

The workshop gauged the significance that can be seen in one’s personal life and career when properly implementing self-esteem. The workshop identified what self-esteem includes and how to use these components to successfully enhance one’s self-esteem. The parts included self-respect, self-appreciation, and self-acceptance. We learned that understanding these attributes will allow us to increase our happiness and help us make the right decisions in our professional and personal lives.

We went through a prompted worksheet that illustrated the different scenarios that impact self-esteem and how to use them to our advantage, even when the power of choice is not evident. These questions encouraged critical thinking and implementation techniques that can boost self-esteem while also proving that the effort it takes to improve self-esteem is well worth the work.

Attendees were able to learn practical steps that can be taken to grow their self-esteem as well as further steps to follow moving forward to ensure that they can live the life they want to live, both personally and professionally.

Thank you to **Sunnie House** and to all the participants who made this program a success!



WTS San Diego and APA Mixer – May 2, 2022

By: Fariba Ramos, PE
Branch Chief of Electrical Design
Caltrans

On May 2, 2022, WTS San Diego and the American Planning Association (APA) held a joint event in Downtown San Diego with over 60 attendees from both organizations.

This event coincided with the APA Annual Conference in San Diego. Attendees had a chance to connect and share firsthand experiences in transportation nationally.

WTS San Diego is looking forward to hosting more events to further discussions around planning and transportation as our field continues to work toward a more advanced, integrated, and sustainable transportation future.



WTS San Diego Legislation and Infrastructure Funding Breakfast Program June 22, 2022

By: Stacy Williams
Client Services Manager
Twining, Inc.

The WTS San Diego Legislation and Infrastructure Funding Breakfast Program was held on June 22, 2022. Patti Boekamp, the Senior Director and Local Business Leader of WSP, moderated the event. The distinguished panel featured Avital Barnea, the Deputy Secretary for Transportation Planning at the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA), Charlene Lee Lorenzo, Director of the FTA Region IX Los Angeles Office which covers 10 counties in Southern California, and Robyn Wapner, the Senior Director of the Department of Public Affairs at SANDAG.

The program featured information regarding how legislation affects our industry in the eyes of local, state, and federal perspectives. The panel of speakers also discussed what the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) will bring to the industry. The program detailed the IIJA and included a breakdown of the funding and differences that this bill contains compared to others. The program included questions and answers that addressed how California will benefit from this bill and other details about how local agencies can prepare for, and support, the regional effort.

The attendees were provided with a great detail of information on where the funds from the bill will be allocated with an emphasis on projects related to highway and public transportation infrastructure and other spending that will support projects such as broadband, water infrastructure, ports, and airports. The panelist also spoke about how this large influx of funding will create new infrastructure jobs in California and their efforts in recruiting and retaining individuals to add to the infrastructure workforce. They expressed how building out this workforce is one of the most important aspects as it relates to the IIJA bill and California's future and how demand for training in skilled trades will likely grow as infrastructure workforce needs grow. They touched on how they are working to develop strategies that focus on local hiring ordinances and creating action plans as it relates to training and workforce development.

Thank you to our speakers and all the participants who made this informative program a success!



2022 Summer Book Review

By: Seana Urquhart
Transportation Engineer - Design
Caltrans

San Diego County Chapter's Professional Development Committee continued its 2022 book club program with the summer selection of *The Self Care Prescription: Powerful Solutions to Manage Stress, Reduce Anxiety and Increase Wellbeing* by Robyn L. Gobin, Ph.D.

Centered around the six domains of self-care, Dr. Gobin provides a simple guide to help her readers create an achievable action plan to find purpose and harmony between life, family, and work. In this book, you will better understand the concept of self-care and develop strategies to better organize your life, resist demotivation, and help you grow in the areas you feel are lacking.

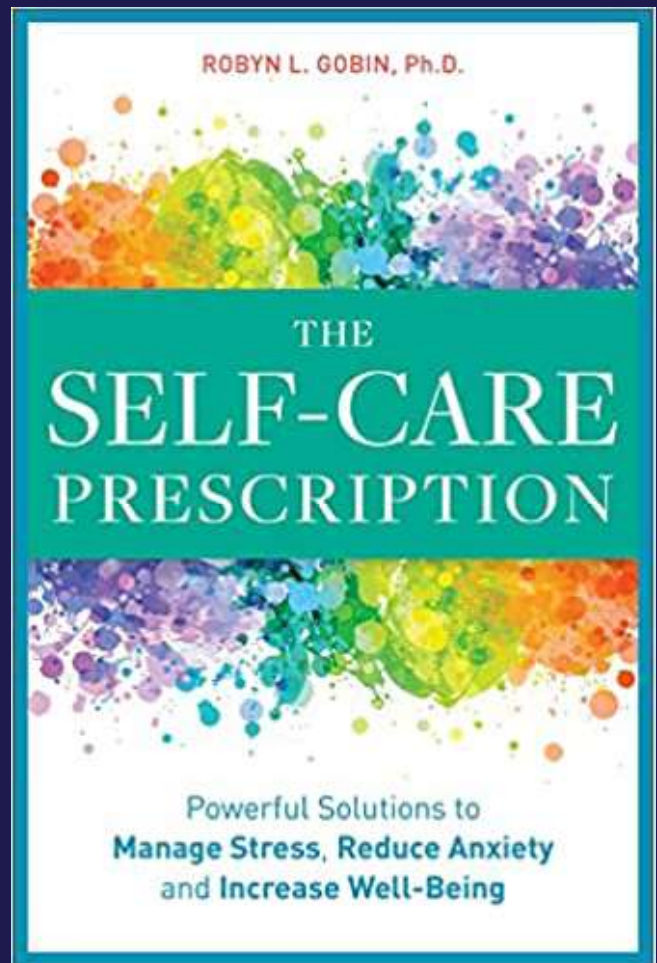
Would I recommend this book?

Yes. I was very impressed with the book's organization, with each chapter dedicated to one of the six self-care domains: physical, spiritual, emotional, intellectual, social, and vocational. Each chapter's topic goes straight to the point, with easy-to-understand examples and activities. I recommend this book to anyone who may feel overwhelmed from time to time, lacking in any area of their life, or would like to consider a different perspective to achieve self-care.

This book is available in paperback, Kindle, and Audible.

Dr. Robyn L. Gobin is a clinical psychologist, assistant professor, speaker, and researcher specializing in women's mental health and interpersonal trauma.

For additional recourses on the topic of self-care or to learn more about the author Dr. Robyn Gobin and the services she provides, check out her website at <https://www.robyn-gobin.com>.



San Diego Transportation YOU Program Pull Out All the Stops

By: Shannon Gonzales
Kleinfelder

So far in 2022, the Transportation YOU (TYOU) program has been busy as we participated in eight different events: three career fairs, three school presentations, a speaker panel, and a dinner with a scientist event! And that's just the first two quarters of the year! This wouldn't have been possible without all our WTS SD volunteers or our sponsor, Wood Rodgers, Inc. There is an abundance of interest from schools in the area, and the more volunteers we have, the more events we can attend. I look forward to what Q3 and Q4 will bring for our program.

“Why are signs important?”

This is the question I ask every student that stepped up to the WTS table at the elementary school career fair as I gestured to a roadway board that volunteer Flavia put together.

Answers ranged from, “They keep us safe” to “they keep us from crashing into each other.”

This simple question provided a way for each student to think about the ways that transportation impacts their lives; that the way they get to school is determined by planners and made safe and efficient by traffic engineers.

The WTS Transportation YOU program is a hands-on interactive program that offers young girls an introduction to various transportation careers. I didn't get introduced to the concept of transportation as a career path until college, and it was purely by accident. The TYOU program is the program I wish I knew about when I was in middle or high school.

Early in 2022, WTSI announced the TYOU program is going through a revamping stage. Our San Diego chapter decided to take this as an opportunity to make the program everything we knew it could be.



Los Penasquitos Elementary School Career Fair



Debbie's project at Bear Valley Middle School



Flavia showing the roadway board to a student at Bear Valley Middle School



Amanda's table at Bear Valley Middle School

San Diego Transportation YOU Program: Pull Out All the Stops

By: Shannon Gonzales
Kleinfelder

Locally, we were unsure of how school districts would feel about in-person events, and further, we were unsure of what would provide the most value to schools. We wanted to help, so we carried a box of possibilities with us as we approached each district. This meant we had to be agile and ready for any request a school had of us.

Our amazing volunteers stepped up to do just that. From Flavia DePlachett (City of San Diego) putting together a roadway safety model to demonstrate to elementary and middle schoolers the role of a traffic engineer and why signs are important to Amanda Olgeirsson (Kleinfelder) putting the choice to fund projects in students' hands by showing three different projects and explaining that there are not enough funds for all three, so which would they pick and why? And finally, to our sponsor, Wood Rodgers, Inc., enthusiastically showing up to each career fair with a plethora of informational materials to share with students.

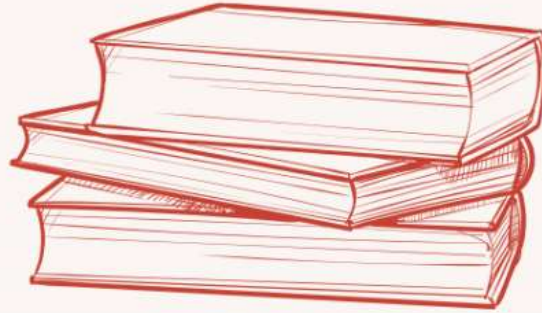
After giving a presentation about transportation careers at an elementary school career fair, one fourth-grader ran up to Eric Meisgeier to proudly show him the detailed notes she took during the presentation. Students like her are the reason the TYOU program is imperative. She is the future of our industry.

A special thank you to Wood Rodgers, our TYOU 2022 sponsor!

Are you interested in getting involved in the TYOU program or know a teacher or school that might like to collaborate with us? Please reach out to Shannon Gonzales at sgonzales@kleinfelder.com or Eric Meisgeier at emeisgeier@mctciv.com.



Thank you to Andrea Look for supporting WTS by representing Wood Rodgers at the Mt. Carmel Career fair!

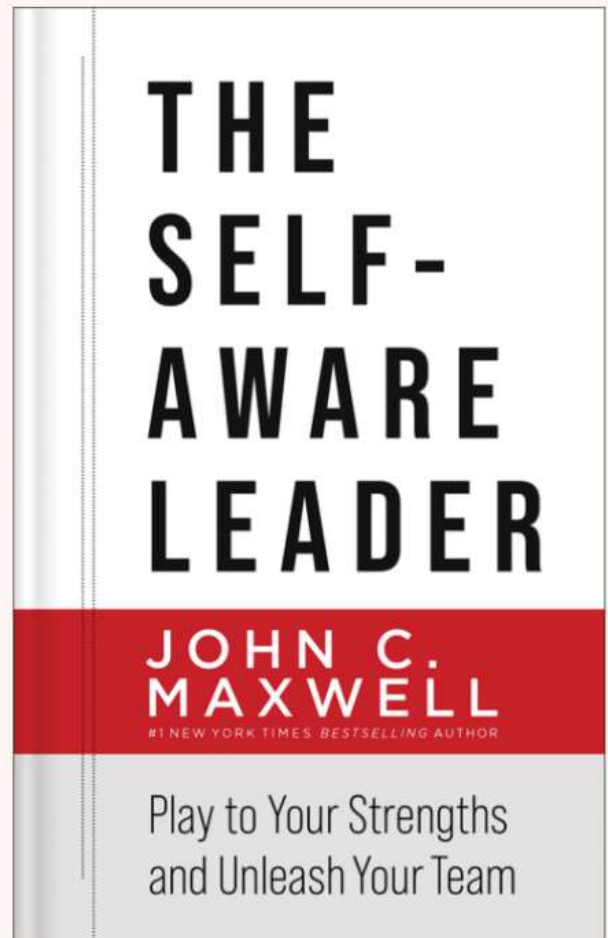


FALL INTO READING WITH WTS SAN DIEGO

Join us virtually as we discuss our Fall 2022 book club pick with your favorite glass of wine or cocktail. The fall season's book selection is "The Self-Aware Leader: Play to Your Strengths, Unleash Your Team" by John C. Maxwell.

Available Formats: Kindle, Audiobooks, Hardcover

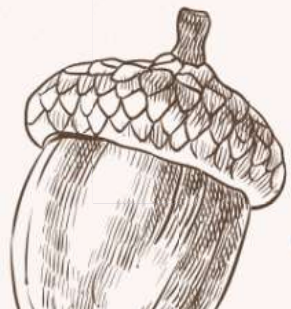
Book club participants will be entered into a raffle for a chance to win a \$25 Amazon Gift Card!



Tuesday, October 11, 5 to 6:30 p.m.

[Register Here](#)

Contact Seana.urquhart@dot.ca.gov for questions



2022 Annual Awards & Scholarship Gala

Thursday, October 20th

6:00 – 9:00PM

Registration begins at 5:30 PM

The Prado

2499 Pan American Rd
San Diego CA 92101

explore.
innovate.
create.

Join us in your best cocktail or business attire on Thursday, October 20th for our Annual Awards Gala as we honor this year's award and scholarship recipients.

REGISTRATION (Prior to Oct. 6th)

<https://ui.constantcontact.com/mavmap/evp/hub/details?id=e4a9e074-fdc4-493a-b3e3-3fa6065a392e>

Member or Public Sector	\$95
Non-Member**	\$125

**Not a member? You can receive a 10% rebate on your registration and receive the member registration rate when you join WTS and register for the Gala in September 2022. [Click here](#) for Membership Information:

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Contact the annual awards chairs to secure your sponsorship today! wtsd.annualawards@gmail.com

Registration (1) - \$2,500

Full page ad in online program
Red carpet photograph backdrop

Dessert (1) - \$2,500

Full page ad in online program
Company logo prominently displayed with desserts

Party Favor (2) - \$2,000

Half page ad in online program
Company logo with each individual party favor

Table Centerpiece (1) - \$2,000

Half page ad in online program
Company logo displayed with table centerpieces

Cocktail Reception (3) - \$1,500

Half page ad in online program
Designer cocktail with logo displayed at bar

Champagne Check-in (1) - \$1,500

Half page ad in online program
Logo on the wine tags

Audio/Visual (6) - \$1,000

Half page ad in online program
Recognition during Awards Program

Event Photographer (2) - \$500

Half page ad in online program
Recognition during Awards Program

Entertainment (2) - \$500

Half page ad in online program
Recognition during Awards Program

Raffle (Unlimited) - \$300

Individual or company name listed in online program
Company logo prominently displayed near raffle item

WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU

HOW ARE YOU WORKING FROM HOME?



HOW ARE YOU SOCIAL DISTANCING?



1

On your Instagram or Facebook account, **post a picture** of how you are working from home or social distancing yourself!

2

Tag **@wts_sandiego!**
Use the hashtags **#wtssdwfh** and **#wtssdsocialdistancing**

OR

Submit a picture and caption to **@wts_sandiego** and we will post it for you!



JOIN WTS TODAY!



What is WTS?

Women's Transportation Seminar (WTS) is an international organization dedicated to building the future of transportation through the global advancement of women. With nearly 8,500 members, including both women and men, WTS is turning the glass ceiling into a career portal through its professional programs, networking opportunities, and unparalleled access to industry the government leaders.

Why join WTS?

- Excellent networking opportunities during our programs at lower rates than non-members
- "Members Only" social events throughout the year at no cost
- Access to WTS International's members directory
- Professional development through our programs offered only to members
- Exclusive access to the online WTS Knowledge Lab*
- Become a mentor and/or mentee through our Mentorship Program
- Raffle drawings for members throughout the year

Sign up [here](#) or download [flier](#) for more details!

CORPORATE 2022 SPONSORS

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS!

★ PLATINUM LEVEL



★ GOLD LEVEL



★ SILVER LEVEL



★ SMALL BUSINESS LEVEL



BECOME A 2022 CORPORATE SPONSOR FOR WTS SAN DIEGO COUNTY CHAPTER
For more information, contact Chris Wahl at 619-758-3007 or C.Wahl@fehrandpeers.com.

