

WTS SOUTH CAROLINA NEWSLETTER



Upcoming Events

SCHOLARSHIP & AWARDS LUNCHEON

April 25, 2024 | 11:30 AM*

In-Person at The Palmetto Club
(1231 Sumter St, Columbia, SC 29201)

COFFEE & CONVERSATIONS

April 25, 2024 | 1:30 PM*
Members Only Event

In-Person at The Palmetto Club
(1231 Sumter St, Columbia, SC 29201)

ED&I Webinar

*Transportation Equity &
Environmental Justice*

Coming Soon in May

Date & Time TBD*

BOOK CLUB

The Confidence Code

Group Discussions Week of May 20th

Date & Time TBD for Each Location*

*Check your email and WTS SC social pages for more information. If our emails are going to your spam folder, please follow us on LinkedIn or Facebook to keep up to date on future events or check our events page on our website.

PRESIDENT'S PEN

The new board for 2024-2025 is up and running! A huge thank you to our past Presidents, Raven Gambrell and Joy Riley, for all their time, effort, and leadership to get WTS SC where it is today. It is truly my honor to follow in their footsteps!

WTS SC is excited to start 2024 with a great line up of events and networking opportunities as well as the addition of events in Western NC! We kicked off the year with a joint project tour of the Michelin US10 Earthmover Plant with the Society of Women Engineers (SWE). In February, we learned about advocating for yourself at work with the Thoughtful Co. This month, WTS SC was a sponsor of the Transportation Association of South Carolina (TASC) Legislative Reception, had record attendance at our Membership Drive and Happy Hour events in all four locations, and hosted our first Freight Rail Panel with representatives from Palmetto Railways, Norfolk Southern, and CSX.

March is also Women's History Month. It is a time to celebrate and recognize the remarkable contributions of women throughout history. When it comes to the field of transportation, women have played pivotal roles, often breaking barriers and reshaping the industry. Despite progress, women remain underrepresented in the transportation workforce. Women's History Month reminds us that achieving gender balance is essential. When women participate fully in transportation, everyone benefits—from improved safety to innovative solutions. Let's celebrate the resilience, creativity, and determination of women who have shaped transportation. One particular woman that comes to mind is SCDOT Secretary of Transportation Christy Hall for leading the charge as the first female Secretary at the Department and being a huge supporter of WTS SC. We wish her all the best as she gets ready to retire later this month and can't wait to see what new journeys she embarks on!

Stayed tuned for our coming events, which will include our Annual Scholarship & Awards Luncheon, a special member only event with SCDOT Commission Chairwoman Pamela Christopher, ED&I webinar, and our first book club meetup for the year. We just wrapped up a successful sponsor drive with 22 corporate sponsors, 2 public partners, and 9 DBE's and SB's. Thank you so much for your support! We could not accomplish our mission and vision without it!

Petrina Butler

Petrina Butler, PE, ENV SP

WTS SC President



CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

2024-2025 BOARD MEMBERS



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Tracey Turner, PE
ESP ASSOCIATES

Join us in congratulating
our new 2024 - 2025
WTS SC Board Members!



WTS & SWE JOINT MICHELIN PLANT TOUR

In January, our Technical Program featured an exclusive tour of the Michelin US10 Earthmover Facility. Participants were amazed to learn that a single tire at the facility could weigh over 10,000 pounds and stand at a towering height of 158 inches, capable of carrying loads exceeding 300 tons! We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Michelin for generously hosting us and providing such valuable insights into their operations.

We enjoyed partnering with Society of Women Engineers (SWE) for this event and we look forward to more in the future!

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EVENT: ADVOCATING FOR YOURSELF AT WORK

On February 21st, WTS SC hosted a virtual professional development event about advocating for yourself at work. We partnered with The Thoughtful Co. to provide an informative and interactive session.

The goal of the workshop was to help those in attendance understand their value and teach them how to communicate what they need to be successful in their roles. Attendees discussed how to articulate their strengths and identify any specific needs that would help them grow professionally.

Key Takeaways and Conversations:

- Understanding your strengths and unique skill-set.
 - Understanding your non-negotiables & where you do, and don't, have room for flexibility.
 - Setting the stage for a positive & productive conversation that serves you and your employer.
 - Communicating your value clearly and concisely.
- Identifying and prioritizing key elements that will make you more successful in your role.



The Thoughtful Co.



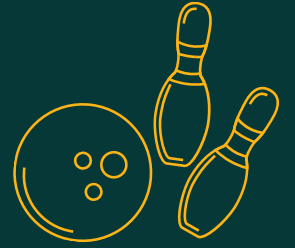
Jillian Climie

Co-Founder of The Thoughtful Co.



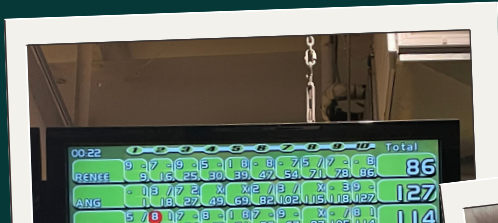
Sophie Warwick

Co-Founder of The Thoughtful Co.

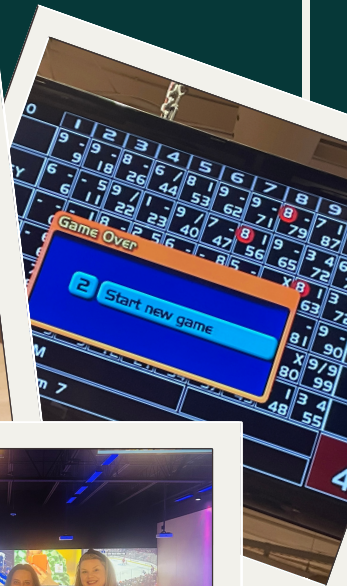


SPRING 2024 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE EVENT

On March 7th, WTS SC hosted a Spring 2024 Membership Drive - Happy Hour and Bowling. Attendees enjoyed a night of bowling, drinks, appetizers, and networking with others in the industry. We had an incredible turn out in all four regional locations: Asheville, Greenville, Columbia, and Charleston!



Charleston



Asheville



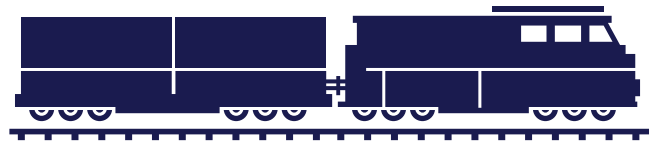
Columbia



Greenville

FREIGHT RAIL PANEL

In March, WTS SC organized an enlightening Freight Rail Panel, where we were honored to welcome distinguished industry experts. Patrick McCrory, representing Palmetto Railways, Kellen Riley from CSX, and Brian Gwin of Norfolk Southern, generously shared their insights, providing a comprehensive update on the state and region's dynamic rail industry landscape. Attendees enjoyed the opportunity to share lunch with industry leaders and actively engage in discussions surrounding South Carolina's transportation opportunities and challenges.

A promotional banner for the 2024 WTS Annual Conference. The background is a vibrant, aerial view of the New Orleans skyline at dusk, with a large riverboat on the Mississippi River in the foreground. The text on the banner includes:

THE CRESCENT CITY
CONNECTING CULTURES • CONNECTING COMMUNITIES
WTS CONFERENCE 2024 | NEW ORLEANS, LA

May 8-10, 2024
www.wtsannualconference.org

WTS Advancing women
Advancing transportation

2024 WTS Annual Conference

SAVE THE DATE!

New Orleans May 8 - 10, 2024

The Crescent City. Connecting Cultures, Connecting Communities.

The WTS International Annual Conference provides an immersive learning and networking experience for transportation professionals.

Program Highlights

- Technical Sessions
- Local tours
- Keynotes & Plenaries
- Networking & Social Events

REGISTER TODAY!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Keep an eye out for several exciting events hosted by WTS SC in the near future.
Stay tuned for more details to be announced soon!

SAVE THE DATE

2024
WTS
Advancing women
Advancing transportation
SCHOLARSHIP & AWARDS

APRIL 25TH
WTS SC SCHOLARSHIP & AWARDS LUNCHEON

THE PALMETTO CLUB
1231 SUMTER ST, COLUMBIA, SC 29201

WTS SC MEMBERS - JOIN US FOR

SAVE THE DATE

COFFEE & CONVERSATIONS

with SCDOT Commission Chairwoman
Pam Christopher

APRIL 25TH AT 1:30 PM

*PLEASE NOTE, THIS IS A WTS SC MEMBERS-ONLY EVENT AND REGISTRATION WILL BE LIMITED

THE PALMETTO CLUB
1231 SUMTER ST, COLUMBIA, SC 29201

ED&I WEBINAR

TRANSPORTATION EQUITY & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Coming Soon in May!

Date & Time TBD*

BOOK CLUB

Please join us in reading the *New York Times* Bestseller,

The Confidence Code
By Katty Kay and Claire Shipman

Confidence. We want it. We need it. But it can be maddeningly enigmatic and out of reach. Deconstruct this essential, elusive, and misunderstood quality and understand a blueprint for bringing more of it into our lives.

DISCUSSION GROUPS: MAY 20 - 24, 2024

Columbia
Contact Raven Gambrell at:
raven.gambrell@hdrinc.com

Charleston
Contact Mila Buzhinskaya at:
mbuzhinskaya@hntb.com

Greenville
Contact Brennan Groel at:
brennan.groel@hdrinc.com

THE CONFIDENCE CODE

THE SCIENCE AND ART OF SELF-ASSURANCE—WHAT WOMEN SHOULD KNOW

KATTY KAY & CLAIRE SHIPMAN
*Authors of the New York Times Bestseller *Womenomics**

Links to Purchase:

Amazon Barnes & Nobles

WTS Advancing women
Advancing transportation
> South Carolina

TRANSPORTATION IN THE NEWS

South Carolina Transportation News Highlight

After 30 dedicated years to the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT), Secretary of Transportation (SOT) Christy Hall, PE is retiring at the end of March. SOT Hall shared her appreciation saying:



"It has been an honor and a privilege to work alongside the men and women of the S.C. Department of Transportation to serve the people of South Carolina. I am thankful to Governor Haley, Governor McMaster and the SCDOT Commission for the opportunity to serve as the agency head during the past decade when South Carolina has experienced unprecedented levels of road and bridge work in every county of the state. I also want to thank the South Carolina General Assembly for recognizing the need to boost funding for infrastructure and to continuously evaluate those funding levels in order to keep pace with rapidly evolving business, residential and economic development needs."

WTS SC congratulates SOT Hall and wishes her all the best in her retirement and future endeavors. If you would like to read more, we encourage you to read her full statement with SCDOT [here](#).

JOIN A COMMITTEE!

If you are interested in serving WTS SC, please email: SouthCarolinaWTS@gmail.com

Membership | Professional Development
Technical Programs | Corporate Sponsorship
Communications | Scholarship & Awards
Transportation YOU | Special Events
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

BECOME A WTS MEMBER TODAY!



NETWORKING



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



> South Carolina
Advancing women
Advancing transportation



INCLUSIVITY



MENTORSHIP

Connect with us!



WTS South Carolina



WTS South Carolina Chapter



SouthCarolinaWTS@gmail.com



[wtsinternational.org/
chapters/south-carolina](https://wtsinternational.org/chapters/south-carolina)

WTS SOUTH CAROLINA 2024 SPONSORS

WTS SC wrapped up its successful 2024 sponsorship drive with 22 corporate sponsors, 2 public partners, and 9 DBE's and SB's. Thank you all for your continued support!

Champion Sponsors



Diamond Sponsors



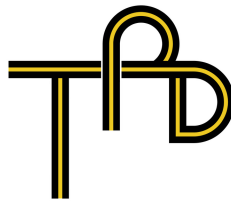
Gold Sponsors



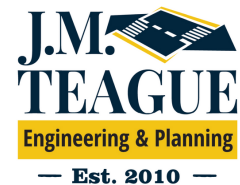
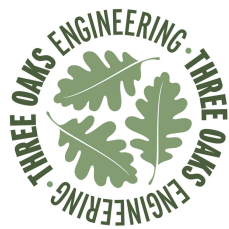
WTS SOUTH CAROLINA 2024 SPONSORS

Thank you for your support!

Silver Sponsors



DBE/SB Sponsors



Public Sponsors

