

WTS SAN DIEGO

2025 Q1 NEWSLETTER



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Message from the President

WTS San Diego has kicked off 2025 with a boom! There has been a flurry of activity since the year began, with sold-out events and our dedicated board members hard at work. Our chapter is thriving as we head into Spring, and I'm thrilled to share all we have going on with you.

We began the year with our Volunteer Open House in January, where we discussed opportunities to volunteer on our board with nearly 40 attendees. I cannot stress enough just how much this board does to make our chapter the success that it is. There are numerous opportunities available to join us. Our first major event of 2025 took place in February, where we hosted a celebration for our new Caltrans District 11 Director, Ann Fox. This event sold out twice, as we worked with the venue to provide more capacity due to the overwhelming support to welcome Ann into her new role. It was truly wonderful to celebrate Ann's accomplishments, not only as a female leader in our industry, but also as an integral member of our WTS San Diego board. Congratulations, Ann!

March has been the busiest month for our chapter that I can remember. Our book club reconvened at the Mingei International Museum early March, followed by our sold-out International Women's Day celebration held at the Fairweather Rooftop Bar. It was a beautiful and welcoming event, as we reflected on the history of International Women's Day and celebrated together.

This was followed by a special joint program we hosted

with ITS SoCal on Innovative Mobility Transformations, where we heard insider details on the Harbor Drive and Vesta Street Bridge port access improvements, as well as the I-805/SR-94 part-time transit-only lanes.

Finally, our last event of Q1 was our first-ever Putt Putt Fundraiser in late March held at the Loma Club in Liberty Station. There were raffle prizes and special prizes for those with the best scores—what a night!

If our events in Q1 didn't make it clear, there is so much in store for 2025. Our next event in late April will feature SANDAG CEO Mario Orso, who will share insights on how SANDAG is evolving and changing with the opportunities shaping our region. This is another event you won't want to miss.

As I begin my term as President, I am filled with excitement and gratitude. The energy and enthusiasm of our members and volunteers is both contagious and inspiring. I look forward to working with all of you to continue advancing our mission of supporting women in transportation. Together, we're making a lasting impression on our industry.

Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to WTS San Diego. Cheers to making 2025 a remarkable year for our chapter—I'll see you at our next event!



Melissa Gomez

WTS San Diego Chapter President
Principal Engineer - Wood Rodgers, Inc.

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What we've been up to

Volunteer Open House

January 30, 2025 // Caltrans, Old Town

The Volunteer Open House is an annual event hosted by the Membership Committee whose one of many significant goals is to introduce and recruit volunteers (members or non-members) to the WTS San Diego Chapter and its committees. Partnering with Caltrans to host the event in the District 11

offices gave WTS San Diego and attendees an exciting start to 2025! Participants enjoyed lunch and networked while the committee led a presentation diving into the efforts of WTS San Diego and the exciting volunteering opportunities available.

Ann Fox Celebration

February 6, 2025 // Stone Brewing, Liberty Station

WTS San Diego had the pleasure of celebrating Ann Fox's extraordinary achievement of assuming the role of Caltrans District 11 Director. The celebration was hosted at Stone Brewing in Liberty Station in early February, had over 100 attendees, and sold out not once, but twice! The event was a testament to the admiration and excitement for Ann.



Ann wears several hats in the transportation industry. She is a WTS member who has held several roles, she is the executive liaison and founding member of the Caltrans D11 Women's Collective, and is the executive liaison and treasurer of the D11 employee committee. Through these roles, Ann has assisted individuals with career and education development, has been a voice for those who were unable to speak up for themselves, and has recognized those around her for their achievements.

We were inspired by the heartfelt words and warm memories shared by Melissa Gomez, Melina Pereira, and Maggie Witt, who highlighted the profoundly positive impact Ann has had on those around her. The evening was further elevated by Ann herself, who honored us with words of inspiration, gratitude, and humor.

"I am so proud to be part of an organization that not only empowers women but also takes the time to celebrate and recognize their exceptional contributions. Thank you, Ann, for being an inspiring force and a mentor to us all." -Hannah Berenjfoorosh

Spring Book Club

March 4, 2025 // Mingei International Museum, Balboa Park

WTS San Diego Chapter excitedly launched the 1st quarterly Book Club of 2025! In March, a group of 9 members gathered at the Founders Room of the Mingei Museum in the heart of Balboa Park to share a meal and partake in a lively discussion about the book's themes and life experiences.

The book selected was "The First, The Few, The Only: How Women of Color Can Redefine Power in Corporate America" by Deepa Purushotaman. The group included participants from diverse cultural backgrounds, professional experiences, and

proud "co-conspirators" of women's success in the workplace. WTS San Diego proudly thanks Seana Urquhart, who remains in spirit, for sewing the seeds of change and laying the foundation for this space for women and supporters of women in STEM.

"...I found the WTS Book Club to be a perfect opportunity to experience a smaller, more intimate setting where you can get to know other members while also participating in meaningful conversations and gather wisdom and support from a community of peers in the industry." -Nicole Savin



International Women's Day

March 6, 2025 // Fairweather Rooftop Bar, Downtown San Diego

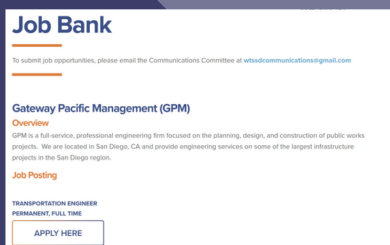
WTS San Diego's vision for the future of Women in Transportation is centered on achieving equality. The International Women's Day Celebration brought together WTS members and non-members to celebrate and recognize women's social, economic, political, and professional achievements.

"When women succeed, societies flourish. When we champion equality, we pave the way for a brighter, more just world for future generations. Together, let's continue the work of those who came before us and build a future where equality is not just an aspiration, but a reality." -Melina Pereira

The event was held at the Fairweather Rooftop Bar in Downtown San Diego and successfully sold out hosting 60 attendees. This year's celebration was filled with joy and empowering energy. Attendees connected, built relationships, shared laughs, and supported each other with a moment of gratitude during shared words from the D&I Committee Board members.



Job Bank



Scan to Visit our Website

WTS SD & ITS SoCal Innovative Mobility Transformations

March 13, 2025 // Symphony Towers, Downtown San Diego



WTS San Diego and ITS California aim to foster professional connections between the organizations by partnering and hosting industry-focused events.

Kicking off the 2025 schedule of WTS San Diego program events, the Innovative Transportation Transformations luncheon took place at the University Club atop Symphony Towers. Featured speakers from SANDAG, CALTRANS, and the Port of San Diego joined the over 50 attendees. The presentations showcased innovative projects around San Diego and emphasized the incredible value of

partnership and collaboration throughout the project planning and implementation processes.

The first project highlighted was Harbor Drive 2.0 presented by Andrea Hoff (SANDAG), Aimee Heim (Port of San Diego), and Peter Eicher (Port of San Diego). This project is a multi-modal Corridor with dedicated Truck Lanes, Freight Signal Priority, Geofencing Truck Reservation, and a Zero Emission Vehicle Charging Truck Stop.

The second project was the Vesta Street Project presented by Margarita "Maggie" Nunez (Caltrans). This project has bridge and retaining structures, ramp widening, pavement rehabilitation and is a Navy partnership.

The Part-Time Transit Only Lanes - Bus On Shoulders project, presented by Karen Jewel (Caltrans), was the last project featured. This project had on-board technology and Pilot Program Findings that included driver feedback.

Putt Putt Fundraiser

March 20, 2025 // The Loma Club

WTS San Diego supports the development and education of women seeking degrees in transportation-related fields by offering scholarships for students. Our first ever Putt Putt Fundraiser led the initiative to promote the WTS SD scholarship fund with a goal of raising \$1000. It is with great appreciation to our attendees, the event exceeded this goal!

With over 30 attendees, the event was held at The Loma Club in Liberty Station. It was a gorgeous Spring afternoon in San Diego and all enjoyed playing rounds of mini golf, networking, and supporting the scholarship fund. A highlight of the event was the raffle tickets and prizes that were given to the winners and to the lowest score in the mini golf tournament!



Upcoming Events

Book Club

Bowling Fundraiser

WTS SD & ITE Event

2025 Awards Nominations

**Student
Scholarships
Applications
Deadline**

June 13, 2025



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