



Advancing women  
Advancing transportation  
Michigan Chapter

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# CHAPTER NEWS

[www.wtsinternational.org/chapters/michigan](http://www.wtsinternational.org/chapters/michigan)

Greetings!

Happy Fall to all WTS Michigan Members and Non-Members and the end of construction season and the beginning of winter activities. Our Chapter has been busy for the last few months putting together a variety of programs that had some new faces in attendance. I would like to thank *Jenya Abramovich (SEMCOG)* and *Christina Ignasiak (FHWA)* for all the effort that they have put in over the years as co-chairs to our Programs Committee. As WTS Members may have recently seen, we are asking for votes for a new WTS Michigan Board for the next two years as well as approve some changes to our Bylaws. A big thank you for *Barbara Arens* for leading the Nominations Committee in coming up with our candidates for our Board. I also would like to thank *Kim Webb* and *Kitty Rothwell* for serving on that Committee. A goal that Barb and I have had over the last several years was to try to get new members to be Committee Chairs and be on our Board. It is by having new faces that we are able to keep our Chapter fresh and exciting with new ideas and diversity. I am pleased to say that the new Board now is a great mix of public and private sector, but also represents our Members from around the state.

As my last Letter from the President, I am thankful for all the Board Members and Committee Chairs that I've had the pleasure to work with over the last two years. I never felt I alone was running the ship, but was a collaborative effort with people that I knew I could trust to get the job done. As the future Immediate Past President I will continue to be involved in our Chapter for the next two years knowing that this new Board will bring great ideas to our Chapter.

Thank you and stay safe!

Sarah Binkowski, President

## Thank you Sarah!



The WTS Michigan Chapter has been blessed with your service and leadership.

We appreciate your dedication to the mission while you were Chapter President and various other roles over the years!



Connect with WTS Michigan on social media to learn more about upcoming events and opportunities.

## DETROIT RIVERWALK PRESENTATION & SITE VISIT



WTS Members, Young Professionals in Transportation and guests were treated to a presentation and guided tour of the Detroit Riverwalk.

The Detroit Riverwalk was recently voted the #1 Riverwalk in America in a USA Today competition for a second year in a row.

Mannik & Smith led a team of consultants (over a 10-year period) with the study and design of some of the most prominent riverfront venues – extending over 6 miles, from Gabriel Richard Park westward/downstream to the Gordie Howe International Crossing. The Detroit Riverfront Conservancy, MDOT and the City of Detroit all served as clients on the various contracts for this transformative world-class waterfront.



Thanks to Sean Kelley and Gregory Mack for their presentation. The meeting was hosted by MDOT Detroit TSC. Shelly Nawojski, MDOT Project Manager, and staff from HRC led the site visit.

## COMPENSATION NEGOTIATION WEBINAR

On October 6th, Michigan Chapter hosted this workshop to help members and other attendees understand your full compensation package, and empower you to confidently negotiate for the compensation you deserve. Led by Jillian Climie, Co-Founder of The Thoughtful Co, she provided insights into how compensation decisions are made within companies and what you should be thinking about before you enter a negotiation. Program included a discussion of the biases women face, and left time for connection between women to share stories and empower each other.

About The Thoughtful Co: They support women in understanding and negotiating their compensation, and advise employers on policies to improve gender equity in the workplace. Using our team's deep expertise in compensation, we empower women to feel confident in asking for the compensation they deserve. Compensation includes salary, bonus, stock options, restricted share units, benefits, role-scope, vacation, severance, RRSP/401Ks/ESPPs, non-competes, allowances, flexible work arrangements, parental leave and more.

Key takeaways from this workshop were:

- Understanding your full compensation package (beyond base salary)
- How to think strategically about your compensation over the long-term
- What biases women face in negotiations, and how to overcome them
- How to negotiate in a powerful, positive way
- Knowing your non-negotiables and risk/reward profile
- Understanding how compensation decisions are made
- Where to find helpful resources to support you in negotiating

## SCHOLARSHIP GOLF OUTING



The WTS Michigan Chapter had our biggest golf outing turnout to date in 2022, hosting an amazing **21 teams** at the Wheatfield Valley Golf Course. Another beautiful, 75 degree day in Williamston, where we were able to **raise over \$4,200** for the WTS Foundation toward future Michigan chapter scholarships from our sponsors, ticket sales and the ever popular mulligans. A huge thank you to all that supported and attended the event, as without you, we could not be as generous with our scholarships. The scholarship committee has already started planning for our 2023 event and we hope to see you there!

- Miranda Spare and Lisa Whitehead, Scholarship Co-Chairs

## 2022-23 SCHOLARSHIPS—OPEN NOW

DEC	SCHOLARSHIP
2	APPLICATION
 Advancing women Advancing transportation	DEADLINE!

The local WTS Michigan Chapter is supporting four scholarships for deserving women in Michigan!

Two undergraduate scholarships at \$1,500 each and two graduate scholarships at \$2,000 each. The women that win at the local level are automatically entered at the International level for their chance at scholarships with even higher values!

Please contact scholarship chairs for more information. Miranda Spare [sparem@michigan.gov](mailto:sparem@michigan.gov) and Lisa Whitehead [lwhitehead@bergmannpc.com](mailto:lwhitehead@bergmannpc.com)

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

### NEW LEADERSHIP FOR 2023 AND 2024

The proposed slate of new officers for next two years is up for a vote. If you are a member, keep a look out for your invitation to vote. Deadline to vote is Friday, October 28th.

The nominating committee has proposed this slate of officers:

Past President	Sarah Binkowski
President	Theresa Petko
Vice President	Lauren Warren
Secretary	Laura Rampersad
Treasurer	Vicki Briggs-Rasor

Directors at Large—Kim Webb (Programs), Andrea Wilcox (Membership), Gorette Yung (Scholarship), and Lori Swanson (Mentoring).

### THREE BOARD MEMBERS TO ATTEND WTS INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



Michigan Chapter is sending three representatives to WTS International Training Event on November 15 and 16. *Theresa Petko, Lauren Warren* and *Laura Rampersad* will represent our chapter in Kansas City where nationwide members will gather.

The WTS Chapter Leadership Development program focuses on chapter leader skill development, including leadership skills, emotional intelligence, Board responsibilities, event/hotel contract management, and professional development, per role.

### NEW MEMBER DRIVE

WTS International connects you to a network of 8,000+ transportation professionals through local, regional, and International communities, events, and training.

Members receive access to a suite of tools to develop professionally, enhance leadership skills and advance one's career. Advance your career, strengthen your leadership skills and impact the transportation industry with tools and networking with WTS International. **Join in October and receive a 10% discount, available to new members.**



## Upcoming Events

### 11/22—Central Region Virtual Conference

Join us from Noon to 6pm for a 0.5 day of professional development segments and panels. This year the conference includes keynote speaker Irene Marion, Director—Department of Civil Rights and an agenda focused on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

To Register: [2022 WTS Central Region Virtual Conference](#) | [WTS \(wtsinternational.org\)](#)

### 11/15— STEM Goes Red - Davenport University

WTS and MDOT will support American Heart Association’s STEM Goes Red program which introduces 11th & 12th grade students to STEM related careers in medicine, finance, and technology/ engineering. The panel includes MDOT staff Suzette Peplinski, Kara Stein, Addison Bailey and Theresa Eilers.

### 12/2—Scholarship Applications Open

Scholarship Applications are due for review and consideration for local awards. Local winners are forwarded to WTS International to compete at international level for additional awards.

**December Social Event & Professional Headshots**  
The date TBD.

### 1/20—Social Event—Curling

Join us on a Friday afternoon 1:30-4pm at the Detroit Curling Club. We plan to reserve 4 slates of ice. All are welcome to attend from novice to pro. Keep an eye out for registration.

## Get Involved with WTS

WTS Michigan has a variety of committees for members who are interested in getting more involved in the chapter. If you are interested in joining a committee, please contact our chapter president Sarah Binkowski at 313-230-1027 or [sebinkowski@hntb.com](mailto:sebinkowski@hntb.com) and we will put you in touch with the committee chair.

Current opportunities to serve include Awards & Recognition and also Sponsorship.

### Membership/Hospitality:

Recruit and retain chapter members.

### Scholarship:

Organizes fundraising events and the award of multiple undergraduate and graduate scholarships to help female candidates achieve their goals as a transportation professional.

### Programs:

Plan WTS Michigan Chapter events.

### Communications:

Facilitates communication with members and friends of WTS through newsletters, social media and the chapter website.

### Mentoring/Diversity:

Works to advance the WTS vision for equity and access for women in transportation.

## Chapter History

WTS Michigan was founded in 1998 to support the advancement of women in Michigan’s transportation industry. The Michigan Chapter is a dynamic and interdisciplinary group of professionals committed to transforming the transportation industry through the advancement of women. We actively support our future colleagues and introduce students to a broad variety of transportation-related careers.

**PLATINUM**



**GOLD**



**SILVER**

- CDM Smith
- DLZ
- Intertek-PSI
- NTH Consultants, Ltd
- OHM
- Parsons
- SOMAT Engineering

**BRONZE**

- ABONMARCHE
- Access Engineering, Inc
- C2G
- Carrier & Gable
- giffels webster
- HDR
- RS Engineering, LLC

