



CHAPTER NEWS

www.wtsinternational.org/chapters/michigan

Michigan Chapter

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Dear Members, Sponsors and Friends,

As the summer of 2024 draws to a close, Michigan shifts from beaches and barbeques to color tours and tailgates. WTS Michigan remains constant in advancing and supporting women in or considering transportation careers. We operationalize our support through a variety of programs, networking and scholarship opportunities with 13 events so far in 2024. Volunteers and members working together with corporate sponsors are the key drivers to successful planning, execution and participation. This fall edition of the newsletter highlights many of the activities from the year so far. I hope you are inspired, informed and impressed.



The WTS Michigan Chapter is twenty-five and we have much to celebrate in our 25th anniversary year. Growth in membership, sponsorships and engagements are just a few of the accomplishments during 2024. We are 75 members strong with members across the state with representation in several geographies and transportation careers. Encouraging membership growth through innovative networking events simultaneously enriches and expands opportunities for all members.

Our signature scholarship fundraising event is the annual golf outing at the Wheatfield Golf Club. This year, the event attracted over 112 attendees and generated a generous contribution to the scholarship fund. We replaced the hole-in-one challenge with a betting hole and significantly improved fund raising.

After a multi-year hiatus, the summer picnic is back! The event took place at the Kensington Metro Park in July where WTS members met to share a traditional summer picnic feast. In the spirit of a true summer picnic, families were invited and participated in games and a potluck barbeque.

The 2024 WTS International Conference held in New Orleans overflowed with over 1,200 attendees, who were treated with nationally renowned speakers, a rich program, and numerous networking events. The combined membership of all WTS chapters is approaching a record 10,000. Mark your calendars next year for the first international conference hosted by the Toronto Chapter on May 7-9, 2025. We hope you will be able to attend this inaugural event.

Topping off our celebration is the award and recognition of the WTS Michigan Chapter achieving Gold status in the Chapter Circle of Excellence by WTS International. Gold represents achieving benchmarks in membership recruitment and retention, operations, communications, events, and professional development programs. These hard-earned accomplishments reflect the enthusiasm, dedication, and teamwork of our members, partners, and sponsors.

This is an exciting time to be in a transportation related career and to be part of the transformative changes in how we move people and goods. Our members and partners supply the talent and innovation in building a better future for transportation projects and services.

The opportunities are boundless. And our members will be 'in the room where it happens'! I am looking forward to serving this energetic and innovative community of transportation professionals changing the future.

Sincerely,
Theresa Petko, President



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

ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP & AWARDS BANQUET

WTS Michigan gathered to celebrate future and current leaders in the transportation industry at our annual awards banquet and silent auction in March. Scholarships and Chapter Awards were presented and we enjoyed an inspiring talk about creating meaningful connections by our guest speaker, Ryan Penneau. See below for a list of the scholarship and award winners.

Scholarship Winners

- Anahita Zahertar (PhD. Candidate, Wayne State University) - Helene M. Overly Graduate Scholarship
- Bayaan Odeh (MS, Wayne State University) - Jannet Walker-Ford Legacy Leadership Graduate Scholarship
- Riley Loeffler (BS, Michigan State University) - Sharon D. Banks Memorial Undergraduate Scholarship
- Ryley Mullin (BS, Michigan Technological University) - Molitoris Leadership Undergraduate Scholarship
- Noor Adam (Schoolcraft Community College) - Junior College Scholarship

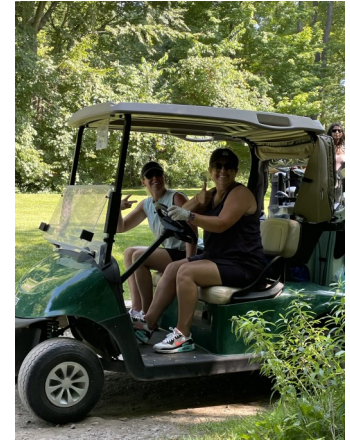
Chapter Awards

- Lisa Whitehead, PE - WTS Michigan Member of the Year
- Rowe Professional Services Company - Employer of the Year
- I-75 Storage and Drainage Tunnel - Innovative Transportation Solutions
- Gregory Johnson, PE - Honorable Ray LaHood Award
- Regine Beauboeuf, PE - Rosa Parks Diversity Award
- Michele Mueller - WTS Michigan Woman of the Year



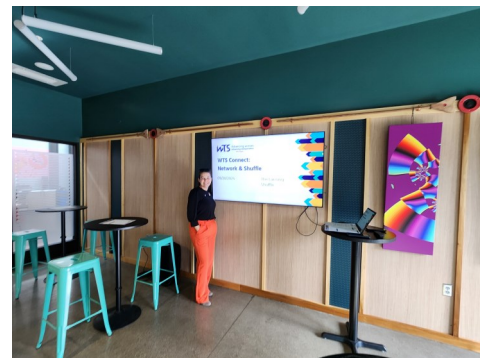
WTS MI 2024 GOLF OUTING

The 2024 WTS MI Golf Outing was held at the end of July at the Wheatfield Valley Golf Course in Williamston. It was our most successful outing to date. Over 112 golfers participated and over \$5100 was donated to scholarships! The winning team included Tom Sereseroz, Chris Mida, John Stephenson and Chuck Occhiuto. Many different people and organizations contributed to the success of the event. Thank you to all of our event sponsors! Thank you to our event volunteers Gorrete Yung, Srishti Jaipuria, Maddie Reitz, and Jasna Cehaja for all of your hard work! Finally, congratulations to Lisa Whitehead, Kelly Ferencz, and Miranda Spare for a successful event!



OUT AND ABOUT WITH WTS MICHIGAN!

WTS Michigan members and friends participated in several adventures this past spring and summer. With events ranging from educational sessions to leisure activities, we had a little something for everyone! We would love to have you join in the fun at a future event!



WTS 2024 INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE



This year's conference "The Crescent City: Connecting Cultures, Connecting Communities" was held in New Orleans. WTS Michigan members joined together with WTS members from across the US and beyond for three days of networking and education. With activities ranging from technical tours to round tables to technical sessions, the conference included a little something for everyone. Another exciting note from the conference is that the MI Chapter was presented with a Circle of Excellence Gold Chapter award! Please consider joining us next May for the first ever international conference to be hosted by the WTS Toronto Chapter!



WTS ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2024 CONFIDENCE PLAYLIST



A crowd favorite from the Annual Conference was the Confidence Playlist! WTS MI member Dani Booms presented a WTS Talk at the conference centered on confidence. Dani spoke about the power of music to help keep yourself centered and at ease when facing new challenges and also just to feel empowered. Music can be a powerful tool against anxiety. Dani invited attendees to add their favorite songs and created a playlist. Check out the playlist [here!](#)

Do you have an idea for a confidence boosting song? You can submit your suggestion [here!](#) The submission form will be monitored and songs will be added periodically.

Upcoming Events

10/03/2024 - Complete Networks: A Performance Based, Multimodal Planning Tool (Virtual Lunch and Learn)

Join WTS for an informative lunch and learn on Thursday, October 3 from 12:00pm - 1:00 pm to learn about the new interactive web version of the Multimodal Tool developed by SEMCOG in partnership with MDOT to help communities prioritize safety for travelers and their contextual needs along a street.

Register [here!](#)

December 2024 - WTS Michigan Christmas Party

Join WTS MI to ring in the Christmas holidays with a Bocce Ball Tournament. Stay tuned for more details!

March 2025—Annual Awards and Scholarship Banquet

WTS MI will host their annual Awards and Scholarship Banquet to honor individuals and students who embody the values of WTS and champion women in the transportation industry. Be on the lookout for more invitation regarding the date and the venue. Sponsorship opportunities will be available.



WTS in the News!

Did you miss WTS in the news? Click [here](#) for a quick article and video published by WXYZ Detroit where several of our leaders (Therese Petko, Sarah Binkowski, and Lauren Warren) spoke about WTS and STEM. Hope you enjoy!

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 Theresa Petko, petkotheresa@gmail.com and we will put you in touch with the committee chair.

There are opportunities available to serve on the following committees.

Membership:

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.

Corporate Sponsorship:

Works with local sponsors to support the professional development of Michigan women in the transportation industry.

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.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2023 SPONSORS!

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