

ANNUAL MEETING STIRS PROVOKING DIALOG ON FUNDING ALTERNATIVES

How shall we fund transportation in the future?

Transportation funding was the focused issue for WCAN's Annual Meeting. Anyone who was not able to attend the meeting can see the program at wiseeye.org in the archived list at the bottom center of the home page or we will have some DVDs available covering presentations by our four speakers.

Jeff Mayers, President of wispolitics.com moderated the program. Pat Goss, executive director of the Wisconsin Transportation Developers Association opened the forum with an overview of the status of transportation in Wisconsin and the future needs.

Sam Staley, coauthor of "The Road More Traveled" identified the issue of growing congestion in our region followed by a presentation of the alternatives for road funding which are being used elsewhere in our country and abroad.

Phil Evenson, Executive Director of SEWRPC, offered the challenge that "no road is free" and in all areas of one's life one is familiar with paying a premium price for a premium product or service, in this case well built and uncongested roads. He offered the opinion that our present interstate highways are "premium roads".

John Antaramian, former Mayor of Kenosha, retiring after 16 years in that office, served up the challenge that public officials on all levels have to get to the table to work on funding solutions to meet the region's transportation needs. It is important in finding a solution that there is a joint effort to gather facts and alternatives. A follow-up discussion regarding the merits of various sources along with the priorities on the expenditures is very important if the region is going to move toward solutions and a successful future.

The WCAN Infrastructure committee is continuing to work on gathering facts related to funding. Additional committee members are welcome. A presentation is planned for a fall member event. This will continue the dialog with the plan to increase the audience of decision makers-business leaders and public sector leaders.

The federal, state and local budgets are in the initial drafting stage at this time. The state and federal transportation budgets will be debated from January through July of '09. That will be decision time for amounts needed for the next two years and cover that portion of the longer projects such as the Zoo Interchange.

WCAN believes it is important that private sector leaders become informed and share their problem solving ideas and needs with the public decision makers.

Sincerely,

Margaret Farrow
WCAN Board President

"WCAN is at the forefront of local "think tanks" bringing together public officials and business leaders to discuss solutions to long-term regional problems. The first step toward solving problems is providing good information and an objective forum for discussing practical solutions.

WCAN provides that forum as well as the intellectual support necessary to develop innovative strategies that can ensure Southeast Wisconsin remains competitive in an increasingly challenging global economy."

Samuel R. Staley, Ph.D.
Director, Urban and Land Use Policy
Reason Foundation
Los Angeles & Washington, D.C.



PANELISTS

Pat Goss – President -Wisconsin Transportation Builders Association
Dr. Samuel Staley – Reason Foundation
Phil Evenson – Executive Director SEWRPC
John Antaramian – Former Kenosha Mayor

VISIT www.thewcan.com TO VIEW PANELIST PRESENTATIONS.

BOARD MEMBERS

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NOVO 1

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SAVE THE DATE | September 24th | WCAN All Member Breakfast

7:30 AM - 9:00 AM | Program and Continental Breakfast

\$10 - Members | \$15 - Nonmembers

Program Highlight | What to expect from your 911 call for help!

Invited Presenters | Richard Tuma - Director Waukesha County Communications Center
Dan Vrakas - Waukesha County Executive

Location | Ruekert & Mielke Conference Center - W233 N2080 Ridgeview Parkway
(corner of Hwy F and Ridgeview - North of I94)

RSVP | Lonnie Cody at LCody@ruekert-mielke.com or 262.542.5733

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE FOSTERING COOPERATION

The WCAN Public Safety Committee has been working with the Waukesha County Communication Center and the Waukesha County police and fire department leaders over the past three years to promote regional cooperation and improve public safety in the County. The Waukesha County regional dispatch center has recently entered into a comprehensive study to provide a major change to the software which is central to the dispatching of police and fire services in the County. Although expensive, this change will be a major improvement in the ability to respond and to collect and retrieve necessary public safety information. The Public Safety Committee is planning a September breakfast meeting to brief all WCAN members and other interested community leaders about this exciting new direction the County is taking.

*Public Safety Committee Chair: Bill Mielke
wmielke@ruekert-mielke.com*

WCAN HIGHER EDUCATION REPORTS SPARKS RESPONSE

Since releasing the results of the Higher Education Needs Assessment back in March, there has been several institutions rising to offer baccalaureate degrees here in Waukesha County. We commend their prompt response for action.

- Milwaukee School of Engineering
- UW Waukesha in partnership with UW-Stout and UW-Platteville
- Carroll University in partnership with UW-Platteville

Education Committee Next Steps

- Recently WCAN member Jose Delgado, President of American Transmission Company hosted a small meeting with a few business leaders, President Reilly of the UW System, Chancellor Wilson of the UW-Two Year Colleges and Dean Schmitt of UW-Waukesha. Discussion ensued over prioritizing the county needs by industry segmentation and focusing on specific details to build proper course offerings.
- The education committee is planning to meet with K-12 Superintendents of Waukesha County secondary schools. The purpose in meeting is to discuss how best to position students so they can have the prerequisites necessary to qualify and take advantage of the local degree offerings once they graduate.

Education Committee Chair: Bronson Haase – bjhaase@mac.com

RENEWAL REMINDERS

Time to get your WCAN membership renewal in! If you have not already submitted your invoice we hope you can do so soon. We are updating our material and website and want to be sure to include your business. Thank you for your continued support!! If you know of a business that should be invited to join WCAN please contact Membership Chair, Brian Carroll of Godfrey & Kahn at 262-951-7148.

NEED MORE MAGAZINES FOR YOUR LOBBY/HR/EMPLOYEES



The Waukesha County Magazine is a partner with WCAN and our Arts & Culture committee. Inserted within the publication is a dedicated section showcasing our local amenities. If you would like more magazines please contact:

*Barbara Krause – bak@ntmediagroup.com or
262-245-1000 x103*

MEMBERS – PRICELESS RESOURCES

WCAN works to run lean, efficient and effective. We want to thank the following members who have contributed resources to WCAN beyond their membership dues.



The Equitable Bank – Marketing Staff/
Underwriting of Publications



VJS – Office



Vrakas/Blum – Tax Preparation

Conference Table Needed!

We are looking for a 12ft conference table and chairs for our new office. If you are updating your office and want to donate a table please let us know!

FREE TWO-WEEK SUBSCRIPTION TO WISPOLITICS

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We would like to extend our gratitude to Carla Rutley, WCAN's Executive Director. Carla will be leaving WCAN to pursue her Ph.D. in Leadership and Service through Cardinal Stritch.

WCAN wishes Carla well in her future endeavors and is grateful for the work she has done as a leader. We also appreciate her willingness to continue to assist us until we find an appropriate Executive Director for this next stage of our organizational development.

We will be interviewing candidates that have a wide-base knowledge in public policy, administration and organizational development. If you know of anyone that you feel would be a great candidate for the WCAN Director position, we would love to hear from you. It is through the collaborative effort of our membership that WCAN will continue to make a difference! Please contact Margaret Farrow at Mfarrow@thewcan.com