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"Presidents Message"

If we thought the summer flew by fast, the fall went even faster. It's hard to believe that we're into the Holiday Season and beginning to plan our programs for 2007. We welcome your suggestions and ideas for programs next year.

The September OWIT World Conference, hosted by the San Francisco Chapter was an excellent event with lots of interesting panels and networking opportunities. The San Francisco Chapter did an excellent job and we congratulate them!

We had two excellent CPN (Customs Professional Network) programs this fall, including one on the C-TPAT Web Portal and one on the SAFE Port Act of 2006. Both of these issues will affect the way our members do business. In addition to our dinner meetings we will continue to bring you these types of educational programs.

In January we will again have our State of the Port Event featuring Customs & Border Protection personnel. Watch for the date!

December 13 is our annual WIT-mas gala. This year it is WIT-mas in Thailand and will again be a wonderful evening of mixing and mingling with friends and business associates. Don't forget our annual Clothes the Deal charity drive – we need business attire – suits, dresses, pants, shoes, ties, purses, etc. to donate to this great charity. We also encourage you to donate raffle and/or silent auction items. Monies raised from this event will be donated to Clothes the Deal.

We will also be awarding our 7th annual Marjorie M. Shostack Scholarship at WITmas and look forward to introducing you to our new 2007 Board of Directors. It has been my honor and pleasure to serve as president these past 2 years and I look forward to working with our 2007 Board as the new Chair. If you are interested in participating in any of our Committees including Scholarship, Programs or Membership & Marketing in 2007, please email me at kanzko@wellsfargo.com

Happy Holidays!

Kollyn D. Kanz,
President, WIT-LA

On a very sad note...

WIT-LA mourns the recent loss of Holly Scott, who served as President of WIT-LA in 1993 and 1994. Remembered by her family, friends and colleagues as a Renaissance woman, computer "guru," gourmet chef, international apparel expert, hotelier, and, for a brief stint, fashion model. "She was one of the great characters of the world" said LA attorney Su Ross, who hired Scott as a paralegal at S.K. Ross & Assoc. PC, before her move to the Texas Hill country in 1994. We are grateful for all of her contributions and will work to emulate her inimitable spirit.

OWIT Corner.....

Hello Everyone,

As we approach the holidays, let me give you the last OWIT update for this year. As you know, the Organization of Women in International Trade is WIT-LA's umbrella organization along with over 30 other chapters around the world. During 2006, OWIT worked on many strategic plans and enjoyed many accomplishments. OWIT held two Board Meetings and one great Annual Conference. Also, this year OWIT adopted a new logo that has also been adopted by many of its chapters including WIT-LA.

You may recall from our last newsletter, as WIT-LA's OWIT Representative and OWIT's Executive Vice President, I was in the process of assisting our host chapter, WIT-NC in planning OWIT's Annual World Conference, which was held at the Stanford Court Hotel in San Francisco, September 13-15. The theme of the conference was, *"Building the Bridge from Market Access to Global Trade."* If you were there, you already know it was a great success with almost 300 attendees, great sponsors and exhibitors, as well as educational sessions with fantastic and very knowledgeable speakers.

OWIT presented its 2006 annual awards during the conference. OWIT's Woman of the Year is Andrina Lever. OWIT's Member of the year, which I had the pleasure of presenting, went to Beth Peterson from OWIT's Northern California chapter, and OWIT's Chapter of the Year was presented to OWIT's Washington D.C. Again, it was a great conference with very exciting moments.

Before the conference, OWIT held its bi-annual board meeting attended by many of our chapters worldwide including representatives from Peru, Mexico, Canada, Denmark and of course from many of our chapters across the U.S. We conducted various strategic planning sessions of future goals and objectives and discussed how the website, currently undergoing beta testing and preparing for a launch in early 2007, will be the communications flagship of OWIT and will provide all of its chapters and members with a network of members worldwide as well as a pool of practical and useful resources.

And, just as we conclude one very successful conference, we are already looking to next year, when OWIT's Annual World Conference will be held in Miami, FL. I will provide you with details in our next newsletter. It promises to be at least as successful as this year's. And, those are big shoes to fill! Next year's theme is, *"Emerging Markets: The Road Ahead for Finance, Business, and Trade."* It will be a great opportunity for you to sponsor, exhibit and, of course, attend the conference and meet people from all over the world, while updating yourselves with the most current international trade information.

This coming year will not only be exciting for our entire organization but in particular for me. In 2007, I've been asked to serve as OWIT's President and CEO. This is a great honor and most importantly, a tremendous responsibility as our organization continues to expand globally. I will do my best to provide the support and tools to ensure that our foundation is strengthened and our expansion is sustainable. As the guardians of the organization, it is our responsibility to honor those who have come before us, and, as a member of WIT-LA's Board of Directors, I am very honored and proud to step into this position. Wish me luck! I am also very pleased that WIT-LA's Hana Hrabec-Snyder will serve as OWIT's Assistant Treasurer. Thank you, Hana!

I wish all of you a very Happy Holiday season and a wonderful New Year. Happy 2007!

Lilia Navarrete
WIT-LA Rep
OWIT Executive Vice President

Upcoming Events

WITmas Dinner – December 13, 2006

NEW MEMBERS

Individual Members

Mark Dawson
Hankyu USA
Jennifer Gray
U.S. Art Company
Yeliz Sahin
Joanne Tan
Maritz, Inc.

Corporate Members:

NYK Logistics
Carol Applegate
Karen Quintana