



January/February 2007

The bi-monthly information source for the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials

COMTO Launches Inaugural Edition of ACCELERATE!

Happy New Year to all and welcome to the first edition of COMTO's new member lifeline, *ACCELERATE*. You'll come to count on this lively bi-monthly newsletter to keep you abreast of everything affecting our fast-paced industry.

You'll find the latest information and the best advice to keep you on top of your game ... to help make you more effective in your job and to help you further your career in transportation.

Why ACCELERATE?

Webster's New World Dictionary tells us that to accelerate is to "go faster" and "to cause to happen sooner." What better name for a newsletter for professionals in transportation?

We'll continue our newsletter tradition of highlighting national programs and events, local

Accelerate continued on 4

COMTO 2007 National Meeting & Training Conference

June 22-27, 2007, Intercontinental Hotel, Miami, Florida

The 2007 National Meeting & Training Conference provides a forum for all transportation professionals to participate in disseminating valuable industry information as well as the opportunity to become more informed on issues critical to the transportation industry.

Top Ten reasons to attend the 2007 National Meeting & Training Conference

1. Career Advancing Forums & Educational Sessions
2. Workshops Highlighting Innovative Solutions
3. Compelling Speakers
4. Showcase of Advanced Technologies
5. Info Exchange of Industry Best Practices
6. Peer Interface
7. Job Placement Opportunities
8. Network with others who do what you do
9. It's in Miami!
10. Do it for Yourself! It's all about YOU, the transportation professional.

COMTO's 2007 National Scholarship Applicants are now available!

In 2007, COMTO will award seven scholarships totaling \$25,500. Scholarships range from \$5,500 to \$2,500. Selections are made annually by a team of industry professionals and representatives from the academic community. The National Scholarship Program supports the mission of COMTO by promoting, strengthening and expanding the roles of minorities in all aspects of transportation. ■

Download your 2007 National Scholarship Application
www.comto.org/Documents/2007ScholarshipApplication.pdf

Contribute to the 2007 National Scholarship Program
www.comto.org/Documents/2007Scholarshipcontributionform.pdf



Honorary Chair:

The Honorable Dennis C. Moss, County Commissioner, Miami-Dade County Commission, District 9



Hosts:

Miami-Dade Transit
 Roosevelt Bradley, Director



COMTO Miami
 Fitz McLymont, Chapter President



Conference Chair:

Virginia Whitfield, Transit Schedule Maker
 Miami-Dade Transit

2007 Official
 Conference Sponsor:
 Miami-Dade County

What's Inside

Members on the Move.....	2	TCRP Ambassadors.....	7
COMTO USA.....	5	COMTO Needs You!.....	9
Calendar of Events.....	5	Money Sense.....	11

COMTO Career Center – to Launch in February

COMTO is pleased to announce the launch of its newest member benefit. The COMTO Career Center is a multi-functional online job bank and employment tool that offers a full suite of employment and professional opportunities for both job seekers and employers.

COMTO is working with Boxwood Technology – the association industry’s leading provider of online career service programs. Boxwood has developed a very strong reputation in the association industry and works with many high-profile organizations. This collaboration will provide COMTO members with one of the most advanced career management tools on the market.

A free service to COMTO members, professional job seekers will find a customized tool to ensure the most up to date career

information and access to the best jobs in the industry. In addition to posting their resumes, job seekers can browse and view available jobs based on their criteria and save those jobs for later review if they choose. Job seekers can also create a search agent to provide email notifications of jobs that match their criteria.

For employers, this service will provide access to thousands of transportation professionals across the country. Employers can post jobs online, search for qualified candidates based on specific job criteria, and create an online resume agent to email qualified candidates daily. They also benefit from online reporting that provides job activity statistics.

The launch date for the Career Center is slated for February 1, 2007. Look for more information in the weeks to come. ■

Join COMTO for an Update from the 110th Congress

Date: Friday, March 9, 2007 ■ **Time:** 8:00 am – 11:00 am

Location: Capitol Hill

Invited Speakers include:

- The Honorable Christopher J. Dodd, Connecticut, *Senate Chair, Banking, Housing & Urban Affairs*
- The Honorable Melquiades R. Mel Martinez, Florida
- The Honorable James Clyburn, 6th Congressional District, South Carolina, *House of Representatives Whip*
- The Honorable Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick, 13th Congressional District, Michigan, *Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) Chair*
- The Honorable Corrine Brown, 3rd Congressional District, Florida
- The Honorable Elijah Cummings, 7th Congressional District, Maryland
- The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson, 30th Congressional District, Texas
- The Honorable James Oberstar, 8th Congressional District, Minnesota, *Chairman of House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee*

Don't miss the opportunity to hear from our legislators on Capitol Hill. ■

Members On The Move

Woodson & Associates Bus & Rail Transit Consultants has a Focus on Operational Excellence



Hannie L. Woodson, Jr.

Can you name two of the most seasoned public transit professionals in the area of operations and maintenance? If you came up with the names of **Hannie L. Woodson, Jr.** and **Lemuel M. Procter**, you are correct. These two executives—with a combined 75 years of transit operations and maintenance experience—have established the nationwide consulting firm of Woodson & Associates Rail & Bus

Transit Consulting Services, with offices in Miami, Florida and Washington, DC. The firm provides management consulting services to the public sector market, with an emphasis on public transportation. Among the services provided by the firm are fleet maintenance analyses, transportation operations analyses, development of fleet management plans, development of vehicle specifications, and assistance in resolving technical problems with equipment manufacturers, and inspection services for new and rehabilitated vehicles during the manufacturing process. Services are provided for rail (heavy rail, light rail, street cars, trolleys, people movers, and monorail systems), fixed route bus, and paratransit systems.

Hannie Woodson, president of Hannie L. Woodson & Associates, has held key leadership positions with Miami-Dade Transit, Florida, and WMATA, Washington, DC. Before initiating his firm, he held the position of Assistant Director of Rail Service with Miami-Dade Transit, where he oversaw operations and maintenance functions at five service divisions. Vehicles for which he was responsible included heavy rail, people mover vehicles, train control, power and track, guideway and facilities. Known in the industry for his strong, hands-on operations experience, Woodson believes that operations is the “heart and soul” of a transit agency. “If your product on the street is not reliable and customer-focused, the reputation of the transit organization will be negative and there will not be solid support from stakeholders,” cited Woodson. “The number one goal of every transit executive should be operational excellence. The goal of our firm is to provide an objective, “fresh” set of eyes to

Members on the Move continued on 3

look at our clients' operations and to provide recommendations to improve cost effectiveness, reliability and customer satisfaction. Our recommendations are customized and actionable—not generic recommendations that are typically provided by larger consulting firms that do not have the hands-on experience that we do," Woodson added.

Woodson's partner—Lemuel Procter—also brings to the firm extensive background and experience in transit operations and fleet maintenance. Procter has over 42 years of experience in transportation operations and maintenance. He has held technical and managerial positions in the automotive, aircraft and rail transit industries. At WMATA, Procter held six progressively responsible positions in rail operations and maintenance. His most recent position at WMATA was that of Chief Operating Officer for Rail Service. In this position, he was responsible for rail operations, rail car maintenance, central control, systems maintenance and track/structures maintenance. In this position, Procter oversaw an overall staff of 3,200 employees.

Woodson and Procter worked together at WMATA from 1977 to 1984, when Woodson left to take a position at Miami-Dade Transit. "Even though we were working at two different transit organizations, we've always stayed in touch with each other," stated Procter. "Whenever either of us had an operations or maintenance challenge to address, we would pick up the phone and call each other to brainstorm ideas and to share best practices."

"Our management philosophies are very similar," said Woodson. "There are probably not very many transportation operations or fleet maintenance challenges that we have not had to address during our careers." Woodson added that both he and Procter always worked closely with supervisors, coach operators, train conductors, and maintenance technicians to brainstorm ideas and to focus on ways of doing things more cost effectively and efficiently. "It's all about people," said Procter. "Employees are the most important assets of transit agencies. If you treat them well and make them feel valued, they will be your best allies. Having come up through the ranks ourselves, we have been in their "shoes" and understand where they are coming from"

Woodson has been active within the public transit industry, and is one of the most active supporters of the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials. In 2005 he was selected to receive the organization's highest honor and award, the Lifetime Achievement Award. "Hannie has been a tremendous support and worker in our membership. We're excited about his new business venture," said Julie Cunningham, COMTO's Chief Executive Officer.

Woodson and Procter have provided consulting services for MTA in, San Francisco; AnsaldoBreda, Inc. LTK, Transit Association and Booze Allen.

Contact Mr. Woodson at 786.797.3920; by email: hannie@bellsouth.net, or by regular mail: Woodson & Associates, 16334 SW 94th Street, Miami, Florida 33196. ■

Dwight D. Brashear Joins MV Transportation in California

Dwight D. Brashear has joined MV Transportation Inc. as regional vice president of operations. He will be responsible for supervising and guiding seven MV divisions in southern and central California.

Brashear comes to MV after two years as chief executive officer/general manager of the Capital Area Transit System in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

In 2005, following Hurricane Katrina, he was tapped by Louisiana Governor Kathleen Blanco to become the state transportation coordinator for the evacuation of the New Orleans area. In this capacity, he managed the use of school buses and other transportation resources from around the country during the emergency.

Before going to Baton Rouge, Brashear spent 17 years at San Diego Transit, and served two years as a general manager for American Transportation Co.

In October 2006, he received APTA's Special Award for Extraordinary Leadership for his work in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. ■

John B. Catoe Hired as New Metro General Manager



John B. Catoe Jr. has been selected by the Metro Board of Directors to lead the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (Metro) as its next General Manager in January 2007.

Catoe has 26 years of experience in the transit industry. Since 2001, he has been the Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority. He will take over as the eighth permanent General Manager in Metro's history and will oversee

the activities of nearly 10,000 employees, a \$1.2 billion annual operating budget and a \$3.3 billion six-year Capital Improvement Program. The exact terms of Catoe's contract have not yet been finalized.

"John's enthusiasm for customer service and his proven record of success in transit is consistent with the Board's commitment to meet the region's transit needs," said Gladys Mack, Metro's Board Chairman. "The Board is pleased that John has accepted our offer."

As the Deputy Chief Executive Officer for the Los Angeles

Members on the Move from page 3

County Metro, Catoe currently oversees the agency’s multi-modal operations with more than 2,600 buses, three light rail lines, one heavy rail line and the motorist aid program including the Freeway Service Patrol and highway callboxes. He also oversees the LA transit agency’s planning, law enforcement, homeless assist program, safety and facilities.

Originally from Washington, DC, Catoe is a product of the local school system and his father was a D.C. cab driver. He started his public transportation career at the Orange County Transit District in the personnel department as an Employee Training and Development Administrator in 1979 and when he left, 17 years later, he was Director of Operations. When he left Orange County Transit he went on to head the transportation department in the City of Santa Monica.

Catoe has a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of Redlands in Redlands, CA. In 2004, he was elected Chairman of the California Transit Association for a two-year term. ■

Accelerate from page 1

chapter activities, member spotlights, and legislative initiatives affecting all aspects of the transportation industry. Soon, we’ll begin a regular feature called “My Story,” which will contain encouraging accounts of the careers of some of our most recognized industry leaders.

Enjoy, and please send us your suggestions. ■



Julie Cunningham
President/CEO



Shirley A. DeLibero
National Chair

Membership Renewals

Please remember that in 2006, COMTO instituted a semi-annual billing process.

All individual membership renewals are invoiced in either January or July.

Please see the table below. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact **Denise Williams**, Director of Member Services at dwilliams@comto.org or 202.530.0551, ext. 10.

SCHEDULE OF INVOICING FOR INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS				
For all members who are due to renew in the expiration month below and have not yet paid:	Send a 60 DAY INVOICE on the following date:	Send a 30 DAY INVOICE on the following date:	If they still haven’t renewed, send a “Why haven’t you renewed” letter no later than:	Send final invoice stamped “FINAL” in size 20” font no later than:
JANUARY 1 through JUNE 30	NOVEMBER 1	DECEMBER 1	JANUARY 1	FEBRUARY 1
JULY 1 through December 31	MAY 1	JUNE 1	JULY 1	AUGUST 1

COMTO 2007 Calendar of Events

Thursday, January 25, 2007
Indiana Chapter Membership Meeting
Indianapolis, IN

Friday, February 2, 2007
Garrett A. Morgan Shadow Day -
Local Chapters Observance

Wednesday, February 7, 2007
Detroit Chapter Membership Meeting
Detroit, MI

Monday, February 19, 2007
National Office Closed
President's Day

Thursday, March 8, 2007
12:00 noon—5:00 pm
Presidents Council Meeting
Business Meeting
ASAE & The Center for
Association Leadership
Building
1575 I Street, NW, Washington,
DC 20005

Friday, March 9, 2007
8:00 am—11:00 am
Congressional Update from the
110th Congress
Location: Capitol Hill

12:00 noon—5:00 pm
Presidents Council Training
ASAE & The Center for
Association Leadership
Building
1575 I Street, NW, Washington,
DC 20005

Saturday, March 10, 2007
8:00 am—5:00 pm
Board of Directors Meeting
ASAE & The Center for
Association Leadership
Building
1575 I Street, NW, Washington,
DC 20005

Saturday, March 24, 2007
Colorado Chapter Scholarship
Banquet
Hyatt Regency Denver Tech
Center
7800 E. Tufts Avenue,
Denver, CO ■

COMTO USA

Birmingham, aka The Magic City Chapter (**Ronald Lyas**, President) hosted a membership drive. Those in attendance included **Dr. Reginald Swanson**, member; **David Hill**, Executive Director of Birmingham Jefferson Transit Authority (JTA); and **Julie Cunningham**, COMTO President/CEO.



(L to R) Ron Lyas, chapter president; Julie Cunningham, COMTO President/CEO; David Hill, Executive Director, Birmingham JTA; Dr. Reginald Swanson, member

Boston (**Mary Fernandes**, President) hosted a networking event on November 16th featuring a visit from COMTO Board Chair **Shirley DeLiberio**. Mrs. DeLiberio has an experienced and long term career in the transportation industry.

Several **Fort Worth Chapter** (**Curvie Hawkins**, President) officers attended a scholarship gala hosted by the American Association of Blacks in Energy (AABE), Ft. Worth Chapter. The featured speaker was **Glenn Lewis**, who noted how pleased he was to see the energy industry and the transportation industry working together for the public good. After all, he said, energy and transportation drive the economy.

Mr. Lewis also recognized the considerable efforts of both industries in promoting scholarship opportunities. Several scholarship recipients were recognized at the Gala.

Houston (**Paralee Shivers**, President) hosted its Fourth Annual Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) & Small Business Training Conference on October 27 at the United Way Resource Center in Houston,

Texas. In recognition of the chapter's remarkable efforts and of COMTO's contributions to the transportation industry over the past 30 years, Houston Mayor **Bill White** issued a proclamation designating the week of October 27, 2006, as Conference of Minority Transportation Officials Day!

The proclamation notes how COMTO mandates that its members nationwide openly share information, opportunities and personal expertise — a mandate fulfilled by the Houston Chapter's Training Conference.

Maryland (**Kenneth Chapman**, President) and **Washington, DC** (**Christie Dawson**, President) co-hosted their first Holiday Celebration on December 15 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Greenbelt, Maryland. The purpose of the event was to raise funds for the National Scholarship Program.

Both chapter presidents addressed the attendees and pledged to continue to partner on both local and national initiatives. COMTO founder Rev. **Jerry Moore** and COMTO President/CEO **Julie Cunningham** were also in attendance.



Founder Rev. Jerry and Dr. Ettyce Moore are greeted by Maryland Chapter member Minnie Carter at the holiday celebration jointly hosted by the Maryland and D.C. chapters.

Miami (**Fitz McLymont**, President) held its 8th Annual Garrett A. Morgan Scholarship Luncheon November 16 at the Radisson Downtown. This year's Luncheon theme

USA continued on 6

was "Futuristic Inter-Modal Expansions — Dawn of a New Era." The keynote speaker was State Representative **Yolly Roberson**, now serving her third term in the Florida House of Representatives.



FL State Representative Yolly Roberson, Keynote Speaker

She holds the distinction of being the first Haitian American Woman elected to the Florida Legislature and of being the first Haitian American to serve as a Democratic whip in the Florida Legislature. Representative Roberson was a particularly appropriate keynoter for the event since she currently serves on the Florida Transportation Committee.

New York (Dwayne Sampson, President) hosted a Diwali/ Thanksgiving celebration in November at the Kerala Kitchen in New York. Diwali is the Festival of Lights. The evening was successful with the enrollment of several new members!

The chapter now turns its attention to a series of career enhancing workshops offered through its COMTO New York Professional Development Institute. For more

information about these valuable workshops, contact the chapter at comtony@msn.com.

Northern California (Lee Davis, President) held its Third Annual Holiday Dinner Dance on Friday, December 15th, at the Sequoyah Country Club in Oakland, California. More than 150 people were in attendance. The highlight of the evening was the award of \$15,000 in scholarships to 13 highly talented and deserving undergraduate college students from several Bay Area colleges and universities.

The chapter has been a leader in providing opportunities for the training and mentoring of students to become the next generation of transportation professionals. **William D. Smith**, COMTO National board member and president of Parsons, Brinkerhoff, Quade and Douglas, Inc., gave remarks from the COMTO Board and spoke to the "importance of mentoring and the tremendous efforts of the chapter in providing guidance and leadership to the students." **Marc Hall**, director of programs, provided remarks from the National Office.

Schatize Allen, President of The Allen Group presided over the award of scholarships, with students receiving scholarships from Bay Area public transit leaders including **Tom Margro**, General Manager, Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART); **Nathaniel Ford**, Executive Director/CEO of the San Francisco Municipal Transit Agency and the Hon. **Lynette Sweet**, incoming President of the BART Board of Directors. **Lee Davis**, COMTO



Northern California members (L to R) Thomas Margro, Dana Lang, Lee Davis, Vaneeta Chintamaneni, Suzanne Permana, Javier Oliver

Northern California Chapter President, stated overall that "the purpose of the event was to provide an opportunity for professionals to reach back and help deserving

students fulfill their dreams of completing a college education and make them aware of the field of transportation as a career option for the future." ■

In Memoriam – Esna George



Esna George, Miami Chapter member and Bus Operations Superintendent at Miami Dade Transit, passed away on Friday, December 22, 2006, after a short illness. A memorial service was held on Saturday, December 23, 2006.

Esna was a devoted member of COMTO, and after her first conference in Boston in 1999, she never missed another. Esna has had many accomplishments. She was a bus operator for six years before being promoted to the position of Administrative Officer. As a newly elected member of the Miami chapter board of directors, she had a passion for increasing membership among the bus operators and maintenance divisions. Esna also served on a number of local committees. Additionally, she was a COMTO Transit Cooperative Research Ambassador. Her dedication and passion for COMTO will be missed. Let us remember Esna and her family in our prayers. ■

Transit Cooperative Research Program Seeks Ambassadors

Program Purpose

The main purpose of the Transit Cooperative Research Program (TCRP) is to broaden, strengthen, and accelerate the introduction and adoption of TCRP sponsored research results within the transit industry through peer to peer contact by the TCRP Ambassadors.

Program Objectives

TCRP Ambassadors have four goals:

- To inform their peers in the transit community of the benefits of the Research products from the TCRP program
- To encourage implementation of the TCRP research
- To promote participation in the TCRP program
- To gather anecdotal information from their peers as to the usefulness of the various research products applied in their departments

Nomination/Application Process

Nominees must work in a full-time, on-site position for U.S. transit agencies, government transit agencies at the state, regional and local levels, state department of transportations, transit educational institutions, transit industry organizations, or other non-operating agencies playing a major role in planning or financing public transit.

A TCRP Ambassador is selected for their field

experience and for their ability to motivate and instruct others on how to use the research results or products. Ambassadors are selected by a committee of individuals distinguished in the field of transit operations and research.



All nominations or applications should be submitted on the form that follows. Self-nominations are encouraged. Evaluation will be based on documentation submitted as well as on letters and comments from references. A statement from an agency executive supporting the nominee's participation is essential.

Selection Criteria

The selection committee will use the following criteria in determining the Ambassadors:

- Interest in current areas of transit research.
- Practical field experience in one or more of the TCRP areas of investigation.
- Successful experience in the application and implementation of transit research.
- Presentation and instruction skills with a

willingness to improve those skills.

- Commitment to using research to improve service and achieve greater cost efficiencies
- Willingness to share knowledge and experiences, of both successes and failures, with colleagues
- Evidence of support from the nominee's organization

Over a two-year period, Ambassadors will be expected to spend as many as ten days on TCRP business, including the Ambassadors' Seminar. Arrangements for conferences, seminars, workshops, etc. will be made by the Ambassadors in coordination with COMTO. All expenses associated with participating in TCRP activities are covered by the program, including travel,

conference arrangements, and materials.

Nomination Deadline
All nominations must be received by February 10.

Mail or fax to: COMTO
Attn: Marc Hall
818 18th Street, NW
Suite 850
Washington, DC 20006
Phone: (202) 530-0551
Fax: (202) 530-0617
comto@comto.org

For additional information on TCRP, contact the Program Administrator, Marc Hall at mhall@comto.org, or call at 202-530-0551. You can visit COMTO's website at www.comto.org for additional information and to download the Ambassador application. Although selections are made in early spring, applications are accepted year round. ■

People Are Talking about TCRP



Jane Shang

Director – Engineering and Development
Hillsborough Regional Transit (HART)

“Knowledge comes over time and through experience. We need leadership and a vision for transit use and infrastructure and TCRP helps to provide that resource.”

Congressman Bobby Rush (D-IL) Receives Annual Floyd Washington Auto Safety Award



Congressman **Bobby Rush** (D-IL) recently received the 2006 *Floyd Washington Auto Safety Advocacy Award* from Congressman **Elijah E. Cummings** (D-MD) and **Julie Cunningham**, President/CEO of the Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) in his office at the Rayburn House Office Building. Rep. Rush was selected as the 2006 recipient of this coveted award for his vision and role as the first (2002) Congressional host of the annual Auto-Safety Forum during the Congressional Black Caucus Foundations-Annual Legislative Conference (CBCF-ALC). Over the past five years, the Auto-Safety Forum—produced by **Ed Swailes** (left) President of The Syndicate, Inc—has been an official forum of the CBCF-ALC. This year's Forum hosted by Rep. Elijah E. Cummings (D-MD) received sponsorship from General Motors and COMTO. Eddie Arnold, (right) Vice President Government Affairs, and Nielsen Media Research join the group. ■

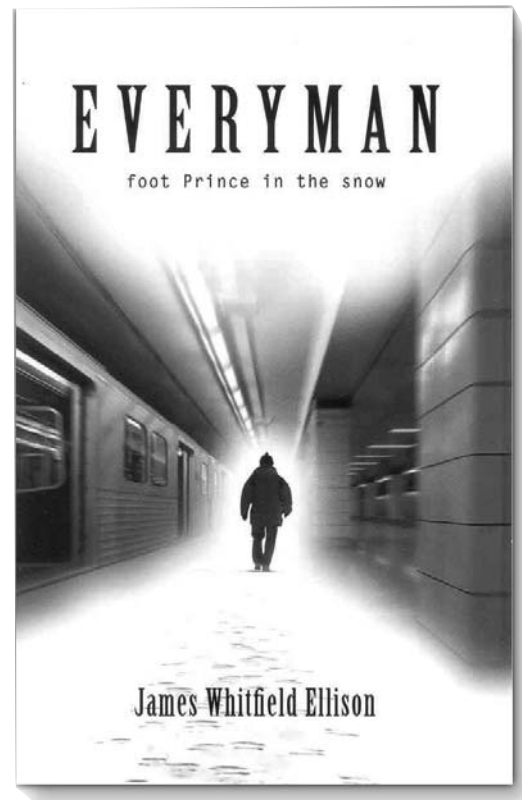
Story of Foot “Prince” is a Must Read

COMTO Board Member **Robert Prince, Jr.** doesn't claim to have had an extraordinary life, but he dares to share the tales of overcoming the challenges of growing up African American in a turbulent nation and the everyday people who inspired him to push past the prejudice and discrimination. His path to achieve the American Dream is captured in a memoir entitled *Everyman: Foot Prince in the Snow*.

A review by New York Times best-selling author Ellen Tanner Marsh expresses the significance that Prince's story has for others:

“Everyman is Robert Prince Jr.'s story, but it is also the story of so many other individuals who pushed through the doubt—on the inside and coming from others—as well as the prejudice to make their mark on America ...Valuable not only as a unique history of his profession at the time. Everyman is an entertaining and inspiring personal story, standing as an indisputable example of how, through hard work and diligence, anyone can make it in America.”

Everyman: Foot Prince in the Snow by James Ellison can be ordered online at www.amazon.com or by sending an email to Patrea' Cheatham-Logan at pcheatham@comto.org. ■



COMTO Needs You!

Step Up and Share Your Experience

Conference of Minority Transportation Officials Listing of COMTO Committees & Advisory Councils

COMMITTEES

Budget & Finance Committee – **Roosevelt Bradley, Miami**

Bylaws Committee – **Loretta Kirk, Cleveland**

Conference Planning Committee – **Host Chapter, Miami**

- Exhibitor Showcase Subcommittee – Open
- Program Planning Subcommittee (for workshops and professional development programs) – **Ann August, Sumter, SC**
- Industry Awards Subcommittee – **Joe Alexander, Virginia**

National Endowment Campaign Subcommittee – **Dwight Ferrell, Austin**

Annual Fundraising Committee – **Courtney Cunningham, Miami**

Membership Committee – **Robert Prince, Boston**

Strategic Planning Committee – **Ricky Smith, Cleveland**

ADVISORY COUNCILS

Academic Advisory Council – **Barbara Byrd, Chicago**

- Scholarship Subcommittee – Open
- Youth Symposium Subcommittee – **Barbara Byrd**

Historically Underutilized Businesses – **Herman Ross, Las Vegas**

Legislative Advisory Council – **Lyn Harris, Miami**

Presidents Advisory Council – **Warren Montague, Philadelphia; Larry Hamm, Newark; and Phil Washington, Denver**

COMMITTEE MEMBER REQUIREMENTS

1. Must be a COMTO member in good standing and support the COMTO mission.
2. Should be able to attend at least two of the following planning meetings at own expense.
 - March – Washington, DC
 - June – National Meeting and Training Conference
 - November – Washington, DC
3. Must be able to participate on monthly teleconferences. Prior to the teleconference, committee members should review all relevant material, prepare to make contributions and voice objective opinions concerning committee issues and activities.
4. Assist the committee in formulating content resources that will further the goals and objectives of the committee and COMTO.
5. Communicate regularly with fellow committee members to ensure that volunteer obligations are fulfilled.

Want to Sign Up for a Committee? Go to

www.comto.org/documents/2007CommitteeSign-UPsheet.pdf



Welcome New Members

Atlanta

Monique Beauford
Preeti Bone
Lashanda R. Dawkins
Cheryl King
Carol Smith
Soji Tinubu, P.E.

Austin

Carmen Gonzalez
Shirley A. Winfrey

Birmingham

Renee V. Johnson
LaChaune N. Slater

Boston

Joseph Carter
Jovial A. Gaskin

Chicago

Henry S. Brown
Betty Brown-Cork
Colette T. Gordon
Charles H. Peterson
Maria-Teresa Roman
Beverly Tinsley
Kathalise M. White

Colorado State

Lawrence S. Gallegos
Gregory A. Walker

Dallas

Katherine R. Beamon
Monica Ellington

Houston

Tonya Burton
Tarsha Gary
Alice Hearne
Zachary Horace
Christopher Jackson

Rosie Crawford Peavy
Orlean Pierce
Lanesa Roberson
Dareeta Goins Shelton
Samson H. Shivers
Patricia M. Turney
Aretha Walker

Hampton Roads

Kal Naim
Ron Villanueva

Indiana

Keisha Pollard



Maryland

Burt Junius Dixon
Jennifer A. Jenhin
Neil J. Pedersen

Miami

Valarie Roberts
Sarah L. Rucker
Everton D. Williams

North Carolina

Johnny Ford
Gregory Singleton

Northern California

Angela Carmen
Martha A. Martinez
Raymond D. Odunlami
Wanda Oliver
Helen Ortiz
Keonnis Taylor
Jesus M. Vargas
Christina Verdin

New Jersey

Fanya U. Stansbury
Wanda Webster Stansbury

New York

Raju Abraham
Joel C. Andrews
Sreenivasan Balu
Gina Bolden
Marissa J. Chambers
Denise Cheeks
Grace Coleman
Frantz F. Constant
Stephanie DeLisle
Bruce Dingle
George Lewis, Jr.
Luis Lugo, Jr.
Rosetta Mickens
Garth Montague
Traci Myers
Rahman Nafeeza
Frank Otero
Yogesh Patel
Azees Ramroop
James E. Russell
Phillip Travers
Compton Tull
Craig Henry Wilson
Agnes Woolford

Philadelphia

John Dezio
Amalia M. Frazier
Milika Thornton

Pittsburgh

Lee Hajas
Amy Veltri

Southern California

Annelle Albarran

Salt Lake City

Kent Jovgenson

Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) Members

Smahrt Solutions, Inc.,
Pamela Ellis, SPHR,
Principal, Sugar Land, TX

Smalls Electrical Construction, Inc., Jeffrey Smalls, President/CEO, Brooklyn, NY

Agencies

Cleveland Airport System, Ricky D. Smith, Senior Deputy Executive Director, Cleveland, OH

Durham Area Transit Authority, Pierre Oesi-Owusu, Sr. Transportation Planner, Durham, NC

Philadelphia International Airport, Calvin Davenger, Deputy Director, Philadelphia, PA

Staff Changes at National



Denise Smith Williams has been hired as the Director of Member Services. She is respon-

sible for membership recruitment, retention, and communications for both individual and organizational members. Denise joins COMTO with 15 years as a membership and marketing specialist at various non profit organizations including the American Society for Pension Professionals, Association of Pool and Spa Professionals, and the Radio Television News Directors Association. She has a Bachelor's in Business Administration from the University of Maryland. Denise can be reached at 202-530-0551 or dwilliams@comto.org. Denise succeeds



Marc Hall who has been named Director of Programs. In this capacity, Marc is now

responsible for oversight and administration of all programs and grants management. Marc can also be reached at 202-530-0551 or mhall@comto.org. ■

Money Sense

“Variable Annuities” PART II

Freedom of Choice

As the owner of a variable annuity, your freedom to choose from among different



by *Percy T. Moore,*
Thomas & Moore Financial

portfolios can help you to better balance your investment objectives, personal circumstances and risk tolerance. In addition, you'll be able to switch your assets from one portfolio to another at any time without tax consequences.

And that can be extremely helpful whenever your investment objectives or personal circumstances change. Finally, variable annuities guarantee¹ your principal in the event you die before you annuitize the contract—a feature known as the guaranteed death benefit. Some annuity contracts may also allow you to choose an “enhanced” death benefit that can increase the value of the death benefit (usually for an additional fee).

Unlimited Contributions

Although Social Security and company-sponsored pension payments may be sufficient to cover your basic retirement living expenses, they probably won't be enough to allow you to realize all of your retirement dreams. Other popular retirement plans, such as IRAs and 401(k)s, limit the amount of money you can contribute each year to your retirement plan. But, as long as the funds you're investing are non-qualified (post-tax), your variable annuity will permit unlimited contributions. You can also continue to invest in your account even if you have no earned income or are not working—options that may not be available with other types of long-term savings plans. So, even if you've started your retirement fund comparatively late in life, a variable annuity may help you make up for lost time.

Inflation Protection

Variable annuities also offer possible protection against the effects of inflation. Although past performance is no guarantee of future results, returns from stock market investments have historically outpaced inflation over the long term, which can help maintain the purchasing power of your assets.

Especially for younger retirement savers, the important question isn't “What can my dollars buy today?” but “What will those same dollars be able to buy in 20 or 30 years?” Depending on your personal needs and circumstances, as well as on a number of outside factors, what seems to be a substantial financial cushion today may prove less than adequate tomorrow. When estimating how much you'll need to achieve your retirement goals, be sure to consider the likely impact of inflation on your projected nest egg.

Please visit our website to browse many of our helpful tools www.ThomasMooreFinancial.com.

This article does not constitute tax or legal advice. Consult your tax or legal advisor before making any tax- or legally-related investment decisions. This article is published for general informational purposes only and is not an offer or solicitation to sell or buy any securities or commodities. Any particular investment should be analyzed based on its terms and risks as they relate to your individual circumstances and objectives.

Variable annuities are long-term investment vehicles designed for retirement purposes and are subject to market fluctuation, investment risk, and possible loss of principal.

Variable annuities are offered by prospectus only. The prospectus contains complete details on features, benefits, risks, fees and expenses. Read the prospectus carefully prior to investing. ■

¹All guarantees are based on the claims paying ability of the issuing insurance company.



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COMTO Vision Statement

To be the primary voice in the transportation industry for people, businesses, and communities of color, with a focus on equal access, advancement, and sustainable results.

COMTO Mission Statement

To ensure a level playing field and maximum participation in the transportation industry for minority individuals, businesses, and communities of color through advocacy, information sharing, training, educational and professional development.

COMTO Core Values

COMTO's core values are embodied in how we conduct business and how we interact with our stakeholders, including our members, customers, partners and supporters. We affirm and are committed to the following core values: Advocacy, Diversity, Excellence, Inclusion, Innovation, Integrity, and Service.

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