

SWANA

SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER

Newsletter

November 2024

Volume 2 - Issue No. 5

Message from the President

Happy Halloween to all! Hopefully everyone has a safe season and gets all the candy you hoped for. From a nostalgic perspective, I do miss the walking around in costumes that more resembled garbage bags with a picture of what we were supposed to be, along with masks where the eye holes did not quite match up. If you made it through the night without the elastic band breaking you were successful. Perhaps that was the spark that put us into the solid waste industry?

As we come to another end of the year we have also reached the end of the term for our current Chapter Board of Directors and Officer terms. I want to personally thank all of the support received from the BOD over the past four years. Looking back on the years I am proud of what we able to accomplish. This board put on a successful WASTECON event in Boston, awarded thousands of dollars in scholarships, recruited new young professionals, and started a program of reaching out to local colleges and universities to educate the next generation of solid waste professionals. It is with great satisfaction that the next BOD will continue this progress we have made and keep the Southern New England Chapter moving forward developing the next generation of leaders.

SAFETY

SWANA continues its strategic focus on promoting safety and reducing the injury and fatality rates in our industry. However we continue to read in the news about injuries and fatalities that occur in our industry. From the death of a helper placing track in the back of a truck to car – truck collisions, there are too many accidents that could possibly be avoided. The first defense is training our employees to be ever vigilant in their daily routines and to expect the unexpected when out on routes, depositing materials at receiving facilities, or properly managing the waste at

landfills. In addition, as an industry we need to continue to push the legislators and rule makers to put into place legislation that focuses on the industry and making is safer for our employees to perform their essential duties. Over the years SWANA has been pivotal in getting over thirty states to enact some type of “Slow Down to Get Around” laws to help protect solid waste workers out on the job. While CT expanded their law in 2023 to include non-emergency vehicles that are stationary, it did not go far enough to include those vehicles moving at slow speeds and performing their jobs. It is imperative that we as an industry continue to push for expanded laws to protect our workers.

SWANA NEWS

On August 6th, SWANA HQ held a Chapter Chat with Amy Lestition Burke, SWANA’s Executive Director / CEO to review the initial results of the survey of the SWANA members. This discussion centered around what our members are looking for from SWANA, both nationally and from the local chapters, and how we can chart our path forward. The engagement survey demonstrated that SWANA can and will continue to pivot and adjust to the ever changing needs of our members as this industry evolves. The presentation can be found [here](#).

During the WASTECON event in Dallas, TX, SWANA announced the all new event that will activate resource management as a climate champion. The new event is called RCon and will replace the legacy events SOAR and WASTECON. This new event is the evolution of what is next in our industry and will focus on advancing waste as a resource, positioning SWANA to lead the narrative around sustainable resource management, and to be the go-to platform for cutting edge discussions, technologies, and practices in the field. The first ever event will be held in Columbus, OH November 12-15, 2025. Place this on

your calendar as you would not want to miss the inaugural event for this new and exciting chapter in SWANA's mission. Read the press release [here](#).

APPLIED RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Did you know that the SNE SWANA Chapter is a member of the Applied Research Foundation (ARF)? The ARF was formed in 2001 to advance the mission of SWANA for transforming waste to a resource through collectively defined and funded research. Over these years the ARF has been led by Jeremy O'Brien and produced many reports through the various research groups: Collection, Disposal, Sustainable Materials Management, and Waste Conversion and Energy Recovery. As a member of the ARF, the SNE Chapter has input into the topics to be considered for further research as well as access to the various reports as they are published. If any Chapter member would like a report feel free to reach out to us. Finally, the SNE BOD would like to offer Jeremy great success in his future endeavors, as he has recently announced his retirement plans. Jeremy has been a great leader for the ARF and his guidance and stewardship will be missed.

SNE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

The SNE Chapter will hold its Annual Business Meeting (ABM) on January 9th, 2025. At this meeting the Officers and BOD will review the 2024 year and review the following items:

- **By-Law Amendment:** The SNE BOD is proposing to amend the current By-Laws of the Chapter. These amendments include expanding the locations from where our chapter members may reside and/or work. Given our geographic location and size, the BOD believes it is vital to expand our network and be inclusive of members who may reside and/or work outside of the RI, CT or MA area but are mainly focused within our geographic area.
- **Officer and BOD Elections:** The Nominating Committee has put forth the recommendations for the next slate of officers and BOD members. This slate includes several seasoned members as well as new Young Professional members who will be and are the next leaders in the industry. These nominations will be put forth at the ABM with the final vote occurring at that meeting.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- SNE SWANA Chapter Annual Business Meeting – January 9th, 2025

WHATS IN THE NEWS?

- SNE SWANA LinkedIn page – we have launched a new method to keep in contact with the membership and to share innovative practices and information. We urge each member to [follow](#) us and share the page.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The 2024 SNE SWANA Scholarship program once again awarded \$6,000 in scholarships for continued higher education expenses for our members or their children. The applicants provided our committee with complete applications and demonstrated superior academic achievement, community involvement, and aptitudes towards the solid waste industry. The award winners this year were: Logan Beattie, Grace VanLaarhoven, and Ethan Gerber. Congratulations to each of these awardees.

Funding for this program continues to be made available from our annual golf tournament. This year it was held on July 1st at LeBaron Hills Country Club. Congratulations to all the winners of the tournament. Also, while a bit late, we want to thank our continued supporters of this event. Without you our event would not have been as successful.

- Beverage Sponsors - Reworld & WIN Waste Innovations
- Hole Sponsors – Commonwealth Resource Management, Tighe & Bond, Lynch, J. Bates & Sons, LLC, CEC, Brown & Caldwell
- Prize & Giveaway Donations – Weaver Consultants Group, Sanborn Head & Associates, CEC



Chapter Officers and Board of Directors

Officers

Brian N. Card, P.E. **President**
WIN-Waste Innovations

Lindsey Welcome, P.E. **Secretary**
Brown and Caldwell

Ron St. Michel, P.E. **Vice President**
Sanborn, Head & Associates, Inc.

Paul Shamoian, P.E. **Treasurer**
RI Resource Recovery Corporation

Phil Goddard **Past President**
Town of Bourne

Board Directors

Barry Van Laarhoven, P.E. **Director**
Civil & Environmental Consultants

Amy Knight, P.E. **Director**
Civil & Environmental Consultants

Katie Scott **YP Rep**
Brown and Caldwell

Jackie Caceci, P.E. **CT Director**
Tighe & Bond

Anthony Novelli **YP Alternate**
Greater New Bedford RRMD

Scott Alfonse **Director**
Greater New Bedford RRMD

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Lindsey Welcome - MA Program
Paul Shamoian - RI Program

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