

SWANA

SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND CHAPTER

Newsletter

August 2021

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Message from the President

On July 15 the SNE Chapter hosted its annual Scholarship Golf Event at the Brookside Golf Club in Bourne, MA. It was great to get together again and see all of our friends, co-workers, and customers in person. This year we had an amazing turnout of close to 70 golfers and almost 80 folks at our luncheon. The event raises money for our annual scholarship awards, and as usual our members stepped up and made this a fantastic event raising close to \$5,000 for our future awards. I want to offer a special THANK YOU to the following sponsors of this event who contributed money and prizes:

- WIN Waste Innovations
- Civil & Environmental Consultants
- Brown & Caldwell
- Tighe & Bond
- Simplicity Engineering
- Clearspan
- Sanborn Head & Associates
- Casella Waste
- SCS Engineers
- Covanta
- J. Bates & Sons
- SITEC Environmental
- EDL Energy

SAFETY MATTERS

SWANA offers a variety of Safety Initiatives aimed at educating our members and the general public of the inherent risks within our industry. It is all of our goals to get ourselves and our fellow workers home safely each and every day. Too many of our co-workers in this industry fall to injury or un-needed deaths, many due to avoidable issues. As a SWANA member, you have access to information and training materials that you can use within your organization to keep folks safe. Two things you can do quickly to show your commitment to safety:

1) take the SWANA [safety pledge](#) and 2) attend the Safety Summit in Orland FL this November 2021.

REGULATORY UPDATES

Basel Convention: Basel Convention, is an international treaty that was designed to reduce the movements of hazardous waste between nations, and specifically to prevent transfer of hazardous waste from developed to less developed countries. The Basel Convention establishes standards for the transboundary movement of hazardous waste, solid waste, and municipal incinerator ash, including notice to and written confirmation from the receiving country prior to export. As of November 2020, 187 countries and the European Commission are parties to the Convention. The United States is a signatory to the Basel Convention, but has not yet become Party to the Convention. While a worthwhile endeavor, this treaty has had unintended consequences for the recycling industry, especially within the United States.

The Basel Convention contains two major restrictions on waste movements. The first restriction requires that exports of waste occur only under the following circumstances:

- If the exporting country does not have sufficient disposal or recycling capacity;
- If the exporting country does not have disposal and recycling facilities that can manage the waste in an environmentally sound manner; or
- If the wastes are required as a raw material for recycling or recovery industries in the importing country.

While the U.S. is not a party to the convention, it has made an agreement with Canada on plastic scrap which will allow trade, however export to other nations in the

convention (up to 187 as of November 2020) is prohibited. SWANA is working with the Core Advocacy Group (COG) to track this issue and formulate SWANA's stance on whether the U.S. should join the Convention or not. This spring, SWANA surveyed the COG representatives regarding whether or not they think the U.S. should ratify the convention. The Board of the SNE Chapter voted to recommend that SWANA officially take a stance that the U.S. should ratify the convention. While there are implications for U.S. law, such as RCRA, it is important that the U.S. be engaged and have a voice in a growing international trend so that we can support fair, safe and environmentally sound recycling.

For more information go the following websites:

[EPA Information](#)

[Department of State Information](#)

[Basel Convention](#)

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Do you have a topic you wish someone would talk about? Please reach out and let us know. Our Board will see if we have the local expertise to help pull together a training event focused on issues that concern you.

ODDS & ENDS

2021 SNE SWANA Scholarship Winners:

We are pleased to announce that Abby Card and Amanda Siciliano have been awarded scholarships this year in the amount of \$3,000 each.

Abby will be attending the University of Connecticut this fall seeking a Nursing Degree. In high school, Abby was active in the National Honor Society, Future Business Leaders of America, Volleyball and Lacrosse teams, and volunteered at the Day Kimball Hospital, Red Cross blood drives, Salvation Army bell ringing, and the Relay-for-Life run. Abby's essay discussed the responsibility we have as humans to be mindful of the amount of waste we produce, the importance of recycling and composting, how greenhouse gases affect climate change, as well as the role producers and manufacturers have on the product cycle and how the solid waste industry manages waste materials.

Amanda is in the process of obtaining a graduate degree at the University of Maryland in Materials Science and Engineering. Amanda obtained a Civil Engineering degree from Wentworth Institute of Technology in 2020. While there, Amanda attended SWANApalooza (Boston) in 2019, which had an impact on her career and scholastic

goals. Amanda has completed research on the use of plastics in concrete and is currently examining the chemical and mechanical recycling of polymeric materials and the synthesis of a polyelectrolyte membrane for coal ash lithium extraction.

Both Abby and Amanda are well deserving recipients of 2021 SNE SWANA Chapter scholarship awards.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- EBC Solid Waste: September 2021 – PFAS Issues in solid waste. More information to follow
- SNE SWANA – October 7, 2021 – webinar – “Encapsulation of PFAS From Landfill Leachate”. More information to follow
- EREF: Electrical Leak Location (ELL) Workshop & Emerg/ing Topics in Landfill Management Summit – 8/31 to 9/1 – [information here](#)

WHATS IN THE NEWS?

- Our northern neighbor, Maine, is setting the trend for Extender Producer Responsibility (EPR) laws by becoming the first state to extend EPR to plastics and packaging material. The Governor of Maine signed the legislation into law on July 13, 2021. While there are some exceptions to the law, this bill requires producers of these items to finance stewardship organizations to help manage and develop methods to better collect and recycle the products on the producer's behalf. It is expected that Oregon will be the next state to enact a similar law, with other states monitoring closely to enact similar bills over the next few years. More information on the legislation can be found [here](#).
- MIRA Request for Proposals (RFP's): CT MIRA has two (2) RFP's on the street looking for entities to assist with the Transportation and Disposal of Municipal Solid Waste. Both are due on August 16th, 2021 and can be accessed [here](#).
- Could Boston have its own waste processing and disposal facility? As part of the Zero Waste 2035 plan, Boston is evaluating its long term options to manage its generated materials. Read the [article](#) from April this past year and check out the Boston website for more information.

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SNE SWANA Chapter Committee Members

Membership

Brian Card (C) bcard@wtienergy.com
Greg McCarron
Ron St. Michel

Programming (see below)

Brian Card (C) bcard@wtienergy.com
Jackie Caceci - CT Program
Lindsey Welcome - MA Program
Inga Lermontov-Hoit - RI Program

CT - Program Development

Jackie Caceci (C) jmcaceci@tighebond.com
Greg McCarron
Amy Knight

MA - Program Development

Lindsey Welcome (C) lwelcome@brwncald.com
Barry VanLaarhoven
Amy Knight
Scott Alfonse

RI - Program Development

Inga Lermontov-Hoit (C) ingal@rirrc.org
Joseph Brennan

Young Professional

Joseph Brennan (C) jbreannan@rirrc.org
Katie Scott

Scholarship

Ron St.Michel (C) rstmichel@sanbornhead.com
Scott Alfonse
Katie Scott

Audit

Scott Alfonse (C) scott.alfonse@gnbrrmdistrict.com
Phil Goddard
Katie Scott

Advocacy / Legislative

Phil Goddard (C) pgoddard@townofbourne.com
Barry VanLaarhoven