

Mid-Atlantic Chapter Solid Waste Association of North America



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SOLID WASTE ASSOCIATION
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SOLID WASTE NEWS For Waste Professionals

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President's Message

By Mike Houlihan

In this issue you will see information about our spring/summer technical seminar, which this year will be held as a joint meeting with the Maryland Recycling Coalition (MRC). The meeting, to be held on 8 and 9 June 2005, represents an experiment on the part of the Chapter to expand the range of issues and the number of professionals at the meeting. By joining with MRC, we will be having more training, a broader technical program, and more vendors and manufacturers available to meet with. "Thank you" to the members of MRC, who invited us to attend the joint meeting and who are making many of the arrangements for the meeting. We hope that you will take advantage of this opportunity to hear presentations and meet professionals involved in a wide

range of solid waste management issues in the Mid-Atlantic region. Look for registration information soon. In addition, please consider joining us for the upcoming tours of equipment manufacturers and solid waste transfer stations following the March and May Board meetings.

While you're at it, if you know any former SWANA members who haven't been involved lately, please encourage them to renew their membership. At the national level, SWANA has an excellent program of training and technical seminars, and our Chapter has a very active program of technical development and networking. We hope you will join us at these events, and that you'll bring a colleague with you.

The Loading Dock

By Paul McIntyre

On January 19th the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of SWANA visited The Loading Dock and got a first hand glimpse of the organization's operations.

The Loading Dock, which has been operating since 1984, is the nation's first self-sustaining, nonprofit clearinghouse of reusable and surplus building materials. It has collected and redistributed more than 33,000 tons of materials that were slated to be landfilled.

The Loading Dock, with its mission to improve low to moderate income housing stock in the region, works with contractors in the business of repairing and renovating substandard housing. This organization receives donated materials from a number of sources, including direct donations, county landfill collection programs and community days. Once collected, the reusable building materials are sorted, warehoused, and sold for minimal fees to member contractors. Items typically found at

The Loading Dock include: bathtubs, toilets, doors, windows, shingles, plumbing fixtures, paint, wallpaper, and flooring.

The Loading Dock has been self-sustaining since 1992 and has achieved this through the sale of building materials and the collection of membership fees. The Loading Dock does not only work to improve housing stock, it also creates a market for reusable building materials, benefits the environment and creates jobs and volunteer opportunities.

To date, The Loading Dock has assisted more than 8,500 individuals and groups and partnered with more than 400 manufacturers, distributors and contractors in the Mid-Atlantic region. Because of the strong interest in The Loading Dock's success, the organization has created a national reuse information network where other folks can gather information and learn firsthand how to start a reuse facility.