



**SWANA**<sup>®</sup>  
SOLID WASTE ASSOCIATION  
of North America

# Mid-Atlantic Chapter Solid Waste Association of North America

## SOLID WASTE NEWS for Waste Professionals

June 10, 2020

### President's Message

To our Mid-Atlantic Chapter Family,

I hope that this note finds you and your loved ones safe and healthy. For most of us, this is an unprecedented and difficult time. The coronavirus pandemic has challenged the normal in our lives, from our expectations of good health and the health of our loved ones to the security of our livelihoods, and those of our neighbors, and to the well-being of our communities. While there is still a great deal of uncertainty, I wanted to make sure our members know that our Chapter Board is, as always, dedicated to making sure that our members have the information, resources, and support they need. Later in this note, I'll speak about some of the things our Chapter and our National Organization are doing to support our membership and our industry.

Recently, we found a note in the mailbox of one of our landfills that said, "Not all hero's wear capes" The note went on to thank our staff for helping to keep our community healthy even though that meant that we were at a greater risk than others of contracting COVID-19. What a great note! it's a note that also deserves to get passed on to all of you, the everyday heroes who do the good work that we do, day in and day out. Work that keeps our communities and our environment safe and clean. Thank you all.

Many of you may have heard about The Sanitation Workers Support Fund established by Glad and SWANA. For those that have not, this fund will provide financial assistance to front-line solid waste and recycling collection workers in the United States and Canada adversely impacted by COVID-19. Front-line solid waste and recycling collection workers will potentially qualify for assistance if they: (1) have tested positive for COVID-19; (2) were laid off because of COVID-19 and continue to be unemployed; or (3) if an immediate family member was a front-line solid waste or recycling collection worker and passed away because of the coronavirus. Individuals directly impacted by COVID-19 by testing positive for the coronavirus or who lost their job due to the coronavirus and are currently unemployed can receive \$500. Immediate family members (spouse or minor children) of a solid waste and recycling collection worker who died due to COVID-19 can receive \$2,500. I encourage our members who qualify to learn more by visiting [www.swana.org](http://www.swana.org) and/or <https://www.glad.com/trash-day-thanks/>

The Chapter itself is working with individual members and their organizations, sharing best practices and hard-won experiences, as we all face this crisis head-on. There is no playbook for us to follow and so we also encourage our members to reach out to the Board on other ways we can help. We are actively exploring what else we can do to be of better service to each of you. Please don't hesitate to let us know your thoughts and needs.

Wishing you health and strength,

Sincerely ,

Tim Ford, Chapter President

#### **SWANA Mission Statement:**

***"Advancing the practice of environmentally and economically sound management of municipal solid waste in North America."***

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# Mid-Atlantic Chapter 2020 Scholarship Award Winners

By: Mehal Trivedi  
Frederick County, MD

The Mid-Atlantic Chapter received four applications for the 2020 Scholarship Program. There were three (3) Category I applicants and one (1) Category IIIb applicant. With expanded scholarship, a Category IIIb applicant (part-time student who is working full-time) Stephanie Lynn Lowery received a very high score by the Chapter Evaluation Committee and was awarded a well deserving \$2,000 George L. Winfield Memorial Chapter Scholarship Award. Stephanie plans to major in Environmental Science and Policy at Johns Hopkins University. She is a Chapter member and works as the Environmental Compliance Officer at Charles County Department of Public Works.

For each of the 3 Category I candidates: Brian Thomas Michelsen was awarded \$1,500; Nicole Elizabeth Sprague was awarded \$1,250; and Jack Ryan Roddy was awarded \$750. The Chapter voted to forward Brian's Category 1 and Stephanie's Category 3 applications to the SWANA National Headquarters for a chance of an additional scholarship.

Congratulations to all the winners!

## Stephanie Lynn Lowery Winner of \$2,000 George L. Winfield Memorial Chapter Scholarship Award

Excerpts from Stephanie's scholarship award essay appear below:

*"Perhaps the leading environmental issue facing the world is climate change. The projected impacts of climate change are influencing future politics, zoning, family planning, and numerous industries. The solid waste industry is no exception; it is also being forced to change as the climate surrounding past, present, and future landfills alters existing environmental conditions.*

*In the Mid-Atlantic region, the primary issue facing landfills in terms of climate change are increases in precipitation and its severity. This region is expected to experience more intense rainfall every year, which will generate more leachate within landfills. Additional precipitation will also mean increases in stormwater management techniques and practices, as more rain can create additional pollutant sources and potentials. Changes in practices, such as switching to tarps instead of autofluff for daily cover, are safer alternatives when considering potential increases in runoff.*

*These impending changes and frequencies in weather patterns for the Mid-Atlantic region have made it difficult to maintain and improve upon the stormwater management practices currently in place at the county's landfill. Many of the necessary projects to prepare for the impending changes require years of designing, engineering, and budgeting. Retrofitting stormwater ponds to new capacities, storing/pretreating leachate, and improving upon best management practices are all necessary changes, but typically require extensive planning when paying with the public's money.*

*I am proud to say I have worked hard to necessitate these improvements for the good of the county. Without my coursework in environmental science, I may not have been as inclined to move these projects ahead in terms of priority. My coursework is also teaching me ways to preserve downstream by introducing me to new technology and practices. For instance, water testing techniques, using biota to determine water quality, and using GIS (geographic information systems) mapping to improve stormwater practices are some examples of the applicable knowledge I have gained and can apply to the landfill.*

*Additionally, I am serving on two committees that are centered around preparing Charles County for climate change: The Urban and Nuisance Flooding and the Climate Resiliency Planning Committees. I want to ensure solid waste is a consideration in planning, as trash management is often unintentionally forgotten about until a problem arises."*



Stephanie Lynn Lowery

## Brian Thomas Michelsen—Winner of \$1,500 Scholarship Award

Brian Thomas Michelsen received a \$1,500 Scholarship. As a Category 1 winner, Brian plans to major in Environmental and Natural Resources at Ohio State University. He is sponsored by his father, James Michelsen, who is a Chapter member and works for the World Bank, IFC.

Excerpts from Brian’s scholarship award essay are copied below:

*“Ocean plastics have been increasingly at the forefront of the environmental news cycle, and for good reason. The issue in some ways represents a failing of the modern waste system; the result of humanity being unable to take responsibility for what it creates.*

*...it is the responsibility of the solid waste management system to prevent the plastic from ever getting to the water, by promoting proper waste collection and disposal and by ensuring the facilities are in place around the country to hold waste or, if possible, recycle it...*

*It is easy to promote responsible waste practices in countries with those systems already in place, but the challenge is setting up waste systems in developing countries that have to build those systems from the ground up.*

*...a recent study found that 50% of all mismanaged ocean plastics comes from four developing countries: China, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Vietnam (Jambeck 2015).*

*Organizations such as SWANA can help to promote the building of waste management projects, but without proper investment into the waste sector in developing countries, change will be slow, further damaging the environment.”*



Brian Thomas Michelsen

## Nicole Elizabeth Sprague—Winner of \$1,250 Scholarship Award

Nicole Elizabeth Sprague received a \$1,250 Scholarship. Nicole plans to attend Miami University, College of Education, Health and Society.

Excerpts from Nicole’s scholarship award essay are copied below:

*“An environmental issue currently in the news near my home in Montgomery County, Maryland is “zero waste” advocates pushing to close waste-to-energy plants. The idea behind their efforts is to reduce emissions in hope of a “zero waste” Montgomery County. Although on the surface the movement seems like a great way to achieve a zero waste agenda, as more research is done, the pros seem to outweigh the cons for these waste-to-energy facilities.*

*While there are pros and cons to both RRFs and landfills, RRFs’ pros seem to outweigh their cons more than landfills. RRFs input trash and output emissions, energy, and ash. About 20-30% of the trash inputted and burned turns into ash, which is then transported to a landfill, while the rest is converted to usable energy. In a landfill, 100% of the trash inputted just stays in the landfill. This is a clear example of how waste-to-energy facilities actually produce less trash because only 20-30% of it goes to a landfill while 100% of the trash in a landfill stays in the landfill. Another benefit of waste to energy plants is metal recovery. After burning the trash, about 15% of the weight is metals recovery.*



Nicole Elizabeth Sprague

*In a landfill though, trash can stay breaking down over 30-50 years or even contain things like plastic and metal that don’t ever break down. During this time, the trash continues to emit fugitive emissions: methane gas. Over time, landfills have been able to capture some percentage of the methane gas emitted but as time goes on, the quality of the gas decreases so they resort to burning the gas in flares, which only produces heat in the atmosphere.*

*When looking at the more long-term effects and the pros of waste to energy facilities, it’s far better than the other option: landfills. Of course this controversy would be less of an issue if we addressed the problem at the top of the chain. The producers of the waste (manufactures and consumers) have a responsibility to buy less and make less, and therefore create less waste. “*

## Jack Ryan Roddy—Winner of \$750 Scholarship Award

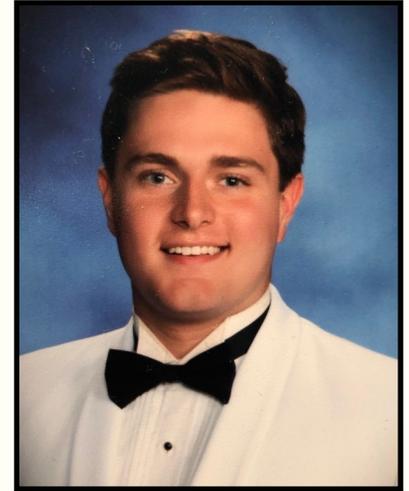
Jack Ryan Roddy received a \$750 Scholarship. Jack plans to attend the University of Delaware and major in Construction Engineering/Management.

Excerpts from Jack's scholarship award essay are copied below:

*"There are many issues related to solid waste that affect our environment. One issue in which I take a particular interest in is solid waste in bodies of water. This is very harmful to natural ecosystems in oceans, bays, and rivers.*

*This problem has several major causes. First, there are irresponsible individuals who throw their trash into bodies of water without considering the environmental impacts of their actions. The second major cause is largescale industrial facilities such as factories.*

*Solid waste management professionals can play a large role in mitigating the damage done to the environment. Educational programs discussing the effects of dumping solid waste into bodies of water can help discourage individuals from carelessly dumping their waste. Modern engineers can utilize social media by taking advantage of more interactive ways to spread information. They can also have a positive affect on the large industrial companies by giving them access to proper waste disposal methods. For example, a waste management company could develop a contract with a large industrial company. This way the large company can have all their waste taken care of while ensuring that there is no environmentally harmful dumping."*



Jack Ryan Roddy

## 2020 MRN/SWANA Mid-Atlantic Conference New Date! Friday, October 2, 2020 BWI Marriott



The 2020 MRN/SWANA Mid-Atlantic Conference has been rescheduled for Friday, October 2, 2020, at the BWI Marriott, 1743 West Nursery Road, Linthicum Maryland.

### The conference offers:

- Technical sessions that bring you up-to-date on the hottest topics in the industry including changing waste management and recycling models, policy and regulation, commodities markets, new technologies & more.
- Exhibits displaying the latest and greatest tools and equipment to help you do your job better.
- Networking opportunities to connect with your peers – Step out of your office environment and be among those who understand what you're faced with day in and day out. Recharge your thinking and inspire creative approaches. The ideas you generate could improve your program – and your career.
- Social Events – Some of the best idea exchanges occur during business-related social events. You're not going to want to miss what this event has in store for you!

Please visit the [MRN website](#) for additional information, [preliminary program](#), and on-line [registration](#).

**REGISTER NOW!**



LARRY HOGAN  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MARYLAND  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

David Biderman  
Executive Director and CEO  
Solid Waste Association of North America  
1100 Wayne Ave, Suite 650  
Silver Spring, MD, 20910

Dear Mr. Biderman,

I write to you on behalf of all Marylanders to thank the Solid Waste Association of North America and our nation's waste management professionals for their tireless efforts throughout the ongoing public health crisis.

Solid waste management and recycling have remained essential services during the COVID-19 pandemic, and your industry has continued to diligently serve communities here in Maryland and across the continent. Dedicated waste collectors, recyclers, drivers, engineers, technicians, and other professionals have reported to work each and every day to ensure our neighborhoods remain safe and healthy, even as new safer-at-home policies have created additional stress on waste management systems. We thank them for their service during this time of great need.

I would also like to recognize the Solid Waste Association of North America for advocating on behalf of your industry and providing critical information and resources to workers, lawmakers, and the media regarding the impact of COVID-19 on waste management and recycling.

Our frontline workers continue to make incredible sacrifices, and the way we go about our lives will be significantly different for a little while longer. But as we look back on this moment in our history, I know that we will remember one another's courage and compassion in the face of unprecedented challenges. Together we are going to defeat this deadly virus, and together we will return stronger and better than ever.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Larry Hogan".

Larry Hogan  
Governor

# Legislative and News Updates

By: *Jacob Shepherd, P.E.*  
*SCS Engineers*

## SWANA UPDATES

### SWANA Advocacy Efforts

During the current public health situation, SWANA has been involved with advocacy for the solid waste management industry and for the health and safety of our front-line essential workers, including:

- In response to an “Essential Workers Bill of Rights” proposal by Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) and Representative Ro Khanna (D-CA), which omitted solid waste workers, SWANA contacted the offices of these members of congress to have solid waste workers included as essential workers. The purpose of this proposal was to have protections for essential workers included in future relief packages.
- On May 8, SWANA joined with the National Waste and Recycling Association (NWRA) and spoke with FEMA regarding personal protective equipment (PPE) access for solid waste and recycling employees and the importance of uninterrupted solid waste/recycling infrastructure. As requested by FEMA, SWANA provided data on the costs of the public health situation and NWRA provided information on the risks of interrupted service.
- SWANA will add its name to a letter prepared by the National League of Cities (NLC) to be sent to Congress with the goal of ensuring funding for local communities in relief packages.

### Sanitation Works Support Fund

SWANA and Glad have partnered to establish the Sanitation Workers Support Fund, with an initial grant of \$200,000 by Glad to be distributed by SWANA. Collection works qualify if they:

1. Have tested positive for COVID-19, with a demonstrated COVID-19-related inability to work and/or medical bills
2. Were laid off because of COVID-19 and continue to be unemployed
3. If an immediate family member was a solid waste or recycling collection worker and passed away, whether directly, or in combination with other health conditions, by COVID-19.

Individuals directly impacted by testing positive, or those who have lost their jobs, can receive \$500. Immediate family who lost a solid waste or recycling worker to COVID-19 can receive \$2,500. Visit SWANA’s website for more information.

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

### Federal

HEROES Act (H.R.6800) – *Passed in the House* – Among many items, this bill titled Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions Act establishes a grant fund for employers to provide premium pay to essential workers during the public health crisis, which notably includes solid waste and recycling workers. This bill now heads to the Senate for consideration.

### Tracking Pending Legislation

PFAS Action Act of 2019 (H.R.535) – *Currently in Senate Committee* – Passed by the House in January 2020, this bill would require the EPA to designate all PFAS substances as hazardous substances within one year of enacting this bill.

*Legislative and News Updates continues on page 7*

RECOVER Act (H.R.5115) – *In committee* - Introduced into the U.S. House of Representatives, the bipartisan RECOVER Act (Realizing the Economic Opportunities and Values of Expanding Recycling) would provide \$500 million dollars in matching federal grants for local governments to improve recycling collection and processing and would establish an EPA infrastructure program.

Save Our Seas (SOS) 2.0 Act (S.1982/H.R.3969) – *In committee* - SOS 2.0 was also recently introduced into Congress. This bill would establish extended plastics producers responsibilities, EPRs, (i.e.: creating and funding organizations to reduce environmental impacts and prevent/reduce plastic waste in the environment), provide for a deposit program, and ban most single-use plastics.

RECYCLE Act (S.2941) - *In committee* - On November 21, 2019, the RECYCLE (Recycling Enhancements to Collection and Yield through Consumer Learning and Education) Act was introduced into the U.S. Senate. This bill would provide \$15 million per year over 5 years for recycling and education grants, directs the EPA to develop a model recycling toolkit, and requires EPA to more frequently review and revise guidelines for other agencies for buying recycled-content products.

Break Free from Plastic Pollution Act (H.R.5845) - *In committee* - Introduced by Rep. Lowenthal (D-CA) on February 11, 2020, this bill would establish a national container deposit program, ban single-use plastic products, and set recycled content requirements. Producers of plastics would be required to take responsibility for collection and recycling of materials and create/join producer responsibility organizations, an increasingly common program called extended producer responsibility (EPR).

### **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**

Emission Guidelines (EG) Rule Update – In August 2016, the EPA published an updated EG rule for MSW landfills under 40 CFR Part 60 Subpart Cf. Under this rule, states were required to publish updated regulations to apply the requirements to affected landfills within their jurisdiction and send to the EPA for review and approval. Since the publication, only a few states have submitted implementation plans to the EPA and received approval. For states without a plan, the EPA was required to publish a federal implementation plan. Due to EPA delay on both approval of state plans and publication of a federal plan, a lawsuit was filed that eventually required the EPA to approve individual plans and publish a federal plan. The federal plan was required to be finalized by January 14, but EPA did not meet this deadline. On April 16, the EPA asked the Ninth Circuit to overturn this court decision.

### **Maryland Legislative**

The 441st legislative session began on January 8, 2020 and was scheduled to last until April 6, 2020. However, due to the public health situation in the U.S., the General Assembly adjourned early on March 18, with plans to reconvene later this year. Any bills not passed will need to be reintroduced when the General Assembly reconvenes or in the 2021 session.

### **Maryland MDE**

No updates.

### **Delaware Legislative**

The 2020 Delaware General Assembly legislative session began on January 14, 2020. Bills related to solid waste and recycling include:

HB184 – This bill would promote the development of pyrolysis and gasification facilities in Delaware. Four amendments are attached to this bill, including one that would ban permitting of gasification, pyrolysis, or incineration facilities that accept material more than 50 miles outside of state borders. Currently this bill is out of committee.

HB224 - This bill would expand on the previous plastic bag ban to ban single-use paper bags beginning January 1, 2021.

### **Delaware DNREC**

No updates.

***Legislative and News Updates continues on page 8***

## District of Columbia Legislative

Council Period 23 began on January 2, 2019 and will end at 12:00 p.m. on January 2, 2021. Bills related to solid waste and recycling include:

### Zero Waste Omnibus Amendment Act of 2019 (23-0506)

Still being considered by the City Council, this bill would amend the Solid Waste Management Act of 2014 to accelerate the District's progress toward zero waste through several initiatives, including a plan for comprehensive organics site management and recycling infrastructure, uniform recycling labeling, requirements for waste collectors to address recycling contamination, and a reuse and donation program to reduce waste.

## News Updates

### Coronavirus Fears Prompt Suspensions Of Bans On Single-Use Plastic Bags

NPR – April 13, 2020 – During the COVID19 public health situation, bans on single-use plastic are facing challenges. Some grocery store chains are banning reusable bags and a number of jurisdictions have rescinded bans. This article highlights the conflict between waste reduction and sanitation, and how the coronavirus may affect these bans in the future.

### Industry Groups Push for Inclusion of Recycling Infrastructure in Next Federal Coronavirus Aid Package

Waste Dive – April 17, 2020 – Industry groups such as SWANA, NWRRA, and The Recycling Partnership (TRP) continue to advocate for more funding for recycling infrastructure in coronavirus relief packages. Groups are concerned that bills related to recycling currently being considered in Congress may face an uncertain future.

### D.C. Sanitation Workers Are Dealing With More Trash On Curbs While Trying To Stay Safe From Coronavirus

DCist – April 23, 2020 – Sanitation companies in the region have been noticing an increase in residential waste during the coronavirus public health situation. Patriot in northern Virginia has noticed a 30 to 40 percent increase in residential waste. D.C. Department of Public Works (DPW) has reported an 8 percent increase. While the increase is offset by a decrease in commercial waste, workers in the commercial waste are reluctant to move into residential waste due to the hard labor required (Patriot Disposal says each residential waste worker picks up 10-14 tons a day, five days a week, and runs 3-5 miles a day on their route). These physical requirements are made more challenging while wearing PPE such as masks.

### Maryland's Towson University Earns Regional Award for Reducing Food Waste in America

Waste Advantage – April 28, 2020 – The EPA recognized Towson University with a 2019 Food Recovery Challenge Regional Award. "It is remarkable how Towson University and its students have embraced the food recovery concept," said EPA's Mid-Atlantic Regional Administrator Cosmo Servidio. "The university began a rigorous expansion of its composting program, and Towson students took an active role in diverting food waste by taking surplus items from campus dining facilities and transporting it to local non-profit organizations."

### Mr. Trash Wheel Breaks Guinness World Record For 'Most Floating Debris Removed By A Trash Receptor In One Month'

Waste Advantage – May 17, 2020 – In the 2020 Guinness World Records book, Mr. Trash Wheel will be honored for collecting a record 63.3 tons of debris between April 1 and April 30, 2017 from the mouth of the Jones Falls River.

# Reminders / Wanted

- ◆ “Reporters”/writers for our Chapter newsletter.
- ◆ Important Websites to Remember: [www.swana.org](http://www.swana.org), [www.swana-midatl.org](http://www.swana-midatl.org) and [www.mdrecycles.org](http://www.mdrecycles.org).
- ◆ Training the Trainers: Contact a Board member if interested in being trained to be a trainer for a SWANA course.
- ◆ SWANA Web Sessions: If your organization presents web sessions, make them a Chapter event so that all attendees can get CEU’s. Contact Steve Lippy, Dana Murray or Shirl Wright.
- ◆ Job Vacancies in your Organization: Contact [swright@nmwda.org](mailto:swright@nmwda.org) for inclusion in our Chapter newsletter and website.
- ◆ Articles, information, recent/on-going projects of interest, active purchase orders, etc.: Contact [swright@nmwda.org](mailto:swright@nmwda.org) to be placed in our Chapter newsletter.
- ◆ Scholarship Sponsors: The Chapter is currently looking for an organization to sponsor the highest scoring candidate. The sponsor could be any organization and can suggest a name to be given to the award. The Chapter will accept an annual sponsorship of either \$500, \$1,000, \$1,500 or \$2,000. Please contact Steve Lippy or Mehal Trivedi.
- ◆ Name(s) of Prospective SWANA Members: Contact either our Chapter Membership Chair, Deji Fawole [dfawole@scsengineers.com](mailto:dfawole@scsengineers.com) or direct the prospective member to our Chapter website [www.swana-midatl.org](http://www.swana-midatl.org) or SWANA’s website [www.swana.org](http://www.swana.org).
- ◆ Newsletter Ads: These are business card size ads only (2” x 3.5”); \$100 for 4 issues. Send your ad in a JPG or PDF file to [swright@nmwda.org](mailto:swright@nmwda.org). Please make check payable to: **Mid-Atlantic Chapter of SWANA** and mail to the attention of Shirl Wright at NE MD Waste Disposal Authority, 100 S. Charles Street, Tower II - Suite 402, Baltimore, MD 21201-2705.
- ◆ American Academy of Environmental Engineers and Scientists: If you are an environmental engineer or environmental scientist, you are eligible to become a member or to be certified in solid waste management by the American Academy of Environmental Engineers and Scientists. See [www.swana-midatl.org](http://www.swana-midatl.org) or [www.aees.org](http://www.aees.org).



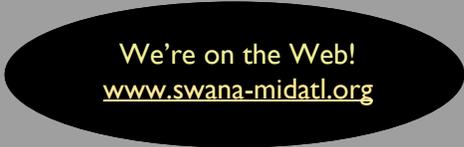
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Stephen T. Lezinski, Newsletter Editor  
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## SWANA Guiding Principle:

*“Local government is responsible for municipal solid waste management, but not necessarily the ownership and/or operation of municipal solid waste management systems.”*