



Let's Talk Trash

March 2019 Edition

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Martin Lucero—A Military Background and a Management Future

by Jack Chappelle, Engineering Solutions & Design, Inc.

As I have done recently, my interviews with solid waste professionals in New Mexico have been conducted by telephone or by e-mail. These formats have been both efficient and, I believe, at times limited in their scope. Such is the case with my interview with Mr. Martin Lucero who is presently managing the Estancia Valley Solid Waste Authority. Although Mr. Lucero was very obliging in providing information on himself, given the format for the interview and very limited follow-up to Mr. Lucero's comments, the full breadth of Mr. Lucero's experiences and expertise may be limited. I note this because most of Mr. Lucero's experience was in the military.

Mr. Lucero joined the military in 2002 and served for twelve and a half years, spent in both stateside and foreign assignments. He lived in Afghanistan for more than a year and during his multiple combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, he jumped out of planes 69 times.

As a native of New Mexico, Mr. Lucero grew up in Torreon and graduated from Estancia High School. He attended Brown Mackie College and attained a degree in Business Management. He is continuing his education endeavors by taking courses online from Ashford University, pursuing an education in Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

Mr. Lucero has an interest in mental fitness. The value of mental fitness is an



essential part of any managers skill set and as well as a key tool in staying abreast of changes in the solid waste industry as well as in life. As the manager of the Estancia Valley Solid Waste Authority, Mr. Lucero is charged with ensuring the Estancia Valley's solid waste is managed properly. His interest in mental fitness, provides a further service to the Estancia Valley Solid Waste Authority.

Mr. Lucero will bring an energy and focus to the Estancia Valley Solid Waste Authority. With his military background, I anticipate he will also bring a discipline that will translate to further improvements to the operation. All the experiences that Mr. Lucero has had during his military life as well as his academic life will be a significant benefit to the Estancia Valley Solid Waste Authority and its employees. I look forward to seeing Mr. Lucero thrive in his position and to make the Estancia Valley Solid Waste Authority an even better operation and essential service for the residents of Estancia Valley.

Calling All Young Professionals

by Marcia Pincus,
SCS Engineers

If you are not aware SWANA national has a category for professionals in the solid waste industry for people who are 35 years old and younger. They are a group of individuals who represent the future of the solid waste industry. If you qualify as a Young Professional or YP then the membership fees for you are reduced for the first three years of YP membership. These fees are: First-year membership fee of \$100 and renewal rates of:

- Year 2: \$150 for a renewing YP under the Public, Private, or Small Business sector
- Year 3: \$200 for a renewing YP under the Public, Private, or Small Business sector
- Year 4: Back to full price at the standard membership rate for the industry sector

Why Join?

Here are a few of the many benefits you'll receive by joining SWANA's Young Professional group:

- Excellent networking opportunities at events, conferences, and online
- Webinars targeted at helping you navigate the challenges of the solid waste industry
- Resources that provide you with tools and information needed to succeed in your career
- Opportunities to voice your opinion about the future of SWANA

YPs are passionate about the environment, our industry, and helping each other succeed. They are eager to offer advice, brainstorm ideas, develop solutions, and share in the struggles and triumphs of working in this business. They are energetic, motivated, committed and the next generation of SWANA.

If you are ready to join, contact either Shelby Truxon at struxon@swana.org or Hailey Fitterer Hailey.Fitterer@hdrinc.com. Hailey is our Region 1 representative.

Annual & Regional Roundtable Meetings Highlights

by Steve Miceli, Waste Management of New Mexico

The NM Roadrunner Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America (NM SWANA) conducted its Annual Meeting on Friday December 7th at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Albuquerque with an attendance of 56 participants.

The theme of the meeting was Recycling in New Mexico, with a great variety of speakers and topics. The event's keynote speaker was Morris Friedman, the President of Friedman Recycling industries and owner of the state-of-the-art Friedman Single-Stream Materials Recycling Facility in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Mr. Friedman gave an outstanding presentation focused on the state of the recycling markets in New Mexico, recycling demand and supply, and the current market realities. The audience had numerous questions and Mr. Friedman responded with very valuable insight regarding the future of recycling.

Following the keynote presentation, Laila Amerman, a Recycling Educator with Waste Management, gave a presentation on the broader recycling markets with a focus on recycling contamination and some potential strategies for successful recycling programs. Laila closed with some valuable information on free resources available to the community from the Waste Management "Recycle Often, Recycle Right" website.

After a short break the meeting continued with an eye-opening look at Computer E-Waste Recycling, by Megan Fitzpatrick, owner of NM Computer Recyclers. Ms. Fitzpatrick delved into important topics such as identifying what e-waste is, what is recyclable, how it is recycled, industry standards, and protection of personal data. Continuing with the Recycling theme, attendees were fortunate to experience a captivating and entertaining presentation on Composting and Organics Recycling by Walter Dods, Operations Manager for Solutions, Inc. Mr. Dods explained the

composting process, how composting and organics recycling benefits the community and environment, and even showed a gut-wrenching photo of mortality composting in action. Thankfully, there was one more presentation before lunch, which allowed the attendees to push the mortality-composting photo from their thoughts!

With a diversion from the meeting's recycling theme, Mr. Joe Godwin, Program Manager for the New Mexico Petroleum Storage Tank Bureau, presented some extremely useful guidance and information on management of petroleum storage tanks (PST), a staple of almost every solid waste facility to meet vehicle and equipment fueling needs. Mr. Godwin summarized the NM Petroleum Storage Tank regulations for above-and underground-petroleum storage tanks. Also addressed in the presentation were periodic inspection requirements, secondary containment requirements, and spill prevention equipment. Lastly, Mr. Godwin gave some links to both EPA and NM Environment Department resources to help site managers stay in Compliance with Federal and State Rules.

After a delicious lunch provided by the Embassy Suites Hotel, Ms. Auralie Ashley-Marx, Solid Waste Bureau Chief, provided a 2018 Overview of the Solid Waste Bureau. Lastly, Mr. Chuck Akeley, Manager of the Solid Waste Bureau's Enforcement Section, gave an outstanding presentation on the 2018 Enforcement Program. Mr. Akeley discussed informal and formal enforcement actions and discussed some enforcement cases that he had the pleasure of handling. The meeting concluded with a Roundtable discussion of solid waste issues facing facilities and operators in New Mexico. If you were unable to attend the Annual Meeting, the presentations are available on the NM SWANA website: www.nmswana.com/2018-annual-meeting

Student Scholarships Are Now Available

by Marcia Pincus, SCS Engineers

In order to prepare the next generation for the environmentally and economically sound practice of solid waste, SWANA has developed several scholarship and internship programs for students studying in fields related to solid waste management. Do you have a child or grandchild who is interested in pursuing a career in solid waste? There are three different types of scholarships available to SWANA members.

Grant H. Flint International Scholarship Program

Category I: Graduating high school seniors or graduate equivalent certified candidates who have been accepted for enrollment in a junior college, a four-year college, or a university (any program). To be eligible, candidates must be the children or grandchildren of a SWANA Member (sponsor) in good standing as of May 1st of the current calendar year. Category II: Currently enrolled full-time college or university students who are entering their junior or senior undergraduate year and pursuing a degree in environmental science, engineering, or other suitable major related to the field of solid waste management. To be eligible, candidates must be the children or grandchildren of a SWANA Member (sponsor) in good standing as of May 1st of the current calendar year or SWANA Student Members in good standing.

Scholarship Amount: The total amount given within Category I and Category II will be \$20,000. The amount for each individual award will be determined by the International Scholarship Committee.

The Robert P. Stearns/SCS Engineers Scholarship Award

Full-time students who are entering or are in graduate school pursuing a degree in environmental science, engineering or other suitable major related to the field of solid waste management. Eligible candidates must be sons, daughters, grandsons or granddaughters of a SWANA Member (sponsor) in good standing as of May 1st or SWANA Student Members in good standing.

Scholarship Amount: 1 award of \$5,000.

Schedule for Selection

Participation in the International Scholarship Program begins at the Chapter level.

- May 1:** Deadline for submission of application materials to Roadrunner Chapter Scholarship Committee
- June 1:** Deadline for submission of Chapter candidates for review by International Scholarship Committee
- July 15:** International Scholarship Committee meets to select winners
- August 1–15:** Announcement of International Scholarship winners

Applications Are Available on the Roadrunner Chapter Website:

www.nmswana.com

Submit Completed application to:

NM SWANA
% Marcia Pincus
6110 Bellamah Ave NE
Albuquerque, NM 87110

Call or email Marcia, Scholarship
Committee Chair
at (505) 514-8759
mpincus@scsengineers.com

SWANA Adds New Safety Stickers to Protect Workers

The Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) is collaborating with BrandArmor to provide an important new safety decal for the back of waste and recycling collection trucks. BrandArmor has created large, SafetyFirst™ Prismatic Reflective caution decals, which include the familiar warning to Slow Down to Get Around. The reflective decals will be visible up to a distance of 1,800 feet at night.



“I am very excited about these new stickers, which are much larger and more visible than most of the ones currently in use,” stated David Biderman, SWANA’s Executive Director and CEO. “Motorists continue to drive into the back of industry trucks or strike collection workers with disturbing frequency. These stickers can be placed on a wide variety of front end loaders and automated side loaders and can also be customized for rear end loaders. The added visibility will make it virtually impossible for a motorist to legitimately claim he or she did not see the truck in the event of a collision. I urge fleet operators to purchase these new safety stickers,” added Biderman.

SWANA hopes these decals will help reduce the number of incidents in which motorists collide with industry vehicles or employees. The stickers’ which all carry a five-year, one-hundred percent replacement warranty are tied to the VIN number of the truck. The warranty will make it possible to track vehicles that get the decals and compare accident rates with vehicles that do not have the decals. SWANA members will be able to purchase the decals at a deeply discounted price and are available to purchase [HERE](#).

NMED Update

by Joan M. Snider, NMED-SWB Outreach/Admin Section Manager

Two staff members joined New Mexico Environment Department's Solid Waste Bureau in 2018 as outreach specialists and will be facilitating the Bureau's operator certification classes.

Genevieve Morgan, who will be conducting the compost and transfer station classes, has more than a decade of experience in the field of agriculture and agricultural education.



Her work in agriculture led to a passion for composting and its promotion for use as an effective and sustainable tool for organic waste management. Originally from Reno, Nevada, Genevieve moved to southern New Mexico in 2009. She holds a bachelor's degree in Environmental Policy

from the University of Nevada, Reno, and a master's degree in Agricultural and Extension Education from New Mexico State University. In her free time, Genevieve enjoys biking and bicycle touring, cross-country skiing, gardening, and reading.

Melissa Maggass, who will be conducting the landfill and recycling facility operator certification classes, has worked in sustainability and communications at ON Semiconductor, the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis, and Weyerhaeuser. She holds a B.S. in Business Management from Arizona State University and a master's in Environmental Science and Management from the University of



California, Santa Barbara. Melissa is originally from Scottsdale, Arizona and moved from Seattle, Washington, to Albuquerque in December 2017. In her free time, Melissa enjoys traveling to new places, returning to Arizona to spend time with her family and friends, and hiking.

Both Genevieve and Melissa are also administering the Bureau's Recycling and Illegal Dumping (RAID) grants, and, along with Outreach Section Manager Joan M. Snider, presented a grant-writing workshop in February for potential applicants. The Outreach Section also revamped the Bureau's annual reporting system for reporting year 2018, so that facility operators can enter their data directly into the Bureau's database.

SAVE THESE 2019 DATES

Tuesday, April 23, 2019
REGIONAL ROUNDTABLE
 Santa Fe, NM
[Click here to register](#)

June 4-6, 2019
TRANSFER STATION CERTIFICATION COURSE
 Deming, NM
[Click here to register](#)

September 10-13, 2019
LANDFILL OPERATOR CERTIFICATION COURSE
 Las Cruces, NM
[Click here to register](#)

November 5-7, 2019
TRANSFER STATION CERTIFICATION COURSE
 Farmington, NM
[Click here to register](#)

October 8, 2019
REGIONAL ROUNDTABLE
 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
 Location/Presenters TBD

Friday, December 6, 2019
ANNUAL MEETING
 Embassy Suites Hotel, La Ventaña Room
 Albuquerque, NM
 Theme and Presenters TBD

Friday, December 6, 2019
REGIONAL ROUNDTABLE
 Embassy Suites Hotel, La Ventaña Room
 Albuquerque, NM
 Theme and Presenters TB