



ASTSWMO, Providing Pathways to Our  
Nation's Environmental Stewardship Since 1974

November 2016

Dear ASTSWMO Members:

On behalf of ASTSWMO Vice-President Ken Kloo (NJ), Past-President Bonnie Buthker (OH), Secretary-Treasurer April Webb (KY) and myself, I wanted to take this opportunity to share with you the many accomplishments and activities that have been part of the past year and the issues and activities that we will be engaged with during the next year.

As you know, this was the year that the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) turned 40 years old. ASTSWMO recognized and celebrated this milestone at its Annual Meeting and also by co-sponsoring a RCRA Summit. Both events were well attended by our members, EPA, and many others. The popularity of these events and the broad turnout was an affirmation that RCRA is still critical for continuing to ensure protection of public health and the environment, now and for future generations to come. There was much discussion about the future of RCRA and how its programs need to continue to adjust and transition to meet current and future challenges and concerns. Transitions will be a major theme of my presidency, building on the fine work started during Bonnie Buthker's time in office.

So much of ASTSWMO's [Strategic Plan](#) has links to transitions. The plan speaks to the transition of the organization to one that is even more connected with its members as well as an organization linked with other organizations and groups. This last year was full of examples of ASTSWMO reaching out to its members, to schools, colleges, non-profits, associations, and more, to find ways to support, promote, share, and find new and better ways to fulfill our core objectives. It is through quality and active engagement with our current membership, and by looking forward to meet the needs of our future members, that ASTSWMO can continue to remain a supporting cornerstone of public health and environmental protection.

In addition to the recent Annual Meeting and RCRA Summit there were other tangible ways that ASTSWMO has continued to support its members' needs, by convening meetings and trainings, [posting](#) position papers and our newsletters, as well as establishing groups to focus on key areas. The following is just a short list of the fine work accomplished this last year:

- Mid-Year Meeting, April 27-28, Pittsburgh, PA, with its theme of *Succession and Long-Term Planning*.
- LUST and State Fund-Financial Responsibility Workshop held concurrent with the Mid-Year Meeting.
- Brownfield and Superfund Symposium, August 3-5 in Detroit, MI.
- Position Paper, *Underground Storage Tank Open Bermed Containment Systems*.

- [CCR Corner](#), a webpage dedicated to assisting in the implementation of the Coal Combustion Residuals final rule and the work of the ASTSWMO's CCR Ad Hoc Workgroup co-chaired by our current Past-President, Bonnie Buthker, with continued assistance from Mike Forbeck (2015 President).
- [PFAS Overview](#), is the newest webpage and is focused on the complicated issues associated with perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs), also known as perfluorinated chemicals (PFASs) and supported by the latest ASTWMO Ad Hoc Workgroup also chaired by Bonnie Buthker.
- Comment letters on rules regarding Pharmaceuticals, Hazardous Waste Generators, RD&D MSW Landfills as well as [sediment](#), [Superfund](#), and [UST](#) guidance documents.

If you did not know already, several of the [presentations](#) from past meetings, workshops, and symposiums are posted on, or linked through, the updated and constantly expanding [ASTSWMO website](#).

Looking ahead, watch for announcements for webinars sponsored by one or more Subcommittees, as well as the following meetings, workshops, and training opportunities during 2017:

- Mid-Year Meeting, April 26-27, 2017, Cleveland, OH.
- Tanks UST Workshop, May 23-25, 2017, Louisville, KY.
- Hazardous Waste & Materials Management Training Conference, August 2017, location TBD.
- Annual Meeting, October 2017, Arlington, VA.

All of these events and opportunities are just some of the ways that ASTSWMO supports its members. The key way that ASTSWMO meets the needs of its membership is through the work conducted by its Subcommittees and their Focus Groups and Task Forces. As noted by the examples above, members benefit from the analysis, problem solving, data collection and so many more activities carried out by these groups. However, one of the greatest benefits comes from serving with one of these groups and being able to work in cooperation on issues of mutual concern. The collaboration within these groups, and with EPA and others, results in significant benefits not just to the organization but to the individuals involved.

ASTSWMO continues to implement the [Members In Action](#) process so we can all continue to share in and increase active participation with other State and Territorial colleagues in ASTSWMO. The new member interest form is on the webpage, and to see the most current opportunities just click on "Program Roster" under a Subcommittee Chair's picture to see the vacancies, then scroll down to open and fill out the new member interest form.

As the nation transitions to a new federal administration, ASTSWMO will be very engaged with providing the new leadership with information and tangible examples of the key roles States and Territories play in protecting the public's health and the environment. We can anticipate new challenges to be added to the existing ones. But, I am assured that we can meet these challenges because we have strong underpinnings and a clear vision of the future. Our goals and objectives

are laid out in our [Strategic Plan](#), and we have a solid but nimble system to adjust as needed to meet new challenges.

In closing, I'd like to echo the words from previous ASTSWMO President letters that inspired me to keep active with ASTSWMO. As other Presidents' have done before me in these letters, I want to thank each of you who have contributed to the success of ASTSWMO and to our collective mission. If you have been involved in ASTSWMO over this past year, please stay involved. For others, please become involved. Whether as a member of a Task Force, Focus Group, Subcommittee, the Board of Directors, or as part of the Executive Committee, your participation will make a difference to ASTSWMO and to your career! It is a very rewarding experience and an opportunity to work with many dedicated people across the country toward achieving our common and shared goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mark de Bie', written in a cursive style.

Mark de Bie (CA)  
ASTSWMO President