ASTSWMO Illustrated:
40 years in review

On October 22, 2014, ASTSWMO celebrated 40 years as an Association. In honor of this achievement, ASTSWMO facilitated a discussion on experiences that members have had throughout their careers.

Past-Presidents of the Association, Jeffrey Steers, Gary Baughman, Stephen Cobb, and Ed Thamke, moderated the discussion among the attendees. The goal of this discussion? To showcase the professional stories of ASTSWMO members throughout the past 40 years. The result? A portrait of these stories captured by virtual practitioner, Barbara Siegel. These illustrations provide a picture of waste management policy over the past forty years, and the people who regulate it.

There were many people who volunteered to share their stories throughout the discussion, and many of them had excellent points to make on the progress that has been made in the field of waste management, and the work that still needs to be completed. The responses from attendees included some amusing anecdotes of experiences that they had in the field and challenges that they had to overcome. Although the successes and challenges were varied and numerous, there was a tremendous sense of accomplishment from each person who shared their story.

One of the final comments spoke to the need to prepare the next generation, “If we’re going to have the kind of success that we’ve had so far, we need to raise up the next generation of young people so we can have another 25, 30, 40 years of environmental progress.” The recurring theme of the discussion was clear: learn from the past, look towards the future.

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ASTSWMO Calendar

- **April 23-24, 2015**
  ASTSWMO Mid-Year Meeting at the Wyndham Riverfront in North Little Rock, AR.  
  *Registration is not open.*

- **August 11-13, 2015**
  Joint Hazardous Waste and Materials Management Training Conference at the Hilton Long Beach Hotel in Long Beach, CA.  
  *Registration is not open.*

- **October 29-30, 2015**
  ASTSWMO Annual Meeting at the Bethesda Hyatt Hotel in Bethesda, MD.  
  *Registration is not open.*

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ASTSWMO News Fall 2014

A quarterly newsletter of the ASTSWMO community.
ASTSWMO Illustrated:

*A Picture’s worth a thousand words*

Members share the details of their careers as artist Barbara Siegel captures those moments.

Check out the illustrations on the right to see our history.

Click here to watch a video recording of the stories that inspired the art.

**ECOS and NACAA congratulate ASTSWMO on 40 years!**

The Association thanks ECOS and NACAA for their kind words and invites everyone to read what they had to say by clicking below:

ECOS Letter: Click here
NACAA Letter: Click here

"The ultimate test of man's conscience may be his willingness to sacrifice something today for future generations whose words of thanks will not be heard."

—Gaylord Nelson, founder of Earth Day
ASTSWMO Strategic Plan

Dania Rodriguez reveals ASTSWMO’s 2014 Strategic Plan

The 40th Annual Meeting was special for many reasons, but one of the most important highlights was the unveiling of ASTSWMO’s 2014 Strategic Plan, which was presented by ASTSWMO’s Executive Director, Dania Rodriguez.

The 2014 Strategic Plan has revised ASTSWMO’s mission statement: “to enhance and promote effective State and Territorial programs and to affect relevant national policies for waste and materials management, environmentally sustainable practices, and environmental restoration.”

The most recent strategic plan draws from several surveys asking members to share their thoughts on the Association. These surveys helped the Board of Directors decide which areas of the Association need highlighted.

ASTSWMO Alumni

Alumni share their thoughts on ASTSWMO in honor of the 40th

“As a ‘melting’ pot for ideas, proposals, thoughts, and program direction, ASTSWMO provides the ideal forum for collaborative dialogue necessary to establish working relationships. Of utmost importance, however, ASTSWMO creates friendships that are the catalysts for those successful working relationships. I have been truly blessed to have been a part of the ASTSWMO family.”

—Butch Dye
Maryland

“What ASTSWMO provides is a network of individuals with similar nuances, and a means to collaborate with other state regulators in defining the best path forward. ASTSWMO goes further than that, it presents to the regulated community, both orally and through written position papers, the expectations of States when overseeing these complicated environmental processes.”

—Jeff Edson
Colorado

“ASTSWMO is an organization of people... committed to improving the environment in each of their States. Worthy goals, quality implementation and dedicated service is the foundation to ASTSWMO’s role in the Nation’s past, present and future.”

—Stephen Hammond
New York
ASTSWMO President 2005

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—Stephen Hammond
New York
ASTSWMO President 2005

“As the 21st President of this great organization, I can say unequivocally that the successes over the years has been from the dedication of the association State members and their State agencies that allow their participation. Additionally, their success as members is without a doubt due to the excellent staff of the association.”

—James Warner, P.E.
Minnesota
ASTSWMO President 1999

“You bring credibility and realism to the national discussion of waste and resource conservation policy. It was an honor and a privilege to work with ASTSWMO both early in its inception and more recently as the Director of EPA’s Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery. Continue your effective advocacy for a healthy and safe environment for another 40 years!”

—Suzanne Rudzinski
Director (Retired), Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery

“National waste management and resource conservation policy is better and easier to implement as a consequence of the input of ASTSWMO and its members. You have provided foundational information on state views and experiences that now underlies national policy on the safe management of hazardous waste sites, cleanup of contaminated sites, solid waste management, and resource conservation to name just a few of your contributions... You bring credibility and realism to the national discussion of waste and resource conservation policy. It was an honor and a privilege to work with ASTSWMO both early in its inception and more recently as the Director of EPA’s Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery. Continue your effective advocacy for a healthy and safe environment for another 40 years!”

—Suzanne Rudzinski
Director (Retired), Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery

To enhance and promote effective State and Territorial programs and to affect relevant national policies for waste and materials management, environmentally sustainable practices, and environmental restoration.

Click here to read the plan!
ASTSWMO

If you’ve been following ASTSWMO on Facebook and Twitter, it comes as no surprise that in honor of ASTSWMO’s 40th Anniversary, we have updated our logo and slogan!

A logo and slogan competition was held and ASTSWMO’s members and their colleagues were invited to submit their ideas. The two winners were announced at ASTSWMO’s Annual Meeting in Reston, VA.

The Association thanks Ioane Tomanogi from American Samoa for his creative logo [pictured right] and Butch Dye from Maryland for his catchy slogan, “providing pathways to our Nation’s environmental stewardship since 1974.”

Federal Facilities Research Subcommittee

ASTSWMO and the Subcommittee thank Bonnie Buthker, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, for her leadership as the Subcommittee Chair, and for her contributions to the State federal facilities remediation programs over the years. We also congratulate Bonnie on being elected as ASTSWMO’s new Vice-President and look forward to continuing to work with her in this new role.

In October, the Board of Directors appointed Monica Sheets, Colorado Department of Health and the Environment, as the new Federal Facilities Research Subcommittee Chair.

The Subcommittee hosted a session at the ASTSWMO Annual Meeting on current activities being conducted in the Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP). Representatives from the Department of Defense, U.S. EPA, Interstate Technology & Regulatory Council, UXO Pro, Inc., and State programs provided policy and technical information, and highlighted recent accomplishments on the work being conducted by their organizations and collectively as part of the Munitions Response Dialogue. Development of advanced classification technology, new interim risk management policies, and an overview of State challenges are just a few of the issues presented. Presentations from these sessions are available on the ASTSWMO website.

Tanks Subcommittee

In October 2014, the ASTSWMO Board of Directors appointed Leslie Carr, Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection, as the new Tanks Subcommittee Chair. ASTSWMO and the Tanks Subcommittee thanks Chuck Schwer, Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, for his leadership as the former Chair of the Subcommittee, and for his years of leadership and service to the Association as former Chair and Task Force member of various Tanks workgroups.

ASTSWMO formed a new Workgroup to evaluate the country’s aging UST infrastructure. The Workgroup will work with all States and Territories to assess the current UST infrastructure and costs to provide financial assurance for various types of tanks. The Workgroup will begin research this fall.

Hazardous Waste and Materials Management Subcommittees

The EPA rules regarding the Definition of Solid Waste (DSW) and Coal Combustion Residuals (CCR) are scheduled to be finalized the end of 2014. The Hazardous Waste Subcommittee continues to monitor the release of the DSW rule and, together with the Materials Management Subcommittee, the CCR rule. Follow-up with EPA regarding State implementation and applicable training for States for each rule will be made when the final rules are issued.

During separate and joint Subcommittee meetings held in September, the Hazardous Waste and Materials Management Subcommittees discussed ideas for session topics at the Joint ASTSWMO Hazardous Waste and Materials Management Training. The Training will be held on August 11-13, 2015 in Long Beach, CA. We’ll be providing updates as a draft agenda is further developed. If you have any questions about the Training, please contact ASTSWMO staff Kerry Callahan, kerryc@astswmo.org.
Election News Brief

Bonnie Buthker was elected Vice-President of the Association.

Mike Forbeck has transitioned to his new role as President.

Nancy Marker was elected for another term as Secretary-Treasurer.

J. Ryan Benefield is now in his last year of service to the Association as Past-President.

President’s letter to the Association

President Mike Forbeck shares his vision for ASTSWMO with the Association.

Click here to read his letter.

“we have learned many things and intend to take these lessons learned to develop and keep ASTSWMO strong and at the forefront of State advocacy and national policy development.”

—Michael Forbeck, President’s Letter

Executive Committee

Mike Forbeck
President
Pennsylvania

Mike Forbeck has over 31 years of public service experience in the waste management and the environmental clean-up fields. He currently is the Waste Program Manager for the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) South West Region. In this leadership role, he oversees a staff responsible for permitting, compliance, and waste minimization, as well as planning of all waste related issues. Mr. Forbeck has been an active member of ASTSWMO since 2005 and was voted Vice-President last year before maturing into his role as President.

Bonnie Buthker
Vice-President
Ohio

Bonnie Buthker became District Chief of the Southwest District Office of Ohio EPA in February 2012. Having been with Ohio EPA since 1989, Ms. Buthker has served as acting district chief, assistant district chief and has managed the statewide program for the investigation and remediation of current and former Department of Defense sites in Ohio. In her role as District Chief, she is responsible for senior-level management and oversight of all technical programs administered in the district including the administration and implementation of division programs in Air Pollution Control, Drinking and Ground Waters, Environmental Response and Revitalization, Materials and Waste Management and Surface Water.

Nancy Marker
Secretary-Treasurer
Delaware

Nancy Marker possesses over 28 years of experience in protecting human health and the environment. Currently Ms. Marker administers multiple environmental programs within the Delaware Department of Environmental Control (DNREC) as Environmental Program Administrator for the Waste Section. Those programs include hazardous waste permitting, compliance, and corrective action; hazardous waste generator compliance; solid and hazardous waste transporter permitting; solid waste facility permitting and compliance; scrap tire management and cleanup; and voluntary programs for solid waste recycling, pollution prevention, and sustainable materials management. While at DNREC, Ms. Marker has also worked in the state’s Site Investigation and Remediation programs and Emergency Response programs.

J. Ryan Benefield
Past-President
Arkansas

Ryan Benefield is the Interim Director of the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ).

Mr. Benefield served on the ASTSWMO Board of Directors as the Region 6 Board Representative from 2008 to 2012. During his time on the Board, he has been very active in the creation of the current ASTSWMO strategic plan, the update to the ASTSWMO bylaws, and the Coal Ash Legislation. Mr. Benefield served as the Board Liaison to the Hazardous Waste Subcommittee throughout his time on the board. He has participated in several ASTSWMO work groups including the Coal Ash Ad-Hoc Work Group.
ASTSWMO Social Media

5 Reasons to follow ASTSWMO on Social Media:

1. We give instantaneous updates regarding conferences and meetings on our feed.

2. Pictures and meeting information can be found on Facebook and Twitter.

3. ASTSWMO Position Papers and videos are tagged in our posts.

4. Social Media is a great way for members to stay connected and network!

5. See the pictures featured on the left to see what you’ve been missing!

Click the icons below to get redirected to our pages!