

SWANA in the South



WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE

- 2024 MOLO Course
- Member Spotlight: Jimmy Sloan
- JSU Back in the Student Design Competition
- Conference Updates
- Scholarships and more...

2024 MOLO COURSE

The MS Chapter of SWANA Board of Directors once again proudly hosted an offering of SWANA's Manager of Landfill Operations (MOLO) certification course in Meridian, MS July 9-11, 2024. Long-time Chapter Board members and certified MOLO faculty Dan Ball and Jimmy Sloan taught a great group of 20 students from MS, AL, FL, and TN.



We are thankful for the opportunity to provide in-person training for the MOLO course, and if you are interested in future training opportunities for MOLO or other SWANA certifications, please let us know at ContactUs@msswana.org.

FOR MORE VISIT: www.msswana.org

2024 Fall Conference

Registration is open for the MS Chapter 2024 Fall Conference!

October 15-17, 2024
Natchez Convention Center
Natchez, MS.

Registration and hotel room block open
Check out the conference page for draft agenda,
registration, and other information:

<http://www.msswana.org/event/2024fallconference/>



FOR MORE VISIT: www.msswana.org

Member Spotlight



JIMMY SLOAN

We continue our Newsletter Member Spotlights this issue with current long-time MS Chapter Board member and recently retired Jimmy Sloan. We provided Jimmy with a set of questions we thought would help readers better get to know him, his passions regarding solid waste management, and his impact on the industry.

Below are his responses to our questions. Enjoy, and if you have someone you feel should receive recognition in our Chapter newsletter, please reach out to us ContactUs@msswana.org.

Tell us briefly about your experience in the solid waste management industry.

I joined the solid waste industry in 1992 when I became the Director of Public Works for Ware County, GA. Two of my 5 departments were landfill and garbage collection. The "landfill" was a pre-Subtitle D facility (i.e., prior to the effective date of the federal landfill requirements contained in Subtitle D of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act). The garbage collection for the county consisted of green box sites located throughout the county picked up by a county owned front end loader truck. The whole concept was about 1960 vintage. Shortly after I joined the county, two other counties joined together to construct a regional Subtitle D landfill. I departed during construction of the facility which I don't think ever opened. I retired at the end of June 2024 after over 29 years as the Executive Director at the Golden Triangle Regional Solid Waste Management Authority.

FOR MORE VISIT: www.msswana.org

Member Spotlight

Please provide any personal or family details you'd care to have shared in the newsletter.

I have three grown daughters, two of which are PEs, one civil, the other civil/environmental. All three of the girls are very successful in their careers. Don't tell them, but I have three pretty good sons-in-law as well! They have to be, their wives can be mean!! Two of the sons-in-law are engineers as well, one civil, the other aerospace. ALL SIX OF THEM ARE BULLDOGS!! HAIL STATE!!

The best thing about them is there are 5 grandbabies from 7 to 2 years old. My job as Paw-Paw is to fill them full of sugar and caffeine and send them home to their mamas!! They say I do a good job at it.



When did you first join the MS Chapter?

I joined the MS Chapter in 1995 when I moved back to take the Executive Director's position at the GTRSWMA. I had been a member of the GA chapter since 1992.



How long have you served on the MS Chapter Board of Directors and in what officer roles have you served?

To the best of my memory, I was elected Vice President of the MS Chapter in 1997. That's how I got on the Board. I don't recall being on the board before then. The chapter was very small in those days. We could have a meeting in a phone booth! I served as VP, then President, many years as just a Board member, served on numerous committees, and am currently on the national Advisory Board as the delegate representing Mississippi.

FOR MORE VISIT: www.msswana.org

Member Spotlight

Why did you join SWANA, and why did you stay involved?

When I started in GA, some of the county employees were already members and recommended I join, which I did. It was in the days of transitioning from “sanitary” landfills to Subtitle D, and I had a tremendous learning curve having never been in the industry. I previously worked in the construction industry, which I learned had many things in common with building and operating landfills. I found it to be a good source of information and an excellent networking opportunity. As soon as I moved to MS, I transferred my membership, and I've stayed active because of the people.



What are some of the more interesting or positive changes to the industry and the organization you have observed since you began your career?

Everything is a two-edged sword. I have seen a positive tremendous change in the demographics of the organization. However, this organization started as a way to teach people how to properly construct and operate landfills. While the organization strongly encourages sustainability, it seems sometimes like proper landfill management gets less attention than it used to and deserves.

I'm not opposed to waste reduction, recycling, reusing, any safety training/measures, etc. Those are all good things. I hope one day disposal of solid waste will not involve burying it, but that appears to be the best option at this time. Landfill gas collection and usage has made tremendous strides in the last 30+ years, again a good thing.

FOR MORE VISIT: www.msswana.org

Member Spotlight

Tell us about your experience as an Advisory Board delegate and why that chapter representation in the SWANA governance structure matters.

The AB represents the State on the National Board. It's too complicated to get into all the details, but the organizational structure was changed a few years ago from an international board to the AB and the regional directors. Each region is set up with about the same number of members. Our region (region 4) consist of GA, AL MS, AR,LA. The ABs provide input to the RD and also semi-annually at the AB meetings.

Probably the most important item is every AB member is required to serve on one of the standing committees: Membership, Policy or Finance. That is where the real work is done and where you have the most impact. I've previously served on membership and policy, and even though I told them years ago that I did not want to be on the finance committee, here I am. I guess they'll have to suffer the consequences of their actions!

Do you have a favorite SWANA memory you'd like to share?



Some things should not be discussed. What happens at SWANA stays at SWANA!

A few things that can be discussed, does anyone remember an unnamed government employee falling into the pool at the meet and great in Bay St. Louis? Or, how about Dan (my good friend) hiking back up the hill in Natchez? Don't stop at the street light!!

On a personal note, my youngest daughter receiving a national SWANA scholarship, I think it might still be the only one received by a MS sponsored student.

FOR MORE VISIT: www.msswana.org

Member Spotlight

You have been certified as a MOLO instructor for several years. What are your thoughts on the importance of receiving certifications in activities such as landfill operation?

I think it is more important to have the training so you know what to do. The certificate makes you more "employable", but the real importance is in knowledge. I have had the privilege of trying to impart some of the knowledge I've gained over the years to many through the MOLO course. I probably get more out of it than the students. One should always try to impart their knowledge to the next generation or two. Build on the current knowledge. There is no reason to reinvent the wheel.



What advice or words of encouragement do you have for our active and prospective young professional members or to those interested in starting a career in the solid waste industry?

First, for the women, don't start if you can't handle being called a trashy lady, LOL! Seriously, think very seriously about it. I don't know many people who always wanted to be in the garbage business. How many engineers do you know who went thru that rigorous course work so they could bury garbage? Most of us got in the business the same way Jerry Clower got into show business, we backed into it. It seems like once you are in the industry, it's hard to break out into something else. I know several landfill operators that tried something else, just to come back to the fold.

Specifically for the YPs, it might seem nice that national SWANA has so much geared just for you, and though it's lots of fun activities, you need to hang out with the old people as well. Don't just hang with other YPs who can't impart years of knowledge to you. Find a mentor you can ask questions of and talk to. If you approach someone, they probably will be willing to help you.

FOR MORE VISIT: www.msswana.org

SAVE THE DATE!!!



The MS Chapter of SWANA is excited to participate in its first regional conference since 2013. Joining with the Alabama, Arkansas, and Georgia chapters, we're looking forward to our biggest and best conference yet, and what better place than the MS Gulf Coast! Mark those calendars because you won't want to miss this one.

FOR MORE VISIT: www.msswana.org

Newsworthy



JSU EARNs ACCOLADES IN SWANA 2024 SWDC

Jackson State University entered a team in their third straight SWANA International Solid Waste Design Competition! Up against 7 other schools competing to find the best solution to sustainably reduce landfilled plastic waste, the JSU team took home some awards. [Click here to learn more...](#)

WASTECON® 2024 TO OFFER PFAS TRAINING

In addition to the training and networking opportunities SWANA's WASTECON® event has always offered, this year will include a brand new training course on PFAS treatment technology, management, and regulations. [Check out the WASTECON® page for more info...](#)



FOR MORE VISIT: www.msswana.org

It Pays to Be a Member

DISCOUNTS!!!



All SWANA members can take advantage of the many available discount opportunities.

- Local Conferences- Are you a regular at our Chapter conferences? On top of all the other SWANA benefits, all members of any SWANA Chapter benefit from a member-only discount for every Chapter conference.
- National Events - Planning to make it to WASTECON one of these days? Membership includes discounted registration to SWANA International events.
- Certification - Interested in a SWANA certification for landfill operations, managing recycling systems, or transfer station management? Take advantage of members-only discounts for both the certification course AND the certification exam. Likewise, all in-person, virtual on-demand, and @Home Self Study programs are discounted for members.



The Mississippi Chapter was the 33rd chapter to form in the organization's history. The chapter received its charter at SWANA's 29th Annual Business Meeting on August 15, 1991 in Cincinnati, OH.

The MS Chapter is currently sitting at 120 members in total. We hope to see members continue to renew memberships and to see them spread the word about the benefits of membership, and we look forward to meeting and engaging with prospective members. If you know of anyone that may be interested in joining to take advantage of the benefits like those above, they can find out more about all the benefits of membership and join online [HERE](#).

FOR MORE VISIT: www.msswana.org

2024 Spring Conference Recap



The MS Gulf Coast always draws a great crowd, but so do the tireless efforts of the Board's Program and Arrangements Committee to put such great events together.

But we also can't pull these conferences off without the support of our amazing sponsors and all our exhibitors dedicated to educating our members and other conference participants.



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2024 Spring Conference Recap



The Beau Rivage once again proved to be a spacious setting for our audience members who enjoyed the all they've come to expect from our conferences like:

Engaging topics and speakers...

The best door prizes around including the long-revered mystery prize...



And of course the most stylin' and profilin' garbage can man you'll find around who'll make sure to get you fired up after a big lunch or a long night of networking.

FOR MORE VISIT:

www.msswana.org

MS Chapter Scholarships

Congratulations to our 2024 Michael Caples Memorial Scholarship winners. Our Chapter Board is thrilled to be supporting...

SHELBI ALLEN

Sophomore studying Nursing at
Northwest Community College

CLARA GREER

Freshman studying Paralegal Technology at
Northeast MS Community College

SARA GRACE HUNTER

Sophomore studying Business Administration at
the University of MS

CHAP WILSON LILES

Freshman studying Business at
Itawamba Community College

Each year, the MS Chapter accepts applications for two sets of scholarships, the Michael Caples Memorial Scholarship and the Doug Wilson Memorial Scholarship. Scholarships are available to seniors in high school and those fully enrolled at a college or university. Students must be a child or grandchild of a MS Chapter member or sponsored by one. Scholarships are also available to student members, and **students can join for FREE!**

The deadline to submit applications for the 2024 Doug Wilson Memorial Scholarship is October 4, 2024.
Applications as well as more information available at **www.msswana.org/scholarships**.

FOR MORE VISIT: **www.msswana.org**

2024 Michael Caples Memorial Scholarship Winners



CONGRATULATIONS

FOR MORE VISIT: www.msswana.org

What's Next...

What else would you like to see in these newsletters? Any particular stories or happenings in the state you feel we ought to cover? Anyone in the industry deserving of recognition? Want to see more information on membership, training, etc.? Would you like to contribute an Op-Ed piece?



If you have any thoughts on information you'd like to see in future newsletters, feel free to contact one of your Board members or reach out at ContactUs@msswana.org. We look forward to keeping in better communication with our greatly appreciated membership.

FOR MORE VISIT: www.msswana.org