



TXSWANA – TEXAS LEGISLATURE UPDATE

JANUARY 2018

By Ty Embrey and Troupe Brewer

With the turn of the calendar to a new year, the Texas Legislature is busy gearing up for the next Regular Session that began January 2019. This past fall, Speaker Straus and Lieutenant Governor Patrick both issued interim “charges” to all of the standing committees of the Texas House and Senate, identifying issues of importance for the committees to study and to make recommendations in preparation for the upcoming Regular Session. These legislative committees are now holding public hearings all over Texas to receive information and testimony on those interim charges.

The interim topics/charges of interest to TxSWANA that have been assigned to committees in the Texas Senate are as follows:

Senate Natural Resources and Economic Development Committee:

Of particular interest to TxSWANA is the following charge focused on waste disposal:

Waste Disposal Regulation: Study the permitting and compliance processes for waste disposal and processing, including

evaluating the criteria for approval, denial, and application return. Make recommendations for improving and streamlining the permitting and compliance processes while maximizing public participation for effective outreach and education. Review the allocation of the Municipal Solid Waste disposal fees and make recommendations regarding allocation methods to adequately support existing programs.

Other interim charges for the SNRED Committee of interest include:

Regulatory Barriers: Identify options to maintain our state's competitive advantage and make recommendations to remove or reduce administrative or regulatory barriers hindering economic growth, including permitting or registration requirements and fees.

Environmental Safety: Study the strategies and best practices for ensuring environmental safety during maintenance, startup, and shutdown activities due to emergencies. Recommend ac-

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**Visit www.swana.org
for a membership
application.**

Message from the President

by David McCary

Message from the President,

The next time you get the opportunity to sit on a panel to interview a potential new hire, look for those professionals that know how to tell their story. Look for those potential new hires that have demonstrated exceptional gifts and talents over time. It is important that they articulate their accomplishments with real facts and not just general descriptions of what others can do. Do not fall for the text book version or general description of what a leader may look like. Look for those who give clear examples of how they lead today.



Find out if they were able to take a difficult situation and turn it into something positives. Look for those who can make tough decisions when time is of the essences and the situation is critical. Look for those that have true lessons-learned from past experiences. Beware of those that barhop! Be careful and do your homework when selecting potential new hires that show six months here, one year here and two years of not sure where I've been on their resume.

As an employer of choice, it is equally as important for your organization or department to impress the applicant seeking employment. Show future new hires that your organization or department is totally "LIT" and it is the place to be to advance their career. Be an employer that challenges your teammates to "master their craft" and not be second best. Potential superstars are there, you have to find them. Remember they are created everyday with the right incentives and opportunities. The solid waste industry in Texas is full of exceptional talent. Sometimes you don't have to look past your own back yard to find your next leader. Remember we all began at the starting line.

Thanks,

David W. McCary, CPM

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tions to improve safety without compromising compliance or penalizing good actors.

Speaker Straus released the following House interim charge topics of interest to TxSWANA members:

House Committee on Environmental Regulation

Study the permitting, siting, and regulatory processes for solid waste landfills, including municipal solid waste landfills, and whether current rules, regulations, and notice requirements adequately ensure compliance and maximize participation from the public and stakeholders.

Other HERC interim charges of interest are as follows:

Examine the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's (TCEQ) response and clean-up efforts related to Hurricane Harvey. Study whether current air, water, waste, and wastewater rules and regulations adequately protect the public, natural resources, environment, infrastructure, residential areas, and industrial facilities from damage caused by natural disasters. Evaluate the debris cleanup and removal process and whether current rules and regulations are effective in expediting cleanup efforts. Make recommendations on how natural disaster responses can be improved.

Study the economic impact of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and determine if new technologies can be utilized to meet attainment or make an attainment demonstration for all current standards.

Review the TCEQ's expedited air permitting program and examine whether the program is achieving the desired results.

Examine how emergency alert systems related to hazardous and chemical releases are organized at the local, state, and federal level and explore ways to improve coordination and efficiencies. Develop recommenda-

tions to improve notifications to first responders and the public.

Election Dates and Schedule

The upcoming primary elections in March are also a topic on the minds of many members of the Texas Legislature and those impacted by legislative developments. There are a number of incumbent legislative members facing primary election challengers and challengers in the general election this November.

In terms of statewide elected officials (which are currently all Republicans), very few incumbents face opposition. George P. Bush faces a primary election challenge to his seat as Land Commissioner from former Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson, and Sid Miller faces a primary election challenge to regain his role as Agriculture Commissioner.

In the Texas Legislature, Royce West (D – Dallas) is the only Senator of the 15 total up for reelection who does not have an opponent in the primary or general election. Six Senate Republicans — Bob Hall of Edgewood, Charles Schwertner of Georgetown, Craig Estes of Wichita Falls, Kel Seliger of Amarillo, Donna Campbell of New Braunfels, and Joan Huffman of Houston — have primary election challengers. In the Texas House, only 35 of the 150 state representative positions have incumbents not facing a primary or general election challenger.

Here are the relevant dates of interest, after which the landscape of the Texas Legislature could possibly look different:

Primary Election Date - March 6, 2018

Primary Runoff Election Date – May 22, 2018

General Election Date – November 6, 2018

Ty Embry is a principal at the law firm of Lloyd Gosselink Rochelle & Townsend. If you have any questions concerning legislative issues or would like additional information concerning the firm's legislative tracking and monitoring services or legislative consulting services, please contact Ty Embrey at (512) 322-5829 or tembrey@lglawfirm.com.



Tentative Schedule

Monday April 16

Technical Tours

Technical Tour 1: City of Denton ECO-W.E.R.C.S. facility (including landfill, compost, and Pratt MRF), and Tetra Pak North American Headquarters.

Technical Tour 2: Technical Tour to Champion C&D Recycling

Technical Tour 2: Technical tour to FCC Environmental Services state-of-the-art MRF at McCommas Bluffs Landfill

Golf Tournament

Exhibitor Setup (afternoon)

Exhibitor Opening Reception (evening)

Tuesday April 17

Technical Sessions

Evening Networking Reception

Wednesday April 12

Morning Technical Sessions

Awards Luncheon & Adjourn Conference

Board Meeting following lunch



2018 TXSWANA CONFERENCE

EARLY BIRD PRICING

(BEFORE MARCH 15, 2018)

- TxSWANA Member registration (\$240.00)
- Guest (non-member) registration (\$315.00)
- Young Professional & Student Registration (\$150.00)
- Golf Tournament (\$125.00)

CONFERENCE HOTEL

Embassy Suites by Hilton Denton Convention Center
(\$139 plus tax/night)
3100 Town Center Trail
Denton, Texas, 76201
(940) 243-3799

Reservations may be made on line using the
TxSWANA Conference Web Site link.

<http://txswana.org/meetinginfo.php?id=58&ts=1517617683>

Heil of Texas



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COMMUNITY
WINS AND THE
ENVIRONMENT
WINS.**

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YOU CAN BE
PROUD OF**



follow us & stay informed

Introduce our diversion program to your facility or have your collection company bring green waste materials to a Living Earth facility.
Contact Lora Hinchcliff: 214.673.3341



YP Update

YP Meet-up / Denton Tour

On Saturday, February 3, YPs (TxSWANA members age 35 and younger) are invited to meet at 10:30 a.m. to tour Denton's ECO-W.E.R.C.S. Resource Recovery Park, 1527 S. Mayhill Rd., Denton, TX 76208 to learn about the city's landfill operations and sustainability practices, including; waste to energy, recycling, composting, and solar.

Following the Pratt Materials Recovery Facility tour we will hop on a bus at 11:15 a.m. to the landfill. If interested please register for the 11:15 a.m. landfill tour [here](#).

Immediately following the tour we will gather for lunch at [Mellow Mushroom](#), 217 E. Hickory St., Denton, TX 76201. Please contact: YP@TxSWANA.org, 972-205-3562 if you plan to attend so we can save you a seat.

TxSWANA's "Rocking the Future"



This year's [TxSWANA's Annual Conference](#) will include a **speed mentoring event**, where YPs will connect with industry leaders. Please let me know if you are interested in serving as a mentor or mentee during the event. In addition to speed mentoring, "Rocking the Future" will include facility tours, technical sessions, and exhibits.



**TxSWANA YP and Student conference
registration is only \$150!**

Volunteers Needed! YP Leader Kyle Foreman has challenged us to ensure all sessions are moderated by YPs. Would you be willing to volunteer your time during the conference to introduce speakers?

Please let me know if you are interested in hosting a TxSWANA YP networking event, a tour of your site/facility, or recruiting new members. Excited for what we will achieve together in 2018,

Tiana Lightfoot Svendsen

TxSWANA YP Chair | YP@TxSWANA.org | 972-205-3562

Invest in the Next Generation of Solid Waste Industry Leaders

Will you pay it forward and enhance your leadership skills through SWANA's [MentorMatch](#) program? Several SWANA members serve both as a mentor *and* a mentee. Many more are in need of a mentor!



1. Visit [MySWANA's MentorMatch](#) page at [swana.org/MentorMatch](#)
2. Enroll as a Mentor or a Mentee
3. Search for a Mentor or Mentee using the SWANA Mentor Program Directory
4. Connect with potential matches by sending or accepting requests to start a 6-month mentorship relationship

Areas of interest can be selected when searching for a mentor or mentee to lead to a more meaningful match. Landfill leaders, marketing gurus, and waste-to-energy devotees can find each other with the click of the mouse. Filters also allow you to search by how much time each month you can devote to the program, preferred method of communication; phone, e-mail, or skype, and by industry type.

In order for the filters to work at finding the best match, program participants need to fill out their [MySWANA](#) Community Profiles with as much detail as possible.



Mentors share technical knowledge and expertise as well as insights on common growth areas such as time management, organization, networking, collaboration, communication, conflict resolution, and strategic planning.

[MentorMatch](#) is *free* – included with SWANA membership!

Need help registering? Watch SWANA's [MentorMatch](#) Training video [here](#), or contact Shelby Truxon: STruxon@SWANA.org, 240-494-2223.

***2017 SWANA INTERNATIONAL
ROAD-E-O WINNERS***

The SWANA Florida
Sunshine Chapter presents

MAGIC *on the* TRACK
2017 International ROAD-E-O

Saturday, October 28, 2017
Orlando, Florida



Register online at www.regonline.com/2017InternationalRoadEO

FRONT LOADERS

2nd Place – Gabriel Pauda, Denton

TRACTOR TRAILER

3rd Place– Raul Perez, San Antonio

REAR LOADER

3rd Place – James Perez, San Antonio

RUBBER TIRE LOADER

2nd Place – Alejandro Perez Gonzalez, El Paso



Stress and the Workplace

by Derek Mebane, City of Houston



In this industry, we are accustomed to certain safety events occurring every so often. Some of us may have even become accustomed to periodic deaths that occur with our heavy equipment and citizens or employees. While we all can agree none of these are acceptable and all have considerable loss and cost, we have yet to achieve the goal of zero fatalities and an overall significant reduction in negative safety events. Is it possible to catch some of these events before they occur? The answer remains a mystery, but periodic safety audits can help us identify these risks and stop behaviors before they lead to catastrophic events.

Safety audits help determine whether equipment, personnel, processes or the environment are viable for continued operation. Equipment checks before, during and after use require drivers know the tell-tale signs of equipment failure and how to address each problem. The driver may not have the know-how or tools to fix a major hydraulic leak, but learning a small leak exists can prevent a major spill. Checks of employee's condition before, during, and at day's end ensures the driver is

not showing signs of fatigue or drug use and acts as a gauge for employee moral. An audit of written processes and records should show the auditor the frequency of process reiteration through tail-gate sessions, informal employee coaching's, meetings and corrective actions. A field process audit should show the auditor if written material is absorbed and utilized in day-to-day operations. While Texas and the environment have been at odds lately; a quick glance at the forecast for the next hour or days will indicate which way to lean for the safest operation. In the absence of policy and procedure, follow the previous proven methods, check with a neighbor or experienced city, or consult with other governmental agencies for their event procedures. These audit methods can be sporadic, but should have some structure. The structure should

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**Use S.M.A.R.T.
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Solution!**

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minimally include dated records, audit personnel, pass or fail condition, procedure/rule reference and measures for compliance. A periodic audit should be internal and precede external audits for process improvement.

In all audits, an internal audit is better than an external audit. Audits can range from an employee's short observatory walk around the office to a safety team's full inspection of an entire operation. Either one of these audits can prevent the next event, provide next year's event reduction goals and inform leaders of where to place resources.

If your organization is doing something exciting with its safety or training programs, share it with your community by sharing with the TxSWANA SMART committee.

These safety tips are brought to you by the Safety Management Resource Team. Your one stop for solid waste safety information.

As always, if you have any solid waste safety questions, please feel free to route them to your resource: ***The Safety Management and Resource Team of TXSWANA!***

The **Safety Management and Resource Team (SMART)** is a network of Safety professionals in the solid waste industry, organized to effectively share methods of injury and collision prevention. Contact the current Chair of the SMART Committee, Derek Mebane, at (832) 393-0441 to obtain safety support, exchange safety strategies, or to arrange an onsite audit of your work practices.



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We're part of the Solution!**

JIMMY HUFF SAFETY AWARDS

The Texas Lonestar Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America (TxSWANA) supports the the Jimmy Huff Safety Awards Program to provide an incentive to employers and employees to maintain a safe and healthful workplace. The TxSWANA Jimmy Huff Safety Award program attempt to identify private and public firms throughout the sate which achieve and maintain exceptional safety records.



Background

This program aims to stimulate interest in accident prevention and promote safety in the workplace. Established in 1997, the Jimmy Huff Award recognizes the organization (public or private) that has achieved the most significant improvements in workplace safety from one year to the next. The award is presented annually to the TxSWANA member whose application shows the largest reduction in time lost due to work-related injury or illness from one year to the next.

Minimum Qualifications

In order to be eligible for Jimmy Huff Award consideration, an organization must fulfill some minimum qualifications. Specifically, each applicant organization must:

- (1) Be a current TxSWANA member in good standing;
- (2) Have completed the applicable year without any work-related fatalities; and
- (3) Have achieved a Jimmy Huff Score that shows a net reduction in time lost due to work-related injury or illness over the year.

Jimmy Huff Award Process

Determining and awarding the annual Jimmy Huff Safety Award proceeds in three stages.

Application Stage: Organizations that wish to be considered for the Jimmy Huff Safety Award submit their completed application to TxSWANA's Safety Management and Resource Team (SMART). Participation in the Jimmy Huff Safety Award Program is strictly voluntary.

Selection Stage: The SMART Committee reviews each application and determines the winning organization.

Presentation Stage: The SMART Committee recognizes the winning organization by presenting the Jimmy Huff Safety Award to the Organization at the TxSWANA Annual Conference Awards Luncheon.

For more information, please visit the TxSWANA web site at: www.txswana.org. The application deadline is 5:00 PM, February 8, 2018.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

EQUIPMENT CREW LEADER

City of Garland

EQUIPMENT OPERATOR II

City of Garland

SAFETY SPECIALIST—EWS

City of Garland

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR RECYCLING NON-PROFIT

State of Texas Alliance for Recycling (STAR)

LANDFILL DIRECTOR (DISPOSAL OPERATIONS)

City of Garland

These positions and others are added and removed as positions become available and/or are filled. For more information on possible job openings, please visit the TXSWANA web site under NEWS, LINKS, & JOBS. Please visit TXSWANA at: <http://www.txswana.org>

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We Welcome the Following New Members (through January 31, 2018)

Ruben Alejandro Diaz	City of Fort Worth
Christiane Alepuz	Capital Area COG
Wendy Allen	West Central Texas COG
Albert T. Arellano	City of Garland
Wes Barrett	Caterpillar Inc.
Amber M. Batson	CDM Smith
David Brady	Tri Con Works LLC
Tina Bui C	City of Austin
Daron K. Butler	City of Cedar Park
Foy Campbell	City of Tulia
Emlea Chanslor	City of Austin
Erin Clark	City of Denton
Vicki Darbonne	City of Plano
Arthur Ellis	City of Houston
Sylvia Garza	City of Laredo
Thomas B. Geissinger	Tana North America-Humdinger Equip.
John Getger	The Woodlands Township
Carmen M. Gonzalez	City of San Juan
Mayela J. Gonzalez	City of Garland

Janet Goode	City of Dallas
James Hampton	City of Dallas
Forrest Hunter	Republic Services
Michael J. Jacka	Anchor Construction LLC
Sunanda Katragadda	City of Dallas
Zoe Killian	The Woodlands Township
Catherine Lee	City of Dallas
Antonio Lopez	City of El Paso
John Morris	Waste Management Inc.
Herbert Mouton	City of Houston
Dana Petrin	I Squared Capital
Leandro Rodriguez	City of Denton
Brooks Rudolph	Legacy Disposal and Sanitation
Dan Schooler	Waste Connections Inc.
Cory Skuldt	Student Member
Geri Strong	City of Dallas
Jim Trevathan	Waste Management Inc.
Omar Villanueva	City of El Paso
Bruce Wilson	City of Houston

Calendar of Events

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETINGS

Feb. 16	Corpus Christi
Mar. 23	Dallas
Apr. 18	Denton
May 17	Austin
June 8	El Paso
July 20	Garland
August	Nashville, TN
Sept. 21	Houston
Oct. 19	Irving

2018 TXSWANA Annual Conference

April 16-18, 2018
Denton, Texas

2018 TXSWANA Road-e-o

June 9, 2018
El Paso, Texas

SWANA's WasteCon 2018

August 20-23, 2018
Nashville, Tennessee