President’s Corner
By Cathy Hall

We have all been affected by the COVID-19 virus, and have seen our communities and daily life turned upside down by its impact. But one thing remained constant, solid waste. It continues to be reassuring to see solid waste providing uninterrupted essential service to communities across Colorado and the country. I thank my lucky stars every day that have an essential job and continue to have a place to go to work daily.

I work in Pitkin County, which had some of the most stringent stay-at-home orders in the State, banning landscaping and construction activities, and closing non-essential businesses in the County. The Pitkin County Solid Waste Center stayed open, but to encourage residents to stay at home, we limited operations to the essential commercial haulers that pick up curbside trash and recycling. It was certainly eye-opening to see what residents felt was essential trash (the TV sitting in the basement for many years suddenly had to be recycled). Local haulers reported a drop of about 20 percent in commercial waste, while residential trash increased by about 15 percent.
Included in this virus topsy-turvy world, many events such as conferences and meetings are being rescheduled, gone virtual, or cancelled all together. Colorado SWANA has postponed its annual Road-E-O event until potentially the fall of this year. The first quarter technical session has also been postponed; however, we are looking into hosting some virtual sessions later in May, give membership and opportunity to earn CEUs and brush-up on grant writing skills. We will send updates to the membership as they become available.

The Chapter is moving forward with the CO SWANA Annual Conference planning, to be held in Boulder November 2-4, 2020. For more information on that event, including the call for presentations link, hotel information, sponsorship opportunities, and registrations details, visit https://coloradoswana.org/annual-conference/. Fingers crossed we don’t spike in COVID cases and maintain a somewhat normal return everyday life.

With restrictions easing we are seeing solid waste return to a state of normalcy. Colorado SWANA will keep you updated on the status of our events. I would also love to hear from you if you have thoughts or ideas on what you would like to see the Colorado SWANA Chapter do.

Conference Updates

Recycle Colorado has postponed its annual conference to August 24-26, 2020, to be held in Denver. WasteExpo, rescheduled to August in New Orleans, has been cancelled and replaced with a virtual Conference. SWANA’s WasteCon is still scheduled for December 2020, but check website for updates. CO SWANA’s annual conference is scheduled for November 2020.

Virtual SWANApalooza!
Dana D’Souza (From National SWANA)

Coming soon to a desk near you! SWANApalooza has been rescheduled and is now virtual. Registration is now open. This virtual conference will take place the week of June 22nd to June 25th. SWANA staff have organized an outstanding combination of live-streamed and pre-recorded sessions including keynotes, technical presentations, discussions, chat forums and an interactive exhibit site.

Prices for this virtual event have been reduced from the live version and there’s no travel expenses. Networking will still be available and sessions will take place in the afternoons. If you didn’t think you would have been able to make it before, consider this new option. Click the link below to find out more. https://swanapalooza.org/
A Fond Farewell to Longtime Colorado SWANA Board Member Alek Orloff
By Cathy Hall

Longtime CO SWANA Board member and recent chapter president Alek Orloff is moving on to bigger and better things, but staying in the waste industry. Alek, who has been with Alpine Waste and Recycling/GFL Environmental for 20 years has accepted the Chief Financial Officer position at Frontier Waste Solutions in Texas.

Alek was a dedicated CO SWANA member, serving on the Board for in a variety of capacities. Alek recently served as president for the Chapter, and has been instrumental in getting our chapter by-laws updated and in compliance with national SWANA.

The Texas Lone Star Chapter is lucky to have him. We wish Alek well in his new endeavors, he will be missed by the Colorado Chapter.

How to Write a Winning Grant Application- FREE Webinar!

The Colorado Rocky Mountain Chapter is organizing a free training session entitled “How to Write a Winning Grant Application” on Thu, May 28, 2020 at 11:00 am MDT. This presentation will provide an overview of grants available, go/no-go decision criteria, organizing the winning team, preparing the document, style tips, measurement strategies, budgeting, and preparing the array of background/ supporting documents -- Everything needed for writing a winning grant application. There will also be time for a Q&A session. CEUs from SWANA-National will be offered for this technical session.

The session is being presented by Dr. Lisa Skumatz, Principal of Skumatz Economic Research Associates. She has and has been working in the solid waste field for over 35 years and has won/conducted numerous grant-funded projects. She has presented webinars and taught grant workshops across the country including for SWANA National.

Please use the link below to register:
https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2727108102296569867
Front Range Waste Diversion Enterprise and Grant Program update - May 2020
By Haley Gabbard

The Front Range Waste Diversion (FRWD) Enterprise Board of Directors was appointed and held its first meeting in November 2019, in advance of the user fee increase at Front Range landfills in January 2020. Over the last several months, the board has engaged in a careful and deliberative planning process to yield a bold strategic plan and craft the vision and mission for the program. The three-year strategic plan identifies goals in three focus areas: 1) data collection and analysis; 2) municipal solid waste (including organics and recycling); 3) Non-municipal solid waste (focusing on C&D debris).

With the major planning work under our belt, the board's first activity is to initiate a research study for a comprehensive data survey and recommendations for improving Colorado’s diversion data. This survey will assist the board for years to come in setting goals and improving our ability to make data-informed decisions.

Concurrently, we are gearing up to publish the first request for grant applications early this summer, open to municipalities and institutions as well as private sector and non-profit partners. To promote community-based waste diversion, the board recognizes how important it is to meet each community where they are, and help them move up the rungs of the waste diversion ladder. For some communities, that could mean developing a plan for starting a bundled curbside collection program. Other communities might be further along and are looking for help to increase participation and reduce contamination. Still other communities may want to host a yard waste drop off location as a first step in diverting organic waste. These are all viable solutions to reach our diversion goals and represent just some examples of grant projects that the FRWD program hopes to fund this year.

Sanitation Workers Support Fund

Recognizing the important and essential work sanitation employees provide during this pandemic, GLAD has partnered with SWANA to provide support to frontline employees affected by COVID.

Ads are running on cable and during late night TV-host shows. You can also find information here on the SWANA website.

Employees may be able to receive assistance if they meet the following criteria:
- Have tested positive for COVID and work is affected
- Were laid off / continue to be unemployed due to COVID
- Have an immediate family member that passed away due to COVID

Applications are being accepted until May 31st, 2020. If you know someone who might qualify, please visit the SWANA website to find out how to apply and thank you to all the frontline workers!
We expect the annual collection from FRWD fees to be $3-4M, depending on the economy and Covid-19 related impacts to MSW and C&D volumes. If facilities are having difficulty calculating their user fees or submitting quarterly reports online [https://fs20.formsite.com/HMWMD/SWUF/index.html] please contact the CDPHE staff listed on the form.

Check out the FRWD website, where you’ll find the strategic plan, a program announcement flier you can share with grant seekers, and available grant or contractual opportunities: colorado.gov/cdphe/front-range-waste-diversion-grant-program.

Haley Gabbard is the Program Manager for the Front Range Waste Diversion Program at CDPHE.

How is Recycling Holding Up in the Covid-19 Era?
By Alek Orloff

As members of an “essential” industry during the ongoing lockdowns and quarantines of Covid-19, we have witnessed historic shifts in the volumes of solid waste over the past few weeks. With massive swaths of American businesses essentially shutting down and vast numbers of Americans staying home either to work from home or not work at all, it was clear that waste generation patterns would evolve into something unprecedented. Though unprecedented, the general outlines are fairly predictable. Commercial volumes are way down, while residential volumes are way up. But what about recycling?

Are people still recycling, are material recovery facilities (MRFs) still processing, and is anyone buying the material? The short answers are yes, yes, and yes.

As the operator of MRFs in northern and southern Colorado, GFL Environmental has noted unsurprising declines in inbound commercial recyclables and upticks in residential recycling volume. GFL continues to recycle all commodities delivered to it in single-stream and processing of all this volume has gone on unabated with fairly minor operational adjustments to distance personnel from one another.

Interestingly, since prices for recycled commodities were already depressed prior to Covid-19, largely due to China’s National Sword initiative, the downside for prices in a worldwide recession has been limited and purchase prices for certain commodities needed more than ever in the Covid-19 economy, such as cardboard are actually trending higher in recent weeks.

Keep recycling and know that your service provider is a responsible steward of the materials you take the time and effort to separate. The most important thing anyone, whether a commercial or residential recycler, can do during this and any other time is to keep the recycling waste stream uncontaminated. Be sure to follow all the guidelines provided by your recycling company as to what is acceptable in the stream and what is not.
Apply for a 2020 SWANA Safety Award
By David Adams

SWANA is seeking out the biggest improvements and best innovations in safety throughout the solid waste industry, but now with a streamlined form. Focusing on data and measurement, the application process is shorter with less writing required.

Check out the new application pages via the links below.

- **Best Safety Innovation**
- **Biggest Safety Improvement**

- NO ENTRY FEE!
- Data should be from the 2019 calendar year or fiscal year
- The person who submits the application must be a SWANA member
- Additional information may be requested verbally or in writing by the judges
- Winner(s) will receive a trophy at an awards presentation at WASTECON® 2020
- See awards application pages for additional information
- Questions? Contact Jesse Maxwell at jmaxwell@swana.org

**Applications Due Friday, June 26, 2020**

For All the Haulers Out There — also for the rest of us who share the roads —
By Cathryn Stewart

An in-person meeting tentatively scheduled for Monday, November 2 in conjunction with the Annual Conference (November 2 and 3 in Boulder).

The Colorado Rocky Mountain Chapter is organizing a session entitled “For the Haulers Out There — and for those who share the roads.” Not only for haulers, but for all the rest of us who share the roads with haulers, this session will include presentations by a well-qualified, large-company trained hauler who will speak on his experience from a large company perspective; a presentation on Defensive Driving training (in progress); and vendors (more about this segment in a future announcement). The session will be held on Monday, November 2 in Boulder. CEUs from SWANA-National will be offered for this technical session.

This email news update is a service provided to members of the Colorado Rocky Mountain Chapter of SWANA. If you would like to share information with chapter members in future updates, please email your information to Dana D’Souza at dsouza@serainc.com. Also, don’t forget to visit us online at www.coloradoswana.org.