

INTRODUCTION

This is a compilation of materials and information that describe the formation, development and growth of the Governmental Refuse Collection and Disposal Association (GRCDA) nee The Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA), aka for this compilation – The Association. The compilation (history) was compiled by Lanny Hickman, the Executive Director of the Association from 1978 to 1966.

The materials and information came from minutes of Executive Committee and Board meetings of the Association, historical materials from the files of the Association, interviews by the compiler with members, mostly retired, of the Association and the website of the Association. In addition, all chapters were invited to participate in the preparation of the history by identifying a historian for their chapter to work with the compiler to highlight the formation and development of their chapter. A number of chapters did do so and their histories are reported. The design of the document allows for additions of materials from chapters and others and the compiler recommends that it be published in a loose leaf/binder format.

The compiled history from 1950 to 1996 is divided by years and chronicles the activities of the association in four areas – Management, Technical Programs, the Annual Equipment Show and Symposium (WASTECON) and Chapters. The history also is divided into three distinct phases of the formation and development of the Association:

Book 1 – 1960-1978: The Formative Years, the Formation of the Governmental Refuse Collection and Disposal Association.

Book 2 – 1978-1996, The Growth and Change Years, Going Coast-to-Coast in North America (The Lanny Hickman Years)

Book 3 - 1996 to Present, SWANA Goes Cyberworld (The John Skinner Years)
In Book 3, the chronicle introduces John Skinner, briefly reviews 1997 and leaves the years from 1997 and beyond to be compiled by someone else.

In addition, there is a section in the front of the history titled Summaries of the Uniqueness of GRCDA/SWANA which provides a number of summary tables that transcend any specific or particular year of GRCDA/SWANA history. It also includes a special section about the formation and development of the Landfill Gas Management Division.

SWANA is a unique association because of the heavy investment of many members who, as volunteers, have carried a major portion of the load to create the Association that exists today. The lists of members that have been an integral part of GRCDA from the day of its creation to the organization that it is today is monumental. In addition, there has been always a unique relationship between the members and the staff who serve as stewards for the Association. That partnership is the foundation of the Association. To list all of the noted contributors to the Association in one listing would almost guarantee that one, or more, will be overlooked. Rather, as the compilation evolves contributors are noted in that particular section of the history. If someone feels that they have not been given their due acknowledgement, the compiler apologizes.