

A&WMA Sections & Chapters Council

Summer 2026 Meeting

Sunday, June 21, 2026 9:00 am - 4:30 pm CT

Time: 9:17 AM

Action Items

- Travis Tokarek to attach the detailed membership demographics list to the meeting minutes.
- Travis Tokarek to try to incorporate year-over-year member comparisons by section/chapter into future presentations.
- Travis to hold a recurring virtual meeting with Membership chairs from Sections and Chapters to help support and create a link to A&WMA with help from Membership committee.
- Greg Johnson to lead an outreach initiative targeting the inactive sections and chapters ahead of the fall meeting.
- Tracy Fedkoe to send a follow-up communication to last year's Leadership Academy participants to arrange a fall feedback roundtable.
- Tracy Fedkoe/staff to update the website to merge East, West and Central Tennessee Chapters into one and remove the Greater St. Louis Section.
 - The Ottawa Valley Chapter is still on the website, too. Mike Hult to confirm the official process, if any, or at a minimum follow up on these.
- Jennifer to investigate if there is a correlation between section board meeting frequency and overall event activity before the fall meeting; including where we can reach out to YPs
- Jennifer to identify the specific three sections that reported lacking a website for further follow-up.
- Jennifer to draft a testimonial article on in-person leadership training for publishing in the upcoming Conduit newsletter
- Mike Hult to add to the agenda in the fall to develop a plan to track down the sections and chapters we don't hear from; with special emphasis on LA or training
- Mike to work with Tony to develop a message concerning a "LA Scholarship Fund". A fund to be used to help sections or chapters to attend LA and/or to help fund a one-day in-person section and chapter leadership training. Fund to be established before fall meeting through donations from sections and chapters. Mike to work with Stephanie on how to set up and manage.

Discussion Summary

Agenda and Chair Report – Mike Hult

The meeting was called to order at 9:17 AM.

- Mike Hult noted the dinner reservation at the Roaring Fork restaurant.
- In honour of Father's Day, attendees completed a lightning round of introductions and shared brief stories about their fathers.
- Mike Hult provided an update from the recent board meeting
- The Greater St. Louis section has been officially dissolved due to inactivity.
- Discussions are currently underway regarding a potential membership dues increase.
- Council members strongly advocated that local sections and chapters should receive a fee increase (i.e., amount given to sections based on number of members) before international dues are raised, noting the local allotment has not changed in nearly 30 years.

Membership Committee Update – Travis Tokarek

- Travis Tokarek presented the Membership Committee update, noting that membership is hovering around 3,400 to 3,500.
- Considering forming a committee with Membership chairs from Sections and Chapters to help support and create a link to A&WMA if there are volunteers to help on the Membership committee.
- The most significant drops have been seen in organizational memberships following the post-COVID peak in June 2025.
- A geospatial analysis mapping members per 100,000 population was shared to identify target cities for membership growth; Denver, Seattle and Austin were highlighted as strongholds.
 - In the future, could get a list from Gerald of all zipcodes for each section and chapter. Then use the info in the member report to do the geospatial analysis by section/chapter.

Fellows Committee Update – Mitch Baer

- Mitch presented on behalf of the Fellows Committee, explaining the 10-15-3 requirement for nominees: 10 years of membership, 15 years of professional experience, and three recommendations.
- He stressed that while the distinction is an honour with a high bar, there are many qualified candidates who have not yet been nominated.

- Mitch urged current leaders to actively identify and nominate deserving peers rather than waiting for individuals to volunteer themselves.

Information on Fellows application can be found here: <https://www.awma.org/honors>

The application itself can be found here:

https://www.awma.org/files/Honors%20and%20Awards/2026%20nom%20forms/2026%20Fellows%20nom%20form_Final.docx

Executive Director & Presidential Update – Stephanie Glyptis and Harry Klodowski

- Stephanie reported that the association is in a strong financial position, showcasing a large contribution through May.
- Significant savings were realized by renegotiating audiovisual and food expenses for the annual conference, along with transitioning to the Oxford Abstracts management system.
- The new Annual Mission Partner program was successfully launched, securing larger strategic donations from organizations like Ramboll, CEC, and Montrose.
- Harry shared that a recent meet-and-greet with the EPA (specifically the Office of Air and Radiation, and the Office of Policy and Regulatory Management) went very well, ending a period of poor communication.
- In response to Greg's question on other associations, Harry made it clear it was not an A&WMA issue, but EPA's evolving policy with respect to all associations and outside organizations.
- It was noted that EPA staff are beginning to attend conferences again, with high praise given to the recent data centres conference.

Ryan Drover from YPAC gave a quick update online. Q: How did you fill your spots on YPAC? A: In person element is what people are looking for. So at the local level it is easy, at the international level, it is more challenging. The conference is the place to pull people into A&WMA volunteering.

Governance, Finance, and Vitality – Greg Johnson

- Most of the discussion already took place in Mike's presentation
- The upcoming fall meeting will be held in Buffalo, New York, and will follow a hybrid format. October 2-4, 2026. No meeting on Friday, but there will be a fun event. There will be a game on the Sunday which might help with draw.
- Changing the name of a section or chapter is not always straightforward...sometimes there are legal names that change, bank accounts, etc.

YPAC Update – Nadine de Bruyn

- Nadine presented for the Young Professionals Advisory Council (YPAC), reporting that all chair and vice-chair positions are now successfully filled.
- YPAC has driven engagement by hosting virtual coffee breaks and launching an interview series.
- Anyone can be on the YPAC council, not just those under 35.
- Letter to my younger self, Karen Brignac did a great job. It is posted on their newsletter. Nadine could use for their YouTube initiative and we should also publish in the Conduit.

Annual Reports Data Analysis – Jennifer Tullier

- Jennifer reviewed the data from the 2025 annual reports.
- A total of 38 reports were submitted, representing approximately 43% of the units, excluding student chapters
- She noted an overall increase in meeting activity and shared that chapters holding monthly board meetings perform significantly better in the Chapter Cup standings.
- A persistent issue was flagged regarding local chapters maintaining non-international "local members," which currently make up between 7% and 84% of some chapters' membership bases.
- Average Directors and Officers (D&O) insurance costs were reported to range between \$500 and \$1,500.

Communications Update – Stephanie Phillips

- Stephanie Phillips provided a virtual update on the Conduit newsletter.
- She requested that sections share post-event updates and member highlights to be featured in upcoming editions.

International Membership – Juan Carlos

- Juan Carlos discussed strategic outreach efforts in Latin America.
- He highlighted a major barrier for international academics: they require conference papers to be indexed in databases like Scopus to justify their funding and participation.
- The committee is exploring ways to increase the rigour of the extended abstracts to meet these indexability requirements.

- The West Coast Section has been particularly successful. Martin Ledwitz gets the credit. He starts AND FOLLOWS UP! He starts by finding an academic professor or someone who can move it forward there. The section has also been helpful in terms of subsidizing the dues.

Leadership Academy (LA) Accessibility and Revitalization Programme – Roundtable discussion

The council engaged in an extensive and detailed debate regarding the accessibility, impact, and future funding of the Leadership Academy. Tony initiated the discussion by highlighting the persistent challenge of getting low-performing or financially struggling sections and chapters to attend the in-person training in Pittsburgh. There was a strong, unified consensus among those that attended LA in the past that the in-person element, specifically the networking and active "workshopping" of section business plans, is the core value of the academy and cannot be effectively replicated through virtual sessions, podcasts, or Periodic Online Sharing Sessions (POSS).

To address the financial barriers for struggling chapters, Jennifer introduced a highly successful alternative outreach model. Instead of requiring struggling chapters to pay for travel to Pittsburgh, the council could send a trained facilitator directly to them. She cited a recent success where she travelled to Lake Charles to deliver a curated, 4-hour "mini-training" session to the Southwest Louisiana chapter. This localized, hands-on facilitation helped the chapter rebuild following operational struggles, ultimately leading them to win the 2024 membership award.

The council heavily debated how to financially support this mobile training model. Jennifer Tullier, Mike Kleinman and Khalil Porter proposed establishing a dedicated "kitty", scholarship fund or other financial support. Detailed proposals for funding this initiative included:

- Soliciting voluntary contributions (e.g., \$500–\$2,000) from larger, financially stable sections and chapters to create a rainy-day fund explicitly reserved to support struggling groups.
- Dedicating a small portion of any future international dues increase to this fund, or redirecting a nominal amount (e.g., \$10) from the ACE registration fee, though attendees acknowledged the finance committee would likely resist raising the ACE fee.
- Seeking targeted corporate sponsorships designed exclusively to underwrite Leadership Academy outreach and local facilitation.

The council agreed to formulate a targeted outreach strategy for the upcoming fall meeting.

This will be a major focus of the fall meeting. Rather than a blanket email invitation to LA, the council will identify 15–20 inactive chapters based on missing annual reports from 2021 through 2024 and directly offer those most in need tailored, in-person facilitation to help them rebuild their operations. **To kickstart this initiative, Jennifer and Susan Wierman suggested publishing an article in the upcoming Conduit newsletter.** This article will feature a testimonial from the Southwest Louisiana chapter (Jennifer action) and officially put out the call that this mobile, focused training option is available to chapters in need.

A&WMA Sections and Chapters Council (S&CC) Meeting
Summer In-Person Meeting Attendance, Sunday, June 21, 2026

Name	Section/Chapter	Email
Mike Hult	Upper Midwest Section	mwhult2@mmm.com
Travis Tokarek	Canadian Prairie and Northern Section	twtokarek@gmail.com
Mike Kleinman	West Coast Section	mtkleinm@uci.edu
Tony van der Vooren	Ontario Section	tony.vandervooren@vaqms.com
Susan Wierman	Chesapeake Chapter	susan.wierman@gmail.com
Rachel Carlton	Gulf Coast Chapter	rachel.carlton@gmail.com
Wilma Dreessen	Golden West Section	wilma.dreessen@chevron.com
Richard Wales	Southern Section/Tennessee Chapter	RTWales2014@gmail.com
John Kinsman	Chesapeake Chapter	jkinsman5@outlook.com
Khalil Porter	South Atlantic States Section/Research Triangle Park Chapter	khalil.porter@ncemcs.com
Greg Johnson	Louisiana Section	gljohnson@liskow.com
Kim Marcus	Pacific NW Section	KimLMarcus@gmail.com
Jennifer Tullier	Louisiana Section	jtullier@onterris.com
Kat Masse	Research Triangle Park Chapter	katmasse@onterris.com
Mitchell Baer	South Atlantic States Section	mtbaer51@gmail.com
Jim Walker	East Michigan Chapter	jameswalker@cmsenergy.com
Bill Garber	Ohio Section	billgarber@hotmail.com
Jacob Rattay	Allegheny Mountain Section	jrattay@cecinc.com
Fiona Jiang	Gulf Coast Chapter	fjiang@ramboll.com
Roya Mortazavi	Mid-Atlantic States Section	romart2004@yahoo.com
Nadine de Bruyn	Ontario Section	nadinedebruyn@cmail.carleton.ca
Jhao-Hong Chen	Midwest Section	c.jhao-hong@wustl.edu

Air & Waste Management Association (A&WMA) Sections & Chapters Council (S&CC)
ACE 2026 Meeting Agenda – Sunday, June 21, 2026
JW Marriott Austin Room: 308

9:00 a.m. through 4:30 p.m., all times are local

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|-------------|--|
| 9:00-9:15 | Welcome and Introductions (Hult) |
| 9:15-9:30 | Agenda / Chair's Report (Hult) |
| 9:30-10:00 | Membership Committee (Tokarek) |
| 10:00-10:15 | Fellows Membership (Mitch Baer, Fellows Admissions Committee Chair) |
| 10:15-10:30 | BREAK |
| 10:30-10:45 | Executive Director's Report (Glyptis) |
| 10:45-11:15 | President's Message (Klodowski) |
| 11:15-11:30 | Leadership Academy (LA)/POSS Committee (van der Vooren & Karnes) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Please include this item from Harry as time allows or else this can be addressed during the Roundtable Discussions - <u>LA content to others not able to attend LA</u>: Possible to bring LA content to those unable to attend LA, such as general S&CC and volunteer leadership, and international, perhaps via Conduit, EM, Podcast, and shortened international on-line version? |
| 11:30-11:45 | Governance/Finance/Legal and Vitality Committees (Johnson) |
| 11:45-12:00 | Sections & Chapters Committee Fall Meeting (Hult) |
| 12:00-1:00 | BREAK / LUNCH |
| 1:00-1:30 | Joint Council Meeting (de Bruyn & YPAC Committee Members)
YPAC will join for collaboration |
| 1:30-2:15 | Annual Reports (Tullier) |
| 2:15-2:30 | Communications Committee (Phillips, with Microsoft Teams Meeting access) |
| 2:30-2:45 | Photo (All) |
| 2:45-3:00 | BREAK |

- 3:00-3:45 International Membership Development (Chao & Int'l Committee Members, with Microsoft Teams Meeting access for Juan Carlos Ramirez-Dorransoro, PhD, and Ketan Shah)
- 3:45-4:30 Roundtable Discussions (expanded/continued discussion of earlier items) (All)
- LA content to others not able to attend LA
 - *Notes from discussion: Outreach to chapters and sections needing support to revitalize, identify these via annual report info or lack of annual report submittal*
 - *Tailor a smaller version of LA for an individual to use to travel to the chapter/section to provide abbreviated LA in-person training*
 - *Consider holding an abbreviated portion of LA at ACE on the same day as S&CC, after the S&CC meeting, "Section and Chapter Building"*
 - *Funding from voluntarily contributing sections/chapters*
 - *Need to detail this at the Fall S&CC Meeting and implement for 2027*
- 4:30 Adjourn S&CC Meeting

Save the Dates:

October 2-4, 2026 - S&CC Fall Meeting (Hybrid Meeting, In-Person & Virtual, Buffalo, NY)
January 2027 – Intercouncil S&CC Meeting (Virtual)
TBD April 2027 – Leadership Training Academy (Pittsburgh, PA)
TBD June 2027 – Annual Conference & Exhibition (ACE)

Air & Waste Management Association

Board of Directors Reporting Document

Date: June 20, 2026		Author: Mike Hult, S&CC Chair	
Re: S&CC Update			
Submitted To:		Action Required or Information:	
	Board of Directors		Information Only
Since the February Meeting, Sections and Chapters Council (S&CC) has moved several items forward. Leadership Academy (LA): LA was held on April 17-18, 2026, another very successful event with great presentations and interactions among the attendees. The more compact schedule offered pros and cons, allowing for part of the weekend to be preserved, but taking away time for further discussions and collaboration. Also, we are only reaching those coming in person, a relatively modest percentage of membership. There is an agenda item at tomorrow's 6/21/26 S&CC Council Meeting on how to improve outreach of select LA topics, perhaps via On-line, Podcast, Conduit, or EM Methods. Annual Reports: The Annual Reports were the basis for the Minasian (Section) Award and Chapter Cup Awards. This year's winners were the West Coast Section for the Minasian Award, their second in a row, and the Channel Islands Chapter for the Chapter Cup Award. In addition, to these awards, the Membership Performance Awards for 2024 were finalized with Ontario Section winning as the Top Performing Section and the Southwest Louisiana Chapter winning as the Top Performing Chapter, and the Membership Performance Awards for 2025 were finalized with Niagara Frontier and Southwest Sections winning as the Top Performing Sections and the Channel Islands, Gulf Coast, and Mississippi Chapters winning as the Top Performing Chapters. Communications – "The Conduit": "The Conduit," prepared by Stephanie Phillips, Communications Chair, was issued in September 2025 (link), January (link), and May (link). "The Conduit" is distributed by headquarters by email distribution, with older versions being available online. The May Conduit Chair's message included a membership development "pep talk," which resonated with a few folks. Vitality: The A&WMA Board approved consolidation of the Eastern, Western, and Central Tennessee Chapters into a single Tennessee Chapter on April 2, 2026. The Central and Northern New Jersey Chapter has revitalized its board and activities throughout the state and are considering a name change to simply the New Jersey Chapter, though there is overlap in southern New Jersey with the Delaware Valley Chapter (DVC). The S&CC is still working on a "move" of the Nevada Section from Henderson to Reno, Nevada. The India Chapter, supported by the West Coast Section, held a World Wetlands Day Event at the B.K. Birla College in Kalyan, India on February 3, 2026. Because the Greater St. Louis Section has been inactive and A&WMA members in that area are all currently members of the Midwest Section, the S&CC voted to dissolve the Greater St. Louis Section on February 18, 2026. Student Chapter activities are increasing with new chapters forming at McMaster and Rutgers Universities and a rejuvenated chapter at Washington State University. Other: The S&CC is planning to participate in an upcoming evaluation of membership dues. Dues have been set at the current price for the last ten years, \$195 Individual, \$98 Discounted (Organizational, etc.), and \$35 Student.			
Moved By: NA		Seconded By: NA	

A&WMA Sections & Chapters
Council Fall 2026 Hybrid Meeting
Buffalo, NY October 2-4, 2026



Join your fellow A&WMA S&CC Leaders at a hybrid meeting (in-person plus virtual attendees) hosted by the A&WMA Niagara Frontier Section with meeting space provided by Phillips Lytle LLP at their beautiful offices on the shores of Lake Erie

- October 2-4, 2026, Fri-Sun, meeting room and nearby hotel at One Canalside, 125 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14203-2887
- Meetings all-day on Saturday and half-day on Sunday, and Evening Activities planned for Friday and Saturday
- Buffalo offers many attractions, including Niagara Falls, Frank Lloyd Wright's Martin House, the Buffalo Bills, and the Anchor Bar, home of the original buffalo wing!



**A&WMA Section/Chapter
Membership Counts in 2024-25 for Annual Reports**

Section/Chapter	CY2024 Members (pulled in early Jan 2025)	CY2025 Members (pulled in early Jan 2026)	2024 Section Total Members	2025 Section Total Members
Allegheny Mt. Section	116	120	184	183
Allegheny Mt. Section; NW Pennsylvania Chapter	21	20		
Allegheny Mt. Section; West Virginia Chapter	47	43		
Brazil Section	7	1	7	1
Canadian Prairie/Northern Section	131	75	131	75
China Section	6	29	6	29
East Central Section	0	0	238	242
East Central Section; East Michigan Chapter	57	61		
East Central Section; Indiana Chapter	78	79		
East Central Section; Kentucky Chapter	23	25		
East Central Section; Ohio Chapter	80	77		
Europe Section	10	7	10	7
Florida Section	13	15	114	98
Florida Section; Coastal Plains Chapter	18	13		
Florida Section; NE Florida Chapter	23	19		
Florida Section; SE Florida Chapter	18	15		
Florida Section; Tampa Bay Chapter	42	36		
Golden West Section	85	80	141	130
Golden West Section; Golden Empire Chapter	20	17		
Golden West Section; Mother Lode Chapter	36	33		
Grand Canyon Section	31	34	31	34
Greater St. Louis Section (1)	11	0	11	0
Hong Kong Section	1	1	1	1
Korea Section	2	1	2	1
Lake Michigan States Section	130	121	157	145
Lake Michigan States Section; West Michigan Chapter	27	24		
Louisiana Section	236	249	317	331
Louisiana Section; SW Louisiana Chapter	81	82		
Mexico Section	9	6	9	6
Mid Atlantic States Section	36	30	167	146
Mid Atlantic States Section; Central & Northern NJ Chapter	39	37		
Mid Atlantic States Section; Central NY Chapter	18	16		
Mid Atlantic States Section; Delaware Valley Chapter	57	52		
Mid Atlantic States Section; Eastern NY Chapter	17	11		
Midwest Section	79	66	103	87
Midwest Section; Iowa Chapter	18	18		
Midwest Section; Mid-Missouri Chapter	6	3		
Nevada Section	8	14	19	25
Nevada Section; Eastern Sierra Chapter	11	11		
New England Section	91	76	122	104
New England Section; Connecticut Chapter	31	28		
Niagara Frontier Section	37	40	58	67
Niagara Frontier Section; Genesee Finger Lakes Chapter	21	27		
No Section; No Chapter	73	57	73	57
Ontario Section	137	117	147	124
Ontario Section; Ottawa Valley Chapter	10	7		
Pacific NW Int'l Section	0	0	279	271
Pacific NW Int'l Section; Alaska Chapter	39	26		
Pacific NW Int'l Section; BC/Yukon Chapter	48	49		
Pacific NW Int'l Section; Idaho Chapter	16	15		
Pacific NW Int'l Section; Inland Northwest Chapter	24	26		
Pacific NW Int'l Section; Montana Chapter	8	18		
Pacific NW Int'l Section; Oregon Chapter	45	40		

Pacific NW Int'l Section; Puget Sound Chapter	95	93		
Pacific NW Int'l Section; Vancouver Island Chapter	4	4		
Philippines Section	1	1	1	1
Quebec Section	16	20	17	22
Quebec Section; Atlantic Canada Chapter	1	2		
Rocky Mt. States Section	179	174	242	228
Rocky Mt. States Section; Great Basin Chapter	53	48		
Rocky Mt. States Section; New Mexico Chapter	10	6		
Saudi Arabia Section	4	2	4	2
South Atlantic States Section	0	0	249	230
South Atlantic States Section; Chesapeake Chapter	121	94		
South Atlantic States Section; Research Triangle Park Chapter	128	136		
Southern Section	0	0	194	213
Southern Section; Alabama Chapter	44	45		
Southern Section; Eastern Tennessee Chapter	17	21		
Southern Section; Georgia Chapter	59	63		
Southern Section; Middle Tennessee Chapter	20	20		
Southern Section; Mississippi Chapter	46	59		
Southern Section; West Tennessee Chapter	8	5		
Southwest Section	10	12	201	213
Southwest Section; Alamo Chapter	15	15		
Southwest Section; Central Texas Chapter	47	43		
Southwest Section; Gulf Coast Chapter	85	102		
Southwest Section; High Plains Chapter	3	4		
Southwest Section; North Texas Chapter	29	24		
Southwest Section; Oklahoma Chapter	12	13		
Taiwan Section	16	15	16	15
Upper Midwest Section	143	146	143	146
West Coast Section	71	66	240	253
West Coast Section, India Chapter	13	17		
West Coast Section; Bangladesh Chapter	51	11		
West Coast Section; Channel Islands Chapter	13	73		
West Coast Section; Ghana Chapter	4	2		
West Coast Section; Mid-Pacific Chapter	28	5		
West Coast Section; Mojave Desert Chapter	37	22		
West Coast Section; Orange County Chapter	20	34		
West Coast Section; San Diego Chapter	1	20		
West Coast Section; Singapore Chapter	0	1		
West Coast Section; Thailand Chapter	2	2		
Grand Total	3634	3487	3634	3487

(1) Greater St. Louis Section no longer has any members

(2) Chesapeake Chapter is the new name for the Baltimore/Washington Chapter and includes all of Virginia, also.

This table shows the number of members per 100,000 population using 2024 Census data for cities with a population greater than 100,000. It was updated from what was presented at the 2026 June S&CC meeting. It now attempts to identify suburbs or satellite cities and include them in the calculation. This includes 1,653 (approximately half our total) members, so some small suburbs may have been missed or classified as their own city.

Country	City	State/Province	Population	Members	Members per 100k
USA	Philadelphia	PA	1439814	1	0.07
USA	San Jose	CA	897883	1	0.11
USA	New York	NY	8124427	10	0.12
CAN	Quebec	QC	647916	1	0.15
CAN	Winnipeg	MB	632857	1	0.16
CAN	Montreal	QC	3280123	6	0.18
USA	Wichita	KS	356051	1	0.28
USA	El Paso	TX	603545	2	0.33
USA	Baltimore	MD	602658	2	0.33
CAN	Victoria	BC	289837	1	0.35
USA	Newark	NJ	281378	1	0.36
USA	Plano	TX	260415	1	0.38
CAN	Oshawa	ON	251139	1	0.4
USA	Saint Petersburg	FL	245804	1	0.41
USA	Dallas	TX	1216543	5	0.41
USA	Greensboro	NC	233342	1	0.43
USA	Fort Wayne	IN	231147	1	0.43
USA	Mesa	AZ	461167	2	0.43
USA	Chesapeake	VA	223222	1	0.45
USA	Cleveland	OH	443949	2	0.45
CAN	Hamilton	ON	661942	3	0.45
USA	Lubbock	TX	213587	1	0.47
USA	Omaha	NE	417809	2	0.48
USA	Akron	OH	206634	1	0.48
USA	Glendale	CA	204747	1	0.49
CAN	Barrie	ON	198492	1	0.5
USA	Shreveport	LA	196228	1	0.51
USA	Honolulu	HI	386345	2	0.52
USA	Tulsa	OK	379833	2	0.53
USA	Mobile	AL	188467	1	0.53
USA	Gilbert	AZ	186332	1	0.54
USA	Newport News	VA	183941	1	0.54
USA	Amarillo	TX	183295	1	0.55
CAN	Toronto	ON	4670783	27	0.58
USA	Anaheim	CA	334909	2	0.6
USA	Albuquerque	NM	494962	3	0.61
USA	Memphis	TN	639736	4	0.63

USA	Los Angeles	CA	3911500	25	0.64
USA	Rockford	IL	153148	1	0.65
USA	Toledo	OH	305292	2	0.66
USA	Virginia Beach	VA	453884	3	0.66
USA	Stockton	CA	299188	2	0.67
USA	Pasadena	CA	146676	1	0.68
USA	Peoria	AZ	146634	1	0.68
USA	Eugene	OR	146483	1	0.68
USA	Milwaukee	WI	575250	4	0.7
USA	Corpus Christi	TX	280808	2	0.71
CAN	Kitchener	ON	414309	3	0.72
USA	Cape Coral	FL	137134	1	0.73
USA	Lexington	KY	274245	2	0.73
CAN	Vancouver	BC	1839314	14	0.76
USA	Thousand Oaks	CA	130136	1	0.77
CAN	Kelowna	BC	129691	1	0.77
USA	Fort Worth	TX	633849	5	0.79
CAN	Ottawa	ON	885542	7	0.79
USA	Concord	CA	126360	1	0.79
USA	Savannah	GA	124898	1	0.8
USA	Chandler	AZ	247915	2	0.81
USA	Cedar Rapids	IA	123243	1	0.81
USA	Carrollton	TX	123154	1	0.81
USA	Vallejo	CA	121146	1	0.83
USA	Inglewood	CA	116797	1	0.86
USA	Evansville	IN	114237	1	0.88
USA	Bellevue	WA	111896	1	0.89
USA	Manchester	NH	110384	1	0.91
USA	Thornton	CO	109695	1	0.91
USA	Costa Mesa	CA	109357	1	0.91
USA	Oklahoma City	OK	538141	5	0.93
USA	Charleston	SC	106372	1	0.94
USA	Spring Hill	FL	103782	1	0.96
USA	Edison	NJ	103448	1	0.97
USA	Lowell	MA	103085	1	0.97
USA	Aurora	CO	304641	3	0.98
USA	Fremont	CA	202574	2	0.99
USA	Billings	MT	101249	1	0.99
USA	Jacksonville	FL	809874	8	0.99
USA	Charlotte	NC	607111	6	0.99
USA	Chicago	IL	2830144	28	0.99
CAN	Saskatoon	SK	199523	2	1
USA	Miami	FL	386740	4	1.03
USA	Boston	MA	567759	6	1.06

USA	Fresno	CA	472517	5	1.06
USA	Arlington	TX	374729	4	1.07
USA	Columbus	OH	741677	8	1.08
USA	Las Vegas	NV	553807	6	1.08
USA	Fort Lauderdale	FL	173597	2	1.15
USA	Santa Ana	CA	344086	4	1.16
USA	Phoenix	AZ	1450884	17	1.17
USA	Henderson	NV	255646	3	1.17
USA	Huntsville	AL	169155	2	1.18
USA	San Diego	CA	1299352	16	1.23
USA	Long Beach	CA	486571	6	1.23
USA	San Antonio	TX	1278171	16	1.25
USA	Santa Rosa	CA	156669	2	1.28
USA	Chattanooga	TN	153617	2	1.3
USA	Kansas City	MO	441833	6	1.36
USA	Pasadena	TX	145351	2	1.38
USA	Detroit	MI	871789	12	1.38
USA	San Francisco	CA	723724	10	1.38
USA	Tacoma	WA	197621	3	1.52
USA	Oakland	CA	393632	6	1.52
USA	Nashville	TN	523547	8	1.53
USA	Irving	TX	194407	3	1.54
USA	Alexandria	VA	127159	2	1.57
USA	Hartford	CT	123836	2	1.62
USA	Olathe	KS	118165	2	1.69
USA	Tucson	AZ	525268	9	1.71
CAN	Kingston	ON	115695	2	1.73
USA	Provo	UT	105832	2	1.89
USA	Riverside	CA	306351	6	1.96
USA	Green Bay	WI	100616	2	1.99
USA	Montgomery	AL	197653	4	2.02
USA	Huntington Beach	CA	197124	4	2.03
USA	Des Moines	IA	192050	4	2.08
USA	Kansas City	KS	143402	3	2.09
USA	Richmond	VA	189498	4	2.11
CAN	Windsor	ON	281545	6	2.13
USA	Madison	WI	227642	5	2.2
USA	Saint Louis	MO	315546	7	2.22
USA	Rancho Cucamonga	CA	177721	4	2.25
USA	Sacramento	CA	480392	11	2.29
USA	Houston	TX	2043005	47	2.3
USA	Bakersfield	CA	301775	7	2.32
USA	Tempe	AZ	158313	4	2.53
USA	Dayton	OH	157607	4	2.54

USA	Lansing	MI	117236	3	2.56
USA	Springfield	IL	116725	3	2.57
CAN	Edmonton	AB	831979	22	2.64
USA	Beaumont	TX	110949	3	2.7
USA	Torrance	CA	146264	4	2.73
USA	South Bend	IN	102927	3	2.91
USA	Santa Clara	CA	102178	3	2.94
USA	Arvada	CO	101633	3	2.95
USA	Cambridge	MA	101342	3	2.96
CAN	Halifax	NS	263547	8	3.04
USA	Topeka	KS	121229	4	3.3
USA	Louisville	KY	241072	8	3.32
USA	Roseville	CA	120444	4	3.32
USA	Naperville	IL	147178	5	3.4
CAN	Calgary	AB	991432	37	3.73
USA	Orlando	FL	211226	8	3.79
USA	Arlington	VA	184603	7	3.79
USA	Denton	TX	105431	4	3.79
USA	Norman	OK	102925	4	3.89
USA	New Haven	CT	125030	5	4
USA	Metairie	LA	141606	6	4.24
USA	Syracuse	NY	140793	6	4.26
USA	Lafayette	LA	112317	5	4.45
USA	Lincoln	NE	245301	11	4.48
USA	Indianapolis	IN	771725	35	4.54
USA	Washington	DC	548359	25	4.56
USA	Tampa	FL	328578	15	4.57
USA	New Orleans	LA	454207	21	4.62
USA	Atlanta	GA	424096	20	4.72
USA	Portland	OR	542751	27	4.97
USA	Irvine	CA	199755	10	5.01
USA	Knoxville	TN	172000	9	5.23
USA	Buffalo	NY	276762	15	5.42
USA	Spokane	WA	197513	11	5.57
USA	Cary	NC	106117	6	5.65
USA	Austin	TX	683404	39	5.71
USA	Reno	NV	206626	12	5.81
USA	Cincinnati	OH	301561	18	5.97
USA	Boise	ID	193628	13	6.71
USA	Gainesville	FL	127933	9	7.03
USA	Ann Arbor	MI	113716	8	7.04
USA	Tallahassee	FL	154114	11	7.14
USA	Anchorage	AK	279428	20	7.16
USA	Grand Rapids	MI	193006	14	7.25

USA	Seattle	WA	570430	42	7.36
USA	Birmingham	AL	229300	17	7.41
USA	Overland Park	KS	169520	13	7.67
USA	Rochester	NY	209587	18	8.59
USA	Durham	NC	208426	18	8.64
USA	Minneapolis	MN	364726	34	9.32
USA	Jackson	MS	175085	21	11.99
USA	Raleigh	NC	350822	45	12.83
CAN	Guelph	ON	117979	17	14.41
USA	Salt Lake City	UT	177318	27	15.23
USA	Pittsburgh	PA	316272	55	17.39
USA	Denver	CO	556575	98	17.61
USA	Saint Paul	MN	272469	60	22.02
USA	Fort Collins	CO	131505	29	22.05
USA	Baton Rouge	LA	222217	114	51.3

AIR & WASTE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

Membership Committee Highlights

Sections & Chapters Council

Travis Tokarek
June 21, 2026



Membership Committee

Officers/Members of Committee

Travis Tokarek

*Government
Canadian Prairie and Northern Section*

Mike Hult

*Industry
Upper Midwest Section*

Amro El Badawy

*Academia
West Coast Section; Channel Islands Chapter*

Harish Rao

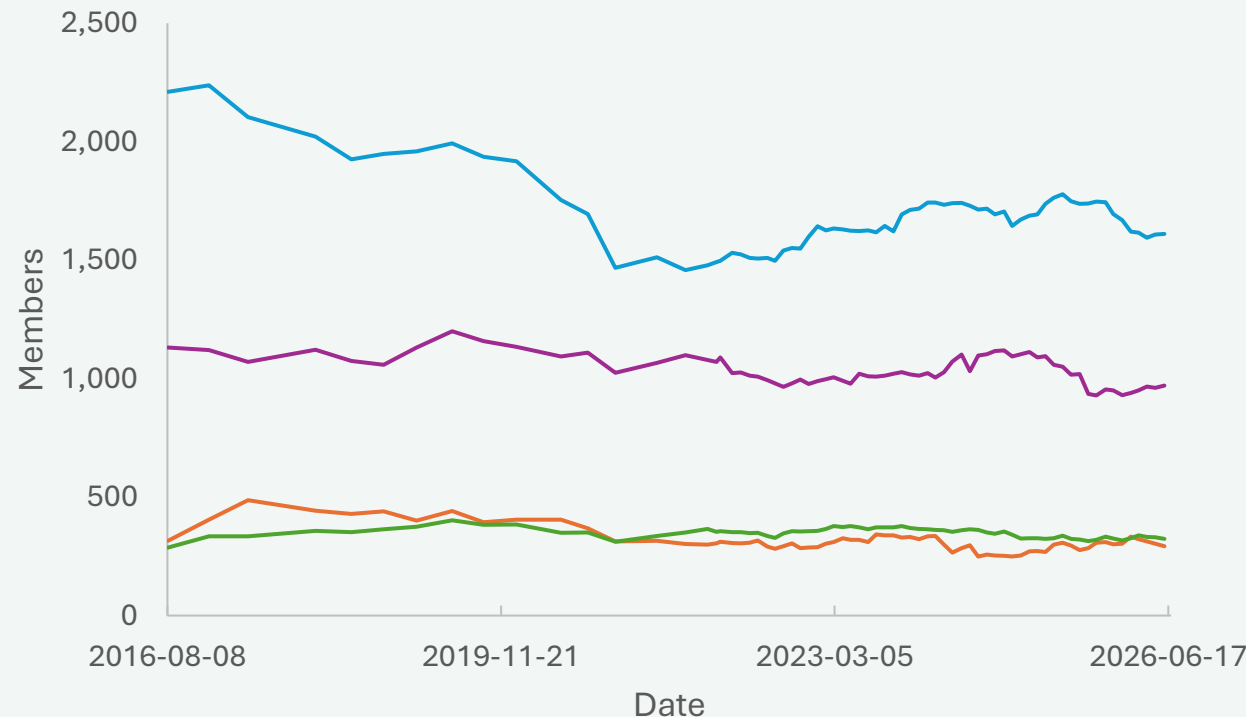
*Consulting
Lake Michigan States Section*

Membership 1-yr change

Category	Jun 2025	Oct 2025	Jan 2026	Jun 2025	1-yr Change (%)
<i>Emeritus</i>	236	236	238	229	-3.0%
<i>Honorary</i>	39	39	39	39	0.0%
<i>Individual</i>	1778	1749	1738	1669	-6.1%
<i>Organizational</i>	1050	1016	1019	930	-11.4%
<i>Student</i>	308	296	276	303	-1.6%
<i>Young Professional</i>	337	324	321	317	-5.9%
Total	3748	3660	3631	3487	-7.0%

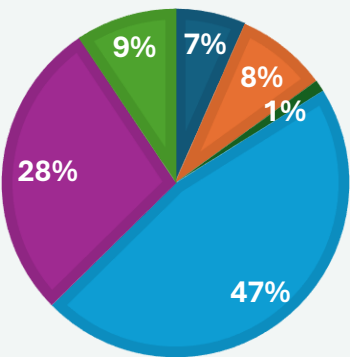
Membership type

Membership over 10 years

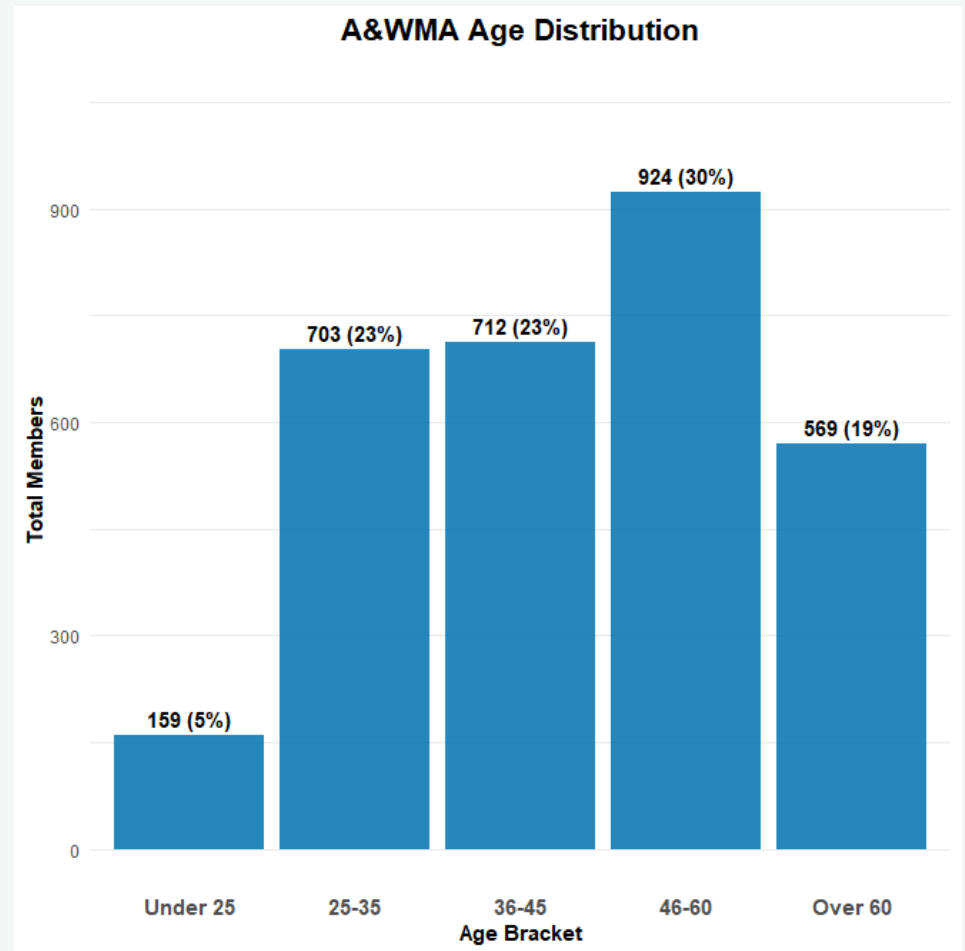
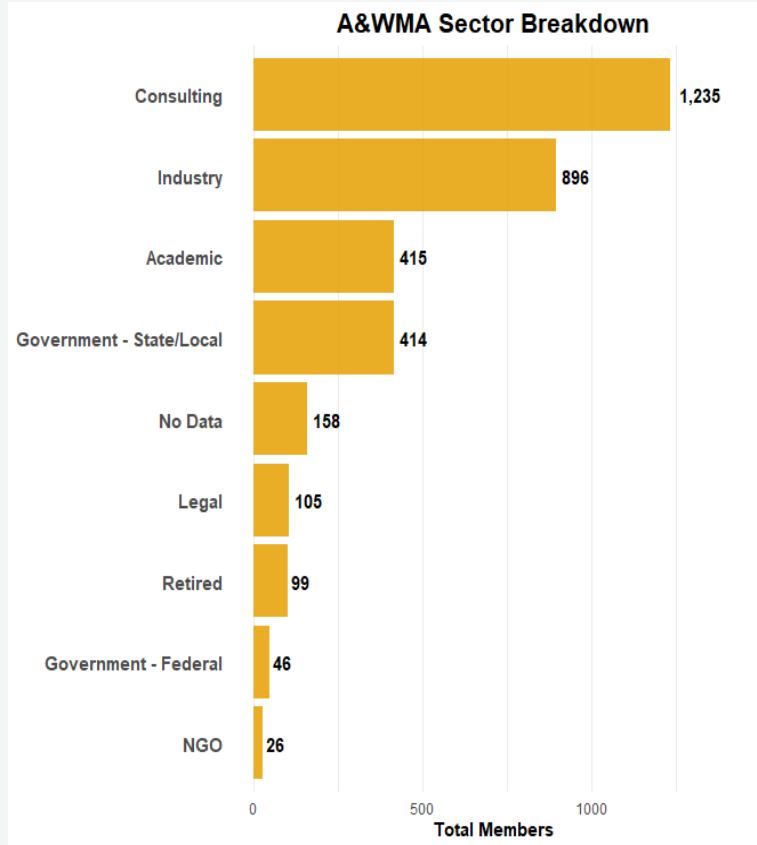


JUNE 2026

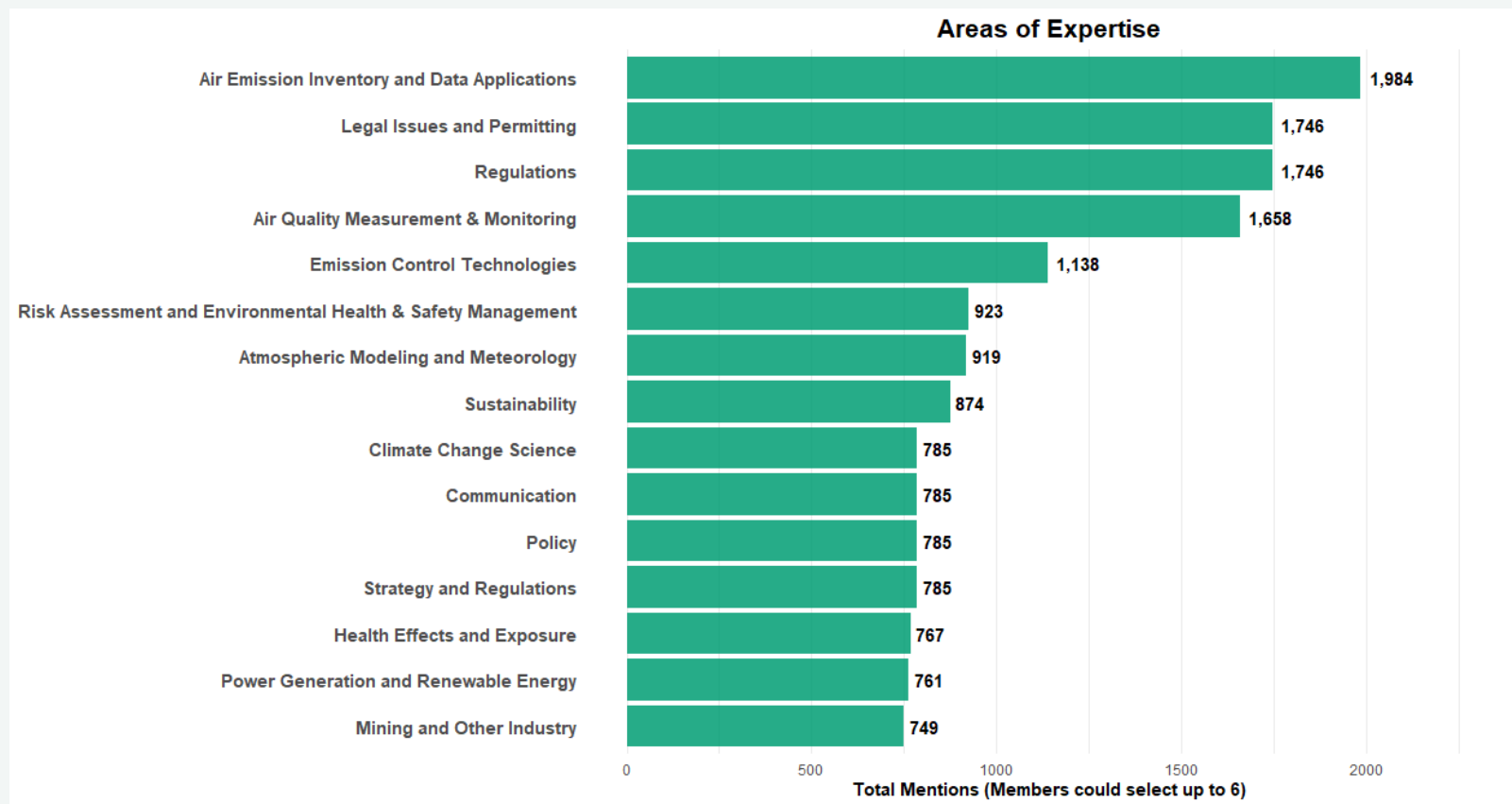
- Emeritus
- Honorary
- Organizational
- Student
- Individual
- Young Professional



Demographics



Demographics



A&WMA profile questions

Potential questions we could ask in the future

Primary motivations for joining A&WMA (select multiple).

- Continuing Education, Networking/Local Chapter Events, Event Registration Discounts, Access to Journal, Employer Requirement, etc.

Experience (not age).

- Less than 2 years, 3–5 years, 6–10 years, 11–20 years, 20+ years

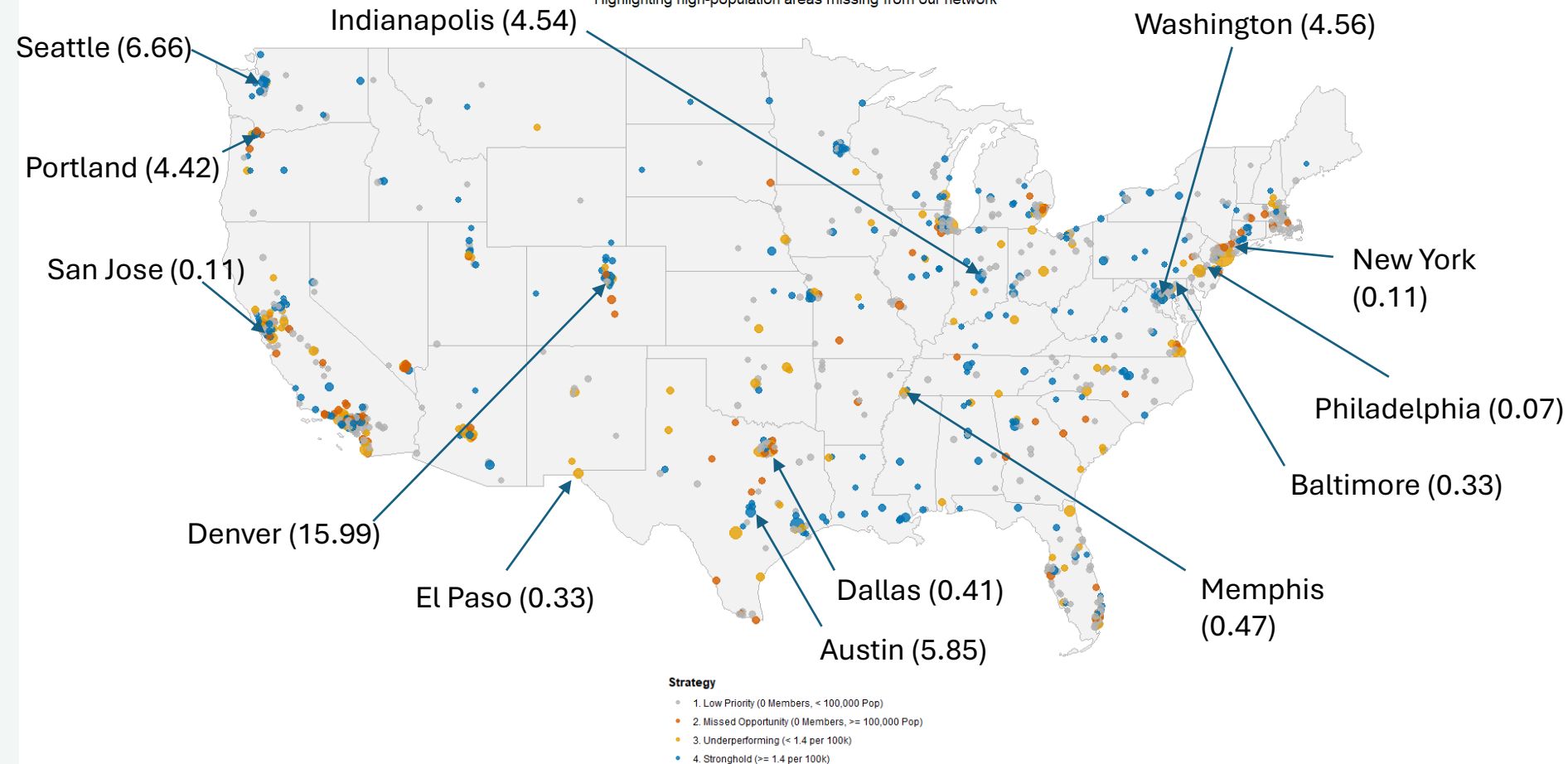
Preferred format for technical content (select multiple).

- Webinars, luncheons, workshops, conferences, written (journal and magazine)

Geospatial Analysis (USA)

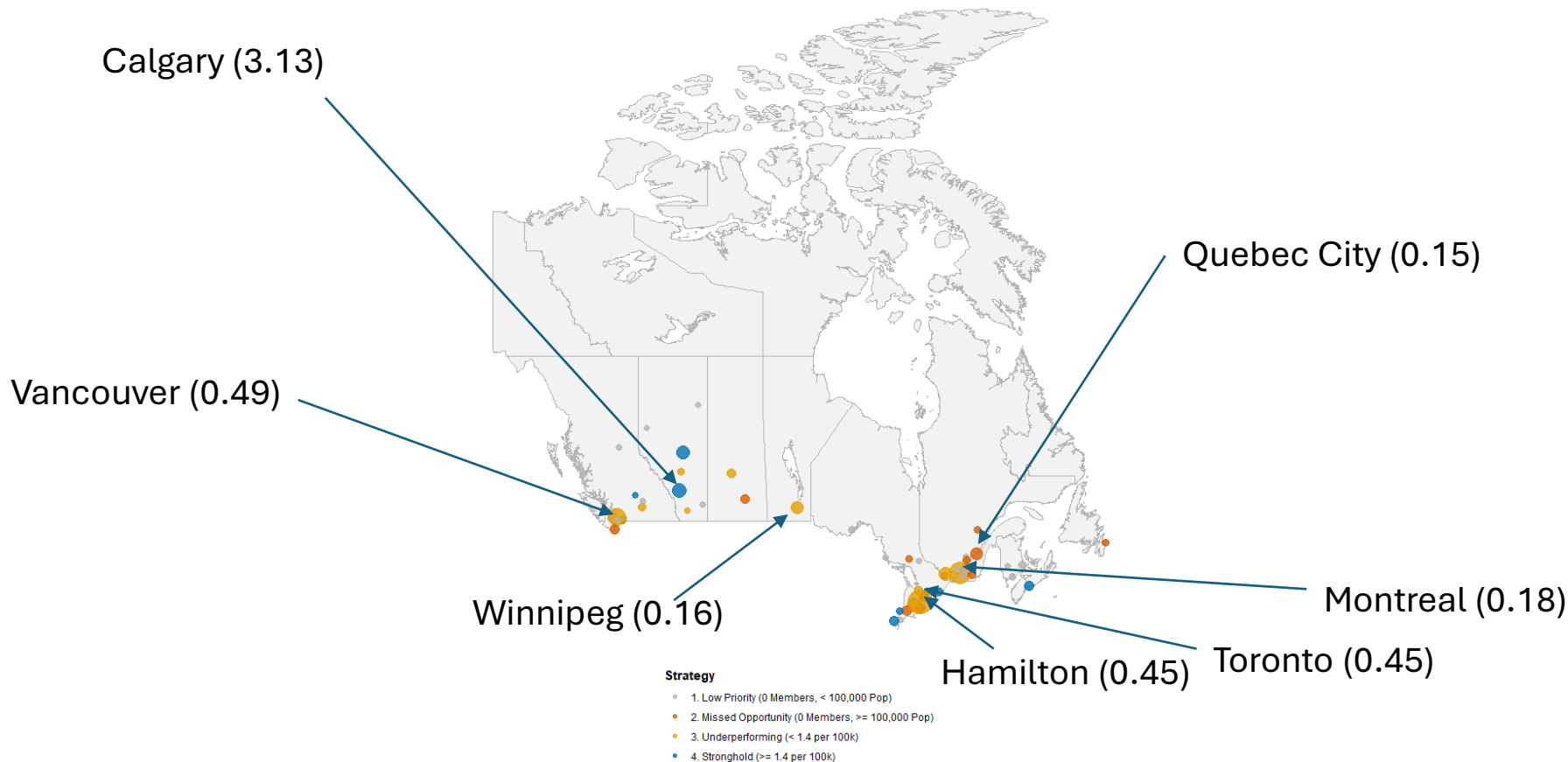
A&WMA Members by US City >40,000

Highlighting high-population areas missing from our network



Geospatial Analysis (Canada)

A&WMA Members by Canadian City >40,000
Highlighting high-population areas missing from our network



Membership Performance Recognition Program

2025 Membership Performance Award Winners!



Top Performing Sections	Top Performing Chapters
<i>Niagara Frontier Section</i>	<i>Channel Islands Chapter (West Coast Section)</i>
<i>Southwest Section</i>	<i>Gulf Coast Chapter (Southwest Section)</i>
	<i>Mississippi Chapter (Southern Section)</i>



SECTIONS & CHAPTERS COUNCIL

Thank You

Questions & Discussion

Travis Tokarek · travis.tokarek@gov.ab.ca · Membership Committee Chair

Executive Director's Report

Stephanie Glypis, A&WMA Executive Director
June 21, 2026 – Austin, TX (ACE)

Financial

- ✓ The audited 2025 year end close reflects a contribution of \$467,755
- ✓ The May 2026 statement of activity reflects a total net revenue **contribution of \$475,000.**
 - This contribution is a year to date (May) better than budget variance of \$168,000

Key performance indicators year to date:

- Annual Conference and Exhibition – currently trending slightly better than budget
- Conferences – trending better than budget by \$120,000+
- Webinars – trending behind budget by \$10,000
- Membership – revenue relatively flat (~ 3,500 members)

Publications

2025 Impact Factor (The Journal)

Slight increase in the Impact Factor for 2025.

- 2.4 (2024 was 2.2)
- The Journal is now 276/395 in Environmental Sciences, 67/88 in Environmental Engineering, and 79/114 in Meteorology and Atmospheric Sciences – therefore, still a quartile 3 (Q3) journal.

2025 CiteScore (The Journal)

Very slight decrease in the CiteScore for 2025

- 5.1 (2024 was 5.2).
- The Journal is now 58/160 Atmospheric Science, 63/151 Waste Management and Disposal, 73/180 Pollution, 149/432 Management, Monitoring, Policy and Law, which places the journal in Q2.

Publications – Other Items of Note

- The Journal – the inaugural *JA&WMA* Student and YP Paper Awards are being presented this year. The idea for the awards came out of the *JA&WMA* Editorial Retreat held two years ago, along with the idea of adding a YP ERB member, which the board selected and added this year (a young doctoral student from Colorado).
- EM and EM Plus – There was an uptick in the number of EM advertisers in 2025 and 2026 y-t-d
- Slight struggle to solicit articles for some topics in 2025 (such as climate change and environmental justice), other topics like PFAS had an abundance of high-quality submissions (more than two full issues worth), The EM article submissions had been particularly strong over the past year, with only a few being rejected.

Sales and Business Development

Highlights

- Strong exhibitor interest in ACE 2026 and strong sponsor and exhibitor interest in specialty conferences.
- Continued focus on cultivating both new business opportunities and long-term partner retention.
- Growth in sponsorship discussions related to emerging environmental sectors, including PFAS, AI technologies, energy, consulting, and data centers.
- Multiple Annual Mission Partnerships (3)

Trends/Observations

- Companies continue to evaluate sponsorship investments carefully and expect measurable ROI.
- Demand remains strongest for opportunities that combine presenting/speaker opportunities, leadership, brand visibility, networking, and direct engagement with decision-makers.
- Many organizations are shifting marketing budgets toward targeted events with highly qualified audiences rather than broad industry exposure

Sales and Business Development

Opportunities

- Expand outreach to new sectors including environmental technology companies, data center operators, clean energy developers, and environmental software providers
- Developed additional year-round sponsorship opportunities beyond conferences by way of Annual Mission Partnerships (AMP)
- Continue strengthening relationships with existing sponsors and exhibitors to increase retention and multi-event participation even if they are not AMPs.

Risks/Challenges

- Ongoing economic uncertainty may impact discretionary marketing and travel budgets.
- Increased competition for sponsorship dollars across industry events and associations.
- Increased “phishing/scammers” trying to sell our conference attendee lists and “third-party hotel booking” agencies that are not legit.

Social Media, Marketing, and Digital Engagement

- **Digital marketing** channels continue to outperform traditional outreach methods for event promotion and lead generation.
 - LinkedIn is a key source for sharing conference updates as they develop and A&WMA happenings!
 - Since last June, the A&WMA LinkedIn page has increased by over 1,000 followers (current follower amount is 8,584).
- **Email marketing** has seen strong open and click rates overall in the past year. A “good” click-through rate is generally agreed upon as 2-5%. All of our emails over the past year were at least in the 2-5% range, and the vast majority had a click-through rate higher than 5%.
- Online advertising with **Feathr** continues to provide increased visibility for A&WMA. For example, our current ACE 2026 campaign has 61,579 views and 304 clicks to date.

Conferences

- We have successfully broken into two new categories for content with Data Centers and the upcoming Methane Solutions conference in February 2027. The Data Centers committee agreed it would be worthwhile to do another conference in the fall of 2027 with the location to be determined.
- We have also been good at keeping expenses in line for F & B and AV with the specialty conferences based on the analysis project we did last summer. Hotels have provided all of our requested concessions including free Wifi, comp rooms based on block, discounts off of published menu and AV prices – significantly impacting the bottom line for specialty conferences.
- Expenses for ACE will be lower due to significant work collaborating with the venue on AV/F & B expenses (\$50,000+), the re-working of the overall ACE conference program, and the additional savings of about \$20,000 with the switch to Oxford Abstracts from Cadmium for the abstract management solution .

Conferences – Current Planning for 2027

Methane Solutions, February, The Woodlands, TX

Measurements - Mid April (Sheraton Imperial RTP)

PFAS Remediation – Mid May (Minneapolis, MN)

Waste Information Exchange – Spring (DC area)

Data Centers – Fall of 2027, location TBD

HON –potentially if planned regulations are still on schedule/what timing for a follow up conference might make sense

ACE – Long Beach, CA (June 28 – July 1)

Air Information Exchange – December (RTP area)

Membership – Considerations for our Future Discussions

Through participating in a benchmarking survey and focus group interviews with one of our vendor partners, Marketing General, we received access to their 2025 benchmarking report released earlier this year. The survey found that more than half of associations reported membership that was either stagnant or declining, so we are not alone. According to the survey results, the decline could be due to the following external factors:

- Company, organization, and agency budgets are very tight and membership dues, conference registration, and travel expenses can be difficult to justify if employers no longer automatically pay for them.
- People can access information, training, and networking online without paying association dues.
- Younger professionals tend to be less likely to join organizations simply because it is expected, and are more likely to use their personal time for personal reasons.

Trends/observations of important note:

- Members increasingly seek flexible, high content quality, digital engagement opportunities (cost effective).
- Networking, professional development, and access to subject matter experts remain primary membership drivers (gives a sense, if you don't know a solution, chances are, you can be connected to someone who does)

Thank You Questions?

Stephanie M. Glyptis
A&WMA Executive Director
sglyptis@awma.org

President's Update

Harry Klodowski – A&WMA 2026 President

President@Awma.org

Harry@Klodowskilaw.com

Mid Year Progress

Program Development

Conferences

Webinars

Finance

Sponsorships

Membership

Communications

Website Refresh



The Big Week!

ACE Schedule Shifts

Monday 8:00 Business Meeting

10:45 Exhibits Open

3:00 Keynote

5:00 Reception

Tuesday Exhibition Closes

Wednesday 10:10 Honors & Awards

12:00 Critical Review



Senior EPA Contacts May 2026

Becky Keough, Assistant Administrator Office of Policy & Regulatory Management (and M. Richardson, A. Hackel, K. Vello of OPRM)

Abigail Tardiff, Principal Deputy AA, Office of Air & Radiation (and J. Farkas, OAR)

Theresa Booeshagi, Assistant Administrator Office of Applied Science & Environmental Solutions (and T. Watkins, Deputy AA, OASES)

The Office of Land & Emergency Management (OLEM) was invited



2026 Programs

March Data Centers

May Odor

June ACE

Sept. Science of PFAS

Oct. AQ Models

Oct. IT3

Nov. Aerosols & Visibility

Dec. NSR Workshop and Air Info Exchange



2027 Conferences

February Methane Solutions
Measurement
PFAS Treatment

June ACE

Planning:

Waste Exchange

Energy

Data Centers

Ideas:

Permit Reform?



Thank You to All the Volunteer Leaders who made the first half of 26 a success and we are looking for great things for the rest of the year!

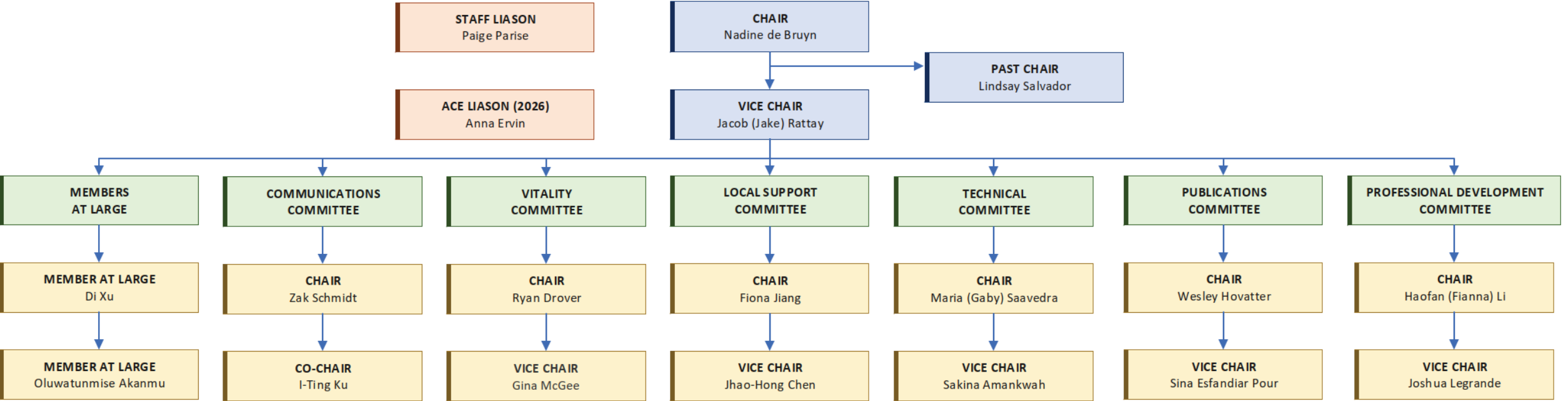


2026 YPAC Report Summary

June 21st

9:00am

**Air & Waste Management Association
Young Professionals Advisory Council**



Committee	Position	Member Name	Section	Industry	Succession
YPAC	Chair	Nadine de Bruyn	Ontario Section	Consulting – Air	
YPAC	Vice-Chair	Jacob (Jake) Rattay	Allegheny Mountain	Consulting – Air	
YPAC	Past-Chair	Lindsay Salvador	South Atlantic States Section	Consulting – Air	
ACE Liaison	Chair	Anna Ervin	Southwest Section	Consulting – Mixed	
Local Support	Chair	Fiona Jiang	Gulf Coast Chapter	Consulting – Air	
	Vice-Chair	Jhao-Hong Chen	Midwest Section	Government - Air	
Technical	Chair	Maria (Gaby) Saavedra	Southern Section	Consulting – ESG	
	Vice-Chair	Sakina Amankwah	Florida Section	Consulting – Mixed	
Vitality	Chair	Ryan Drover	West Coast Section	Consulting – Air	
	Vice-Chair	Gina McGee	East Central Section	Consulting – Waste	
Prof. Development	Chair	Haofan (Fianna) Li	Golden West Section	Consulting – Air	
	Vice-Chair	Joshua Legrande	Nevada Section	Consulting - Air	
Communications	Chair	Zak Schmidt	Allegheny Mountain	Consulting – Air	
	Vice-Chair	I-Ting Ku	Rocky Mountain States Section	Government - Air	
Publications	Chair	Wesley Hovatter	Pacific Northwest International	Government – Waste	
	Vice-Chair	Sina Esfandiar Pour	CPANS	Consulting – Air	
YPAC	Member at Large	Di Xu	West Coast Section	Consulting – ESG	
YPAC	Member at Large	Oluwatunmise Akanmu	Southern Section	Academia – Waste/ESG	

Committee	Key Achievements
Communications	• Q1 & Q2 Newsletters released (tracking metrics since 2025 Q1)
Technical	Held Coffee Break in April: • Farhana Momin, Founder of Momin Environmental Solutions • From Spreadsheets to Systems: Lessons Learned from a Large-Scale EMIS Implementation
Vitality	• New Vice Chair • Launched AE 2026 YP survey (engagement barriers, programming interests, involvement opportunities) • Helped support Ontario Section with new student chapter
Professional Development	• Completed 2 new interview videos so far in 2026 • Leah Blinn: https://youtu.be/1iUCT5XtmRs?si=yKkrn96pwumG9mMQ • Diane Freeman: https://youtu.be/z4c1YKmYFf4?si=Q8YcvHa38yhVMPUw
Publications	• Secured 5 publications in the past year
Local Support	• Held Spring Local Support meeting

Key goals for rest of 2026 into 2027:

- Increase Student engagement
- Increase YPAC capacity/participation

Contact	YPAC is looking for help on:
Communications Committee	• Engagement with the upcoming new YPAC LinkedIn page (release TBD)
Member-at-Large (Oluwatunmise)	• Spreading the word of the Student Member Spotlight: • New 150-200 word student research spotlight on LinkedIn
Technical Committee	• Looking for more Coffee Break speakers
Vitality Committee	• Collaboration with S&C on YP engagement and active/inactive student chapters
Local Support Committee	• Promotion of the Local Support Committee Bi-annual calls
Professional Development Committee	• Volunteers for the A&WMA Academy Interview series
Chair/Committees	• Growing Committees to increase capacity

Communications Update

June 2026

ACE Sections and Chapters Council Meeting

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in X f yd



- **Quarterly Sections and Chapters Newsletter**
- **Always includes Chair's Message, information on upcoming A&WMA events, and articles written by the Sections and Chapters Council Committee chairs and members**
 - "A&WMA's Technical Council - Leading to the Future!"
 - "West Coast Section Goes All Out at the 2026 Science and Engineering Fairs"

**AIR & WASTE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION**

Sections & Chapters Council

The CONDUIT
May 2026

The Informational Newsletter of the A&WMA Sections & Chapters Council

Visit the **Sections & Chapters Council web page** to find the latest information: www.awma.org/sccouncil

Click on the cover to read the full issue.

Share this resource with other officers and members!

**AIR & WASTE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION**

A&WMA Sections & Chapters Council
May 2026
In this Issue

Attend ACE 2026	2
A&WMA's Tech Council	3
Southern Section Conference	6
SASS YPs	6
West Coast Section Goes All Out	7

potential and current members in a professional community.

That idea is not about being less professional. In fact, it is about strengthening the very qualities that make professional organizations thrive: trust, responsiveness, inclusion, and shared purpose. The same principles apply in A&WMA. A first-time attendee is much more likely to return when someone greets them, introduces them to others, and helps them feel included. A young professional is more likely to get involved when someone takes the time to explain how to volunteer or serve on a committee. A longtime member is more likely to stay engaged when they know their experience and contributions are appreciated. In other words, engagement grows one interaction at a time.

The CONDUIT
Chair's Message: Growing A&WMA Through Connection

What keeps someone coming back to A&WMA after attending a first meeting or event? What inspires a member not only to renew, but to volunteer, lead, and invite others to join? While programming, technical content, and professional development all matter, the answer often comes down to something more personal: people stay where they feel welcomed, valued, and connected.

As chapter and section leaders and volunteers, we have a powerful opportunity to shape that experience. If we want to increase membership and strengthen engagement, we should think about not simply as contacts on a list, but as colleagues and friends in a



Attend ACE 2026 in Austin!

Come for the diverse technical content, exhibits, networking, and the Sections & Chapters Council meeting on Sunday. Find complete details at awma.org/ACE2026.

Inside this Issue

- Growing A&WMA through Connection
- ACE 2026
- Technical Council
- Southern Section Conference
- SASS YP Opportunity
- West Coast Section Science & Engineering Fairs

If you would like to submit an article or a success story, contact the Conduit Editor, Stephanie Phillips, at sphillip@itape.com.

Have bylaws questions? Check out our new resource [Bylaws Made Easy: What Every Section and Chapter Should Know](#).

2026 Conduit Focus

- **We want to highlight your chapter or section!**
- **Member Highlight Section**
 - Is there a member in your section or chapter that has gone above and beyond? Do they help organize local events? Celebrate them and their achievements!
- **Bring attention to your section or chapter events**
 - Advertise future events
 - Celebrate event successes
- **Open to other ideas to make the Conduit work for you**

East Michigan Chapter... (continued from page 6)

This behind-the-scenes look at one of North America's most significant infrastructure projects will include a guided walk across the bridge, insights from the Bridging North America project team, and a networking social at Detroit's Mutiny Bar. Spots are limited, and [registration](#) closes October 6, so don't miss this chance to be part of history in the making.

Then, on **November 12, 2025**, we'll host our **Annual Joint Environmental Conference** in Lansing, MI — co-organized with the West Michigan Chapter and the State Bar of Michigan's Environmental Law Section. This flagship event will bring together environmental professionals, regulators, attorneys, and industry leaders to tackle the most pressing issues facing our region. The program will feature sessions on PFAS, PM2.5 regulatory updates, EV/battery safety, and an energy plenary with MISO, MPSC, and other regional experts.

We are also proud to spotlight our **Chapter Chair, Lillian Woolley**, whose leadership and commitment have been instrumental in making these events possible. From securing sponsors to shaping content and guiding logistics, Lillian's impact has been felt across every facet of our programming. Her dedication is a prime example of the value our members bring to advancing A&WMA's mission in Michigan. East Michigan A&WMA is thriving, and we welcome all members, YPs, and students to get involved — whether by attending our programs, volunteering on committees, or sharing ideas for the future.



Q3 2025 Conduit



Air & Waste Management Association
East Michigan Chapter

Q1 East Michigan Chapter Update

The East Michigan Chapter wrapped up 2025 on a high note with the Annual Joint Environmental Conference, held on November 12 in Lansing, Michigan. Co-hosted by the East and West Michigan Chapters of the Air & Waste Management Association and the Environmental Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan, the event brought together professionals from industry, consulting, law, and government for a full day of technical sessions and networking.



The conference's success was the result of strong collaboration among members of the joint planning committee, which included representatives from all three groups. The team worked closely to shape the agenda, coordinate logistics, and engage sponsors and speakers—showcasing how much can be accomplished when our organizations combine efforts and expertise.



The program featured timely sessions on PFAS management and policy, PM2.5 regulatory updates, EV and battery safety, and an energy plenary with insights from Midcontinent Independent Service Operator (MISO), Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC), and regional utilities. The event was well received by attendees and sponsors alike, serving as a reminder of the value of cross-chapter collaboration in advancing environmental knowledge and professional connection.

The East Michigan Chapter looks forward to continuing this momentum in 2026 with new programming, outreach, and opportunities for members to connect across Michigan's environmental community.

Q1 2026 Conduit

Conduit Article Request

- **Article request email sent by Stephanie Phillips (Communications Chair) during the second month of every quarter.**
- **Currently being emailed to attendees of the September 26, 2024 Sections and Chapters Council Meeting.**
- **If you are not currently receiving the article request and would like to be on the email list, please email me at**

sphillip@itape.com

Hello!

My name is Stephanie Phillips and I am the Communications Chair for the A&WMA Sections and Chapters Council. Every quarter I help pull together the Sections and Chapter Conduit publication, which provides valuable information to Sections and Chapters about the happenings within A&WMA. This year we really want to highlight some of the events that you are organizing, members that are making an impact within your section/chapter, or provide a blurb about your section/chapter in general to bring awareness and improve membership.

With that being said, I am requesting articles for this quarter's Conduit. If you have an article you would like included, please have it to me by **May 18**. If you're interested in viewing past Conduits, you can follow this link: [A&WMA SCC](#)

Please feel free to forward this email to anyone else at your chapter or section that may be interested in providing an article.

Thank you and let me know if you have any questions.

You are receiving this email because of your participation in recent A&WMA Sections & Chapters Council (S&CC) Meetings and/or A&WMA Leadership Training Academies (LTA).

Stephanie Phillips
Corporate Environmental Compliance Manager
Intertape Polymer Group
cell 864.501.8966



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Air & Waste Management Association

International Affair Committee (IAC)

CITABILITY OF CONFERENCE PAPERS MEETING MINUTES (Draft 1)

Date and time: Thursday, Feb 19, 2026, 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm (EST) (Zoom meeting)

Attendees:

1. Juan Carlos Ramirez Dorronsoro (organizer and moderator, IAC Vice-Chair, and TC Air Group Coordinator)
2. Lisa Moses (A&WMA Liaison)
3. Jeff Collet (JA&WMA editor)
4. Joshua Fu (Climate Change Impacts, Mitigation and Adaptation (CC) Division Chair)
5. John Kinsman (AWMA President-Elect)
6. Christopher Lutes (Waste Mgmt/Processing, Waste-to-Energy (WM), and Bioenergy Division Chair)
7. Harish Rao (Critical Review Committee Liaison, sent his comments in advance to the meeting, which are include in the Attachments)
8. Roger Wayson (Technical Council Vice Chair)
9. Chun Yi Wu (Non-ACE Programs (PRG) Chair)

Meeting summary

Quick recap

The meeting focused on improving the peer review process and increasing the visibility of AWMA conference proceedings. Participants discussed making the review process more rigorous and attracting more reviewers, as well as exploring options for indexing proceedings in databases like Scopus and Google Scholar. The group considered implementing a system for assigning digital object identifiers to papers and discussed the possibility of offering different levels of peer review for authors who want higher visibility for their work. They also talked about improving the accessibility and marketing of proceedings to increase their impact and attract more members. These minutes are organized in two parts: one with the summary of the discussion during the Zoom meeting, and at the end, there are two attachments with the comments submitted in writing by Harish and Chris before the meeting.

Next steps

- ☐ Juan Carlos: Discuss with Jeff offline about the process of providing metadata to Scopus (or similar indexing services) for journal papers, to understand how conference proceedings could be similarly indexed.

- ☐ AWMA staff (to be identified): Contact Google Scholar to determine the process for automatically indexing AWMA conference proceedings and abstracts, and to ensure AWMA content is included and visible.
- ☐ Chris (and/or relevant Tech Council members): Prepare and propose to the Tech Council the idea of implementing an opt-in higher level (or open) peer review process for conference papers, especially for those authors seeking greater academic visibility or rigor.
- ☐ Juan Carlos: Follow up with division leadership to encourage reviewers to double-check papers and provide authors with feedback to improve paper quality, especially conclusions and scientific rigor.
- ☐ Lisa (and/or relevant staff): Collect any additional specific review questions from Juan Carlos, Chi, and Roger to finalize the full set of submission review questions before the March 1st launch.
- ☐ Juan Carlos: Consider proposal and planning for providing digital object identifiers (DOIs) to selected conference papers for future conferences.
- ☐ John Kinsman/Juan Carlos/AWMA: Investigate and propose a delivery system for individual conference papers (not just full proceedings) to increase accessibility and visibility.
- ☐ John Kinsman/Juan Carlos/AWMA: Develop and implement a plan to market changes to the review and delivery process to encourage and increase participation.
- ☐ Lisa/Juan Carlos: Continue efforts to ensure TCC chairs and vice chairs understand and fulfill their review responsibilities, including recruitment and communication of expectations.
- ☐ Juan Carlos: Start intentional invitations to authors to participate in committee meetings and provide guidance to increase engagement and break down participation barriers.
- ☐ Lisa: Send meeting recording, AI summary, and chat content to Juan Carlos.
- ☐ Juan Carlos: Summarize meeting comments and circulate to participants for review and enhancement of ideas.

Summary

Conference Submission Review Process Improvements

The meeting focused on improving the review process for conference submissions. Juan Carlos emphasized the need to increase the rigor of reviews, with John Kinsman suggesting more reviewers and clearer guidance. Chun Yi proposed using the review software to automate editorial tasks and focusing on papers for citation or indexing. Chris suggested allowing reviewers to assign a degree of completeness to the review process, while also discussing the potential for open peer review. The group agreed to continue discussing these ideas and improving the review process before the March submission deadline.

Conference Peer Review Challenges

The group discussed challenges and potential solutions for peer review processes at conferences, with Juan and Chris exploring the idea of using object identifiers to enhance citation and accessibility of conference papers. Jeff highlighted the complexity of implementing rigorous peer review for conference proceedings, emphasizing the need for flexibility and clear distinctions between conference papers and peer-reviewed journal publications. The discussion touched on the value of preliminary work presented at conferences and the potential for indexing conference papers, while acknowledging the challenges of managing different levels of peer review and the risk of hurt feelings among authors.

Scopus Conference Indexing Concerns

Juan raised concerns about the lack of connection between their conference and Scopus, noting that while their papers appear in Scopus, the conference is not listed as associated. He plans to discuss this issue with the appropriate person at the AWMA to understand who provides metadata to Scopus and how to ensure all conference papers are properly indexed. Chris suggested that papers uploaded to institutional repositories might eventually be indexed in Google Scholar, but noted that Scopus indexing is less certain. Juan emphasized the importance of improving citation practices to attract more ES members and enhance the quality of their publications.

Conference Proceeding Accessibility Challenges

The group discussed challenges with accessing and distributing conference proceedings, noting that while some content is available through institutional repositories, the pricing is often prohibitive, with individual papers costing around \$200. Chris and Jeff highlighted that many proceedings are not widely accessible or citable, and there's a need to improve marketing and availability of these resources. Chris suggested making content more Google Scholar-friendly and mentioned that the Indoor Environment Association (formerly AARST) effectively archives and shares past proceedings, while J emphasized the importance of balancing the cost of maintaining such systems with their benefits.

Expanding Organization's Scope and Impact

Juan and Joshua discussed strategies to increase the visibility and impact of their organization's proceedings and journals. Joshua suggested expanding their scope to include more areas like air-land and air-water interactions, as well as waste management, to attract a broader audience,

including social scientists. They also considered updating their website and conference focus to reflect these changes. Juan emphasized the need to act quickly, as the review process is about to start, and the executive committee needs to approve any proposed changes. The conversation ended with a call for additional comments and ideas to enhance the organization's objectives.

AWMA Conference Indexing Strategy

The group discussed the indexing of AWMA conference proceedings in academic databases, particularly Google Scholar. Jeff noted that Scopus requires conference papers to be published as special journal issues or dedicated proceedings, while Joshua suggested that Google Scholar could increase visibility for AWMA proceedings and potentially lead to more journal publications. The participants agreed that AWMA should explore getting its proceedings automatically indexed in Google Scholar, with Jeff mentioning that other scientific conferences are already indexed there.

Enhancing Conference Proceeding Accessibility

The group discussed increasing the visibility and accessibility of conference proceedings, with Juan and Chris suggesting the implementation of a higher level of peer review for select papers and the possibility of an opt-in system for authors who wish for more thorough reviews. They also considered the need for a delivery system to make the content available beyond complete proceedings, and Juan emphasized the importance of marketing any changes made to encourage participation. Additionally, Juan mentioned the potential of providing digital object identifiers for individual papers in future conferences to enhance accessibility and visibility.

Enhancing Paper Review Process

Juan and Lisa discussed the review process for papers, noting that the current questions are too general and need to be more specific. They agreed that adding new questions after reviews have started could cause issues with the system. Lisa mentioned the need to launch the review process around March 1st for ACE 2026, which Juan found concerning. They also talked about the importance of getting TCC chairs and vice chairs to understand their responsibility in the review process. Juan expressed concern about struggling to fill leadership positions and the need to make committee meetings more inviting to authors. Lisa agreed that more intentional invitations to authors for committee meetings would be beneficial.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm (EST)

Attachments (Comments from Harish and Chris)

Comments/Thoughts – Harish (*provided before the meeting*)

1. Conf Proceedings.

In theory, it would be good if we can get all types of ACE conference presentations (Full Paper, Extended Abstract, Panel presentations, Power Point Slides, Poster) indexed in databases allowing them to be searched and cited. In practice, we need to understand how conferences are indexed, what level of detail needs to be provided and whether all types of conference presentations can be indexed. Clearly, a full paper, extended abstract or poster with references would appear to be easier for indexing since it meets higher quality standards, including peer review. Is there a different tier for indexing that applies to power point slides and panel presentations if they are recognized as such for purposes of searching and citability.

2. Academic Standards & Disciplinary Norms

Agree with the background and key points and with the proposal to help identify papers and extended abstracts that could be submitted to the Journal. With regard to the rigor of the review process, we need to be more specific in the instructions for reviewers and have a minimum of two reviewers for each paper. The level of review that can be provided for power points slides has to be different – more cursory and focused on the presentation elements.

The larger number of abstracts this year and the limitations on the number of rooms can be seen as opportunity to review papers more rigorously and maybe even turn down a few if it does not meet quality standards. If the process used for review is clear and submitters understood that a higher quality review was taking place, it might result in better quality papers. For example, we could use the 8-room limit for ACE to limit the number of papers chosen for presentation. The downside of not accepting papers is that we may lose some potential attendees who are able to attend only if they can make a presentation.

3. Quality & Reliability Considerations

The bullets raise important points to be considered. The hypothetical scenario shows the need for conference papers to be properly indexed so the findings/results in the conference paper (whether or not it was subsequently published in a journal) can still be properly cited.

4. Citability in Professional & Applied Contexts

Good points requiring discussion. Some ideas to raise the awareness that ACE Conference papers/presentations have received rigorous peer review is to have a rigorous review process. This has to be conveyed to the reviewers with clear instruction on best practices for reviews

and to let submitters know that papers will receive reviews that are more rigorous to help with the indexing process to make them easily citable and increase the impact factor.

Comments from Christopher Lutes (*provided before the meeting*)

2/17/2026

Thanks Juan Carlos:

I hope I will be able to make it. It seems like much of the outline is about appropriate cautions for people using proceedings papers. The attached well cited document that I prepared recently comes out it from a different perspective, suggesting that in preparing reviewers conference proceedings should receive some consideration.

In a recent discussion of this topic with colleagues including an associate editor of a reputable journal it turns out that the term “Grey literature” has to do primarily with who publishes it, and whether it remains accessible to future readers.

I just learned in researching this that the formal definition of grey has to do with who the publisher is not the level of peer review....

“Grey literature is defined as “information produced on all levels of government, academia, business and industry in electronic and print formats not controlled by commercial publishing i.e., where publishing is not the primary activity of the producing body.”; A major advantage of grey literature is that because information is not published through commercial publishing channels (e.g., journals) the information can be published faster. This is especially important with emerging issues.

Grey literature includes data from many different sources with varying levels of reliability and review. Government reports, including statistical reports from agencies such as AHRQ, the CDC, and CMS as previously described in this training, are considered grey literature. Government reports are widely considered valid and reliable sources.

Dissertations, conference proceedings, newsletters, and blogs are also considered grey literature. One would expect a dissertation, which has undergone numerous reviews before a doctoral student can graduate, to be of a higher quality than a newsletter, which has little to no peer reviews. However, both dissertations and newsletters are considered grey literature. Thus, it is extremely important for researchers to carefully consider the quality of the grey literature before using it as a source of information.”

<https://www.nlm.nih.gov/oet/ed/stats/03-600.html>

Ironically, virtually anything put out by a major publisher is not considered grey – because academic books do get reviewed! That really seems like a dumb criteria....for example my former opinionated coworker Evan Nyer published a selection of his columns in a book titled “Practical Techniques for Groundwater and Soil Remediation”. Since that is published by Lewis publishers which is reputable it isn’t grey literature and I can go ahead and cite it, but would the chapter “The Five Worst Design Mistakes I have Seen on Superfund Projects” have flown in a peer reviewed journal? For example, it says “Every congressman who wants to show that he is an environmentalist finds Superfund an easy target. Newspapers and magazines have also found Superfund to be defenseless.....Any idiot can design a \$20 million treatment system. “

I think all theses and US federal government reports can now be assumed to be reasonably accessible (as long as the university doesn’t go out of business at least, or government overthrown....for example not all Roman government reports are easily accessible!). One of the papers I reviewed argues that thesis/dissertations used to be considered grey because of limited access but that is no longer true. I know that within AWMA we have had discussions about giving digital object identifiers making the previous content accessible and it certainly isn’t perfect https://www.awma.org/store_category.asp?id=4
https://www.awma.org/store_category.asp?id=9

I usually reference conference papers either to the RTI site or my ResearchGate page which works for the short term, although neither is completely reliable forever (unless the internet archive gets them <https://web.archive.org/>) which it appears to have done:

Interestingly AEHS no longer routinely archives all the papers although of course we have the RTI site for that for vapor intrusion....

<https://www.aehsfoundation.org/east>

The Battelle conference looks fairly good at first glance:

<https://www.battelle.org/conferences/battelle-conference-proceedings>

Presumably any conference or even an individual could use a legitimate archiving site such as:

https://info.arxiv.org/help/submit_index.html

<https://info.arxiv.org/help/submit/index.html>

<https://www.ssrn.com/index.cfm/en/conferences/>

https://guides.lib.unc.edu/poster_design/archiving