

TENNESSEE CHAPTER



NEWSLETTER



AIR & WASTE MANAGEMENT
ASSOCIATION
SINCE 1907

SPRING 2026

Contact Richard Wales (760) 964-0872
RTWales2014@gmail.com

ACTING OFFICERS

CHAIR	Richard Wales
VICE-CHAIR	Vacant
TREASURER	Tom Busmann
SECRETARY	Vacant
PAST CHAIR	Vacant

ACTING DIRECTORS

Richard Holland
J. Wayne Cropp
Vacant
Vacant

New Tennessee Chapter

At its April 2026 meeting the Governing Board of Air and Waste Management Assortation approved the merger of the three Tennessee Chapters into a single Chapter. Now it is time for the membership pull together and elect a Chapter Board and plan the 2026 Southern Section Conference. The success of the Tennessee Chapter depends on the membership stepping up and volunteering. Remember TENNESSEE is the VOLUNTEER state.

The Board is looking for Chapter members to volunteer for these positions and committee chairs and committee members. If you are interested contact Richard Wales at (760) 964-0872, or RTWales2014@gmail.com.

Expenditures

Because there is no elected Board a quorum of 15 members is needed to spend Chapter funds. See the attached "Expenditure Ballot". The following is estimates of current expenses:

Promotional materials -	\$ 500.00
Scholarships two -	\$ 2,400.00
Conference Deposits -	\$10,000.00
Miscellaneous Items -	\$ 300.00

Elections

The new Tennessee Chapter needs to elect new officers and Directors for 2026. Nominations are needed for the Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and 3 or 4 Directors. Nominate a friend, an acquaintance, even an enemy or yourself.

Current funds available rounded:

Eastern -	\$19,040
Middle -	\$12,937
West -	\$ 2,631
TOTAL	\$34,658

I, Richard Wales, Volunteers to be the Chair. I nominated Tom Busmann as Treasurer and Richard Holland as a Director.

QUORUM:

Chapter Business Meeting - Fifteen (15) active members shall constitute a quorum for general business or special meeting.

A&WMA International

A&WMA International 2026 Annual Conference & Exhibition (ACE), 119th ACE, will be hosted by the Southwest Section, from June 21 – 24, 2026 in Austin Texas. For details go to www.awma.org/ace2026. The title for ACE2026 is “Energizing the Future”

2026 CALENDAR

TENNESSEE CHAPTER

TBA TBA

TBA The application of Tennessee Chapter College Scholarships are due

SOUTHERN SECTION

<http://www.ss-awma.org/>

May 15, 26 The application of Southern Section College Scholarships are due. See www.ss-awma.org/ss-scholarship.html

TBA Annual Conference Hosted by the Tennessee Chapter. Location will be Chattanooga, Tennessee

A&WMA INTERNATIONAL

www.awma.org
For www.awma.org/calendar_list.asp

June 21-24, 26 119th ACE – Austin, Texas.
www.awma.org/ace2026. The title for ACE2026 is “Energizing the Future”.

Student Chapters

The future members of the Air and Waste Management Association are our current students. The forming of Student Chapters at Universities around Tennessee would build the future of our organization. Students would be involved with the student activities, Poster Contest and the Environmental Challenge at ACE2026 in Austin, Texas next June. See www.awma.org/students

The Tennessee Chapter also needs to establish a Scholarship Program. If you have contact Environmental programs at Tennessee college please provide me the contact information.

The Southern Section will be awarding two \$1,500 Scholarships to college students. The applications are due by May or June 2026. The winners will be announced at the Annual Conference in the fall of 2026 in Chattanooga.

Programs for 2026

For the calendar year 2026 the Board is seeking topics, and speakers for in person and/or virtual Chapter Meetings. See the list of suggested topics on page four (4). Please submit your suggestions to any Board Member. Members are encouraged to be speakers. If you desire to be a speaker / presenter, let the Board know.

The Board is asking for suggestions for when the best time is to hold a virtual meeting, such as the day of the week and time of (i.e. noon, 4 PM etc.).

Submit suggestions and comments to Richard Wales at 760-964-0872 or rtwales2014@gmail.com.

Southern Section Conference

The Tennessee Chapter will be the host for the 2026 Southern Section conference. This conference is normally held in September. The last time Tennessee was host the conference was in Chattanooga. The Southern Section Board meeting feels this is a good location. The Tennessee Chapter needs to form a committee to plan this conference. Contact Richard Wales for details at rtwales2014@gmail.com or call 760-964-0872. Help is needed with:

- Site location
- Conference Theme
- Program – topics / speakers
 - Keynote speaker
 - For Air Management
 - For Waste Management

Evening Activities
Scholarships
Exhibitors
Sponsors
Registration

WHY am I a MEMBER?

1974, yes that is Each Chapter member should ask themselves this question. This should be a part of each Chapter Newsletter. Therefore I, Richard Wales will try to answer this question first.

I joined in December over 51 years ago. At that time I was working for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR). However, I was first inducted to the Air Pollution Control Association (APCA) by my college Professor Dr. Howard Hesketh. As an undergraduate I was the probe man on source testing, run the air monitoring station and lab tech. Then his graduate research assistant. Over the years I meet many leaders of the association at Chapter, and Sectional meeting. I got to attend several Annual Conference and Exhibits (ACE). In 1977 I went to the ACE because the Bureau Direction at WDNR was in France. In late 1985 knowing my position with Allis Chalmers was being eliminated and the Journal had an ad for a job opening with the San Bernardino Air Pollution

Control District. In June 1986 I started the new job and continued working with the predecessor agency until I retired in 2011. During these 25 years, I was involved with the West Coast Section where I met and worked with many of those who became leaders of A&WMA. During these 51 years I learned many facts and pointers that helped with jobs I did such as a regulator, emission inventories of criteria and toxic emissions, health risk assessor and designing air handling systems for hot mix asphalt plants. I had the pleasure of working with several student chapters. The students are the future of the A&WMA.

My plans are to grow the Tennessee Chapter and the Southern Section and to start new student chapters in Tennessee and the Southern Section.

The A&WMA is an organization where you can grow professionally and meet many of the leaders in the field of air pollution and in my case found an excellent career opportunity. I also made many life-long friendships.

	Topic	Possible Speakers
1	Revised PM2.5 NAAQS and impact on Tennessee	TDEC
2	MACT for oil and gas wells & Production	TDEC, EPA Regional 4
3	Deregulation	EPA, State and local agencies
4	Manufacturing Facilities, air pollution controls recycling of waste	Volkswagen, Cemex, paper mills, chemical plants
5	Transportation Research - low temperature converters, energy storage, electric cars	National Transportation Research Center, ORNL
6	Research	UT-Knoxville, Vanderbilt, State Universities, Oak Ridge National Labs (ORNL)
7	Climate Change - Green energy, distribution systems	TVA, TDEC, EPA Region 4, local agencies, GSMNP
8	Sewer plants -odor control, anaerobic digestors	Wastewater plants
9	Revised, New and future Regulation	EPA, TDEC, Hamilton & Knox County agencies
10	Future of environmental engineering & scientist training.	Dr Davis
11	MACT, air toxics, health risk	USEPA, TDEC, Local agencies, facilities, consultants & testers
12	Emission Inventory, Criteria and Toxic emissions	USEPA, TDEC, Local agencies, facilities, consultants & testers
13	Landfills and gas collection systems	USEPA, TDEC, Local agencies, facilities, consultants & testers
14	Recycling of solid waste	USEPA, TDEC, Local agencies, facilities, consultants & testers
15	Biofuels, production and use	USEPA, TDEC, Local agencies, facilities, consultants & testers
16	Data Center, land use and power and water usage	TVA, Utility agencies,
17	Startup problems and the fix. The process as designed and now as operating	USEPA, TDEC, Local agencies, facilities, consultants & testers