



AIR & WASTE MANAGEMENT  
ASSOCIATION  
SINCE 1907

### Don't forget to renew your membership

Renewal can be completed online at the [AWMA Website](#) or using the hardcopy form provided on the website.

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# THE RELEASE

Vol. 49 No. 1 September 2022

Peter Grasso — Editor

## Message from the Chair

Christa Bucior

Greetings.

It is my pleasure to be this year's AWMA Niagara Frontier Section's Chair. This is a great section that has held together the past two years during all the ups and downs of virtual then in-person then virtual again. Attendance was constant and the level of commitment from the board and active members remained strong through all of it. I expect an even better year this year as we look forward to an all in-person year with great dinner meetings and young professional events planned.

I want to thank all of this year's board members that have helped plan a great year. It is a time commitment away from family and friends to plan the year, so I really appreciate everyone's efforts, and continued efforts, through the rest of the year. If you are interested in being part of the planning of the events, please consider joining the board. We have an open Director spot. Let any of the board members know if you are interested.

I also want to thank the active members of the section. No matter how much we plan, if we have no members, we have no section. It is great to see so many of you taking time away from your families after long days at work to join us for our dinner meetings.

For anyone who isn't an active member, please consider joining as this is a great way for networking, keeping up on regulatory updates and advancements in technologies, a chance to gain continuing education credits, among many other benefits. This is a great section with a long history and amazing members. Please reach out to any of the board members if you have any questions or concerns about becoming a member.

I am looking forward to this great year, and I hope you are as well!

Christa Bucior

## Monthly Meeting Schedule

### SEPTEMBER 2022 DINNER MEETING

The [A&WMA-NFS](#) SEPTEMBER dinner meeting will feature a tour of the Buffalo Sewer Authority Bird Island Sewage Treatment Plant, followed by a presentation by Assistant Professors from the University of Buffalo: Ian M. Bradley, PhD and Yin-yin Ye, PhD: "Application of Wastewater Based Epidemiology to Track COVID-19 and Emerging Disease Outbreaks"

The tour will begin at 5:00 pm at the Buffalo Sewer Authority STP, 90 West Ferry Street, Buffalo. The dinner and presentation will be held at Marco's Italian Restaurant, 1085 Niagara Street, Buffalo, beginning at 6:30. Register [HERE](#).

[Mark Your Calendars](#) for the Upcoming Monthly Meetings:

- September 22, 2022—Dinner Meeting, Marco's Italian Restaurant
- October 27, 2022— Dinner Meeting, TBD
- November 17, 2022 — Dinner Meeting, TBD
- December 15, 2022 — Holiday Social, TBD

Please visit the website for updates on the Monthly Meeting schedule.

**People on the Move****Mike Emery and Mark Hans**

Recent changes in job status (that we are aware of) include:.

- ⇒ **Julie Barrett O'Neill** has been appointed as Regional Director for the NYSDEC Region 9. Julie is a proven leader with more than two decades of experience in the public and private sectors, specializing in sustainable economic and community development. Prior to joining DEC, Julie served as Executive Director of Local Initiatives Support Corporation in Buffalo, where she led efforts to expand economic development and drive new capital into housing, businesses, and jobs across the city. Before that, she worked as green program director and general counsel at the Buffalo Sewer Authority, and also served for a decade as executive director of Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper, where she focused on restoring local ecosystems and advancing economic growth.
- ⇒ **Chad Staniszewski** has been appointed as Assistant Regional Director for the NYSDEC Region 9. Chad has been serving as Acting Regional Director since last year. Prior to stepping up to serve as Acting RD, Chad served as Regional Engineer where he oversaw regional environmental quality programs and staff. Before that, he served as an Environmental Engineer II, Project Manager for Division of Environmental Remediation for nearly a decade, gaining extensive experience managing critical Superfund, Brownfield Cleanup, Environmental Restoration, and Spill Response projects.
- ⇒ **Alan Zylinski** retired as a Professional Engineer 1 (Environmental) from the DEC's Division of Air Resources in May. Al has been enjoying every golf course he can find this summer.
- ⇒ **Ethan Bennett** joined the DEC's Division of Air Resources as an Engineer Trainee. He graduated from the University of Buffalo with a Master's Degree in Chemical Engineering and a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Engineering. He will review permit applications, write permits, perform inspections, witness stack.

If you have changed jobs, gotten a promotion or retired, let us know. Information can be sent to Peter Grasso (newsletter editor) at [pxgrasso@gmail.com](mailto:pxgrasso@gmail.com).

**Website****Mark Hans**

Website – [awmanfs.org](http://awmanfs.org)

Our website has been a huge success, as many of you have registered and paid for memberships, meetings and the seminar since we put it up over 10 years ago. If you have any questions or changes you would like to see, please contact Mark Hans at ([mjhans9@gmail.com](mailto:mjhans9@gmail.com)).



Something that you may not know about our website is that we have a page dedicated to "Information of Interest". This page contains information about regulatory updates as well as Job opportunities as well as resumes for people looking for jobs. To find this page, either [click here](#) or go to the website homepage, click on the three buttons on the right side of the blue bar and then click on Information of Interest.

## Membership

**Kathy Moguel**

Currently we have over 81 members in the Air & Waste Management's Niagara Frontier Section with roughly a 45/55 split between international and local affiliates. To check membership status, please log onto the [AWMA-NFS Website](#).

Corporate memberships are valid for one year from the date of renewal while local memberships expire on August 31st annually. New members and renewal applications can be found on our website. Payment can be made either through the website or via mail. Membership categories and dues are as follows:

Local Affiliate Member	\$36	* Corporate Sponsor includes an International Membership for one person and a local affiliate membership for a second person.
Local Affiliate Member [Full-Time College Student]	\$11	
International Member	\$195	
International Member [Young Professional - 35 or younger]	\$98	** Web Sponsor includes an International Membership for one person and a local affiliate membership for a second person. In addition, the corporate logo of a website sponsor will be displayed on the home page of the AWMA website.
International Member [Full-Time College Student]	\$35	
Corporate Sponsor*	\$325	
Web Sponsor**	\$500	

If you have any questions about becoming a member or renewing your membership please contact Kathy Moguel at [awmanfsmembership@gmail.com](mailto:awmanfsmembership@gmail.com). A list of current membership can be found on the [AWMS-NFS website](#).

## Needed: Professional Development Hour Evaluator

**Mike Emery**

We offer Professional Development Hours (PDH's) for as many of our programs as a benefit to Professional Engineers who need PDH's to keep their licenses up to date. Our long term PDH Evaluator Randy Rakoczynski, has retired and has stepped down from this role, so the section is looking for a P.E. to evaluate presentations.

Options include recruiting an existing approved PDH evaluator, maybe one from your company (an "in-house" evaluator) or someone who already evaluates PDH's for other professional organizations, or having a section member become an approved evaluator. More information about what it takes to be a PDH evaluator can be found on the Practicing Institute of Engineering Inc. website (<https://practicinginstitute.org/evaluators>).

Please remember that the section is only as strong as the members that support it. If a PDH evaluator doesn't step forward, we may not be able to offer PDH's which would weaken the benefits we offer to you, the section members. Please let Mike Emery ([awmanfssecretary@gmail.com](mailto:awmanfssecretary@gmail.com)) or Peter Grasso ([pxgrasso@gmail.com](mailto:pxgrasso@gmail.com)) know if any P.E.'s may be able to provide PDH reviews or if you know of one interested in becoming an approved evaluator.

**Scholarships****Peter Grasso**

The Air & Waste Management Association – Niagara Frontier Section (A&WMA-NFS) awarded 6 Dave Sauer High School Scholarships and 2 College Scholarships. A total of \$3,500 was awarded during the May 2022 dinner meeting.

**Dave Sauer High School Scholarships**

College scholarships were given to high school seniors in memory of Dave Sauer, a well-respected local environmental professional who was very active in A&WMA. This year's awardees were:

**Alyssa Vickrey (\$500 Scholarship)**

Alyssa graduated from Lakewood Ranch High School. She plans to pursue the study of Chemistry.

**Syvonne Forgette (\$500 Scholarship)**

Syvonne graduated from City Honors High School. She plans to attend Tufts University to study Biomedical Engineering and Sustainability.

**Anna Buccilli (\$500 Scholarship)**

Anna graduated from Rochester Adams High School. She is planning to study Environmental Engineering at Michigan State University.

**Nicole Janik (\$400 Scholarship)**

Nicole graduated from the Buffalo Academy of the Sacred Heart. She plans to attend Canisius College to study Fashion Merchandising.

**Jocelyn Janik (\$400 Scholarship)**

Jocelyn graduated from the Buffalo Academy of the Sacred Heart. She plans to attend D'Youville University to study Physical Therapy.

**David Johnson (\$400 Scholarship)**

David graduated from West Seneca West Senior High School. He plans to study Cyber Security at Hilbert College.



(Cont'd on p. 5)



**Scholarships (Cont'd)****Peter Grasso****College Scholarships**

A scholarship was awarded to the following students currently enrolled in college:

**Nicholas Pietro (\$400 Scholarship)**

Nicholas is a junior attending Randolph College majoring in Physics with a minor in Mathematics.

**Samantha Moeller (\$400 Scholarship)**

Samantha is a sophomore attending Daemen College majoring in Natural Sciences working toward a Physician Assistant MS degree. Samantha was also a recipient of a scholarship in 2021.

Below: Prior to the May 19, 2022 Dinner Meeting where the scholarships were presented, Ryan McPherson, the Chief Sustainability Officer at UB, provided a tour of the University of Buffalo Grow Clean Energy Center and the solar arrays installed at the UB North Campus along Flint Road.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player\\_embedded&v=USsg-Ee9mPk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=USsg-Ee9mPk)



**2022 - A&WMA Annual Seminar****Mark Hans**

The 2022 Annual Seminar was held on April 28 at Templeton Landing. We hosted 100 attendees and 6 exhibitors. Our Keynote Speaker was a panel of employees from the NYSDEC Region 9 office that gave a presentation on what is going on in the region. The remaining presentations covered a wide-range of current topics, which were well received. The money raised from this annual event is used to fund scholarships for High School Seniors, College students, and teens attending NYSDEC Summer camps. Presentations made at the 2022 seminar can be viewed on our web site at <https://awmanfs.wildapricot.org/2020-Seminar>

If you have any thoughts or feedback regarding the seminar, whether relative to last year's event or planning for this coming years event, please contact Mark Hans ([mjhans9@gmail.com](mailto:mjhans9@gmail.com)).



Left: Robert E. Knoer, Esq. and Colin M. Knoer, gave a presentation "New York Environmental Rights Constitutional Amendment: Impact on Day-to-Day Practice" .



Above: Michael C. Murphy Senior Attorney, NYSDEC Office of General Counsel, discussed "Amendments to 6 NYCRR Part 375 Environmental Remediation Programs"



Left: Peter Buccilli, VP of Program Management, American Battery Solutions, Inc. gave an interesting presentation titled "Environmental Aspects of Lithium Ion Battery Technology",

**The History of A Treasurer****Dominic Buccilli**

I have had the distinction of being the longest standing treasurer of the Air & Waste Management Association Niagara Frontier Section. There have been only a few treasurers in the Niagara Frontier Section since 1956. George Amery, George McCeddy, (myself) Dominic Buccilli, and (for a short time, 5 years, while I served in other positions in our Section) Lana Dole & Larry Fensky.

In 1956 the National Air Pollution Control Association (APCA) held an annual meeting in Buffalo, New York and from that meeting the Niagara Frontier Section was founded. In 1988 the APCA International and the APCA- Niagara Frontier Section also expanded and became the Air and Waste Management Association – Niagara Frontier Section. In 1989 I became the third treasurer of the Niagara Frontier Section. In 2004 The Niagara Frontier Section of the Air and Waste Management Association became incorporated. The Niagara Frontier Section became an IRS Public Charity in 2009 and now had Not for Profit designation. Until that time the Niagara Frontier Section operated under the AWMA International's Not for Profit status. In 2010 the Section was formally registered as a charity with NYS too. As a legitimate charity we started submitting appropriate tax filings with the IRS and NYS.

The Niagara Frontier Section has become the premiere professional environmental organization in Western New York.

In the early 1970's the Niagara Frontier Section held a National Bag House Conference in Buffalo chaired by Bob Armbrust. The funds received from that conference carried us until 1990 when our treasury had only \$871.36. Under the leadership of Bob Stanton (Chair), Ed Watts (Co-chair) and myself as treasurer formed our first Annual Educational Seminar for Professionals. That Seminar was successful as have all our Seminars since. The latest long standing Seminar chairs have been Pat Martin and Mike Hecker. The funds from these Seminars have helped to sustain our treasury to continue our Section's programs.

In the 1980's the newsletter was the responsibility of the past chairman.

In 1990 we were ahead of our time with our first Tele-conference on the important 1990 Clean Air Act. Our section maintained a video library for use as an outreach environmental resource for schools.

In 1991 a 5-kilometer (5K) race called Env Run came to our attention and it was coordinated by the AICHE. By 1993 the Environ 5 K Race become the responsibility of AWMA-NFS. In 2022 the Environ celebrated its 30th running.

In 1992 we established our first Scholarship Program.

In 1992 we established our Faust Award for a Person of the Year for long lasting dedication to our Niagara Frontier Section. Bill Faust was the first Award Recipient, and I was the proud recipient of the second Award. To date we have had 28 recipients. Our latest recipient in 2022 was Mark Hans.

In 1992-1993 we assisted the Genesee Finger Lake Chapter in leaving MASS-APCA and joining the Niagara Frontier Section. And over the years we helped form Student Chapters at University of Buffalo, Buffalo State, and Erie County Community College. The University of Buffalo Student Chapter is still a very active student Chapter within our Niagara Frontier Section.

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**Volunteers****Mark Hans**

The Niagara Frontier Section of the Air and Waste Management Association is looking for volunteers to help with the Annual Seminar and the EnviRun Race committees. Both of these committees have several members that have served the committee for many years and they need some new members to learn the “ropes” before the long-time members decide it is time to step down.

If you are interested in joining the Annual Seminar committee, please contact Mark Hans at [mjhans9@gmail.com](mailto:mjhans9@gmail.com).

If you are interested in joining the EnviRun Race committee, please contact Mary Padasak at [awmaenvirun5k@gmail.com](mailto:awmaenvirun5k@gmail.com).

**Corporate Sponsors****Mark Hans**

We would like to thank our Corporate Sponsors for their continued support of our organization. The money provided through our prorated sponsorship program is used to help fund our various scholarships. A list of our current Corporate Sponsors follows:

- ⇒ **Alpha Analytical** (<https://alphalab.com>) is a full service analytical laboratory with offices located throughout the Northeast. The local office is in Tonawanda. For more information, please contact Pat Filey ([pfiley@alphalab.com](mailto:pfiley@alphalab.com)).
- ⇒ **Benchmark Civil/Environmental Engineering & Geology, PLLC** (<http://www.benchmarkturnkey.com/>) is a licensed professional engineering company that provides comprehensive civil and environmental engineering services. Turnkey Environmental Restoration, LLC is a sister company that provides site investigations, remediation and infrastructure construction, and environmental and site management services. They are located in Lackawanna. For more information, please contact Lori Riker ([lriker@bm-tk.com](mailto:lriker@bm-tk.com)).
- ⇒ **Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc.** (<https://www.cecinc.com/>) is an engineering and environmental consulting firm located throughout the US. Their local office is in North Tonawanda. For more information, please visit the contact page on the website.
- ⇒ **Hodgson Russ LLP** (<https://www.hodgsonruss.com/>) is a legal firm with offices along the eastern seaboard. Their local office is in Buffalo. For more information, please contact Michael Hecker ([mhecker@hodgsonruss.com](mailto:mhecker@hodgsonruss.com)).

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**Corporate Sponsors (Cont'd)****Mark Hans**

- ⇒ **The Knoer Group** (<http://knoergroup.com/>) is a local law firm located in Buffalo. For more information, please contact Robert Knoer ([rknoer@knoergroup.com](mailto:rknoer@knoergroup.com)).
- ⇒ **Linde, PLC** (<https://www.linde.com/>) is a leading global industrial gases and engineering company. They have a local office in Tonawanda. For more information, please contact David Copeland ([dave.copeland@linde.com](mailto:dave.copeland@linde.com)).
- ⇒ **Modern Corporation** (<https://www.moderncorporation.com/>) is a local waste and recycling management company. They are located in Model City. For more information, please contact Krysta Cione ([kcione@modern-corp.com](mailto:kcione@modern-corp.com)).
- ⇒ **OXY Chem** (<https://www.oxy.com/>) is a worldwide manufacturing company. They have a local plant in Niagara Falls. For more information, please contact Timothy Bathory ([timothy.bathory@oxy.com](mailto:timothy.bathory@oxy.com)).
- ⇒ **Phillips Lytle LLP** (<https://phillipslytle.com/>) is a legal firm with offices along the eastern seaboard. Their local office is in Buffalo. For more information, please contact Luke Donigan ([ldonigan@phillipslytle.com](mailto:ldonigan@phillipslytle.com)).
- ⇒ **Trinity Consultants** (<https://www.trinityconsultants.com/>) is a worldwide environmental consulting firm. Even though their closest office is in Albany, NY, they have a growing list of clients in WNY. For further information, please contact Brian Noel ([bnoel@trinityconsultants.com](mailto:bnoel@trinityconsultants.com)).
- ⇒ **Watts Architecture & Engineers** (<https://watts-ae.com/>) offers a wide range of architecture and engineering services. They are located in Buffalo. For more information, please contact Kevin Janik ([kjanik@watts-ae.com](mailto:kjanik@watts-ae.com)).
- ⇒ **WSP** (<https://www.wsp.com/en-us>) is a worldwide, multi-sector consulting company. Their local office is in Amherst. For more information, please contact Patrick Martin ([patrick.martin@wsp.com](mailto:patrick.martin@wsp.com)).

**James G. Strickland Memorial Scholarships****Peter Grasso**

The A&WMA-NFS **James G. Strickland DEC Environmental Education Summer Camp Scholarships** are given in memory of Jim Strickland, a long-time employee of the NYSDEC and Director of A&WMA-NFS at the time of his passing in 2018. This funding provided nine \$350 camp scholarships for the following middle and high school students to attend DEC summer camp:

Lillian Lewinski*	Joe Burg*	Ella Noe	Laurel Muench	Remy Smith*
Nathan Hemmerling	Josh Hemmerling	Lucas Schmitz Matos*	Katelyn Freese*	

Unfortunately, only five\* of the nine students awarded scholarships were able to attend the 2022 summer camps sessions. DEC Camps were held in the Summer of 2022 after being canceled due to COVID-19 for the last two years.

**The History of A Treasurer (Cont'd)****Dominic Buccilli**

By 1999 we sponsored 7 young campers attending NYSDEC Environmental Camp and offered \$6500 in scholarships. The Niagara Frontier Section is the smallest Section in the Air and Waste Management Association but we are the one of the most active. The Niagara Frontier Section was awarded the prestigious 2021 A&WMA Minasian Award our Section's activities. The A&WMA Minasian Award is given in recognition for superior performance in providing service to Members throughout the year. The award was presented to our Section at the Sections & Chapters Council meeting on June 27, 2022 in San Francisco, California. This is the second time that the Niagara Frontier Section has been presented with this award in the last 6 years.

We established a Corporate Sponsor Program and most recently established a website and Face Book Account and a Pay Pal Account.

I have been the longest serving Board member of our Section. I have been a member of our Niagara Frontier Section for 50 years and I am the only living Emeritus Member in our Section.

For many years the Treasurer of our Section was an active member of every committee and was the restaurant coordinator for our monthly general and Board meeting.

It has been my extreme pleasure being actively involved for my many years – It has been a very important part of my life. I have made many long time friends who I admire and hold close to me. Thanks for all the memories!

Dominic Buccilli... "We Gotta lot of Money!"

**A&WMA Minasian Award****Mark Hans**

The Niagara Frontier Section was awarded the prestigious 2021 A&WMA Minasian Award. The A&WMA Minasian Award is given in recognition for superior performance in providing service to Members throughout the year. The award was presented to our Section at the Sections & Chapters Council meeting on June 27, 2022 in San Francisco, California. This is the second time that the Niagara Frontier Section has been presented with this award in the last 6 years.



**Monthly Meeting Announcement****Christa Bucior****MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT**  
**Thursday September 22, 2022****TOUR of Buffalo Sewer Authority Bird Island Sewage Treatment Plant*****Followed by a Presentation: Application of Wastewater Based Epidemiology to Track COVID-19 and Emerging Disease Outbreaks***

**Tour Location:** Buffalo Sewer Authority Bird Island Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) - 1170 Niagara St, Buffalo, NY 14213

Drive down Robert Rich Way across the drawbridge, turn right to parking lot on left

**Dinner/Presentation Location:** Marco's Italian Restaurant  
1085 Niagara Street, Buffalo, NY 14213

Restaurant parking lot is north of Albany Street, enter from Niagara Street

Tour: 5:00 – 6:00 pm      Dinner & Speaker: 6:30 pm

\$30 – A&WMA International Members

\$30 – Young Professional A&WMA-NFS Members (35 or younger)

\$35 – A&WMA-NFS Local Members

\$40 – Non-Members

\$15 – Full-Time Students

\$10 – PDH Credits (approval pending)

**Reservations due no later than Monday, September 19, 2022**  
*(No cancellations accepted after this date)*

**RESERVATIONS:** [www.awmanfs.wildapricot.org](http://www.awmanfs.wildapricot.org)      [awmanfs.reservations1@gmail.com](mailto:awmanfs.reservations1@gmail.com)

\*If you have questions about reservations, please contact Taylor Monnin at (716) 803-7938

The Niagara Frontier Section of the AWMA, Inc. publishes its newsletter, **THE RELEASE**, quarterly as a service to its members.

If you would like to submit an article for the next issue of **THE RELEASE**, please contact:

**Peter Grasso**  
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All other organization related correspondence may be directed to:

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Air and Waste Management  
Association  
Niagara Frontier Section

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