

Two Eventful Days in February

First of all, if you haven't already done so, make your reservations to come to the Federation Conference in Bolton Landing on May 15-18. As usual, there is a tremendous program planned. Hope to see you there!

Planning and executing the Federation Conference is a huge job. Special thanks go to Meg Morris, Russ Rutkowski, Terry Laibach, Lisa Ruggero and the entire planning committee and staff.

One of the meetings leading up to the conference is the annual Federation Board meeting. On the morning of February 23 five representatives each from NYSAR³, SWANA-NY and NYSASWM met in Albany to conduct Federation business and make final arrangements for the conference.

This year something unusual happened - we had two meetings tacked on to our trip. First, in the afternoon of the 23rd, the NYSDEC invited us to preview the release of the long-awaited draft Part 360's. By now you've seen the schedule for informational workshops and hearings. Please go! The revisions in Part 361- Materials Recovery Facilities and Part 366 - Local Solid Waste Management Planning are of particular importance to NYSAR³ members.

The other meeting was even more interesting. NYSAR³ was invited to testify at the Assembly E-Waste Hearing on February 24. Four other NYSAR³ members testified before me: Dawn Timm, Jim Zecca, Dan Lilkas-Rain and Andrew Radin.

As my turn was toward the end of the hearing, my testimony ended up repeating much of what was heard earlier by these four and others, but in the oral testimony I made one new point: our municipal electronics programs stayed involved in electronics recycling, even though we had the opportunity to back out, because we are the "convenience standard" for recycling in our communities. Now with the down market and other issues brought upon by flaws in the E-Waste law, that decision is being punished.

In summary, I believe it was a great learning experience for our legislative leaders. I believe they thought so as well. Hopefully, the E-waste laws will be updated this year and financial relief for our community electronics programs will soon be forthcoming.



NYSAR³
President
Jim Gilbert