



From the President...

As I begin to reflect upon the past year of PROP, I can't help but think about where PROP has been and where it is now. PROP is where it is today because of the hard work and dedication of its members...

From humble beginnings, this organization has evolved into one of the strongest and most highly respected state recycling organizations. PROP is truly revered as a leader in the industry. A dynamic melting pot of all facets of the recycling industry, PROP is able to pool resources from its diverse public and private sector members and do great things in the State of Pennsylvania.

As you read over the Annual Report this year, just take a look at all the committees and everything that PROP is doing. The multitudes of projects, the endless advocacy for the good of recycling, the expertise and drive of a dedicated staff, and the tireless efforts of PROP's invaluable members!

I am so proud to be a part of PROP! Thank you for the opportunity to lead this organization and I look forward to the challenges ahead. After reading the Annual Report, if you are feeling motivated and energized to become more involved in PROP's many activities, please do so!

Respectfully Yours,

Amy Mazzella di Bosco
President



From the Executive Director...

Dear PROP Members:

Do you feel like the PROP office is contacting you every few weeks to ask you to talk with your legislators about one legislative issue or another? While it might not be as frequent as it sometimes seems, we keep asking because it is extremely important that our members stay politically engaged.

That doesn't mean that you have to go to political party rallies or be part of whatever political machine is most prevalent in your county. It is more about keeping the lines of communication open and nurturing the relationship with your legislators and their staffs.

Recycling, composting and responsible waste management are not Democratic or Republican issues. The recent turn around regarding concerns over climate change have erased even more of the lines that once might have separated the two parties' views on environmental issues.

Some of you might notice that we usually don't refer to the party affiliation of legislators in any of our publications. This is part of our effort to keep these issues as non-partisan as possible. While we work hard to maintain that spirit, it also helps that recycling is nearly as popular as motherhood and apple pie.

Though we periodically must speak out on one issue or another, we have also worked hard to minimize controversial stances of all kinds, preferring to build partnerships and compromise where possible. One current example of building alliances out of controversy concerns the waste industry. I hope you will read the details of this partnership on page six of this annual report. It stands to remind us that complacency only fuels confusion and frustration. But when we continue to keep the lines of communication open, even when frustration is high, common ground can eventually be found that leads to mutually acceptable solutions.

Keep those lines open and stay engaged. The future is bright!

John Frederick

PROP Executive Director

Committee Accomplishments 2006-07

Conference Committee

With downtown Pittsburgh as the backdrop, 254 PROP enthusiasts gathered at the Omni William Penn Hotel for the 16th Annual PROP conference. Attendees spent three days learning about the latest innovations in recycling through workshops, roundtable discussions and a full house of exhibitors. By night, attendees bid on Silent Auction items, a long-standing conference fundraising tradition. They witnessed another 21 recyclers receive their Certified Recycling Professional (CRP) certificate. Another four received their Senior CRP certificate. Throughout the conference, attendees enjoyed the hard work put in by the Conference Committee with several well-planned networking sessions. The Conference Committee met the challenge of producing the best conference yet.



Chuck Raudenbush stands ready to take action at the direction of the Board.

By-Laws Committee

Chair: Chuck Raudenbush (215) 428-3207

Working directly with the Board of Directors, we reviewed the by-laws and recommended to the Membership the following:

- v To change the composition of the Board to more accurately reflect the Membership as the organization becomes more evenly represented by both public and private sector members.
- v To institute the position of Special Lifetime Membership which will allow us to honor PROP members who have provided exemplary service to the organization over a significant time period. The first of these awards was given to Ed Latinski during the PROP Summit held in January. Ed retired from Luzerne County SWM in December of 2005.

Both Amendments were overwhelmingly approved by the membership.

College and University Committee

Chair: Richard Laudenslager (610) 519-4466

PACURC (College and University Recycling Committee) achieved their mission to bring college and university recycling professionals together from across the state for networking at several events, including:

- v Successful roundtable at the 2006 PROP conference, featuring Ed Newman from Ohio University and co-founder of Recycle Mania. The group then took an informative tour of the beautiful Carnegie Mellon University campus to learn why they are one of the top recycling programs in the state. The tour was lead by Barb Kviz, the Environmental Coordinator at Carnegie Mellon.
- v A roundtable/tour in the fall hosted by Millersville University. The session consisted of a recycling Q&A session where representatives from each of the schools present took turns answering questions that were submitted by the attendees prior to the event. We then took a tour of the Millersville University recycling program lead by Kevin Weir and Kevin Bevenour from Millersville.
- v Introduction of the state recycling contest called "Keystone Cup." This contest is part of the national Recycle Mania contest. Awards will be given out to the winners at the 2007 PROP conference in Valley Forge. However, the goal for next year is to do a much better job of publicizing the event.

The PACURC plan three roundtables/tours for the next year including at the PROP Valley Forge conference, then during the fall and in the spring. They are working on an informational PACURC link to the PROP website and continued growth and promotion of the "Keystone Cup."

Data Management/Waste Audit Committee

Chair: Sharon Svitek (412) 442-4130

This committee organizes courses and workshops to facilitate uniform and accurate recycling data management across the Commonwealth. They have also overseen waste auditing education efforts. Data Management/Waste Audit committee related events planned in this past year have included:

- v The 2006 Data Management Workshop held in State College on October 17, 2006. It included the Data Management Primer for new recycling coordinators the evening prior to the workshop. The workshop included information from document destruction companies to inform us of their role to play in recycling data collection.
- v A Waste Audit Course was held for the Small Business Development Center on February 7, 2007 at the Centre County Solid Waste Authority Environmental Center.
- v The Waste Assessment and Commercial Recycling Certification Courses will be held at Penn State New Kensington on September 11-12, 2007 and the 2007 Data Management Workshop will be held in State College on October 24, 2007.

Education Committee

Chair: Brenda Schmidt (814) 333-7366

PROP's Education committee strives to provide the PROP membership with educational avenues for their varied constituents. This past year, the committee distributed over 90 recycling education tool kits, held two "Focus On" educational workshops, worked with the Certification Committee to provide two classes, had a representative at the Committee Chair Summit and have been working toward achieving the goals of the Strategic Plan.

Future plans include creation of a "Reyclopedia" to assist new members in grasping the lingo of the recycling, composting and waste industry and to hold a "Focus On" that will demonstrate interactive displays.



Brenda Schmidt is happy to report exciting projects planned for the future.

Fundraising Committee

Chair: Walt Davenport (301) 607-6428

The organization has identified diversification of funding as a high priority. The Fundraising Committee has been working with PROP staff to explore other funding opportunities in the hopes of achieving that goal. This committee also has been focused on securing sponsors for the 2007 PROP Conference in Valley Forge. We also are investigating opportunities for getting grants from other organizations.

Government Liaison Committee

Chair: Tanya McCoy-Caretti (814) 472-7700

The Government Liaison Committee advises the board and staff on legislative advocacy and policy, funding and regulatory issues overseen by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Legislative concerns turned toward county fees in 2007 following final court rulings, making the fees illegal. These fees were a source of funding to support staff and programs in more than half of the counties in the Commonwealth. Based on the findings of a PROP survey conducted during the Spring of 2007, the loss of these funds will have a serious impact on HHW and other special waste programs, drop-off recycling efforts, education and enforcement, and county composting operations.

During recent months, the committee and board have also offered input on bills proposed to add new waste fees at the state level and bills proposed to expand and support electronics recycling. Legislation addressing sharps disposal, bottle deposits, and recycling of mercury containing products have also recently begun to gain traction and are likely to be issues of interest in 2007-2008.

Lobbyist Pugliese Associates has continued on as PROP's voice in the Capitol, continuing to improve access and communication of crucial issues in Harrisburg.



Government Liaison Committee Chair Tanya McCoy-Caretti encourages you to stay in communication with your legislator.

Household Hazardous Waste

Chair: Art Feltes (610) 278-3045

The Hazardous Waste Committee deals with Hazardous Waste, Universal Waste, Household Hazardous Waste (HHW), electronics and related issues that come before our members. Electronics recycling legislation continues to be a point of legislative discussion. A bill crafted by representatives from all the states that comprise the Northeast Recycling Council (NERC) was introduced in the Pennsylvania State House in the hopes that some degree of uniformity will develop within this part of the country.

Funding of HHW programs continues to be a concern, as counties scramble to replace income from fees that were declared illegal by the courts. Legislation to address needle and sharps disposal and another to reduce the disposal of thermostats and other Mercury-containing products have also been introduced and will be addressed by the committee.

Markets Committee

Chair: John Yingling (570) 547-2470

During the past year, PROP's Markets Committee reviewed numerous materials and topics relating to recycling markets in Pennsylvania. Specific highlights include:

- v Attending a Glass Symposium in Harrisburg to expand awareness of the growth potential for glass collected in PA.
- v Attended a demonstration on cryogenics (tires / crumb rubber).
- v Reviewed website linkage for markets materials with the RMC and DEP.
- v Provided input for PROP/PSU Altoona certification training programs.

The Markets Committee plans to meet at least four times per year in 2007 to review the status of established and emerging markets for Act 101 and related recoverable materials with an emphasis on PA markets and users. Their goal is to provide recommendations to PROP on materials, markets, or collection and processing techniques when requested. They also support educational efforts including roundtables, workshops, certification programs and printed and electronic media.



John Yingling is the matchmaker for recyclables, matching products with potential buyers.

Media Committee

Co-Chairs: Amy Farkas (814) 466-6228
Kris Howdysshell (814) 472-2109

The Media Committee has placed new emphasis this past year on using press releases to communicate PROP events and member accomplishments to various local, state and national media. Committee members contribute their time and talents to the Pennsylvania Recycler Magazine, which is published in the Summer and Winter. The Summer 2007 magazine edition investigates claims of a new recycling revolution and features a unique retro cover design. The Winter 2007 edition delved into the many improvements in recycling infrastructure.

The PROPonent and Rottin News, PROP's newsletters, published in the spring and fall, continue to report the latest news about recycling and composting. The Media Committee also work with the Communications Manager to produce this Annual Report and with the IT Manager on the PROP website. All of our publications are sent to PROP members, the state legislature and other regional and national recyclers.



Membership Committee

Chair: Open

This past year has seen an exceptional change: Bruce Brady, Union County Coordinator, was our fearless leader until November 2006, when he took a ministerial position in Minnesota. Bruce did a truly remarkable job and he deserves the credit for achieving the following:

- v Divided the Commonwealth into sectors and each committee member was instructed to obtain a list of municipalities and report their findings to provide a database that would be used to further membership opportunities
- v Directed this committee, and worked closely with PROP's Communications Manager, to produce a PROP membership brochure and membership card.
- v Also produced a "PROP member" decal.
- v Developed "Honorary" member status for those who fulfill requirements.
- v Recommended that certification classes offer automatic PROP membership.
- v Working on "Members Only" section for website.
- v Met the goal of obtaining 500 members by 2010. At press time, membership totaled over 600.
- v Instructed each committee member to become a liaison for other committees.
- v Recommended term limits to the By-laws committee.
- v Recommended up to three year membership option to be noted on form.



Bruce Brady gave new meaning to the word "homework" to Membership Committee members. Bruce expected much, produced great results and gave chocolate as reward!

Municipal Committee

Chair: Joy Peffley (717) 273-6711

After a hiatus, the Municipal Committee gained Joy Peffley from the City of Lebanon as its new chair. The first meeting in nearly a year was held in Harrisburg in March. With more than 30 people in attendance, the group discussed grant funding, ongoing challenges to maintain participation and material quality, and legislation affecting their programs. They plan to meet again in the summer to discuss outreach and enforcement. Minutes from the meeting can be found on the PROP website.

Nomination Committee

Chair: Chuck Raudenbush (215) 428-3207

PROP's Nomination Committee serves to solicit and review the Nominations for the Board of Directors and to conduct the election then tabulate the election results. Those interested in running for the Board or nominating worthy candidates should contact Chairman Chuck Raudenbush.

Organics Committee

Chair: Bob Bylone (717) 948-6660

The Organics Committee has actively engaged in multiple activities this year. A few committee members participated as part of the Compost Study delegation to Austria and Germany with Dr. Rick Stehouwer, Penn State, College of Agriculture, in anticipation of inculcating European organics recycling techniques in Pennsylvania. Further, as a new General Composting Permit (GP 25) is forthcoming, the Organics Committee and its members provided comment to DEP. Organics Committee members also provided support to the Organics Certification Courses offered throughout the year.

Major Projects & Programs

Professional Certification

Chair: Joanne Shafer (814) 238-7005

The Recycling Professional Certification Program has become more popular than anyone could have ever imagined. Not only has it been nationally recognized and available to anyone in the world, the program has also seen over 1,000 different faces attend the classes since the very first course debuted on March 28, 2000.



Who would have thought that a small idea discussed between a few recycling professionals over ten years ago would blossom into the successful and thriving program it has become today. The certification program has grown far beyond offering courses just based on recycling and solid waste issues. With over 60 courses to choose from, there is certainly something for anyone and everyone. There are courses on composting, illegal dumping, marketing, economics, business planning, education, contracting, public policy, communications and electronics; just to name a few. And with three courses now available online, PROP certification has entered the electronic age.



Joanne Shafer is waiting for you to call her and offer your support for the new Certification Scholarship Program.

In the past seven years, the program has seen 133 graduates, or Certified Recycling Professionals, take the stage at PROP's annual conferences to be lauded for their achievement. In addition, 30 dedicated professionals have received the honor of becoming Senior Certified Recycling Professionals. With more and more participants daily, these numbers will continue to grow, thereby increasing the professionalism of the industry.

During 2006 and 2007, PROP broadened certification to include other constituencies, with partnerships formed with the PA Recycling Markets Center, the Small Business Development Centers, County Conservation Districts and others. In addition, PROP is working with the National Recycling Coalition and several other states to take certification to the national level.

PROP is pleased to announce our new scholarship program, designed to assist one student in achieving Recycling Professional Certification. A very generous anonymous donor has issued a challenge: to make this scholarship fund sustainable. Currently, there are enough resources in the fund to fully fund one student through the process. To continue this generosity, it will be necessary for members and sponsors to come to the table with funding. To help make this possible, please contact committee chair, Joanne Shafer for details.

PROP is very proud of the success of the program and is incredibly appreciative for all of the volunteers and to Amy (Cicchillo) Schirf, former PROP Education Director, who have spent countless hours to ensure the program's sustainability. We couldn't do it without you.

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful

PROP is proud to continue its involvement with Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful. Much like PROP, KPB members include representatives from state and local government, business and industry, community groups, and individuals who are dedicated to the prevention of illegal littering and dumping, promoting proper waste handling, and enhancing and beautifying the Commonwealth.

PROP's past Program Manager, Marissa Carney, was greatly involved with KPB's Law and Enforcement Committee by writing articles for the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association Bulletin and by beginning dialogue with Blair County Judge Jolene Kopriva regarding the creation of local Environmental Courts.



Waste Watcher Award Program

PROP, along with the Pennsylvania Waste Industries Association, the Keystone Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America, and DEP again sponsored the Waste Watcher Award Program which will be recognizing over 30 outstanding Pennsylvania recyclers and composters. Instead of holding individual ceremonies, all awards will be presented at a ceremony during the PWIA/SWANA/DEP meeting in September 2007.

Awards will be given for Outstanding Recycling Achievement and Outstanding Composting Achievement. Other Outstanding Achievement awards will be given for: Public Education, Special Event Recycling, Special Collections, Commercial/Institutional Recycling, School Recycling, Materials Processing and Reuse. The award is given to recognize exceptional efforts made in recycling, composting, and waste reduction/reuse in the 2006 calendar year.

Curbside Value Partnership

The Aluminum Can Council's Curbside Value Partnership (CVP) undertook an educational campaign in cooperation with PROP and the Lancaster and York Counties' Solid Waste Management Authorities in Spring 2007 in an effort to increase local curbside recycling programs in those areas. CVP is an invitation-only program that is sponsored by the Aluminum Association and Can Manufacturer's Institute along with their funding members (Alcoa, Anheiser-Busch Metal Container, ARCO, Ball, Novelis and REXAM). PROP is providing resources through this initial effort to encourage other counties to enhance their programs in a similar way.



NRC Affiliation



The Recycling Organization Council of the National Recycling Coalition provides recycling organizations a forum to benefit from information sharing, group deliberation of common issues, mutual support and assistance. The Council fosters the activation of its members around best recycling practices and proven successful organizational methods. The ROC serves as the voice of the NRC's affiliated state and regional recycling organizations, presenting identified needs, issues and priorities. The Council acts as the liaison to the National Recycling Coalition's Board of Directors and staff, providing representation and two-way communication with the NRC for recycling organizations and their members. During the last year, PROP's representative to the ROC, Joanne Shafer has served on the affiliation agreement subcommittee, working to effect a

new agreement among the states and NRC. John Frederick serves as alternate and has also been intimately involved with the workings of the group, focusing on certification needs in other states and working hard to bring PROP's certification program to the national forefront.

Recycling Market Center

Under the direction of its new director, Bob Bylone, the Recycling Markets Center continues to rapidly advance its mission to reduce and remove barriers that limit use of recyclable materials in the marketplace. Through priority material focus in glass, plastics, organics, electronics discards, and tires, the RMC has launched initiatives in economic development, accelerated commercialization research, workforce development, and technical assistance. The RMC has proudly developed a working relationship with PROP's markets and organics committees, as well as recycling markets development operations domestically and globally. For more information on specific recycling markets activities, please contact the RMC at 717.948.6660.



Legislative Outreach

Thanks to the engagement of the PROP membership, the organization has become a more significant voice on the legislative front.

Several committees work with PROP's lobbyist, Pugliese Associates, and the PROP staff, year-round to keep recycling on the General Assembly's radar screen at all times.



Among PROP's related challenges is the effort to bring the public and private sectors together on difficult issues. Both sectors have enthusiastically shared PROP's goal of comprehensive and integrated solid waste management throughout the state. This has included advocacy for mandatory waste collection for all Pennsylvanians, the elimination of open burning, and the prevention and remediation of illegal dumping and littering.

Legislative Tool Kit



County fees have been a hot button issue this past year for both the Pennsylvania Waste Industries Association (PWIA) and the Pennsylvania Independent Waste Haulers Association (PIWHA), who disagree with PROP's stance to restore the fees. HB 934 was designed to accommodate the needs of all parties while addressing the funding issue. Language suitable to all factions of PROP membership was debated at great length in January at the County Fee Summit, held in State College.

PWIA was very supportive of Recycling Fee Reauthorization but the dynamics of county fee debate are much different. Both PWIA and PIWHA are letting legislators know that they are concerned about the plethora of fees levied against their industry. While many of our members may disagree with the private waste industry's stance, opposition appears to be shifting to optimism as the fiscal year 2006 ends.

One such example was played out on April 17, 2007, PROP Legislative Day in Harrisburg. Organized by the Government Liaison Committee, PROP members descended on Harrisburg, armed with Legislative Tool Kits. The kits contained contact lists, maps of the Capitol, and Fact Sheets on "Recycling and the Environment," "Legislative and Policy Recommendations" and "HB 934." The day was spent talking to as many legislators as possible about the importance of continued recycling in the Commonwealth. The message for Harrisburg was heard as one voice - despite tremendous inroads over the last 15 years, waste management and recycling are still far from either an environmental or economic ideal. And in order to deal with these shortcomings, someone has to pay the bill.

PROP's message is simply to stay focused on the big-picture perspective and figure out how to pay for all of this in a comprehensive and well-planned manner. It is our hope that this current dilemma over the funding of county recycling and waste programs will force us to look at those longer term funding issues.

PROP staffers are currently working on a publication for PROP members that will address the funding issue. Using R.W. Beck's "Technical Report on building Financially Sustainable Recycling Programs" prepared for DEP, PROP will condense the material into an easy-to-use guidebook for all PROP members.

Financial Statements

Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania FY 05/06 Audited Financial Statements As of June 30, 2006

Current Assets:

Cash	\$192,070
Accounts Receivable	3,858
Inventory	7,368
Prepaid Expenses	8,353
Office Equipment	<u>25,128</u>

Total Assets **\$236,777**

Liabilities:

Payroll Taxes Payable	\$ 857
Deferred Revenue	65,382
Note Payable	<u>5,326</u>

Total Liabilities **\$ 71,565**

Long Term Liabilities **4,972**

Unrestricted Net Assets **\$160,240**

Total Liabilities and Net Assets **\$236,777**

Revenue:

Conference Registrations	\$157,558
Projects/Certification	400,095
Memberships	47,340
Other Revenue	12,749
Interest	<u>4,938</u>

Total Revenue **\$622,680**

Expenses:

Conference	\$ 92,658
Projects/Certification	196,994
Office Expenses	89,390
Wages/Benefits	237,059
Other Expenses	<u>78,909</u>

Total Expenses **\$695,010**

NET ASSETS **\$160,240**

Board of Directors

Officers:

Name	Affiliation	Office (Term)
Amy Mazzella di Bosco	Greater Lebanon RA	President (2008)
Michael L. Crist	Clinton County	Vice-President (2008)
Kris Howdyshell	Cambria County SWA	Secretary (2007)
Joanne Shafer	Centre County SWA	Treasurer (2008)
Charles Raudenbush	Waste Management	Executive Committee (2007)

Board Members:

Name	Affiliation	Region (Term)
Currently Vacant		Southcentral Region – 2007
Don Blakesley	Erie County	Northwest Region – 2008
Dan Grow	Schuylkill County	Southeast Region – 2008
Walt Davenport	MSW Consultants	Private Sector – 2008
Dean DeLong	Monroe County MWMA	Northeast Region – 2007
Art Feltes	Montgomery County	Southeast Region – 2007
Sue Mancino	City of Allentown, Bureau of Recycling & Solid Waste	Northeast Region - 2008
Tanya McCoy-Caretti	L. Robert Kimball & Associates	Private Sector – 2008
Joseph Nardone	AMANDI, Inc.	Private Sector – 2007
Michele Nestor	Nestor Resources, Inc.	Northcentral Region 2007
Peter M. Previte	PENNTAP	Southwest Region – 2008
Joseph A. Reed	U.S. Penitentiary, Lewisburg	At Large – 2008
Brenda Schmidt	Crawford County SWA	Northwest Region – 2007
John Yingling	Lycoming County Resource Management Services	At Large – 2007



PROP 2006-07 Board of Directors

Front Row: Bob Bylone, Kris Howdyshell, Mike Crist, Pete Previte

Second Row: Brenda Schmidt, Jan Arnold, Amy Mazzella di Bosco, Tanya McCoy Caretti, Joanne Schafer, Michele Nestor, Patty Hinkle

Back Row: Sue Mancino, Art Feltes, John Yingling, Chuck Raudenbush, Dan Grow

(Absent from photo: Don Blakesley, Walt Davenport, Dean DeLong, Joe Nardone, Joe Reed)