

2026 Executive Board

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Division Presidents

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Leadership and Management
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Streets
Steve Robbins, Town of Huntersville
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To: APWA-NC Members

Date: 01/21/2026

Subject: First Inaugural Dale James Professional Manager of the Year Award in Solid Waste (Solid Waste Manager of the Year)

Introducing the Dale James Professional Manager of the Year Award in Solid Waste (Solid Waste Manager of the Year), a distinguished honor henceforth presented annually by the Solid Waste Division of the North Carolina Chapter of APWA. This award celebrates and recognizes outstanding managers who have made significant contributions to the field of Solid Waste. We invite you to nominate an exceptional individual from the field who exemplifies the qualities that this award represents.

Dale James has dedicated over 40 years to Public Works and our Chapter, notably serving as Chapter Treasurer in retirement. He has held leadership roles including Solid Waste Division President (1995) and Chapter President (2001), received the Robert K Seals Distinguished Service Award twice (2003, 2016), the Samuel Greeley Award (2018), and the NC Chapter Presidents Award twice (2007, 2014). This award honors Dale's outstanding legacy and dedication to the public works community.

The recipient of this award will embody Mr. James' exemplary character, leadership, and contributions to the Solid Waste industry. Recipients of the Dale James Award will also be eligible for nomination for the National APWA Professional Manager of the Year Award in Solid Waste. Accompanying this invitation is the nomination application for your candidate. The award recipient will be presented with an award at the Annual Conference in Atlantic Beach on **July 28**, during the **Past Presidents Dinner**.

NOMINATION DEADLINE IS May 31, 2026.

Please take this opportunity to recognize and nominate an outstanding individual or colleague. If you have any questions, please call me at **(336) 209-6998**. I look forward to seeing you at the upcoming **APWA Solid Waste Division Conference in Cherokee N.C, July 27-29**.

Sincerely,

Griffin Hatchell
APWA-NC Solid Waste Division President – 2026

Eligibility

Any APWA member whose primary responsibility is the management of a public solid waste operation is eligible. Members of the APWA Board of Directors are not eligible during the time they serve on the Board. APWA Solid Waste Management Committee members are not eligible during the time they serve on the committee.

Requirements

1. Career Length: Candidates with a minimum of 10 years' qualifying experience may be nominated.
2. Employment: Candidates may be employed in either the public or private sector; career service must be in the field of solid waste.
3. Scope: Candidates must manage a significantly diversified solid waste operation, i.e., landfill, collection, incineration, and recycling operations or a combination of these.

Nominees Name _____

Nominees Title _____

Employer _____ Years of Service _____

Brief Description of Scope of Work

Candidates must meet the following specific criteria, which will be evaluated in the selection process.

Please fill out responses for sections 1-7 on a separate document.

1. Profession—Significant contributions to the advancement of solid waste management.
2. Leadership—Outstanding leadership and vision evidenced by employing progressive management techniques in the area of solid waste management.
3. Innovation—Employment of new and innovative ideas advancing the effectiveness of solid waste management.
4. Employment Achievement—Implementation of effective methods to optimize the management of solid waste operations.
5. Customer Service—Evidence of a high degree of satisfaction among customers and other stakeholders.
6. Community Service—Promotion of the field of solid waste management in the community, agency, or customers served.
7. Sustainability—Support the advancement of sustainable contributions in public works.

Submitted By _____

Date _____

Title _____

Phone: _____

Organization _____

Email _____

Please E-mail to:

Griffin Hatchell

336-209-6998

Griffin.hatchell@greensboro-nc.gov