

association notes

by **David Pellitteri**

Take a Tour With Us

NWRA's annual tours provide great opportunities for learning, sharing, networking—and having fun. This year's tour in May takes in Portland, Ore., and Seattle.

The National Waste & Recycling Association recently announced that the Chairman's Council 2014 Tour will be held May 18 to 21 in the Portland, Ore., and Seattle areas. As someone who has been on at least 10 previous tours, I am pleased to have the opportunity to talk a little about the value of these tours and the Council.

The Chairman's Council is a networking group within the NWRA. Council membership is open to owners and senior

My tours have included trips to Austin, Texas; Phoenix; Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.; Boulder, Colo. and San Francisco. Great places, fantastic people, outstanding operations and great food—what else could you want? You will not find a better forum to network with other independent operators and find innovative solutions to improve your bottom line.

Here's a fun fact: The Chairman's Council was formed on March 31, 1989. Its inaugural meeting was held at Pebble Beach,

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managers of privately held waste and recycling companies. The council's primary program is its annual three-day tour of facilities in a particular region. These tours, always held in the spring, allow participants to see how other companies in the industry are performing their day-to-day activities and learn how they are handling the ever-changing landscape of our industry.

If you are the owner or senior manager of an independent waste and recycling company that is interested in finding innovative and effective ways to secure your competitive future, this is an opportunity that you shouldn't miss. The Chairman's Council provides the opportunity to spend significant time with others who are running similar types of operations and dealing with similar business issues. The chance to share what works and what doesn't work provides invaluable information that you can take home and implement to run a more efficient and profitable business.

The tours are centered on visits to solid waste and recycling facilities. We tour facilities run by both independent and national organizations, and we visit a large variety of facilities, generally including MRFs, manufacturing plants, fleet operations, end-product recyclers and alternative fuel operations.

The Chairman's Council is as much fun as it is informative. While we tour some great operations and have the opportunity to meet new friends, we also get to go to some pretty cool places.

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I hope you will join the Chairman's Council, visit a variety of waste and recycling facilities, learn industry best practices, network with your peers and experience the latest technologies.

Learn more about the Chairman's Council at <http://www.wasterecycling.org/councils-and-institutes/chairmans-council>. You can also contact Chairman's Council manager Mike Huff with questions at mhuff@wasterecycling.org or 770.513.1440. ■

David Pellitteri—along with his father, Tom, brother, Tim, and sister, Danielle—owns and operates Pellitteri Waste Systems in the Greater Madison, Wis., area.