



Southern Weights & Measures Association

76th Edition

SWMA Newsletter

January 1999



N. David Smith
Secretary / Treasurer

Ronald Harrell
Past President

Steadman Hollis
President

Damon Slaydon
President Elect

Dear Southern Members

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to each and every one of you for electing me President of the Southern Weights and Measures Association for 1998 and for allowing Louisiana to host the conference.

It was a real pleasure to have you in Lafayette for the 53rd Annual Southern Weights and Measures Association Conference. I hope you enjoyed your stay at the Hilton and that your committee meetings and general sessions were productive. It was our staffs pleasure making your visit to Louisiana an enjoyable one.

Also, as you know there were many people who helped organize the conference this year. Their willingness to accept assignments helped make the conference successful. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Ronnie Harrell

N. David Smith, Jr. Receives ASTM Petroleum Committee Sydney D. Andrews Award of Achievement

N. David Smith Jr., Standards Division Director, North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Raleigh, has received the 1998 American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) Committee D-2 on Petroleum Products and Lubricants Sydney D. Andrews Award of Achievement. Smith is Chairman of the 500-member Committee D-2, which is responsible for over 520 internationally-used standards for petroleum and related products.

Smith was presented with the award by his peers in appreciation of his many contributions to advancing the aims of the Committee and the Society and as an expression of high personal esteem. The award, formally the D-2 Scroll of Achievement, was recently renamed for the late Sydney Andrews, who had served as Chairman of Committee D-2 and of the ASTM Board of Directors.

A resident of Raleigh, Smith received his B.S. in engineering in 1972 from North Carolina State University. He began working with the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services in 1972 as a staff engineer. He became a liquefied petroleum (LP) gas engineer in 1976, and attained his current position in 1979. The majority of Smith's career has been in managing regulatory problems- gasoline and oil inspection, weights and measures inspection, and LP gas inspection.

In addition to his duties as ASTM D-2 Chairman, Smith is a member of the National Conference on Weights and Measures and the Southern Weights and Measures Association.

Committee D-2 is one of 130 ASTM Technical Standards-Writing Committees. Organized in 1898, ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials) is one of the largest voluntary standards development systems in the world. †

Jurisdictional News

Alabama

Alabama Weights and Measures recently welcomed three new members to its staff. They are:

Theodore W. "Teddy" Shepherd

Heavy Duty Weights and Measures Inspector in Southwest Alabama.

Bryan L. Gibson

Heavy Duty Weights and Measures Inspector in Northeast Alabama.

Fred J. Brown

Heavy Duty Weights and Measures Inspector assigned to the Weights and Measures Laboratory.

We are hard at work with plans for the Southern Weights and Measures Conference to be held in Mobile, Alabama, in October, 1999. We have received a few recipes for the Weights and Measures cookbook. If you have not sent any in, please do so as soon as possible. †

Arkansas

Our hats are off to Ronald Harrell and his staff for an outstanding SWMA Conference. We appreciate the cooperative spirit and hospitality extended to us and other conference attendees. Congratulations to Steadman Hollis and the State of Alabama for hosting next year's conference. Without exception, Steadman will ensure continued leadership and commitment to the SWMA Conference. We look forward to coming to Alabama!

We have hired Tiffny Stewart as a petroleum products test technician. Tiffny, who has a major in chemistry and a minor in mathematics, is working in our Petroleum Quality Testing Laboratory. Tiffny is doing an outstanding job!

During the first week of November, Roger Frazier, Field Supervisor, conducted a class on Retail Motor Fuel Dispensers. Gerald Broom and John Childress from the State of Mississippi, attended the class along with nineteen of our employees. The information and training exercise will prove beneficial for years to come. Congratulations to Roger on doing a great job!

With the Holiday Season approaching, and as we enter a new year, let us remember that the attitude of thanksgiving should be year-round. To praise and give thanks to our creator for all our blessings is not only wise; it brings eternal rewards. I wish each of you and your families a joyous holiday season and a happy and prosperous new year. †

Florida.

The Bureau of Weights and Measures conducted a sweep of commercial laundries during the first week of September to determine the accuracy of laundry dryer timing devices and compliance with User Requirements such as the posting of rates. A total of 1,252 dryers were sampled at 554 laundries throughout the state. Of the dryers tested, 65 (5.2%) were rejected for over-registration and 45 (3.5%) were rejected for under-registration. Of the 554 laundries visited, 287 (52%) did not have rates posted or had incorrect rates posted. It should be noted that some of the individual timers rejected for inaccuracy were due to incorrect prices being posted.

Weights and Measures and the Bureau of Petroleum Inspection teamed up to do a statewide testing of antifreeze and brake fluid products during the week of October 12. Inspectors were looking for compliance with net contents and labeling requirements as well as brands that were not officially registered with the state as required. There were 62 lots of antifreeze tested, of which 9 (14.5%) failed for net contents violations. Of 31 lots of brake fluid tested, only one lot was rejected for net contents violations. Two lots of brake fluid and one lot of antifreeze were ordered off-sale for not being registered.

The Bureau of Petroleum Inspection has added two new small volume, trailer mounted LP gas provers to its field inspection program. The wholesale/terminal meter testing program now has field use PC's and a data management system developed by Chief Eric Hamilton.

The Petroleum lab received three Davis Productivity Awards for their efforts in increasing efficiency and effectiveness of lab operations. The Davis Awards were started by the founders of Winn Dixie Stores to recognize and reward state government employees and agencies for enhancing performance and productivity in government. Private organizations such as Florida Taxwatch administer the awards and assist in determining winners.

Eric Hamilton, Chief of the Bureau of Petroleum Inspection, received the Department's annual Safety Award for implementing a new procedure using better materials and containers in handling gasoline samples and for improving the air quality around employees' work areas. Chemist Administrator George Lovell was also honored at the awards luncheon with a certificate and plaque for 50 years of dedicated service to the Department of Agriculture. George has recovered from a recent illness and is back at work, playing tennis, and is rumored to be trying to top Syd Andrews record for years of service to the Division of Standards.

Max Gray and Jack Jeffries sincerely appreciate the hospitality and effort that Ronnie and his staff provided at the Southern in October. Thanks also to all who served and participated. 🇺🇸

Louisiana

Our metrology Lab is in the process of replacing some of the older mechanical balances. Mettler was awarded a bid to supply the KC 500, AT 1005 and the AT 106. These balances have not been delivered yet, but we have been assured that they are on the way. Satorius has already delivered 3 balances including the LC 51015, CC 30001 and MC 2105. Hopefully these balances will decrease the turn around time of tolerance testing so that we can serve the needs of our customers more efficiently.

The entire Weights and Measures Staff would like to wish everyone a merry Christmas and a happy new year! 🇺🇸

Maryland

We are happy to announce that Joan Forsythe, secretary for Program Manager, Bob Eaves, returned to work on December 7, 1998. Joan had open-heart surgery on September 28, 1998. We really missed her and welcome her return.

•On October 29, 1998, our entire field staff attended a "Field Inspectors Regulatory Role" seminar held at the Maryland Department of Agriculture headquarters. Topics discussed included liability issues, Department of Agriculture issues and goals, and handling "customer rage".

•On December 17, 1998, we had a Staff Meeting at our facility in Annapolis, complete with a cook-out for lunch which included chicken, sausage, hot dogs, hamburgers and deerburgers. The cook-out was enjoyed by all.

Certificates of Appreciation were awarded to Staff members during the meeting. We honor the employees who inspect the highest number of devices, and also the employees who have the highest overall production rating during one month and six month periods. The recipient of the monthly award in each category receives a Certificate of Appreciation and the recipient of the six month award in each category receives an award day off in addition to a Certificate of Appreciation. The employees who received awards are as follows:

| Period | Highest Number of Devices | Highest Overall Production Rating |
|--------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| June 98 | Bill Troup | Bill Troup |
| July 98 | Barbara Miller | Chuck Coleman |
| August 98 | Leila Smith | Bill Hall |
| September 98 | Chuck Coleman | Chuck Coleman |
| October 98 | Bill Troup | Chuck Coleman |
| November 98 | Rick Bristow | Rick Bristow |
| June - November 98 | Barbara Miller | Chuck Coleman |

•Chief Lou Straub and Program Manager Will Wotthlie are going to attend the interim meeting of the 84th NCWM held in Albuquerque, NM during January 31 - February 4, 1999.

RECENT CIVIL PENALTIES

•On July 15, 1998, we received payment of \$250.00 for a Civil Penalty assessed against Kee’s Natural Foods, Baltimore, MD. The Civil Penalty was assessed due to short-weight violations found during Test Purchases conducted at the establishment.

•On August 18, 1998, we received payment of \$500.00 for a Civil Penalty assessed against Penn Supermarket, Baltimore, MD. The Civil Penalty was assessed due to short-weight violations found during routine package inspections performed at the store.

•On September 2, 1998, we received payment of \$300.00 for a Civil Penalty assessed against Cafe 57, Baltimore, MD. The Civil Penalty was assessed due to short-weight violations found during test purchases conducted at the establishments.

•On September 14, 1998, we received payment of \$750.00 for a Civil Penalty assessed against Walmart #2514, Pocomoke City, MD. The Civil Penalty was assessed due to short-weight violations found during a routine package inspection performed at the store (this store had previously been assessed \$1500.00 in Civil Penalties.)

•On September 18, 1998, we received payment of \$250.00 for a Civil Penalty assessed against Super Salad Inc, Baltimore, MD. The Civil Penalty was assessed due to short-weight violations found during test purchases conducted at the establishment.

•On September 21, 1998, we received payment of \$750.00 for a Civil Penalty assessed against Coastal Supply Co, Inc. Pittsville, MD. The Civil Penalty was assessed due to short-measure and short-weight violations found during routine package inspections (mulch, composted manure, top soil and potting soil) performed at the packers location.

•On September 22, 1998, we received payment of \$500.00 for a Civil Penalty assessed against B & M Market, Baltimore, MD. The Civil Penalty was assessed due to short-weight violations found during routine package inspections performed at the store.

•On November 17, 1998, we received payment of \$500.00 for a Civil Penalty assessed against Hechinger #3069, Baltimore, MD. The Civil Penalty was assessed due to pricing errors found during scanning inspections performed at the store.

•Laboratory technicians Zenon Waclawiw, Antonio Maceo and Sean Roemer successfully completed the Basic Laboratory Metrology Seminar held at NIST during September 21 -October 2, 1998. Zenon and Sean also successfully completed the Intermediate Laboratory Metrology Seminar held at NIST during November 2 - 6, 1998.

•Maryland’s NTEP laboratory has recently acquired new test equipment. A 1000 lb capacity hoist and 10-200 lb test standards were purchased for the testing of digital electronic weighing elements with capacities up to and including 2000 lb. The equipment will reduce testing time and reduce the risk of injury to the evaluator.

The following information is from the Maryland Department of Agriculture’s Annual Report for 1998. It represents the field inspection activities of our Staff for the last twelve month period.

| WEIGHING SYSTEMS | TOTAL TESTS | PERCENT IN VIOLATION |
|--|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| Large Scales | 1,522 | 30.6 |
| Medium Scales | 1,159 | 21.0 |
| Small Scales | 11,031 | 17.3 |
| Liquid Measuring Systems | | |
| Gasoline Dispensers | 35,026 | 20.8 |
| LP Gas Meters | 746 | 30.4 |
| Vehicle Tank & Other Lg. Meters | 1,594 | 16.6 |
| Grain Moisture Meters | | |
| | 165 | 9.7 |
| Programmed Tare Inspections | | |
| | 1,864 | 13.9 |
| Price Scanning & Method of Sale Inspections | | |
| | 8,053 | 5.2 |
| Delivery Ticket Inspections | | |
| | 3,116 | 3.6 |
| Package Lots | | |
| | 14,579 | 1.6 |



MISSISSIPPI

CONSUMER PROTECTION DIVISION

Paper Work Reduction

The ever increasing job responsibilities without a corresponding increase in personnel has forced the division to take a serious look at ways to reduce its paper work. John Tillson, Division Director says, "We are currently evaluating all inspection forms to determine if any can be combined, redesigned to reduce the number of forms required or even eliminated. We are simply not going to be able to continue to do our work the same old way." If any jurisdiction in our association has been able to make inroads in accomplishing a solution, in whole or in part, to this problem, John would be most grateful to hear from you.

Louisiana Weights and Measures – Great Job!

Division Director John Tillson attended the Southern Weights and Measures' 53rd annual conference in Lafayette in October. Ronnie, his staff and all the Louisiana folks certainly did it up right with that great bayou hospitality.

Tillson, who was appointed as a member of the NCWM Resolutions Committee, is looking forward to attending the NCWM Interim Meeting in Albuquerque, NM in January.

PETROLEUM DIVISION

A Salute to Arkansas Weights and Measures

Field Supervisors Gerald Broom and John Childress recently attended a NIST Retail Motor Fuel Dispensing Training Seminar (course 302) in Little Rock. The Division is most appreciative and expresses its thanks to Tim Chesser and Roger Frazier for an excellent course and their excellent Arkansas hospitality.

Gerald mentioned something about Hogs playing better in the mud. He said the Arkansas folks would know what that meant.

Octane Testers Placed in Service

Following a period of field testing, the Division purchased two (2) Zeltex Octane Testers. Division Director Bob Louys feels that the use of the Zeltex Testers for screening gasoline samples in the field will allow the division to better serve the consumer. "While the results of the field tests can not be used for regulatory action, it will eliminate the need for laboratory testing of good product and confine their efforts to only questionable product. For years the division has been limited in providing sufficient sampling for octane level because of the limited number of samples that could be handled by our laboratory", says Louys. If these testers prove to be as beneficial to the program as early use indicates, additional testers will probably be purchased.



Field Supervisor Gerald Broom preparing an octane screening test using the Zeltex Octane Tester.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES DIVISION

Architects Named for Metrology Laboratory

In Mississippi the Bureau of Buildings, Grounds and Real Property Management, Department of Finance and Administration is the agency charged with responsibility for the construction, renovation or repairs of State owned buildings. Several months ago the Bureau of Buildings announced the planned construction of the State Metrology Laboratory and invited architectural firms who were interested in providing professional services for the project to respond by a specific date. Nine architectural firms responded. Following a standard series of selection conferences and interviews, the firm of Barlow, Eddy, Jenkins, P.A. of Jackson was selected for the project. The firm has a specific period of time to complete and submit plans.

We are encouraged that finally an architectural firm has been named and hopeful that we will see work begin by late Spring. We are advised that construction will take about a year, so hopefully the new laboratory will be a reality in early 2000.

Other lab news includes the purchase of a Mettler-Toledo KC500-1 Mass Comparitor. Installation is scheduled for December 17th. The Russell Balance is scheduled for overhaul in early 1999, hopefully by the end of February.

Seminar/Conference Attendance

Division Director Rusty Robbins and Field Supervisor Timmy Welch attended the Southern Weights and Measures' 53rd Annual Conference in October. They express their thanks for a job well done and hospitality unsurpassed to Ronnie and his crew. Rusty plans to attend the NCWM Interim Meeting in Albuquerque in the latter part of January.

Ena Gustavius, Metrologist, attended the Intermediate Metrologist training at NIST in Gaithersburg in early November. She is scheduled to attend an advanced mass seminar in March.

NORTH CAROLINA

The first item of business is to wish everyone much happiness in 1999. The new year presents new and challenging opportunities and we look forward to working on those opportunities. During the last three months of 1998 we were involved in several training classes which we hope will pay dividends in the future. In September Sharon Denning attended three A2LA training classes: "Guide 25 and Accreditation", "Documenting Your Quality System", and "Internal Laboratory Audits". The classes were in St. Louis and they provided insight into the accreditation process which we will use as we apply for NVLAP accreditation by the end of January 1999. At least that is the date that LF has declared as the official goal.

We want to get our thermometry program back on line in the near future. In November Sharon attended three days of thermometry training at Hart Scientific. She indicated that the program was very challenging and thorough. Our clients are asking about this program and we feel it's necessary to make every effort to fulfill our client's wishes.

LF attended the SWAP meeting in Oklahoma. He was there to get updated training on the PMAP software. As a result of the training, all lab control charts are being converted to a PMAP database. We anticipate this change will save considerable time in processing statistical analysis updates. Another time-saving measure is the work of our programmer, Susan Myrick. She has updated our scheduling program so that it is multi-user and much faster. The changes are great but we look forward to the day when we are able to implement a multi-functional program which will accomplish those things that have been on our wish list for quite some time.

Although we have made progress in improving the scheduling program, we have taken a few backward steps in one area. Over the past couple of months the Standards Laboratory staff has spent considerable time getting our instrumentation interface updated to the new version of Labwizard because the old version crashed for some yet unexplained reason. Considerable hours have been expended trying to solve a very complex problem.

LF, Tal, and Reggie were at NIST in November to receive training. Tal and Reggie attended the NIST Intermediate Metrology training and LF attended a training session for the regional pivot laboratories that will be working with the NIST mass group to complete an extensive round robin comparison to characterize mass measurement capability on a national level. Preparations, procurement, and characterization of standards are underway with the project to be completed during the year 2000. The results should be published before the next Combined Regional Metrology Meeting at NIST in the year 2001. While he was at NIST, LF attended a meeting with the management of various measurement groups at NIST and was very impressed with the renewed willingness of the groups to work with the SLP laboratories.

Measurement Section personnel participated in a dairy industry refresher training course sponsored by NC State University. Donnie Perry and Lee R. Amos were asked to demonstrate the proper methods for checking the net contents of milk con-

tainers and ice cream. The attendees, mostly quality control managers, were interested in FDA requirements and the requirements in Handbooks 130 and 133. Another session is scheduled for the spring of 1999.

The gasoline and oil inspection training officers attended a training session with the folks in the Department of Environment and Natural Resources that are charged with enforcing the vapor return and underground storage tank requirements. Because we conduct the field inspections for DENR, it's important that we understand and keep updated on any changes to the environmental rules. There is at least one important deadline that will likely cause some gasoline outlets to go out of business by the end of 1998. With this "hot potato" in our hands, neither agency wants there to be any confusion on what is and is not in compliance.

We are beginning to see some of the newer innovations in the grocery industry. One chain has equipped several of its stores with self-service checkout. Our initial impression is that the system is very accurate and that customers don't seem to mind scanning their purchases. We are also seeing customer operated scales in produce departments. The customer weighs the item and affixes the bar code label to the package. This speeds up the checkout process; a step always welcomed by the customer.

After many months we are finally nearing the end of an investigation into the selling of 87 octane gasoline as 93 octane. Because there are still a few loose ends, the details cannot be revealed at this time. The department is expected to announce a rather large civil penalty by the end of the year. The details will be in the next newsletter.

LF wants everyone to know that the laboratory is finally upgraded to Office 97. The main office, however, has not made the change. You know the old saying, "the squeaking wheel gets....." ☩

South Carolina

After delays that were caused mostly by our Department's Finance Section, the Consumer Services Division received an early Christmas present. On December 14th we received a new LP Gas test unit manufactured by Brownie Tank Manufacturing Company. The unit consists of two stainless steel provers and a pump for returning the product mounted on a trailer. The 100 gallon prover will be used to test meters on delivery trucks and the 25 gallon prover is for ¾ inch bottle filling meters. Our old LP gas unit is approximately 30 years old and had only a 100 gallon prover. We will continue to use the old unit, especially during the winter months when we often receive many requests from companies to check meters that have been repaired. After delays caused by the GM strike and the truck chassis being delivered with the wrong CA length, we are finally in the process of having the crane and body on our livestock scale test unit transferred to a new chassis.

With the employment of a new field specialist the first of November and another new employee reporting to work the first of January, the Consumer Services Division will be at full strength for the first time in quite some time. Due to retirements, resig-

nations, and terminations, the Division has experienced a number of personnel changes in our weights and measures inspection force over the last couple of years. In order to bring these new employees up to speed on those difficult items such as 133 and 44, an additional burden is placed upon one's training program.

Every fall we receive a rash of request to inspect scales at the high schools that have wrestling programs. Although this is not exactly a regulatory function, it is one of those services for which state agencies often get called upon. Over ten years ago, the high school wrestling league which requires schools to have their scales tested each year, published our number as the place to call and have this accomplished.

All of us here in South Carolina, wish each of you a very merry holiday season and a most prosperous new year. 🍀

Tennessee

The annual Southern Weights and Measures Association in October was a huge success! Ronnie Harrell and his staff did a tremendous job in organizing and conducting this meeting. I am sure that Steadman Hollis and his staff will continue this fine tradition in Mobile in October 1999.

Randy Jennings and Bob Williams are planning to attend the Interim Meeting of the NCWM in early 1999 in Albuquerque, NM as many timely and important issues are scheduled for discussion by the various committees and work groups. The premium diesel issue is just one of the vital matters on the agenda this year.

We are eagerly awaiting the nationwide results from the second Price Verification initiative conducted last year by state and local weights and measures officials. It will be interesting to note how our results in Tennessee compare to those across the nation.

During November and December, we have asked our inspectors to look closely at seasonal items and commodities. It seems that sometimes during the holiday season, inaccurate net content and prices seem to surface in some establishments due to a number of factors.

Other than a few isolated problems, the tobacco marketing season appears to be proceeding smoothly. Our inspectors in Middle and East TN completed inspection of tobacco scales some time ago and are checkweighing tobacco to ensure the producer is receiving an accurate weight.

Our Metrologist, Tom Smith is making plans to attend the Advanced Metrology Seminar in March 1999 conducted by NIST in Gaithersburg, MD. Tom has been very busy collecting and compiling data on the SEMAP 5 gallon sliker plate round robin along with submitting the traceability data to OWM for yearly requirements. Tom has also requested equipment to establish a mercury-in-glass thermometer calibration laboratory. Hopefully, budgetary constraints will allow for Tom to proceed forward on this matter.

We are currently interviewing for two inspector positions, one as a cross-trained inspector in West TN and one as a large scale inspector in Middle TN. Hopefully, we will have these positions filled shortly and begin training.

Our entire Weights and Measures Staff hopes that each of you and your staff have enjoyed a very happy holiday season and are looking forward to a great 1999!!! 🍀

Texas

First, many thanks to Ronnie Harrell and his entire staff for their hospitality and excellent effort in planning and executing a very successful annual meeting in October. The week was spectacular and congratulations to the state of Louisiana for such a wonderful conference.

There have been a few changes here recently due to the elections that occurred in November. We now have a new Commissioner of Agriculture, Susan Combs. She is very enthusiastic about beginning her new duties effective January 1 and from the few moments that we have spent with her, it is evident that she is going to be a great commissioner. Rick Perry, the former Agriculture Commissioner, was elected as Texas' Lieutenant Governor and will serve the people of our great state well.

We began our Octane Analyzation Program in October and so far things have been going rather smoothly. Many thanks to Constantine Cotsoradis, Lewis Hutfles and the Kansas Department of Agriculture for their input and guidance in developing our octane program. We have contracted with ITS/Caleb Brett in New Jersey for the analyzation of the samples that are obtained. Companies that offer fuel samples that are found to be misrepresented can be penalized an administrative penalty in an amount up to \$500 per violation.

It's official now! On Friday, December 18, we held a retirement party for Herb Eskew who has been an employee with TDA for nearly 34 years. We will certainly miss Herb and all that he has done for TDA and owe him a huge amount of gratitude for the many things he has accomplished while here at TDA and for bringing the Weights and Measures and Metrology Programs much credibility. Herb's last official day was December 31st. Effective January 1, Pat Forester will assume the role as Metrology Lab Manager. Should you want to contact Herb, his address is: 800 Post Oak Drive, Dripping Springs, Texas, 78620.

During our last budget request period, we requested a replacement for several of our "out-dated" balances at metrology labs. We were successful in our request and will receive 3 new balances very shortly. Sartorius was awarded the bid for two 50 kilogram mass comparators and one 205 gram mass comparator. We are anticipating their arrival at any time, last we checked they were in Germany.

Our other programs remain strong and functional. During the first quarter of this fiscal year, our inspectors conducted 31,883 device inspections, 280 price verification inspections and 258 package inspections. The overall compliance for devices was 94.3 percent and overall compliance for scanners and packages was 84.5 percent. There were 77 notices of viola-

tion/non-compliance issued for package and scanner violations and 79 notices of violation/non-compliance issued for device related violations.

Hope to see you all very soon. Thanks to Bill for putting all of this together.

PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE CONFERENCE



