

# Southern Weights & Measures Association

79th Edition

SWMA Newsletter

October 1999

## Dear SWMA Members and Friends

It is a pleasure for our staff to serve as your host for the 54th Annual Southern Weights and Measures Conference at the Adam's Mark in beautiful Mobile, Alabama. Our goal is to make sure that your visit to Alabama is productive, pleasurable and fun! Our staff will be working overtime to answer any questions you may have concerning the hotel facilities, restaurants and attractions in and around the Mobile area.

Several important issues will be addressed by our Committees and in the business meetings. The regional meeting of the SWMA plays an important role in determining which issues are considered and voted on each year at the National Conference on Weights and Measures. Your input and participation is very important!

I would like to thank the Associate Members and their chairman, Doug Carlton, along with other sponsors and contributors for their support and assistance. Thanks is also extended to the officers of the Southern Association and to the committee members for their time and effort.

We believe your visit to "The Heart of Dixie" will be a refreshing experience and hope that our brand of "Southern Hospitality" brings you back again and again! Be sure and let us know if there is any way we can assist in making your visit to

"The All American City" a memorable occasion!

Sincerely,

Steadman L. Hollis, President

SWMA ☩

## Officers

|                 |                       |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
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Bill Brasher Editor, Newsletter

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(Shelby Co.)  
Dick Shackley MD (410) 841-5790

The following message was received on the SWMA Website "Reply Page." Following the message is a response from David Smith and a follow-up message from David Delaney and David Smith.

"Praise" "General Comments" "Hello

I am the press officer for the British Weights & Measures Association. We are dedicated to retaining the traditional English system alongside the metric system, just as you do in the USA. We have had a partial victory, thanks to pressure from the USA, to retain dual marking on pre-packaged products from another ten years.

Sadly, sellers of loose goods will be committing a criminal offence if they sell their goods by English measures from the year 2000. They have to change their scales to metric and if a customer asks for, say, a pound of apples they will get,

Hopefully 453.6 g. More likely they will get 450 g!

Metric pack downsizing is a serious problem over here. For example, a popular 8 oz pack of candy is now 200 g but for the same price. This has happened to a wide range of products.

Our web site is

<http://members.aol.com/footrule/INDEX.HTML>

We are aware that some states are reverting to the pound/foot system, for example the Kentucky Department of Transport. Can you tell me if there are others?

Best wishes

David Delaney

Mortimers Cross Mil, Herefordshire, England

reply to [dtdeleaney@compuserve.com](mailto:dtdeleaney@compuserve.com)

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Mr. Delaney,

Your inquiry to the Southern Weights and Measures Association concerning metric conversion has been forwarded to me for a reply. I am the Secretary-Treasurer of the SWMA. Well, I don't know where to begin.

For years the metric advocates in the US have been telling us that the US is the lone holdout in the conversion to metric. We have been told that any minute now our economy will falter because consumers cannot buy things in metric sizes. So, in reaction to this pressure and pressure from companies doing business in both the US and the European Union countries, the National Conference on Weights and Measures at its annual meeting in July of this year voted to permit the sale of items with metric only statements of net contents. (Previously, the net contents

statement was in inch-pound with the metric equivalent secondary.) The resolution is symbolic because the Food and Drug Administration's rules (under the Fair Packaging and Labeling Act) do not permit metric only labeling. Yet, everyone feels better because we did not want to be the one responsible for the collapse of the US economy.

I'm not sure I understand your reference to the Kentucky Department of Transportation. To my knowledge, no state has officially converted to metric. Some have experimented with using kilometers on highway signs rather than miles. Perhaps Kentucky had taken the extra step and had gone entirely to metric and is now retreating.

I agree with you on the down sizing issue. That is exactly what happened when the liquor industry went from fifths to liters. Overnight a fifth became 750 ml and at the same price. It was a classic case of less for more. I must say, however, that down sizing is occurring even without the entrance of the metric system. You can buy prepackaged coffee in at least five different sizes.

With your permission, I will publicize your inquiry in the weights and measures community. That will give other state officials an opportunity to respond directly to you. I warn you, however, you are placing the British economy in peril by standing in the way of total metric.

N. David Smith, Director  
Standards Division  
North Carolina Department of Agriculture &  
Consumer Services

Dear Mr Smith

Many thanks for your reply. If you send me your postal address I can send you some of the material produced by the British Weights & Measures Association.

Re: Kentucky, see their web site:

[www.kytc.state.ky.us/design/demetric/demetric.htm](http://www.kytc.state.ky.us/design/demetric/demetric.htm)

<With your permission, I will publicize your inquiry in the weights and measures community.>

Yes, please do so. I look forward to the response.

Best wishes

David Delaney

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Continued on page 9

### NCWM Headquarters Office Happenings

As many of you know, as of October 1, 1998, the National Conference on Weights and Measures, Inc. (NCWM) hired an association management company, Management Solutions Plus, Inc., to handle the administrative functions of the Conference. The NCWM Board of Directors recently extended the company's contract for another year. Because all of this is new and different, this article is being provided to give everyone a sense of what the management company does for the Conference and where you should go to get answers to your questions.

You should regard the folks at Management Solutions Plus as the NCWM Headquarters staff. They now handle many of the administrative duties previously handled by the Office of Weights and Measures at NIST. Among those areas are: membership recruitment and retention, Interim and Annual meetings management, publication sales, financial management, NTEP administrative management, and Board governance. Continuing the long partnership between NCWM and NIST, the Office of Weights and Measures continues to provide technical support to the Conference as well as publishing the Newsletter, the Membership Directory, many NCWM publications, and the mailing of those publications to the NCWM membership.

NCWM members who have technical questions should continue to call the Office of Weights and Measures at NIST. If you have questions about your membership status, change of address or phone numbers, Interim or Annual meeting questions, you should be calling the NCWM Headquarters office. Who at the NCWM Headquarters office will be answering your questions? The primary contacts are Beth Palys, CAE, Executive Director; Kristine Oleson, Director of Meetings; and Lynn DiTizio, Director of Administration. (Note: Kristine was formerly known as Kristine Freund, but marriage vows on October 16 changed her name to Oleson.) When you call, you may get others on the phone and any of those folks should be able to assist you.

The important information about contacting the NCWM Headquarters is reported below. The NCWM staff is ready to answer your questions and be of service to you.

National Conference on Weights and Measures  
15245 Shady Grove Road  
Suite 130  
Rockville, MD 20850

Ph. 240-632-9454

Fx. 301-990-9771

Email: [ncwm@mgmtsol.com](mailto:ncwm@mgmtsol.com)

## JURISDICTIONAL NEWS

### Florida

Results of the Bureau of Weights and Measures device testing activities for fiscal year 98-99 were as follows:

- Total devices inspected/tested 61,346
  - Found correct and approved \* 44,970
  - Correction Notices issued \*7,936
  - Placed "Out of Service" \*1,076
  - Firms with devices visited 31,447
- (\*- Based on first tests only. Does not include retests)

#### Package testing results:

- Lots tested 785
- Packages in lots tested 681,872
- Lots rejected for short measure 76
- Lots rejected for labeling violations 3
- # of packages in lots rejected 54,195
- \$ value of packages rejected \$224,805.63

#### Price Verification Testing Results:

- Businesses tested 429
- Total items scanned 25,425
- # Businesses passed 352
- # Bus. failed for excessive overcharges 42
- # Bus. failed for excessive undercharges 35
- # items with overcharge errors 311
- # items with undercharge errors 401

#### Metrology lab Activities:

- Mass standards calibrated/tested 11,154
- Volume measures calibrated/tested 865
- Linear measures calibrated 2
- Special tests/calibrations 961
- Other 22

(The above totals reflect the activities of the Weights and Measures program. Results of the Bureau of Petroleum Inspection activities are reported separately).

Steve Hadder from Florida has been appointed to replace Jack Jeffries on the NTEP Measuring Sector Technical Committee. Steve is the field trainer for Petroleum Inspection. He attended the Measuring Sector meeting at the Western W&M Association meeting in September and will be attending the SWMA meeting in Mobile with Jack Jeffries and Max Gray.

Weights and Measures Supervisor Bob Garris attended the NTEP training course at NIST in August and will be providing training to the field staff and assisting in overseeing the program in Florida. ☞

### Louisiana

Louisiana's Department Of Agriculture and Forestry Weights and Measures Division held a Price Verification refresher course in March of this year.

The class was taught by the illustrious Mr. Tom Coleman of NIST Office of Weights and Measures, and one of Louisiana's Regional Enforcement Supervisors, Danny McCartney. Danny also attended the NTEP Class sponsored by NIST in August, and feels that it was a very informative and productive session.

Our Division has recently hired six new Agriculture Specialists (field inspectors) for various areas of the state. We would like to take this opportunity to introduce them; Ryan Leach, Baton Rouge area; David Nixon, Shreveport area; Fred Carter, Jennings area; Gerald Bordelon, Jay Laird and George Dean in the New Orleans area.

Our metrology lab recently had Mettler-Toledo install the KC 500 Mass Comparator which was purchased several months ago. Our Metrologists Pat Chaney and Carl Decker are very satisfied with its performance.

We are looking forward to attending the Southern Weights and Measures Conference in October. We are confident that Stead ☞ n and his staff will host an outstanding conference.



## MARYLAND

- We are saddened to announce the death of former Maryland Weights & Measures Inspector and Program Manager Tom Rhodes. Tom passed away on July 2, 1999 at the age of 52. He is survived by his wife Jo and son John.
- Our staff put a lot of time and effort into our Weights and Measures display at the Maryland State Fair which was held in Timonium, MD August 27- September 6, 1999. The display was open from 10 a.m. until 10 p.m. each day. We had numerous items on display and provided thousands of people in attendance with their official certified weight. One of the highlights of the display was a cord of firewood which was given away at the conclusion of the fair.
- Program Manager Will Wotthlie attended the NTEP Measuring Sector meeting, September 24-25, 1999 and the first committee meeting to revise Handbook 44 on September 26, 1999. These meetings were held in Olympia, Washington. Chief Lou Straub joined Will in Olympia to attend the Western Weights and Measures Conference held September 26-30, 1999. It was Lou's first meeting as chairman-elect of the NCWM.
- On October 14, 1999, we are having a gasoline pump training seminar at our facility. The seminar will be held for industry representatives who install, calibrate or repair gasoline meters/pumps. The seminar will cover the official inspection and testing procedures utilized by our staff. Subjects to be included are NIST HB 44 requirements, NTEP, calibration of test standards and equipment, examination procedure outlines, notification procedures, and the various report forms and tags used by our staff. There will be a roundtable discussion at the conclusion of the seminar which will include representatives from our staff, Comptroller of the Treasury- Investigative Services Unit (motor fuel sampling and testing), and the Department of the Environment-Oil Control Program (underground storage tanks). Presenters at the seminar will include Program Manager Dick Shockley, other members of our staff and Gordon Johnson, representing Gilbarco.

### Recent Civil Penalties and Court Activities

- On July 20, 1999, in Anne Arundel County District Court, Annapolis, MD, the trial of

David Allen Coleman, II was held. Mr. Coleman was charged with a short-measure firewood delivery. Mr. Coleman was found guilty and was ordered to make full restitution to the firewood buyer in the amount of \$156.00, and was given a suspended 90 day jail sentence and placed on nine (9) months probation. Mr. Coleman had received a 60 day jail sentence during a previous trial for another short-measure firewood delivery, and was still incarcerated at the time of this trial. Charges were filed against Mr. Coleman by Inspector Bob Fisher. On August 5, 1999, we received payment of \$300.00 for a civil penalty assessed against Safeway #1153, Baltimore MD. The civil penalty was assessed due to short-weight violations found during routine package inspections performed at the establishment.

- On August 30, 1999, we received payment of \$500.00 for a civil penalty assessed against Sam's Club #6357, Annapolis, MD. The civil penalty was assessed due to short-weight violations found during a routine package inspection performed at the establishment. (This establishment had previously been assessed \$500.00 in civil penalties for short-weight violations found during package inspections).
- On August 30, 1999, we received payment of \$300.00 for a civil penalty assessed against Super Fresh #852, Chestertown, MD. The civil penalty was assessed due to short-weight violations found during test purchases conducted at the establishment.
- On September 13, 1999, we received payment of \$500.00 for a civil penalty assessed against Sam's Club #6654, Hyattsville, MD. The civil penalty was assessed due to short-weight violations found during routine package inspections performed at the establishment. ☪



Field Supervisor Ken Ramsburg (left) and Field Inspector Ethan Halpern (right) weigh a fair attendee

## MISSISSIPPI



Emery-Winslow Hydraulic Scale. After the initial test on June 10<sup>th</sup>, they rebuilt the totalizer and replaced the indicator. The test on July 19<sup>th</sup> went well and after three weeks of use, we came back on August 9<sup>th</sup> for a permanence test. This test revealed a problem in the checking system that Emery-Winslow had to redesign. After installing the new checking system (which is being done now) Larry will start over with the test.

The architects are finished with the plans for the new Metrology Lab and have sent them to the Bureau of Building, Grounds and Real Property Management. The Bureau will then receive bids and decide on a contractor to build the lab. We are looking forward to moving into the new building sometime next year, we hope.

The lab just purchased a new Mettler-Toledo KA 50-2 mass comparator to replace the PK36 that died last month. We expect delivery of this equipment next month. Also a new test truck to replace the wrecked truck should be delivered next month.

Congratulations to Randy Triplett of Thomastown, MS who was promoted to Weights and Measures Supervisor in North Mississippi and will replace Timmie Welch after his retirement, June 30<sup>th</sup>. Randy has worked with the Department of Agriculture and Commerce for 22 years, starting in the Fire Ant Division then transferring to Weights and Measures as an Intermediate and Pulpwood Inspector. We are going to miss Timmie, but we are very



### Petroleum Inspection Division

The Petroleum Division currently has five of the Zeltex octane analyzers. Model tests are currently underway to establish perimeters for the analyzers, which will provide a more accurate model for the petroleum inspectors to follow. The division has hopes of acquiring seven additional analyzers, one for each of the inspectors in the division. Since obtaining the units earlier this year, the number of samples taken has increased by 50%. This will allow us to screen more samples, and only questionable samples will be taken to the laboratory for chemical analysis.

### Weights and Measures Division

Weights and Measures Inspectors have been concentrating on inspecting grain elevators and cotton gins to be sure the scales are ready for the '99 crop harvest.

We also are in the process of conducting an NTEP Test at Bryan Foods in West Point, MS. Larry Tuberville of Alabama is in charge of the test. Bryan Foods was having a problem keeping electronic load cells working in the wet environment of the hog barn so they installed an

### NIST, Office of Weights and Measures

#### Contacts



Beth Palys (left), Kristine Oleson (middle) and Lynn DiTizio (right), Management Solutions, Inc., attended the 84th NCWM Annual Meeting held in Burlington, Vermont and participated in the Wednesday night outing, a Dinner Cruise aboard the Spirit of Ethan Allen II, Lake Champlain's largest cruise ship.



## NORTH CAROLINA

Any news from North Carolina must start with the flooding from Hurricane Floyd. On September 16, Hurricane Floyd came ashore near Wilmington and moved across the eastern part of the state. The storm dumped 15 to 20 inches of rain over about 40 counties. Coupled with Hurricane Dennis two weeks earlier, about one-third of the state received 30 inches of rainfall over two weeks. The Weather Service is calling this a 500 year rain event. Although there was damage from high winds and surf, the biggest damage has been from the tremendous flooding. As of Tuesday, September 28, there were still 500 roads closed and 230 schools have not been able to reopen their doors. For two weeks, both I-95 and I-40 were closed due to high water. Many people have lost everything and sadly, the storm has claimed 47 lives. The authorities feel the death count will increase as the water recedes and they are able to get to flooded homes and the many vehicles that were swept off the roads. We hope the pictures on the national news convey the extent of the damage. Your prayers and thoughts will be appreciated by those folks so severely impacted by Hurricane Floyd.

As you might expect, the storm has affected our work schedule. No Standards Division employees were injured, but several suffered damages to their homes and property. Not every division has been so lucky. An employee of the Research Stations Division lost his wife to the floodwaters. Many of our folks are involved in relief activities. We are making deliveries for other state agencies, helping businesses restore vital services, volunteering at community relief agencies, and doing just about anything to assist in the clean-up. Commissioner Graham has directed that management is to be very generous in allowing our folks the freedom to assist in the relief efforts.

Yet, life goes on. We have recently employed two new individuals. Mr. Bill Tedder will be a weights and measures inspector in the Elizabethtown area and Mr. Albert Young will be the petroleum meter calibrator in the Western part of the state. Both men bring excellent credentials to the job and we are enthusiastic about their future. Ron Murdock is off to attend the measuring sector meeting in Washington State. He will also conduct the first meeting of the Handbook 44 rewrite committee. Ron was appointed chairman of the committee by Wes Diggs, Chairman of the National Conference on Weights and Measures. Ron has promised to rewrite the handbook using traditional Southern terms. A primer on the new lingo is scheduled for the upcoming Interim Meeting (grits will be served as an appetizer).

Sharon Woodard, Standards Laboratory Quality Manager, left us for greener pastures. We wish Sharon much success as she enters another field. We hope to fill her position from within. The interview process is complete and a candidate has been recommended to management. LF reports that the flooding has resulted in numerous scheduling problems. He is working to satisfy people as quickly as possible. We are cross training in the lab as time permits. Tal is working in precision mass with Glen. Tal and Glen have calibrated standards up to 30 kg using the mass code and have crossed over to the pound Original State Standards. We are periodically checking our weight carts and the preliminary work reveals monthly fluctuations typically within the 0.55 pounds that would be the Class F tolerance for a 5500 pound weight. We did have an opportunity to test a wet cart that came to us via an open body scale truck. We found that at least 5 pounds of water clung to and accumulated on the 4500 pound cart. This finding may signal the need to emphasize cart storage and user training. Within a year, we will get a much better handle on what the calibration interval should be and what tolerances we can expect to maintain for our carts. LF also reports that the KA30-2 is still doing great. We have secured funds to build an office area in the large mass room for the metrologists and to do a little work on the roof. Yes, we had a leak during the hurricane.

Winston Sutton reports that the GC Mass Spectrophotometer and Scanning UV/Visible Spectrophotometer are now in operation. The GC is used for fuel fingerprinting and the Scanning unit is used in dye analysis. As we gain more experience with these instruments, we will be reporting the results in the newsletter. Although we have experienced a great deal of rain, the number of water complaints has been remarkably low. That is likely to change as the flooded stations resume operations.

Another problem associated with the flooding is the number of propane tanks that have been dislodged. In the flooded areas they are floating everywhere. Our propane inspectors are busy working with industry in an effort to secure them. Over the past few years, we have put a great deal of emphasis on securing tanks in flood prone areas. It's evident that some of the tank securing schemes work, but others are not very effective. We would like to hear from anyone with experience in addressing this problem.

Lastly, two long-term employees have left us. Marie Perry, octane rating analyst for 32 years, retired at the end August. That much experience is difficult to replace. Also, Jan Culbreth, secretary at the Motor Fuels Laboratory, left us for another division. We wish both of these fine individuals much success as they move on to better things. †

## TENNESSEE

Fall livestock scale and cotton gin scale inspections are in full swing with tobacco scale inspections not far behind.

Mr. James A. Thompson, Jr. has recently been promoted to the position of Middle TN Regional Supervisor. James is a veteran weights and measures employee with many years of experience in all aspects of inspection related duties. We are currently interviewing candidates for two inspector positions in Middle Tennessee and hope to have them on board in the next several weeks.

Randy Jennings and Bob Williams report that all went well at the NCWM in Burlington, VT. They both were glad to see Cathryn Pittman at the conference as she will always be a permanent part of weights and measures in Tennessee.

Ed Coleman and Bob Williams recently attended a NTEP Instructors Training Class in Gaithersburg, MD. This was a very well organized session with the OWM staff, especially Tine and Dick, to be commended for the time they obviously spent preparing. It was reported that a special class member showed up late on Thursday making an appearance in Tom Coleman's office. Reliable sources (?), Tim Chesser and Danny McCartney, confirm this even though they would not divulge the member's name!

Our Metrologist, Tom Smith, has been very busy in the lab. He has done much work on the most recent round robin involving a 500 lb. standard.

Bob Williams is preparing to attend the SWMA in Mobile, AL in October as part of the Laws and Regulations Committee. Stedman Hollis has spent a great deal of time planning for the SWMA and we know all attendees will be treated to a great time! ♣

## TEXAS

Damon Slaydon, Harvey Fischer, Pat Forester, and Rodger Brown attended the annual meeting of the NCWM held in Burlington, Vermont in late July. Damon also attended National Type Evaluation Instructor Training in August, at NIST headquarters in Gaithersburg, MD and was awarded the Drinnon Award. Damon is grateful to NIST personnel for the opportunity and honor bestowed to him.

At the end of September Damon spent two weeks in China as a part of the Texas Agricultural Lifetime Leadership Program (TALL). The TALL program prepares young men and women, dedicated to agriculture, for the

leadership challenges of the future. TALL is a competitive leadership development program that includes seminars with experts, on-site tours, and meetings with business and government leaders, international study and personal skills improvement. The program is a two-year program committed to total leadership development supported by Texas A&M University through the Texas Agricultural Extension Service.

We just completed our fourth quarter report for fiscal year 1999. During the fourth quarter, our inspectors conducted 27,705 weights and measures inspections bringing the year-end total for weights and measure inspections to 111,225. This amount exceeded projections by more than 5 percent. The report also revealed an overall compliance rate for devices of 96 percent and an overall compliance rate for package and scanner inspections of 85 percent. In addition, Pat Forester, from our metrology lab, reported 28,539 standards were calibrated this year. ♣

## WEST VIRGINIA

During the period from July 1, 1998 until September 1, 1999 West Virginia Weights and Measures has issued citations resulting in the payment of over \$38,000.00 in fines. The collected fines were deposited into the state general revenue fund where it is distributed equally among state agencies. Since the moneys collected by the weights and measures section do not directly benefit the section in any manner, this removes the section from any dependence upon the collection of fines for any of its program and allows enforcement of weights and measures laws in an equitable manner.

This does place the funding of the weights and measures program in the hands of Governor Cecil Underwood and the West Virginia Legislature. In previous administrations a poor economy resulted in a period of tight budgets with very little recognition for the role of weights and measures in the states economy. But after a period of educating the public, industry and state government, the importance of weights and measures has been recognized resulting in solid general revenue funding for the program.

One direct result of this cooperation between the legislature and weights and measures has been an increase of twenty-five percent (25%) in the number of devices inspected within one fiscal year. In Fiscal Year 1998 the section tested 18,418 devices, and in Fiscal Year 1999 a total of 24,992 devices were tested, this far exceeded projections based upon previous years. We feel this increase is due to increased funding which provided new and better test equipment, and more comprehensive



training for field inspectors. The correlation appears very apparent.

### Fuels Program

Dennis Harrison, Program Coordinator, recently purchased another Zeltec octane tester for use in the third fuel testing unit. Northern, Central and Southern Gasoline Test Units are now fully operational. The units are designed to primarily inspect large service stations, but are also equipped to conduct field octane testing, testing of storage tank water levels, as well as testing for fungal growth, dirt, water, or other contaminants.

Dennis assisted Mr. Gordon Johnson of Gilbarco Incorporated, in conducting "Train the Trainer" classes designed for the Fuel Specialists dealing with the technical operation of Gilbarco fuel pumps and dispensers. It will be the fuel specialist's role to train the field inspectors in the procedures covered in the classes. One of the many subjects covered which was especially helpful to the inspectors was understanding and dealing with audit trails. Mr. Johnson's training was very thorough and is highly recommended for any jurisdiction dealing with fuels.

### Scales Program

Stephen Casto, Program Coordinator, placed into service a new trailer designed for testing livestock and animal scales. A major problem has been getting the necessary test weights to the scale, which could be located in a barn, or a scale house in a muddy field. Requiring the device owner to provide the manpower to move the weights has always been difficult due to the rural locations and proximity of available manpower. The new trailer which contains one ton of test weights (2-500 lb. weights and 20-50 lb. test weights), a weight mover, a winch and cable plus other equipment, will allow the heavy test unit operators, or field inspectors, to use one of the section's four-wheel drive vehicles to get the trailer to the scale to be tested and move the weights more efficiently.

### Commodities Program

William Cobb, Program Coordinator, accompanied Tom Coleman, NIST/OWM, as an observer at a United States Department of Agriculture hearing in Washington D.C. dealing with short-weight milk sold in West Virginia schools. The hearing was the result of the 1997 and 1998 Milk Surveys plus additional testing conducted by West Virginia Weights and Measures and special testing requested by the USDA. He was very impressed with the determination of the Food and Nutrition Service to insure that children receive the correct measure under their programs.

Plans are being completed for further training of field inspectors in package checking, with emphasis on testing liquids, scanner inspections, package and labeling, method of sale and unit pricing. This training will be conducted individually or in small groups of up to three inspectors at locations across the state.

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Continued from page 3, SWMA Website

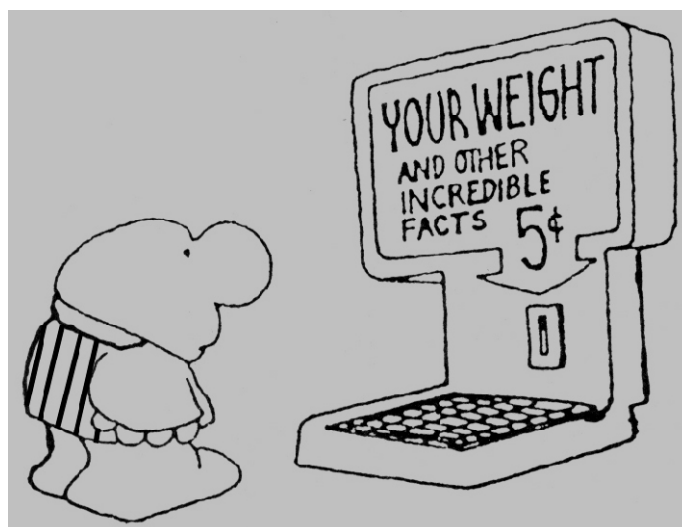
Mr. Delaney,

After looking at the Kentucky DOT web site, I remembered that a few years ago the federal government decreed that highway design work would be in metric if federal funds were involved. The state DOT departments were forced to revamp how they design and specify road and bridge projects. Because the states have complained about the added expense and work in converting to metric, the federal government has granted certain exemptions to their decree. I'm sure the Kentucky reversion to customary units reflects an exemption. I asked a DOT employee here about Kentucky's action. I was told that North Carolina has generally reverted to using customary units.

On another matter, you may have heard about the \$125 million spacecraft that was destroyed on a mission to Mars. NASA is now reporting that the spacecraft "was probably doomed by the embarrassing failure to convert English units of measurement to metric ones." Apparently this resulted in a navigational error because acceleration data was calculated in pounds of force rather than newtons. More information should be available on NASA's web site.

Have a good weekend.

David  
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**Information on the**  
**54th Annual Conference**  
**of the**  
**Southern**  
**Weights and Measures**  
**Association**

**October 16-21, 1999**  
**Adams's Mark Hotel**  
**Mobile, Alabama**

Tentative Program

**Saturday, October 16, 1999**

1:00 - 5:00 Early SWMA Registration  
Hospitality Room

**Sunday, October 17, 1999**

8:00 - 5:00 Golf Tournament

10:00 - 5:00 SWMA Registration  
Standing Committee Meetings  
Executive & Nominating Committee  
Administration & Public Affairs Committee  
Laws & Regulations Committee  
Specifications & Tolerances Committee

6:00 - 8:30 President's Reception (casual dress)

**Monday, October 18, 1999**

8:00 - 5:00 SWMA Registration

8:00 - 8:30 Continental Breakfast  
GENERAL SESSION  
Max Gray, Presiding, State of Florida

8:30 - 10:00 Specifications & Tolerances Committee Report  
Ron Murdock, Chairman, State of North Carolina

10:00-10:30 Break

10:30-12:00 Administration and Public Affairs Report  
Jerry Flanders, Chairman, State of Georgia

12:00-1:30 Lunch  
Carol Fulmer, Presiding, State of South Carolina

1:30-3:00 Laws & Regulations Committee Report  
Carl Angel, Jr., Chairman, State of West Virginia

Executive & Nominating Committee Report  
Max Grey, Chairman, State of Florida

3:00-3:30 Break

3:30 Production Meets Type  
David Quinn, Vice President  
Regulatory Affairs, Fairbanks Scales

SWMA Outing

**Tuesday, October 19, 1999**

7:00-8:15 NCWM & SMA, NTEP Breakfast  
(Sponsored by Scale Manufacturers Association)  
(By Invitation Only)

8:00-8:30 Continental Breakfast

8:30-10:00 Opening Ceremony  
Steadman L. Hollis, Presiding, State of Alabama  
Presentation of Colors  
City of Mobile Police Color Guard  
National Anthem, LaTrenda Torrence  
Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance  
Mike Hile, State of Arkansas  
Welcome to City of Mobile  
The Honorable Mayor Mike Dow  
Intoduction of Commissioner of Agriculture  
Don Stagg, Retired Member SWMA  
Welcome to the State of Alabama  
The Honorable Charles Bishop  
Commissioner of Agriculture & Industries  
Roll Call of States  
N. David Smith  
Secretary/Treasurer SWMA  
State of North Carolina  
Association Response  
Damon Slaydon, President - Elect, SWMA  
State of Texas

10:00-10:30 Break

10:30-12:00 Industry Response  
Doug Carlton, Chairman  
Associate Membership Committee  
Micro Motion  
Report from OWM  
Gill Ugainsky, Chief, OWM  
Report from NCWM  
Wes Diggs, Chairman, NCWM, State of Virginia  
Lou Straub, Chairman - Elect, NCWM  
State of Maryland

11:30-12:30 Director's Roundtable Discussion  
1. Direction being taken by NCWM.  
2. How do we get every jurisdiction involved in SWMA?

12:30-1:30 Lunch

1:30-4:00 Break Out Meetings  
Executive & Nominating  
Max Gray, Florida  
Administration & Public Affairs  
Jerry Flanders, Georgia

Laws & Regulations  
 Bob Williams, Tennessee  
 Specifications & Tolerances  
 Ron Murdock, North Carolina

**Tentative Agenda  
 Spouses Program**

**Sunday, October 17, 1999**

- 8:00-12:00 Golf Tournament
- 10:00-5:00 SWMA Registration
- 6:00-8:30 President's Reception (casual dress)

**Monday, October 18, 1999**

- 8:00-8:30 Continental Breakfast
- 2:00 Afternoon on your own  
 SWMA Outing

**Tuesday, October 19, 1999**

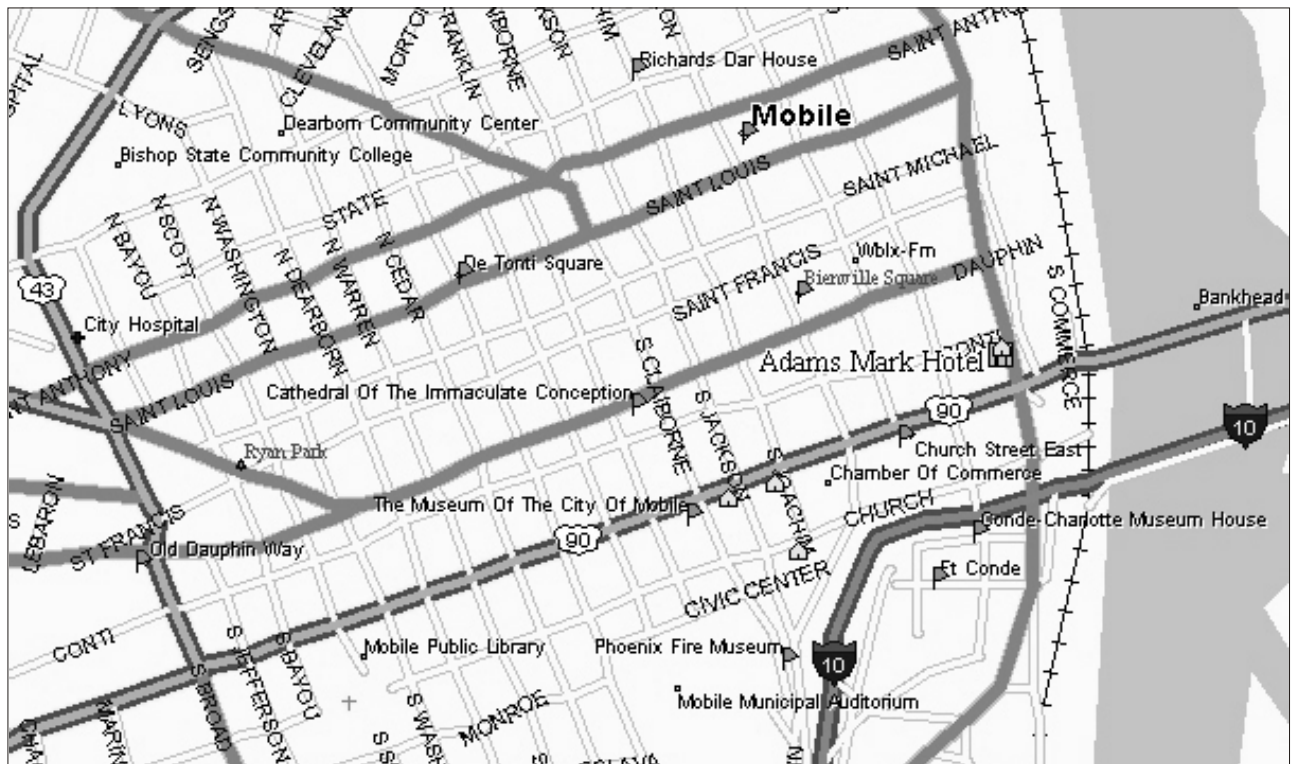
- 8:00-8:30 Opening Ceremony
- 10:30 - Tour of Bellingrath Gardens & Homes with lunch  
 Visit to Robert Moore's Christmas City and  
 Short Tour of City of Mobile  
 Outing at Rouso's

**Wednesday, October 20, 1999**

- 8:00 - 8:30 Continental Breakfast
- 12:00 Conference Adjournment

**Wednesday, October 20, 1999**

- 8:00-8:30 Continental Breakfast
- GENERAL SESSION  
 N. David Smith, Presiding,  
 State of North Carolina
- 8:30-10:00 Voting on Final Reports
- 10:00-10:30 Break
- 10:30 SWMA Newsletter Report  
 Bill Brasher, Editor  
 Southern Company Services
- Report of Resolutions Committee  
 Charles A. Burns, Chairman  
 Birmingham Weights and Measures
- 12:00-1:30 SWMA Board of Director's Luncheon
- 1:30-2:30 General Session  
 Steadman L. Hollis, Presiding, State of Alabama  
 Installation of New Officers
- 2:30 Adjourn





# NOTICE

The membership year for the Southern Weights and Measures Association is October 1 through September 30. This edition of the newsletter is being sent to all members who were in good standing for the 1998-1999 membership year. If you have not paid your annual dues for the 1999-2000 membership year, this will be the last edition of the newsletter you will receive. Questions concerning membership should be directed to N. David Smith. Thank you! 🍀

## **Contact SWMA**

The SWMA Newsletter is published quarterly. Annual dues are \$25.

Membership inquiries should be directed to:

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**SWMA Newsletter**  
**1904 Mission Road**  
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