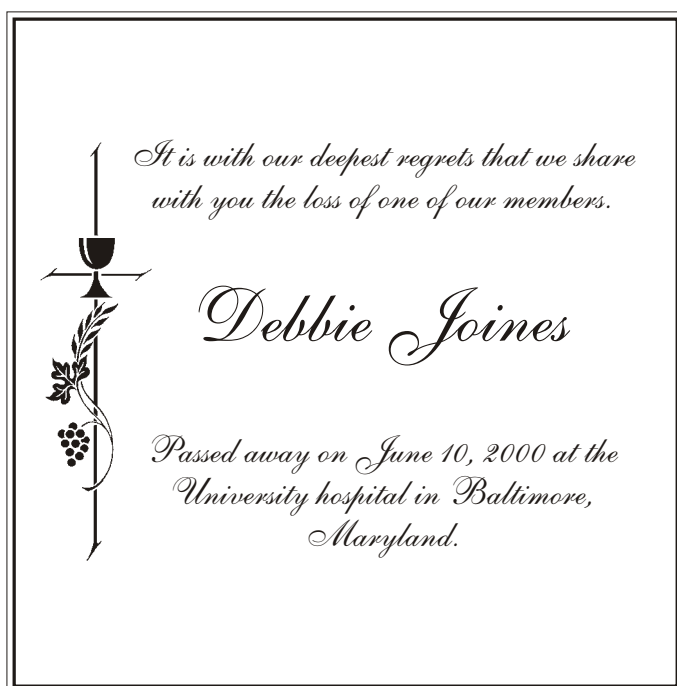


Southern Weights & Measures Association

82nd Edition

SWMA Newsletter

July 2000



DEBBIE JOINES By Mike Belue

It is with heavy heart and a deep sense of loss that I share with you the death of a dear friend. Debbie Joines passed away on June 10 at University Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. For several days Debbie was treated in a Salisbury, Maryland hospital for food poisoning like symptoms. On Thursday, June 8, exploratory surgery was performed in Baltimore. At which time it was found that blood flow to her liver and kidneys was blocked and these vital organs were not functioning. Debbie passed away two days later.

I have received correspondence from several who knew Debbie. All have expressed their deep sadness upon hearing of this loss. Statements like - "I feel like I have loss a member of my family." and "I am very deeply saddened by the loss.

Debbie was a very dear friend." - echo the feelings we all had for Debbie. When I read these words about Debbie, I thought of the verse in Proverbs 18:24 - "A man (woman) that hath friends must show himself (herself) friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother (sister)." (emphasis is mine) These words were true of our friend.

Just as Debbie loved people, she loved animals. Her two dogs, Chi-Chi and Maggie, and three cats, Popee, Rita and Mona, are evidence of that. She loved mystery novels, was an excellent gourmet cook, and connoisseur of fine food.

After attending Northeastern University in Boston for a year and a half, she returned to Maryland and graduated from the University of Maryland College Park in 1978 with a BS in electrical engineering. Immediately upon graduation she joined Wayne. Debbie had progressed within her company from Design Engineer to Senior Design Engineer to the current position of Mechanical Engineering Supervisor. In addition to her product support activities, she was responsible for regulatory and safety liaison. These responsibilities included weights and measures, UL, and California Air Resources Board (CARB). Debbie has two shared patents; one for an Under Dispenser Containment Design and the other for an Inline Octane Analyzer.

Debbie attended her first weights and measures conference in 1987 and assumed complete responsibility for weights and measures activities for Wayne in 1995. She was active with GPMA and was currently serving as Chairman for GPMA's Weights and Measures Committee. Debbie was instrumental in developing GPMA's Repair Technicians Weights and Measures Training Course which is currently being reviewed by the NCWM A&P Committee. She was member of the task force developing criteria for remanufactured devices, and had served on the NTEP Business Plan Work Group. Debbie was a long-time member of the Southern Weights and Measures Association.

Debbie is survived by her Mother, Joyce Furst, and one sister. Many will remember Joyce as she has attended several Southern, Western, and National Conferences. ♣

Message From the Board of Directors

Damon Slaydon has resigned his position with the Texas Department of Agriculture and President of SWMA to assume a position at Texas A&M. We certainly wish Damon the best of luck in his new position.

Ed Price, Branch Chief for Regulatory Programs, Texas Department of Agriculture, has received a unanimous vote from the SWMA Board of Directors to replace Damon as President.

SWMA is fortunate to have someone of Ed's skills and knowledge to step in at a moment's notice.

Ed began his career with the Texas Department of Agriculture in July of 1979 as a field inspector in Waco. While in that position, he worked in various regulatory programs including seed, nursery and floral, pesticides, and weights and measures. Later he was promoted to office manager in one of the TDA district offices. In 1987 Ed became the Enforcement Coordinator for the weights and measures and egg programs in the Austin headquarters. In November of 1991 Ed became Director of the Consumer Division where he was responsible for weights and measures, plant quality, quarantines, egg law, and aquaculture. In October of 1996 he became a special assistant for the regulatory division. In this position he was responsible for working closely with producer and industry groups on regulatory issues. Ed was promoted to Branch Chief for Regulatory Programs in October 1999. In his current position Ed is responsible for all TDA regulatory programs except seed.

Ed and his wife, Eva, have been married for 15 years. They have two children, Leslie (7 years) and Trevor (15 months). ☪

Some Initial Thoughts

By Henry Oppermann, Chief

National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)
Office of Weights and Measures (OWM)

I am very happy to be back in weights and measures. I hope to see many of you at the Southern Weights and Measures Association meeting in October.

Weights and measures has experienced many changes in recent years. The OWM staff have been reviewing these changes and program activities to determine if we should modify our programs or reallocate resources to provide more effective service to the weights and measures community. I will use this opportunity to provide you with some ideas that are under consideration and raise some concerns about which I would appreciate your comments and input.

OWM has several vacant positions. Additionally, Ken Butcher recently transferred to the NIST Technical Standards Activities Program (TSAP) to work on international legal metrology issues. While Ken's departure is a great loss to OWM, we plan to work closely with Ken and TSAP on projects that overlap our two programs. The transfer of the administration of the National Type Evaluation Program (NTEP) to the National Conference on Weights and Measures (NCWM) will free some OWM resources to focus on other activities. Additionally, OWM has been very fortunate to receive a budget increase that

will allow us to fill some of the vacant positions and develop some new products. At this time, OWM is in the initial stage of hiring two people. One person will be hired to work with Georgia Harris in the State Laboratory Program. OWM has benefited from the cooperative work done by the State metrologists and from the contracts that have provided outside support. However, OWM needs additional resources within the office. Georgia is doing the work of two to three people, so we hope to move quickly to bring in additional expertise.

The second person to be hired will work in the area of device technology. OWM needs additional technical expertise if we are to provide more support to weights and measures in this area. With the transfer of NTEP to the NCWM, OWM plans to put more resources into providing technical assistance to the weights and measures community through increased training and direct assistance to individual States and jurisdictions that want to strengthen or expand their programs.

OWM is also exploring new forms of delivering technical assistance. We are considering a number of proposals. One is to develop computer-based training, either on CD-ROM or available over the Internet, to make more information available to the field inspector and to service companies. Another approach may be to establish a technical database of information available over the Internet so that if an inspector or industry representative wants information on a particular topic, the person could search the database for a particular topic and obtain a summary of current information on the topic. If you have any comments on these ideas, please let OWM staff know.

We want to be sure that anything OWM undertakes will significantly benefit the weights and measures community, which includes our industry partners. Consequently, OWM is interested in doing a "needs assessment" to obtain input from industry and weights and measures officials concerning what types of technical activities and resources would be most useful. We encourage each of you to recommend the work or products that you believe we should address. We in OWM are conducting a thorough review of our programs, so this is a time when you can influence our direction for the future. We look to you to provide ideas, either individually or through your associations.

On another subject, I am deeply concerned that the relationship between OWM, weights and measures officials, and our industry partners is not as good as it should be. We are partners in developing weights and measures standards and delivering technical support. The NCWM process has been successful because the stakeholders in the process have worked together through the NCWM to meet their mutual objectives. I, along with everyone else in OWM, am working to improve our interactions with and service to the weights and measures community. I ask your advice concerning what can be done to improve our work relationship and strengthen the national system of weights and measures. Please call me (301-975-5507), send me an e-mail message (henry.oppermann@nist.gov), or talk to me directly at meetings to give me your ideas. We want to be sure that we work together and that the work we do benefits the weights and measures community.

Thank you for the opportunity to communicate with you through your newsletter. I hope to see many of you in the near future. ☪

JURISDICTIONAL NEWS

ALABAMA

We would like to thank Damon Slaydon for his accomplishments as President of SWMA and wish him well as he takes on new responsibilities with Texas A&M University. We appreciate Ed Price stepping in on such short notice to fill the vacancy.



Teddy Shepherd, Heavy Duty Weights and Measures Inspector, is making preparations to test a new weighing system at McDuffey Terminal located at the Alabama State Docks in the Port City of Mobile. The new Ramsey 10-14-4 / 2301 conveyor belt scale, operating at 3500 tons per hour, will be used to determine the governing weight of coal shipped from this facility to generating stations at Alabama Power Company, Gulf Power Company and Mississippi Power Company.



The procedure for testing the belt scale is most unusual and certainly a first for the State of Alabama. The belt scale is located on a conveyor at the barge loading facility. Steel containers were fabricated and placed in a barge to receive the coal used in the test. Steel covers were placed over the area between the containers to prevent spilling coal during the ten minute continuous flow. Each container will weigh approximately sixty tons when loaded. A crane will remove the covers and then lift each container out of the barge and place it on a truck scale to determine the gross weight. The container will be placed in another empty barge where the coal will be removed.

The empty containers will be placed back on the truck scale to obtain each tare weight. The total net weight from the containers will then be compared to the belt scale. The belt scale will be adjusted to match the reference weight.



The truck scale was leased from Powell All Steel Scales in Jasper, Alabama. Brian Peoples, Michelli Scale Company, prepared the scale for testing. State Inspector Teddy Shepherd conducted initial tests on the truck scale by placing 64,000 pounds of test weights on the scale with a crane furnished by the owner. Since the belt scale test will not be conducted for several weeks, a concrete ramp is now being constructed to allow access for the weight cart.

The reference scale will be tested again on the morning of the belt scale test. Two material runs will be completed to check the belt scale's repeatability, adjustments will be made if necessary and three material runs will be completed to verify that repeatability and tolerance are within the requirements of Handbook 44. The reference scale will be tested between each material run and after the test is complete. We will try to provide an update on the tests in the next newsletter. ⚡



Conveyor belt lifted up in preparation for alignment.



Adjusting the height of the idler frames.

ARKANSAS

Congratulations to Ed Price on his election as President of the Southern Weights and Measures Association for the year 2000. I've known Ed for several years and have appreciated his leadership role at both the regional and national level. Congratulations Ed! We look forward to coming to Austin in October! We want to wish Damon Slaydon Godspeed in his new responsibilities and express our appreciation to him for carrying the SWMA baton in recent months.

During April, a Pine Bluff firewood vendor was found guilty in Municipal Court of selling short measure firewood to an elderly lady. This high profile case was aired on a statewide TV news broadcast. The TV station had followed the case for several weeks as part of its consumer protection segment known as "7 On Your Side." The lady who had been shorted half a cord of firewood had secretly tape recorded the conversation with the firewood con artist. After refusing to compensate the buyer for the shortage, a warrant was issued for the man's arrest. The short measure seller was subsequently fined in court and required to make restitution to the offended party.

In May, we conducted a training class for our Weights and Measures field personnel using Module 24, Introduction to NIST Handbook 44. Leon Prince, Weights and Measures Field Investigator, was the course instructor and did an excellent job of presenting the material and keeping everyone focused.

We recently received a complaint regarding agri-chemical meters. These meters, which are mounted on 120-gallon tanks, are set up at farm and aerial applicator sites and are being used in commercial applications. Some of the meters are clearly marked "not to be used for resale." We are conducting an investigation to find out how widespread these devices are in the state.

Teresa Prevatt and David Guest attended the Southwest Regional Octane Group meeting in San Antonio, Texas during the last week of April. Of special interest to Teresa and David was a symposium on the operation and maintenance of laboratory equipment. Our Grain Moisture Meter Inspector, Dorothy Lawson, recently worked in southeast Missouri with Kirk Sponsler, Grain Moisture Meter Inspector for the state of Missouri. We believe it is very beneficial for state inspectors in adjoining states to work together at border sites in order to exchange information, ideas, and testing techniques.

We are expecting a large scale testing unit to arrive at the Bureau in June. The new test truck will be able to carry 32,000 pounds of test weight. In the area of pump testing, we have modified one of our pickups by replacing the standard bed with a flatbed. Motor fuel storage tanks and related equipment is being installed on the flatbed in order to allow us to test large numbers of gasoline and diesel pumps in a faster, more efficient manner.

We are saddened to hear of the passing of Debbie Joines, who worked with Dresser-Wayne. I still remember Debbie's insightful comments and input at the Southern meeting last year. We want to wish Debbie's family and coworkers the best

as we continue to remember them in our thoughts and prayers. On a positive note, we want to extend our congratulations and best regards to Henry Opperman, who has assumed new responsibilities as Chief of the Office of Weights and Measures. Henry's knowledge of weights and measures issues and enthusiasm for helping move the NCWM forward into the 21st century is refreshing. Congratulations Henry! We look forward to working with you and the staff at NIST/OWM! †

Delaware

Price verification inspections continue to be the top priority in the State of Delaware. During the months of April and May, we issued 25 written warnings and 5 criminal summonses. One of these summonses is for a repeat offender. There has not been a disposition in any of these cases. We are receiving plenty of good press in the local newspapers since word got out that about half the locations that we have checked have failed.

On May 4 and 5, we had Tom Stabler in to present a class for our Voluntary Serviceperson Registration program. We had about 40 attendees evenly split between the scale and liquid measure classes. We registered 34 servicepeople who passed the testing, and are planning a remedial presentation in June for the others.

Our Large Capacity Scale Testing Unit spent a week in Tiffin, Ohio getting retrofitted with a kit to upgrade the crane. It operates much slower now, but we feel that speed is a fair trade-off for added safety. This unit is now back on the road with an Inspector and a seasonal employee.

Prompted by a number of parking meter complaints last year, our staff will soon begin testing parking meters and timing devices. As soon as our new calibrated stop watches arrive, we will send inspectors into our resort areas. We hope to also start testing air pumps, car washes, laundromats, and vacuum cleaners in the near future. †

KENTUCKY

WE are sorry to hear of Damon Slaydon leaving Texas Weights & Measures. We wish him the best of luck at Texas A&M and will miss him.

The Division has recently purchased two of the slide in service station testing units from Seraphin Test Measures. They are being used in the Louisville, Lexington and Northern Kentucky metropolitan areas. These three areas account for over a fourth of the stations in the state. The inspectors are very pleased with the new units.

Buddy Brooks, Supervisor for Motor Fuel Inspections, is retiring July 31. Buddy started work with the division in 1968 and has spent the majority of career testing LP and petroleum meters. In 1994, Buddy was one of the first inspectors trained in the collection of fuel samples for quality inspection. Since that time, Buddy has supervised the inspectors in both the meter

testing and fuel quality program. Buddy's retirement plans are to piddle around on the farm, play more golf, and devote more time to his churches where he is a part time minister. We will miss Buddy and the wealth of knowledge that he brings to the job. We wish Buddy the best in his retirement.

Staff from the Division assisted Commissioner Billy Ray Smith in hosting the annual Southern Association of State Department of Agriculture (SASDA) meeting in Louisville June 9 – 14. Several of your bosses were there and had some interesting things to say about you all. This was good experience for the upcoming Southern that we will be hosting in 2001.

Amusement ride season is in full swing right now. This has been our busiest year to date with nearly 1400 rides and attractions permitted so far. Carl Dills and his crew have done an excellent job this year getting all the new rides inspected.

The Department has a new web site at kyagr.com. We have a page on the site that contains information on the programs that we regulate and the forms that we require. A business can download these forms, fill them out and mail them back to us. Several states have looked at the web page for use in their states. Check it out and you may find some useful ideas.

MISSISSIPPI

Weights and Measures Division

Construction on our Metrology Laboratory is moving along right on schedule. Construction should be completed by the end of this year.

We are still in the process of recruiting for the Metrologist position that was vacated by Ena Gustavis, we hope to have someone hired and qualified to fill this slot by the time our laboratory is completed.

We're making plans to attend the National Conference on Weights and Measures in Richmond in July, looking forward to seeing everyone there. ☪

NORTH CAROLINA

In the last issue we started our article by talking about high fuel prices. Well, they are even higher now. Complaints continue to roll in and now the blenders are asking us about what can and cannot be blended into gasoline. It certainly looks like we are going to have an exciting summer.

Best Food Stores, a division of Ingles Food Stores of Asheville, has paid a civil penalty of \$5,775 for price scanning errors in two of its stores. Over a period of four months inspectors from the Standards Division made three inspections at both stores and in each case the overcharge error rate was greater than 2%. A total of 650 items were scanned at each store with the overcharge error rates ranging from 3% to 8%. The company did not contest the civil penalty assessment and elected to pay the assessment in full without a hearing.

We have implemented a database system to maintain a record of complaints and inquiries we receive. This new system allows us to document complaints and inquiries in a consistent manner, and better respond to consumer requests. It will also provide statistical reports that allow us to track the number and nature of complaints and inquiries we handle. A quick query will provide us with a count and listing of records that meet criteria we select. For example, we can run a very broad query that shows us all complaints and inquiries received within a given date range. Or, by entering values for one or more fields, we can narrow the query as much as necessary to retrieve only the records whose data matches the values we have selected. This will make it very easy for us to know how many complaints we have received on a particular type of transaction or about a particular location.

The Motor Fuels Section is well into annual vapor pressure testing. North Carolina has seven counties and portions of two others that fall under EPA mandated vapor pressure requirements. The gasoline used in these counties is limited to a maximum vapor pressure of 7.8 psi from June 1 through September 15. The vapor pressure of the gasoline used in the other 93 counties is limited to 9.0 psi during the same period. A perpetual problem we deal with is new stations that were under construction during the winter months. When the underground tanks are installed during the winter, gasoline is stored in the tanks to keep the tanks from floating out of the ground. Unfortunately winter grade gasoline has a vapor pressure of up to 12 psi. When the stations are ready to open in June, the gasoline in their tanks does not meet the summertime vapor pressure requirements. We try to work with the stations to get rid of the gasoline as quickly as possible. Sometimes the volume is just too great and the operator must pump out the winter grade gasoline and replace it with a lower vapor pressure gasoline.

We are becoming involved in the many lawsuits dealing with MTBE. Attorneys are coming to the Motor Fuels Laboratory to review our records, especially those dealing with the oxygenated gasoline sold during the winters of 1992/93 through 1994/95. The use of oxygenated gasoline was required in several counties during those winter months. The attorneys are interested in test reports that give the amount and types of oxygenates found in gasoline during the period in question. All such records are public, although there may be a small fee charged for copying the records.

Since we implemented the cold crank testing program in February, we have seen a marked drop in the number of substandard 5W30 bulk and bottled oils being offered for sale. Through the end of April, 246 samples have been tested with 33 bulk samples and 4 lots of bottled oil found to be substandard. Most of the substandard products were 5W30. In a majority of the cases, we have traced the contamination to poor quality control. Unless the delivery hose is cleared after each delivery, there will be enough residual oil in the hose to contaminate the next delivery. Bulk truck drivers are learning to sequence deliveries to minimize the cross-contamination problem.

TENNESSEE

Sharon Woodard has returned to the Standards Laboratory! Last month we reported that Van Hyder had returned. Between Sharon and Van we have “reacquired” almost 14 years of metrology experience. LF calculates that the Standards Laboratory has over 60 years of combined metrology experience. That’s a high number and we suspect it may be the highest in the State Laboratory Program.

We recently had a pair of 1 kg and a pair of 100 g standards recalibrated at NIST. The service was excellent with very good turnaround times. Val Miller and Jerry Keller are currently looking at the historical stability of our weights and are finding the stability to be fairly good, especially for the 100 g weights. Val and Jerry are looking for causes of apparent changes in the 1 kg standards over their early history. They suspect that differences in cleaning procedures may be contributing the significant portion of the changes. We’ll have an update on this in the next newsletter.

LF continues to beg for complete participation in the 2000 State Lab Survey. In the first year, we had 100 per cent participation and that gave a much more complete picture of the system than less participation can yield. One hundred per cent participation also results in information that is easily comparable from year to year. If you are one of the Southern states that has not completed the survey, please try to do so as soon as possible. You know who you are because LF has called more than one time.

The Standards Lab has acquired a new camera for the MEASUREnet system that allows remote control of the camera across the Internet. This permits panning, zooming, and moving automatically to six preset positions. LF hopes the new MEASUREnet equipment will facilitate training and the sharing of information. David hopes the system will have the added benefit of reducing LF’s phone bills! Also, the lab has acquired a new pallet stacker and a new pallet jack. Testing and moving all those 50 pound weights wore out the last ones.

Since the last newsletter, personnel turnover has dominated everyone’s time. We are excited about the addition of Arlene Snow as a Standards Inspector II. Arlene will be responsible for a five-county territory that includes Winston-Salem. Her job will involve scale testing, price scanning inspection, and package inspection. We have also been able to promote two Standards I inspectors to Standards II inspector positions. Richard Sigmon and Wayne Compton are deserving of the opportunity to advance their careers. Both men have served the division well and we expect even better performance from them in their new positions. Standards I inspectors are primarily responsible for testing petroleum dispensers. Whenever you promote from within, you also create another vacancy. We are now in the process of advertising to fill Richard’s and Wayne’s positions. Hopefully, we’ll have details on that adventure in the next newsletter. †

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Debbie Joines as they deal with their loss. Our thoughts and prayers go to this family in their time of grief. Debbie was a very active member of the NCWM and her death will not only be a loss to her immediate family but to her NCWM family.

It seems that Damon Slaydon has left the Texas Department of Agriculture and gone to work for Texas A & M University in their engineering department. Damon’s departure from the SWMA will create a void but Ed Price has indicated he is ready to take the plunge and become the President of the SWMA. This honor is long past due for Ed, as he has been very active in not only SWMA but the NCWM over several years. Ed, I am sure I can speak not only for Tennessee but for the SWMA as we very much appreciate you assuming this position with very little notice! We all look forward to visiting Texas in October and are confident that Ed will carry on that fine Southern tradition of hospitality to all attendees.

Bob Williams and Randy Jennings have made their plans and arrangements to attend the NCWM in July to be held in Richmond, VA. There is only one problem; as this article is being written, the budget for next fiscal year has not been approved by either house of the Tennessee Legislature. Our state constitution mandates a balanced budget being in place prior to the beginning of each fiscal year. We are currently looking at the possibility of our state shutting down all state services in eleven (11) days unless some last minute proposals are agreed upon! Therefore, Bob and Randy may or may not be in Richmond!

Bob has been very involved in developing specifications for a new enclosed test truck and weight carts. Bob would like to thank those of you that he has called upon a number of times for information and advice. We are looking for delivery sometime this fall, hopefully. Tom Smith has received the final shipment of his environmental monitoring equipment for the metrology laboratory and reports all is working well. Tom will be better able to monitor the environmental conditions in his laboratory which will provide more accurate measurements for industry.

Change seems inevitable at all levels of state and federal government. We recently received notice that Gil Uginasky was assuming a different position at NIST and that Henry Oppermann was becoming the Chief at OWM. It was also mentioned that there may be other office changes at OWM. We are confident that both Gil and Henry will excel in their new positions and wish both of them the best of luck and look forward to working with them!

Ed Coleman, State Supervisor, recently completed Price Verification training for a couple of jurisdictions and reports all went well. Mr. Jeff Taylor recently joined our staff as a Weights and Measures Inspector in West Tennessee and we are currently interviewing for a large scale inspector in Middle Tennessee. †

WEST VIRGINIA

The West Virginia Division of Labor has established a web page in order to give business and the public more and easier access to its various functions including the Weights and Measures Section. The address is:

www.state.wv.us\labor/

Included on the site are the West Virginia Weights and Measures Law, an overview of the weights and measures program, FAQ (frequently asked questions) concerning weights and measures, forms for serviceman registration, etc., and contacts for various programs. Karl Angell, Director of Weights and Measures, stated that “although the site was up and running it would be improved and continually updated”.

West Virginia will be sending representatives to the National Conference on Weights and Measures Annual Meeting in Richmond this July.

Commodities Program

Bill Cobb, Commodities Program Coordinator, as part of the ongoing training program to coordinate and further standardize enforcement and testing procedures among area inspectors, conducted training classes for all area inspectors at locations across the state during March and April. The two-day class covered field testing of liquid commodities with an emphasis on milk and milk products. The classes consisted of eight hours of classroom instruction followed by eight hours of hands on training at various super markets. The training resulted in not only initiating new inspectors, but in refreshing experienced inspectors in the correct procedures for testing liquids.

Bill has commenced the second of his series of classes on Price Verification. The classes will be conducted in the same manner as his previous class. The third and final of the series is to be conducted prior to the Thanksgiving-Christmas holidays and will have special emphasis on testing special holiday items such as gift baskets, turkeys and hams.

Since West Virginia has only one producing dairy plant, almost all milk sold is imported from neighboring states. Inspectors Richard McComas and Victor Zamora assisted Bill during a visit to Winchester Farms Dairy, located in Kentucky, where they observed production methods and conducted audit inspections on milk products intended for sale within West Virginia. Tom Stabler, a consultant for the Kroger Company and President of Stabler Training Services, was present and observed the testing. During the visit an agreement was reached for further audit inspections to be conducted at the plant by the section.

Fuels Program:

Dennis Harrison, Fuels Program Coordinator, along with John Drummond of the Sunoco Corporation, and Eric Hawkins of SGS, addressed a meeting of the County Auditors Association of Ohio (CAAO) who are attempting to persuade the Ohio Assembly of the necessity of a fuel quality law. Dennis addressed the consequences to both producers and consumers of not having a fuel quality law. He also gave insights into the administration and effectiveness of the fuel quality law

published in NIST Handbook 130 based upon his experience. Mr. Drummond and Mr. Hawkins also recommended the adoption of the Handbook 130 law, or one based on it. Ohio is one of the few states without a fuel quality law

Dennis related that a national problem is developing where the distributor or retailer fails to remove all water from storage tanks when changing over to the new ethanol-extended fuels. When all of the water is not removed from a storage tank the ethanol combines with the water and causes a phase separation which drastically degrades the quality of the gasoline. Extreme care must be taken to assure the storage tanks are free of all water before introducing gasoline containing ethanol. These phase separations are difficult to detect using conventional means.

In order to more accurately detect these phase separations as well as establish more accurate water levels in storage tanks, Dennis is purchasing the new Scully Model WB 100G battery powered water detector which will issued to all fuel specialists and area inspectors. Dennis and the fuel specialists conducted extensive testing of the device, and have found it highly effective in detecting phase separations in ethanol extended gasoline.

Scales Program / NTEP

Steve Casto, Scales Program Coordinator, has been conducting training in accordance with the ongoing program at locations within the state. The area inspectors and heavy test unit specialists have requested training in areas where they need help, and Steve has directed his training to these areas. This individualized training will continue as long as it is needed by the inspectors.

Steve has prepared an intensive training class relating to the prosecution of criminal offenses against the weights and measures law. The class will deal with completing information sheets, preparing warrants, obtaining the warrant as well as courtroom etiquette.. Steve has also prepared specialized training for area inspectors in propane meter and CNG meter testing.

Steve says that recently some devices have been found by inspectors with a model designation on the manufacturer’s identification badge as required by Handbook 44, but it does not match the model designation on the NTEP Certificate of Conformance. This causes problems and costly delays when trying to determine if the device is in fact covered by the certificate, and if it should be inspected and placed into commercial service.

Citation Program:

Rose Long reports that during January, February and March of this year citations for the following violations were issued and total fines paid in the amount of:

Misrepresentation of Pricing	\$100.00
Scanners Misrepresentation of Quantity	\$1,850.00
Net Quantity Testing Violations of:	
Serviceman Registration Requirements	\$950.00
Fuels Program Requirements	\$700.00
Handbook 44 Requirements	\$800.00
Possession of Incorrect Weight	\$150.00

Meet Our New Members

James Lynch, Regional Sales Director
Rice Lake Weighing Systems
Salem, VA

James (Jim) Lynch began working in the scale industry in 1980. For fourteen years he worked as a scale technician for a North Carolina based company. In 1994 he took a position as regional manager for a major load cell manufacturer. Since July of 1998 he has been the Southeast Regional Sales Director for Rice Lake Weighing Systems. Jim and his family reside in Salem, Virginia.

Johnny Corn
Greenville Scale
Taylors, SC

Johnny Corn started his scale career with Toledo Scale in 1980 as a load cell technician in Inman, SC. In 1983 he began working for Greenville Scale Company as a scale repairman. He then moved into sales and management. Johnny is now the sales and operations manager for Greenville Scale, a distributor of scales, laboratory balances, and custom engineered weighing systems in South Carolina, western North Carolina, and northern Georgia. In 1999, Johnny served as the chairman of the Southeastern Division of the I.S.W.M. Johnny and his family live in Spartanburg, SC.

Tim Farlow
Braswell Scale & Equipment Co., Inc.
Asheville, NC

Tim joined Braswell Scale in 1962 working in the office. He soon realized he preferred working in service and transferred to the service department in 1963. That work continued until 1981 when Ned Braswell decided to retire. Braswell Scale &

Equipment Co. Inc. was formed in 1955 as Ned Braswell Distributor as a distributor for Toledo Scale Company. Tim purchased the company from Mr. Braswell and became company president. Braswell Scale & Equipment Company is now a Premier Mettler Toledo Distributor and is one of the oldest Mettler Toledo Distributors in the United States. The company provides sales and service for retail and industrial scales in 16 Western North Carolina Counties.

Martin Oehler.

Martin Oehler began his career in the scale industry in 1964 when he joined Fairbanks Scale Company of Charlotte as a scale technician. In 1975 he moved to the sales department. In 1976, Martin purchased Charlotte Scale Company from Julius Cooley. Mr. Cooley had started Charlotte Scale Company in 1945. The company now distributes for Cardinal, Detecto, Rice Lake, Ohaus, Allegany, First Weigh, Digi, CAS, and AND. Charlotte Scale Company operates in North and South Carolina, Georgia, and Virginia. ☪

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