



# Southern Weights & Measures Association

133rd Edition

SWMA Newsletter

July 2013

## JURISDICTIONAL NEWS

### GEORGIA

Well the big news in the Fuel & Measures Division of the Georgia Department of Agriculture is the recent retirement of long time Assistant Director Marvin Pound. Marvin, who also answers to Marnie, Monty, Marty or just about anything else is a well-known and longtime member of the SWMA and will be missed. His plans are to relocate to Saint Simons Island GA and enjoy his retirement at the beach, we wish him well.

Retail Fuel Program Manager Doug Killingsworth is currently filling in as acting Assistant Director, and is doing a great job. Doug and Division Director Rich Lewis will be attending the NCWM annual meeting in Louisville, KY in July. Rich is serving on the L & R Committee and is looking forward to some lively discussions this year.

The Georgia Propane Gas Association recently held its annual driver training seminar and truck rodeo at the State Farmers Market in Macon, GA. Our Weights & Measures Program Manager Steve Brannon taught one of the classes at this event and two of our inspectors, Todd Sweat and Ricky Dorsey served as the judges for the truck rodeo. A big thank you to Steve, Todd, and Ricky for their involvement in this important event.

Our Fuel and Metrology Labs continue to do a great job at their new location in Tifton, GA. The Fuel Lab in conjunction with our mobile lab in Atlanta is currently processing 1500 samples monthly. Brian Grace from the Metrology lab recently attended Grain Moisture Meter Training in Kansas City, MO.

We have just completed two training sessions with our Retail Fuel Inspectors. Doug Killingsworth, Mark Andrews and Tony Davis had recently attended a NIST Train the Trainer course for Retail Motor Fuel Devices in Indiana. They conducted the inspector training sessions for our inspectors at two retail locations. The sessions were held in Tifton, GA at a Flash Foods and in Athens, GA at a Quick Trip. This was very beneficial for our inspectors and we want to thank Flash Foods and Quick Trip for letting us use their facilities. ☩

### MARYLAND

We have a true shining star and achiever in our NTEP Program. Ed Payne has been selected as the "Maryland Department of Agriculture's Employee of the Quarter for Customer Service." He is recognized for his contribution to the department and for service to the domestic, national and international scale industry, through his tireless work as an NTEP evaluator. Congratulations, Ed!



Left to right: Deputy Secretary Mary Ellen Setting, Ed Payne receiving the award, and Secretary Buddy Hance presenting.

We also celebrated and recognized the 30+ years of continuous working career of Assistant Chief Mike Frailer. After 30 or so years, Mike has decided enough is enough, no more early rising, long bumper-to-bumper commutes, and tireless hours in the office. He retired June 3. As a thank you and farewell everyone in the program contributed to Mike's solar wristwatch gift, which was awarded to Mike at our June Training School. Good Luck and Best Wishes, Mike.



Left to right: Assistant Secretary Pat McMillan present's Maryland Governors' Service Recognition Certificate to Retired Assistant Chief Mike Frailer, who is holding the Department's Recognition of Service Award, and Program Chief Ken Ramsburg.

This quarter, the safety training topic is on the six "Ls" to safe lifting. Handouts are reviewed with staff to keep us all thinking how to do our jobs safely.

In our ongoing efforts to advance the continued education of our staff, a two-day class was held in June on small scale inspection, specifically understanding and applying the information of HB 44 and NTEP Certificates. At the conclusion of the training, our field inspectors took the NCWM Small Capacity Retail Scales test.



Picture of staff taking the NCWM Small Scale Test. Barbara Miller, the inspector on far right was awarded a \$100 gift card for high test score.

As a measure towards national recognition, Maryland has begun taking the NCWM web based device and package testing tests. Starting last July, the staff applied themselves by taking the first of the series tests: Small Liquid Measuring Devices. Soon to be followed with, Small Scales, during our June Training Class. To make the test more of a challenge we offered the highest score recipient a gift card prize of \$100. Congratulations, Barbara Miller.

We are continuing to modernize the fleet. Toward this goal, the program replaced a pick-up truck test unit and three vans.

The program continues taking enforcement action against violators in short weight packages and misrepresentation of prices. March 14, 2013 to June 14, 2013, the enforcement actions taken are:

- On March 28, 2013 the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) received \$1,000.00 for a civil penalty assessed for short weight to Safeway #2848 of Bethesda, MD 20814
- On April 9, 2013 MDA received \$2,000.00 for a civil penalty assessed for short weight to Giant Food #127 of Olney, MD 20832.
- On April 9, 2013 MDA received \$2,000.00 for a civil penalty assessed for short weight to Giant Food #329 of Rockville, MD 20850.
- On April 15, 2013 MDA received \$250.00 for a civil penalty assessed for short weight to Giant Food #132 of Bethesda, MD 20814.
- On April 15, 2013 MDA received \$250.00 for a civil penalty assessed for short weight to Giant Food #338 of Accokeek, MD 20607.
- On April 29, 2013 MDA received \$500.00 for a civil penalty assessed for short weight to Giant Food #132 of Bethesda, MD 20814.
- On May 1, 2013 MDA received \$750.00 for a civil penalty assessed for short weight to Wegmans #47 of Columbia, MD 21045.
- On May 3, 2013 MDA received \$1,000.00 for a civil penalty assessed for short weight to Safeway #107 of Greenbelt, MD 20770.
- On May 3, 2013 MDA received \$2,000.00 for a civil penalty assessed for short weight to Safeway #4868 of Laurel, MD 20707.
- On May 6, 2013 MDA received \$500.00 for a civil penalty assessed for short weight to Jumbo Food International Supermarket of Temple Hills, MD 20748.
- On April 24, 2013 MDA received \$2,000.00 for a civil penalty assessed for price verification to CVS #4411 of Baltimore, MD 21215.
- On May 15, 2013 MDA received \$250.00 for a civil penalty assessed for price verification to Target #2393 of Baltimore, MD 21215. ☞

## MISSISSIPPI

Commissioner Cindy Hyde-Smith sees the value in professional certification for weights and measures officials. We anticipate each inspector will complete the Professional Certification Programs offered by the National Conference of Weights and Measures (NCWM) in their respective fields. We appreciate the efforts and the vision of the NCWM to provide these training programs.

### Weights and Measures Division

Greg Gholston was recently selected by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the National Conference on Weights and Measures (NCWM) to attend an instructor training course at the NIST facility in Gaithersburg, MD. Their intention is to train several new instructors across the country to teach NIST weights and measures courses. In continuation of that training, NIST has asked Greg to assist in a NIST vehicle/axle scale course in Maine this September.



### Consumer Protection Division



John Tillson, Director of Consumer Protection Division, retired from the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce on May 31, 2013. John's Retirement Reception was held on Wednesday, May 29, 2013, honoring him for his 34 years of dedicated service to the State of Mississippi. Best wishes to John on his future endeavors.

### Petroleum Division

The Petroleum Division was able to purchase 3 Diesel Exhaust Fluid test measures and funnels, which it will incorporate during the inspection procedure of the hi-flow diesel dispensers. The division is fortunate to have 2-60 gallon provers and 1-150 gallon prover and the addition of these DEF cans will work nicely in the testing process allowing inspectors to complete a truck stop in one visit.



John Childress, a supervisor in the petroleum division, retires effective June 30th. John has been with the division since it was transferred from the Department of Motor Vehicles in 1988 and prior to that, worked with DMV. John retires after 30 years of service with the state. Good luck John! 🍀

## NORTH CAROLINA

### Standards Laboratory

During the month of April we participated in the Southeastern Measurement Assurance Program, SEMAP, which took place in Tifton, Georgia. Metrologist Van Hyder and Quality Assurance Manager Robert Rogers represented North Carolina during this week long training process. This was the first opportunity to view Georgia's new calibration laboratory. North Carolina successfully demonstrated proficiency in several areas of training.

The NCD&CS Standards Laboratory received the prestigious Fourth Consecutive Year Gold Star Award for having outstanding safety and health efforts in the work place. The recognition comes from the North Carolina Department of Labor Safety Awards Program. Special thanks to all the staff members for a job well done and keeping safety a top priority.

The grain moisture section completed their SRWW harvest in spite of the large amounts of rain. With the frequent precipitation and tropical storm, there was concern with finding lower quality damaged wheat this season. This turned out not to be an issue and adequate grain in the desired moisture ranges for the 2013-2014 testing season was gathered. We are currently cleaning the wheat samples and looking forward to a good corn harvest in late summer!

Sharon Woodard

### Measurement Section

The Measurement Section is slowly getting back to a full staff. James Varble started June 3rd as a Vehicle and Heavy Scale Inspector. He replaced Reggie Shuford who retired July 1, 2012. We will soon have all four of our Heavy Scale Test Units back on the road. Mark Lanning joined us on June 24th as a Gas and Oil Inspector, filling Charles Floyd's vacant position. Mike Bollinger is returning to work next week after successful surgery. This is two weeks earlier than expected. "Way to go Mike". This leaves us with two vacant positions we hope to fill very shortly.

The strawberry, blueberry and produce season has gone smoothly this year. We have not been flooded with a rash of calls requesting their scales be tested. I guess we now have most of them on a list and get to them before they call. Our guys are pretty good about handling things in the nick of time.

Our Price Scanning Program is going quite smoothly as well. We are having far fewer failed scans than in the past. Of those that do fail the initial price scan inspection, very few are failing the second or "300 item" scan. Everyone it seems is doing a far better job of keeping their posted prices correct. This year from January 1 through May 31 we had 7 failed 300 item price scan for penalties of \$14,480.00. Last year for the same period (January 1, 2012 through May 31, 2012) we had 32 failed 300 item price scans with penalties of \$62,850.00. Quite a difference don't you think? The total number of scans conducted was virtually the same. I think folks are finally getting

the message. "Your posted or advertised prices must be correct".

Jerry Butler

### LP-Gas Section

The LP-Gas inspectors received refresher training on LP-Gas basic principles. This will be followed by refresher training in other LP-Gas topics. This will be based on the CTEP training manuals, which we have purchased for the training and future reference.

Richard Fredenburg, LP-Gas Engineer, participated in the NFPA Annual Conference and Expo in Chicago to present some motions for reconsidering some proposals for the next edition of the LP-Gas Code.

We are upgrading or field staff computers for performing inspections. We began with second-hand Toughbook laptops with MiFi devices, but we will soon be changing to new ruggedized 10" Android-based tablets. These should be easier to carry during an inspection and have built in MiFi. Our online inspection program is working well, though there still some finishing touches to be completed.

Richard Fredenburg

### Motor Fuels Laboratory

Low vapor pressure season begins on June 1. Many stations in NC are selling gasoline with 10% ethanol. We are allowing a 1 lb. vapor pressure tolerance for ethanol blends. The NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources did request that the EPA re-designate these counties so they could use 9.0 psi fuel instead. As a decision would not be made quickly, they also asked for "enforcement discretion", meaning we would not have to enforce the 7.8 psi requirement until a decision was made. However, they have yet to make a decision on that request either, so it is business as usual this summer.

The lab has replaced several instruments over the last few months. All the new installations have been highly successful to this point. Some of the replaced instruments were as much as twenty years old. In one respect, we have returned to the past with the installation of a manual D86 distillation apparatus. The manual unit was installed due to difficulties that we have experienced in determining the exact distillation curve of non-compliant samples when using ADA's.

Recently, Motor Fuels Inspectors have been encountering more stations that are selling biodiesel blends. The Lab tests FAME content of biodiesel blend samples by ASTM method D 7371. Historically biodiesel at retail has been rare and was more common at commercial fleet facilities and DOT locations, which we inspect by request.

Art Rupard 🇺🇸

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#### Contact SWMA

The SWMA Newsletter is published quarterly. Annual dues are \$50. Membership inquiries should be directed to:  
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