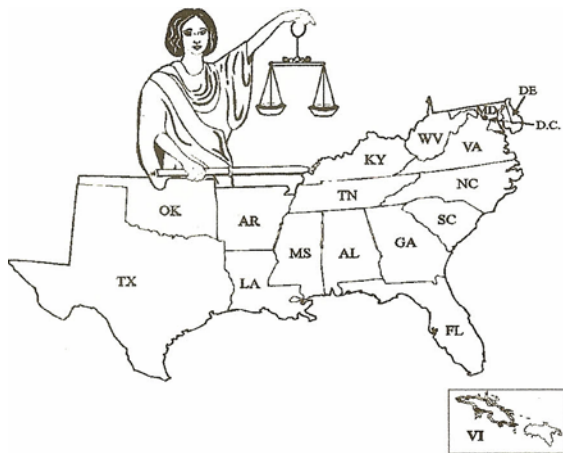


# Southern Weights & Measures Association



144th Edition

SWMA Newsletter

April 2016

## JURISDICTIONAL NEWS

### GEORGIA

The Fuel & Measures Division of the Georgia Department of Agriculture is currently gearing up for spring time. We have recently conducted several rounds of training with our weights & measures inspectors for package testing for mulch. This training included not only our inspectors but industry partners as well.



We have been working on a project with Georgia Tank Lines, a commercial fuel carrier. In conjunction with our Fuel Lab we are testing diesel in several different scenarios to determine the impact of switch loading on diesel flash point.

We are looking at the operation of Cotton Gins in Georgia to determine if we need to be more involved in the way farmers are compensated for the cotton seed that is ginned out of the cotton.

Our fuel inspectors are continuing to look for illegal credit card skimmers in gas dispensers. We have found a few and are forwarding them on to the Secret Service.



We are very pleased that we may be getting a new heavy scale inspection unit and truck. It will be replacing a unit in the middle part of the state that has almost 300,000 miles.



We would like to congratulate Mark Andrews on his recent promotion to Supervisor for the North Georgia region. Mark has been an inspector with the division for over 10 years.

We will be hosting a fuel seminar on May 12 at the Atlanta Farmers Market. It will be hosted in conjunction with the Georgia Environmental Tank Corporation and the topic being covered will be underground tank maintenance. †

## **FLORIDA**

### **Changes to Florida’s Bureau of Standards**

Florida’s Bureau of Standard’s would like to welcome Mr. Rick Kimsey to the weights and measures community. Rick has been a long time member of the Florida Standards’ team as the laboratory administrator where he oversaw the operations for the bureau’s petroleum, brake fluid, antifreeze and metrology labs stationed throughout the state. Most recently Rick championed the Bureau’s standardization program and assembled the Standards’ training team. On April 1, 2016, Rick will assume the role of Chief of Standards for the Bureau. Mr. Hal Prince and Mr. Alan Walker will continue to oversee the field operations teams for the Bureau and Ms. Vanessa Benchea will assume Rick’s former role as laboratory administrator. Vanessa has been the long time manager for the Bureau’s Tampa Petroleum Testing Lab and will continue her new post out of the Tampa area. Meanwhile, Matt will continue to have oversight of the Bureau of Standards as the assistant director of the Division of Consumer Services. Matt will also have oversight of the Division’s Bureau of Compliance; Bureau of Mediation and Enforcement; Bureau of Fair Rides Inspections plus the Division’s Call Center; Outreach and Education Office; Information and Technology Section; and Board of Professional Surveyors and Mappers.

### **Florida Cracks Down on Credit Card Skimmers in Gas Pumps**

The Florida Legislature recently passed with overwhelming support Senate Bill 912 and House Bill 761 relating to added security measures for gas pumps and increased penalties for those caught skimming or with stolen credit card information. This legislation that was championed by Commissioner of Agriculture Adam H. Putnam and sponsored by Senator Anitere Flores and House Majority Leader Dana Young will require self-service retail motor fuel dispensers to use added security measures to prevent theft of consumer credit card information; increase enforcement authority against those who possess or traffic fraudulent credit cards; reclassify the crime of unlawful conveyance of fuel, which increases the maximum sentence; and increase the offense level of the crime, which affects sentence guidelines. †

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## MARYLAND

Maryland Weights and Measures held a two-day training school March 2 and 3. This training covered topics such as credit card skimmers, requirements of registered service technicians, examination procedures for point of sale systems, how to dissect an NTEP Certificate of Conformance, and proper care for field standards. Inspectors also took various NCWM professional certification tests while they were here. Our goal is to see all inspectors pass every test available. While the staff was in the office, Chief Ken Ramsburg thanked the field staff for all of their hard work -- and what better way to show our appreciation than lunch from Mission Barbeque during Weights and Measures Week!





Our laboratories are in full swing here at the Maryland Department of Agriculture. Zach Tripoulas has been hard at work calibrating the standards for the NTEP laboratory and for the field staff, while Ed Payne has been splitting his time between the office and the field while performing NTEP evaluations. Senior Inspector Aaron Webb is preparing his standards so that he can begin inspecting grain moisture meters throughout the state.



We are excited to add three new slip-on units to our fleet for gas station inspections. Two of these slip-on units will be replacing mild steel slip-on units which are deteriorating from years of heavy use and exposure to the environment. The third will be installed on a new pickup truck that we will receive this summer. These slip-on units will be put to the test now that the weather is getting nice outside.

The department hosted a Farmers' Market Conference on March 15. Elizabeth Koncki, Aaron Webb and

Sylvie Osias manned a table outside of the conference room so that farmer's market vendors could bring their scales in to be inspected and registered, if required. This process makes it easier on the farmers' market vendors as well as the Weights and Measures inspectors because these devices are operated seasonally and sometimes located in remote areas of the state.



Zach Tripoulas attended the NTEP belt conveyor sector meeting in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in February. This also gave Zach a chance to visit his cat, who is residing with family in Pittsburgh while renovations are being completed at his residence. Special thanks to Zach who continues to take on NTEP projects even as the metrology workload steadily increases.

Staffing has not changed since the last newsletter. The department still has 15 field inspectors and three vacancies in the field. We recently completed a round of interviews and hope to fill our vacancies in the coming weeks. We are looking forward to Barbara coming back from an extended leave. 🍀

## MISSISSIPPI

### Consumer Protection

So far this fiscal year, the Consumer Protection Division has performed 1007 UPC inspections, 3273 device inspections, and 619 net weight package check inspections. Two stores have been fined for repeated UPC violations.

### Petroleum Division

The Petroleum Division has been diligently working towards all inspectors receiving Professional Certification in the area of Retail Motor Fuel Dispensing Systems administered through the National Conference on Weights and Measures. Timothy Biles is our most recently certified inspector. By the end of this membership year, the division hopes to be at 100% certified.



Recent equipment modifications have been made to the flatbed units used by petroleum inspectors. Storage cases holding the 5-gallon hand held test measures have been mounted allowing easy access as well as protecting from possible damage. Hose reels have also been added providing easy storage of hoses used with the fuel return system.



Also modified, were the tubes used to store fill drain hoses. PVC pipes were replaced with aluminum tubing. Petroleum Supervisor Clay Hammons has been instrumental in completing these projects.

Administrative Penalties, for products not meeting ASTM specifications, have been assessed in the amount of \$15,250, to date for this Fiscal Year. 🇺🇸

## NORTH CAROLINA

As part of the primary voting in NC, there was a \$2 billion bond that passed. The money will be for new state and university buildings and infrastructure improvements. The NC Department of Agriculture has a project as part of the bond which includes a new Motor Fuels Lab! While the current facility is only 62 years old, we *really* look forward to a lab that will be co-located with new veterinary and food & drug facilities. In the future, the metrology lab and our pesticides section may also be on the property.

### LP-Gas Section

We will host a NIST training class on LP-Gas meters June 13-17 in Raleigh. More details can be found on the NIST website <http://www.nist.gov/pml/wmd/5419.cfm> , it is class #5419. We will have 4 inspectors attend, so there is plenty of room for others! Registration is open now.

Richard Fredenburg, our LP-Gas Engineer, will be contributing commentary to the *LP-Gas Code Handbook* for the 2017 edition of the *LP-Gas Code*. Part of the reason for NFPA’s request for his input was the part he played in proposing and advocating for some new requirements in the code that address filling of containers for use in hot air balloons and for how to treat ASME tanks that are not connected in a service system.

Richard presented information on March 18 about the *LP-Gas Code* and LP-Gas rules at the North Carolina Fire Protection School at Fort Fisher, NC. There was a lively discussion about the probable elimination of the requirement for protection from vehicles at propane cylinder exchange locations.

Richard Fredenburg

### Measurement Section

It is a new year and I hope everyone had a great holiday!

Inspectors were inside with the winter weather and we have been doing more price scan inspections. Businesses seem to be doing a good job of monitoring their systems because to date we have only three civil penalty assessments.

Beautiful weather actually arrived early March and with the warmer weather came yard work, field work and gardens. Our inspectors were geared up for testing fertilizer and mulch back in February and continuing on through March. So far, results have not been great but better than last year. While visiting and inspecting we try to help with any problems that we find. A light test weight owned by the fertilizer packers can cause all kinds of headaches. We also try to test their quality control scales. When these are correct it seems that we have less rejected fertilizer lots. Quality and quantity control programs at the packers are usually not consistent and we encourage them to develop and adhere to a strict program. One NC packer passed inspections in 2016 after we helped him find problems in his bagging and quality control process in 2015. Resident packers have realized that we will be visiting them every year and have really tried to make improvements in their bagging process.

We have had nine inspectors take the RMFD certification exams and pass. We have two inspectors that have passed two certification exams. I would like to congratulate Chad Parker, Tom Corriher, Tony Gibson, George Grier, Hunter Hair, Rick LaMountain, Mark Lanning, Tommy Nixon and Randy Ramsey on their accomplishment. We have two inspectors that have taken the VTM certification exam and passed. Congratulations to Mike Dunn and Randy Ramsey.

Our annual safety and training meeting was scheduled for March 21 through 23. This is practically the only meeting when all NC Gasoline and Oil and Weights and Measures inspectors are present in the same meeting room. We update all of our handbooks and procedures to make sure we are performing the inspections in a consistent manner. Policy is discussed and questions are answered. It is a very productive meeting.

We have been fortunate enough to fill some of our vacant positions. Hunter Hairr moved into my position of calibrator, Mark Lanning moved into Frank Wilson's position as a dual role inspector. These were promotions for Hunter and Mark but left us with two vacancies. Michael Trogdon has accepted the gasoline and oil inspector position that has been open for over a year when Jeff Bullard moved up and accepted a weights and measures position vacated by Supervisor Chad Parker. Danny Stillwell retired December 31, 2015 and left us with an open calibrator position. Wayne (Bucky) Scruton retired in February 2016. We wish Danny and Bucky a long and happy retirement!

Allen Katalinic

## **Standards Laboratory**

Our year began with having our two year NVLAP Assessment January 12-14. Mark Ruefenacht and Aaron Aydelotte were our NVLAP assessors. We finished with some expected and some unexpected nonconformities. Nevertheless we are expected to receive our NVLAP accreditation for the 2016-2017 year.

We received our standards back in a timely manner and were able to begin customer calibrations by the first week in February. I applaud the efforts of our metrologists (Nicholas Cercone, Van Hyder, Ashley Lessard, Robert Rogers and Sherry Teachey) for a job well done. Each year our goal is to begin customer calibrations by February 1<sup>st</sup>.

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Van Hyder will continue to serve as chairman for the Legal Metrology committee by NCSLI this year. We look forward to the many opportunities and contributions Van will make to enhance the legal metrology world. A world whose goal is to continue to promote educational programs and to recommend uniformity and quality of standards in specific measurement arenas.

Robert Rogers attended a two (2) day NCSLI Technical Exchange February 1-2. The areas of interest were with things that could enhance our temperature laboratory. It was a very informative session on temperature scales, thermocouples, IPRTs, thermistors, digitals, data loggers, alternatives to HG thermometers, PTs, and uncertainty budgets.

In safety news, we will continue to participate in the Carolina Star Program. Our safety team representatives for this year are Sherry Teachey and Robert Rogers. I believe they will do an excellent job keeping us informed of the many changes in the safety community. We have made the commitment to ourselves to make sure we exercise the common goal of keeping safety first.

In January our Grain Moisture section welcomed a new inspector, Ryan Askew. He will be responsible for the eastern half of the state. His field training was completed just in time for the height of our inspection season. We are looking forward to warmer weather as we finish our inspections. We expect a smaller wheat crop this year due to weather during planting season.

Sharon Woodard

## Motor Fuels Laboratory

We would like to welcome Julia Kanagy as a new field chemist in the western part of the state. Julia worked for several years for the Virginia weights and measures program before becoming an air quality and UST inspector for the state of Hawaii. 🇺🇸

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Membership inquires should be directed to:

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