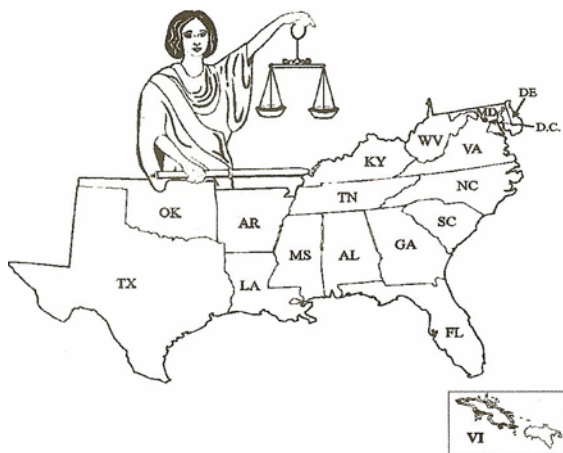


# Southern Weights & Measures Association



148th Edition

SWMA Newsletter

April 2017

## JURISDICTIONAL NEWS

### GEORGIA

The Georgia Department of Agriculture's Fuel & Measures Division is very pleased to announce the addition to our staff of Ms. Rosemary Perryman. Ms. Rosemary comes to us as our new Administrative Assistant from the Personnel office. She is a longtime employee of the Department and we are very happy to have her as a member of our staff.

The Department has recently undergone some administrative re-arranging and as a result the Warehouse and Bonding Section has now been moved under the Fuel & Measures Division. The Warehouse & Bonding Section was part of Fuel & Measures several years ago and we are very pleased to welcome them back. They enforce



laws and regulations

concerning the commercial storage and sale of grains, cotton, and tobacco. They also work with livestock markets and dealers, dealers in agricultural products, and the state's commodity commissions.



As springtime starts to arrive we have started our annual practice of package testing of mulch. The sale of mulch is a very big industry in Georgia, both on a retail level as well as at the wholesale level. We work very closely with our industry partners on training and enforcement to ensure that consumers are well protected when purchasing mulch. ✚

## Maryland

Maryland Weights and Measures held a two-day training school on February 23 and 24. The main focus of the class was on scanner scales and point-of-sale systems. Our staff spent the first day of the training school visiting five different grocery stores in the area for hands-on training with a supervisor. We covered topics including how to properly inspect the scale and the point-of-sale software according to the EPO, how to read the Certificate of Conformance for each scale and point-of-sale system, how to locate the required marking information, and



how to check for programmed tares and prices in the system. We spent the second day in the classroom reviewing our findings and having an informative question and answer session. Our inspectors enjoyed the hands on training and found this class to be a very valuable learning experience.

What would a Weights and Measures training school be without hamburgers and hotdogs on the grill? We were even blessed with temperatures in the 70s on the second day for our cookout!

Here in the office, our laboratories have been busy as well. Tong Hsu has been busy calibrating standards for our field staff, and Zach Tripoulas has been staying busy with his evaluations in the NTEP Weighing Laboratory. Congratulations to Tong, who recently was recognized by NIST as an official signatory for our state metrology laboratory. Tong will be splitting his time between performing regular inspections in the field and working in the lab with Zach. We are also currently in the process of soliciting bids to overhaul and repair our current HVAC



system in our Large Mass Laboratory. Once that is complete, we will have repaired or replaced the HVAC systems in four of our five primary metrology laboratories. Zach, Tong and Elizabeth Koncki are preparing to attend the annual SEMAP meeting in Cary, North Carolina.

Ken Ramsburg and Joe Eccleston had the privilege of being invited to the annual Weights and Measures Week celebration in Washington D.C. Thank you to Ron Johnson and his staff for welcoming us and giving a very informative presentation regarding Weights and Measures Inspections in the District.

A few personnel notes – Our office is anxiously awaiting the return of Aaron “Old Man” Webb, who has been out since October after having shoulder surgery. Aaron is our utility man, and we have truly missed his positive attitude and willingness to tackle any assignment during his absence.

We are pleased to announce the addition of a new field inspector to our staff. Brian Flagg started in November and has almost completed training for LMD inspections in his assigned territory. Good luck to Brian as he learns the various duties of a Weights and Measures Inspector.

On another note, we have also lost two inspectors in the past few months. Packaging expert Ethan Halpern retired at the end of 2016 after 33 years of employment with Weights and Measures. Dan Huff also decided to part ways with the state as he will be pursuing other opportunities. We wish both Ethan and Dan the best in whatever they choose to do.

We currently have four vacancies in the field that we hope to interview for in the near future. 🍀

## **North Carolina**

### **Measurement Section**

I hope everyone is having a great 2017!!

The last quarter of 2016 was pretty much business as usual until we started finding skimmers hidden in the gasoline dispensers. Several banks assisted in narrowing down the locations and we were ready to inspect and investigate. On several of these special inspections we found a credit card skimmer or where a skimmer had been. Skimmers were also discovered during routine dispenser inspections. When a skimmer was located the local law enforcement agency was contacted and federal authorities were notified.

Statistics recorded for 2016: Retail dispensers tested were 96399 with a rejection rate of 12.52%. We had 271 complaints related to purchasing gasoline. We tested 2466 vehicle tank meters with a rejection rate of 13.38%. Our W&M inspectors tested 31766 small scales with a rejection rate of 10.43%. They also checked 2755 scanning systems and had a rejection rate of 5.08%. Heavy scale inspectors tested 1318 vehicle scales and had a rejection rate of 15.78%. We logged 66 complaints on the W&M section.

Package inspections had the lowest rejection rate at 1.74%.

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The gasoline and oil section has a new employee. We welcome Tim Quinn into Hunter Hairr's vacant position of Standards Inspector I. Jerry Cansler transferred west to Rick LaMountain's vacant position and left a vacancy of Standards Inspector I in the central section of the state.

Tommy Sides is leaving a vehicle scale position to accept a Standards Inspector II W&M that was advertised to get closer to his original home area. Hunter Hairr was promoted to Eastern Area Supervisor to fill John Gurkin's position. John's effective date to retire was December 30, 2016 and Hunter vacates a large meter calibrator position. Ken Hinnant, due to health reasons, left a vacancy as a dual role inspector. On the scale side, Ryan Coffield has completed transition to Standards Inspector II and we are working on approval for his replacement. As of this moment we have four vacancies to fill and we will be 100% staffed. I'm optimistic!

North Carolina hosted a Basic Package Checking class in March and our inspectors filled nearly all the seats in the class. Louisiana inspectors also participated in the class. We have so many new Weights and Measures inspectors that we wanted to make sure everyone is trained in the proper procedures by NIST. I want to thank David Sefcik, Lisa Warfield and Yvonne Brandon for assisting Mr. Benjamin and I in making this happen. I would also like to thank my field supervisors Gerald Brown, Chad Parker and Hunter Hairr for handling some of the major details of this class. Thanks everyone!

Later friends,

**Allen Katalinic, Measurement Section Manager**

### **Standards Laboratory**

The first of the year is always a busy time of the year for us. We reserve this time on our schedule to have our working standards calibrate and to get ready for customer calibrations. So far this year we have had some environmental challenges, but we could begin customer calibrations by February 1<sup>st</sup>. I applaud the efforts of our metrologists (Robert Rogers, Nick Cercone, Van Hyder, Sherry Teachey and Ashley Lessard) for a job well done.

Again, this year, Van Hyder, will serve as chairman for the Legal Metrology committee by NCSLI. We look forward to the many opportunities and contributions Van will make to enhance the legal metrology world. The State Laboratory Workload Survey is due this year on March 17<sup>th</sup>, Van is anticipating full participation from all the state laboratories.

Robert Rogers attended a two (2) day NCSLI Technical Exchange on January 23–24, in Orlando, Florida. It was a very informative session on Risk Based Thinking in Metrology and Temperature Monitoring, Traceability in the Cold Chain. Nick Cercone attended a two (2) day A2LA training course on ISO/IEC 17025 and Accreditation, March 6-7 in Frederick Maryland. It was a very informative session on ISO 17025, Documentation and Internal Auditing.

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In safety news, we will continue to participate in the Carolina Star Program. Our safety team representatives for this year are April Lee 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.

Our Grain Moisture section is in the height of its inspection season. The inspections are going well and we expect to have all inspections completed before the beginning of wheat harvest. We are looking forward to warmer weather as we finish our inspections. We expect a smaller wheat crop this year due to the effects of Hurricane Matthew during planting season.

**Sharon Woodard, Standards Laboratory Manager**

## **LP-Gas Section**

In January, Richard Fredenburg, LP-Gas Engineer, participated in the meeting of the NFPA Technical Committee on Explosion Protection Systems in Charleston, SC. There were also some conference calls for this committee at other times during this quarter.

Randy Renfrow, field supervisor, performed inspections of LP-Gas installations at the Southern Farm Show at the NC State Fairgrounds. A major finding was that the show organizer allowed an unlicensed dealer to provide propane and appliance rental at the show. While this is only a 3-day event, it is all attended and the weather usually requires the presence of heaters, so we try to make the rounds to keep everyone safe.

We had some training with the LP-Gas Inspectors for an emphasis on reporting broken meter seals and for working with the LP-Gas industry to better report action taken to report and replace broken seals and meter calibrations. We recently altered one of the inspection form so that site inspectors could also note this violation.

In March, Randy Renfrow and Richard Fredenburg participated in the NCPGA Train the Trainer conference at the NCPGA office, with Richard making presentation on Most Common Violations.

Also in March, Richard Fredenburg participated in the NPGA TS&S Committee meeting in Louisville, KY. There were also conference calls at other times during this quarter to further task force work for this committee. The next week, he taught a class on the LP-Gas Law and the *LP-Gas Code* at the NC Fire Prevention School at Fort Fisher, NC. They invite him each year to discuss any changes to the LP-Gas Code, trends we may be seeing or discuss any concerns they may have.

## **Division News**

Our Administrative Officer, Maegan Trimnal, left us for another division in November, with our Processing Assistant IV (and Meagan's backup), Crystal Thornton leaving a month later; so I got to learn how to do a lot of new things ☺. Jacqueline Melton joined us in February as our new Administrative Officer, she came to us from the NC Forest Service. We expect to fill the other vacancy any day now.

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We just finished a series of workshops on designing the new Agricultural Science Center, which will include our labs and offices. It has been 1 year since we started discussing this about 7 months since we hired a designer. The Schematic Design plans were submitted to State Construction on time and we will continue to refine those for the next design phase while we wait for their comments. There seems to be a number of companies interested in doing the construction and that selection process will begin soon. Thank you to all our staff for all the hours they have spent on this process so far!

**Stephen Benjamin, Director, Standards Division** 🇺🇸

## MISSISSIPPI

### Petroleum Division

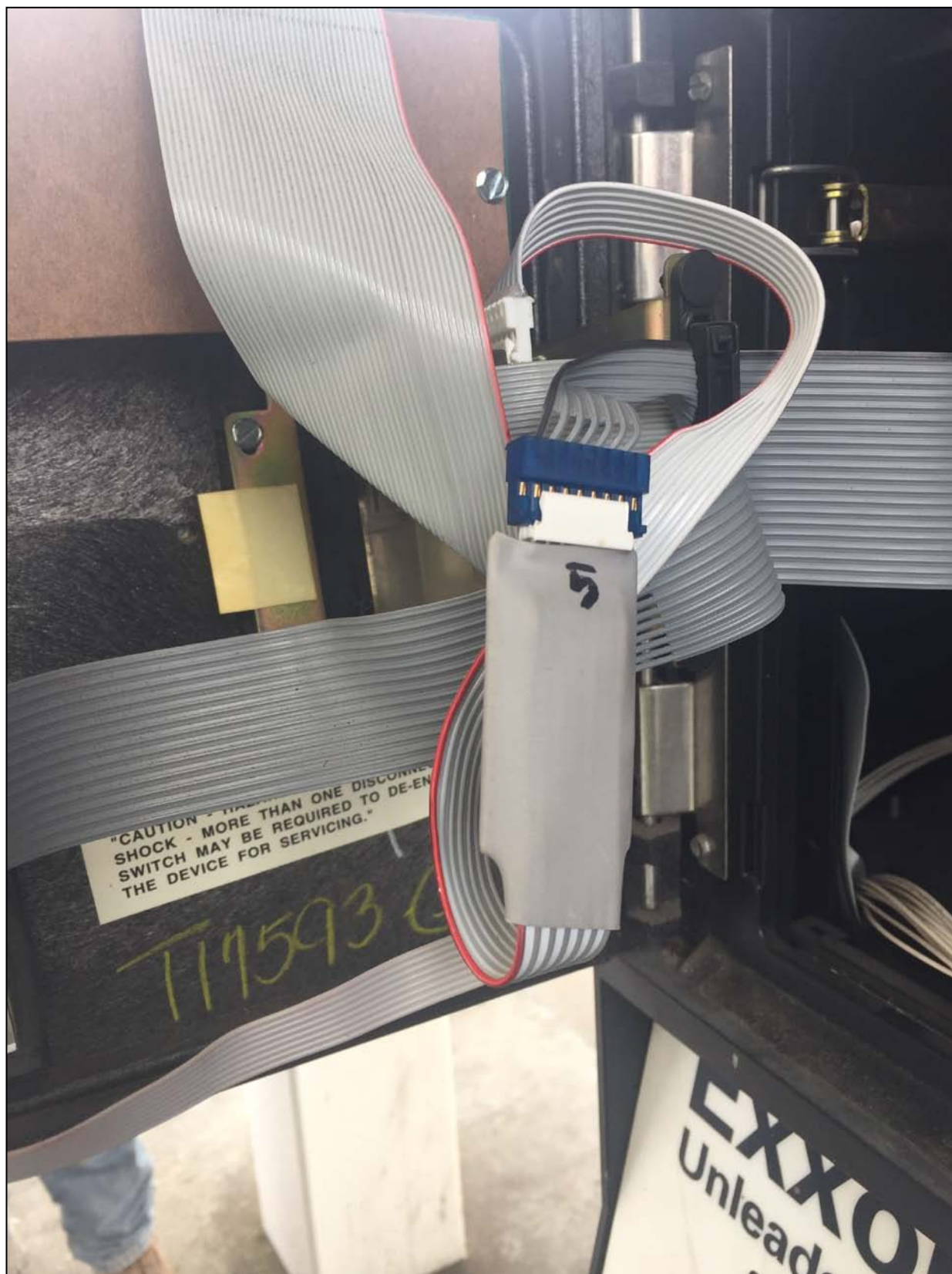
With the never ending budget woes surrounding many state agencies, the Petroleum Division has been doing its part to minimize our “global footprint”. The division is phasing out printed reports left on site and is emailing all reports to the distributor and/or responsible party for each location. The general consensus seems to be quite favorable, as now paperwork is received by the appropriate party in a much timelier manner and corrections and repairs can be handled expediently, resulting in a quicker reinspection time for inspectors. Not only does this reduce the amount of paper and ink used by inspectors in the field, but it eliminates the time taken to produce those reports; and reduces the wear and tear on the printers used by field personnel.



The division has been fortunate to purchase and upgrade our remaining fleet through the Master Lease Program. The division has taken delivery of two Ford F-250 pickups with flatbeds and is awaiting delivery of the remaining two custom manufactured units by fiscal year end. These units have reduced the number of inspector injury claims for the division and have minimized the need for lifting when returning product to storage.

The division continues to see a number of skimmers in our area, with over 40 cases reported since August, 2016 but have been fortunate to work with local law enforcement agencies as well as the MS Office of Homeland Security in providing NCWM materials and information to assist retail operators

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and/or distributors throughout the state (skimmer found by site operator). Sites are encouraged to use the blue tape provided by the U S Secret Service Mid-South Electronic Crimes Task Force as a deterrent.



**Consumer Protection:**

Like the Petroleum Division, the Consumer Protection Division is taking steps to minimize the use of inspector printers, relying rather on email as the primary means of sending inspection reports to stores. Not only is this saving us money on printer ink, printer repairs, and paper, but it allows us to more efficiently communicate with stores.

Since the beginning of the state’s fiscal year, the Division has conducted 953 UPC inspections (217 failures), tested 3,882 scales (166 rejected), and conducted 529 package check inspections (31,618 packages checked; 4,648 placed off-sale for short weight). †

The SWMA Newsletter is published quarterly: Annual dues are \$50.  
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