



# Southern Weights & Measures Association

149th Edition

SWMA Newsletter

July 2017



## *Mrs. Mary Cathryn Flanagan Pittman*

Age 90, of Columbia, TN

Passed away on Saturday, April 1, 2017.

Mrs. Pittman was born in Vicksburg, MS, on September 12, 1926, the daughter of the late Thomas W. Flanagan and Mae O'Brien. She retired from the State of TN Department of Agriculture Marketing Division as a Weights and Measures Technologist. Mrs. Pittman was a member of the Southern Weights and Measures Association and served as President, Secretary-Treasurer, and a member of various committees including chairman assignments. Also, a member of National Conference on Weights & Measures in conjunction with NIST where she served as National Conference Vice Chairman. Mrs. Pittman was a member of the First Presbyterian Church, Friends of Cumberland Heights, and participated and lobbying for legislative support of NAMI. In addition to her parents, Mrs. Pittman was preceded in death by her husband, John Pittman; brothers, Thomas W. Flanagan and Bobby L. Flanagan; and a granddaughter, Jennifer.

Survivors include a daughter, Pam (Bobby) Turner; a son, John Pittman; grandsons, Rob (Elizabeth) Turner, John Turner, John (Lindsay) Pittman, Jr. and Tyler Pittman; great-grandchildren, Anna, JT, and Autumn; a dear friend, Betty Rucker; and a sister-in-law, Ouida Ferrell. Several nieces and nephews also survive.

In lieu of flowers the family respectfully request memorial contributions be made to Hospice Compassus 830 Hatcher Lane Columbia, MS 38401 or a charity of your choice.



## JURISDICTIONAL NEWS

### GEORGIA

It is summertime in Georgia and that means plenty of heat and gnats. We hope everyone else in the SWMA is doing well this summer. We are busy collecting fuel pump registration fees and we are currently at 99% for FY 17.

State Fuel Chemist **David Au** and Asst. Director **Doug Killingsworth** are working with the Georgia Oilman's Association to conduct some new experiments looking at diesel fuel flashpoint results and how to better transport fuel to prevent contamination. We are currently working with the Board of Directors to refit a tanker trailer venting system to determine if isolating each fuel compartment will help with vapor contamination. **David Au** along with some of the Fuel Lab personal and Retail Fuel Inspectors have been doing on site sampling for microbial growth in fuel storage tanks in hopes of finding some solutions to our sediment issues in Georgia.

Director **Rich Lewis** and **Doug Killingsworth** will be attending the upcoming NCWM Annual Meeting in Pittsburg this month. We will also be meeting in the coming weeks with Markets Director **Jack Spruill** and State Veterinarian **Dr. Robert Cobb** to discuss the new Livestock Dealers Bill that was passed recently. **Doug** and Warehouse/Bonding Mgr. **Jason Wamba** will be attending the AGRO Conference in Lincoln Nebraska in July. One of our Warehouse/Bonding Managers **Johnny Hurst** will be retiring on Friday June 30<sup>th</sup> we want to wish him well.

Lastly, we wanted to mention we will soon be receiving some new equipment for our Division, a new Large Scale Test Unit, and six sets of twenty five pound test weights for our Small Scale Inspectors, a Twenty Five Gallon LPG Test Unit and four new laser controlled scanners for counting cotton for our Warehouse Inspectors. ☪

### MARYLAND

Maryland Weights and Measures is very grateful to announce the hiring of four new field inspectors. On June seventh, we welcomed **Andrew Yi, Robin Hawkins, Daniel Rohe** and **Kassahun Belay** to our agency. All four new inspectors are currently training with senior inspectors on retail motor fuel dispensers and package work. We currently have two field inspector vacancies which we hope to have posted in the near future.

One field inspector position is currently open because **Tong Hsu** has moved full time into the metrology laboratory. **Tong** has been hard at work calibrating 5 gallon provers, 30 pound weight kits and 25 and 50 pound



cast iron field standards. Thanks to **Tong** for all of his hard work and congratulations on the promotion. Our entire field staff will be coming to the office on June 28th and 29th for our annual summer training school and luncheon. On Wednesday we will be focusing on the liquid measuring device examination procedures outline in the morning and random package inspections in the afternoon. We will have our standard cookout with hamburgers and hotdogs for lunch, with **Uncle Chuck Coleman** manning the grill once again. On Thursday we have a field trip to NIST in Gaithersburg for a tour and presentation from a few of the wonderful staff members of the NIST Office of Weights and Measures. Most of our inspectors have never been to NIST, and this will surely be an enjoyable and informative day for everyone!

Speaking of the Pit Master, **Chuck Coleman** has been busy training **Katie Hall** on loading rack meters. They have been inspecting all meters on the eastern shore of Maryland as well as the central and southern portion of the state. As always, Katie has proven to be an excellent student and she will have no problem performing these inspections on her own in the future.



One of our large weight trucks has been moved to the western region of the state. **John Hartman** is set to begin inspections on large and vehicle scales in Washington, Allegany and Garrett County.

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Our inspectors have found 5 skimming devices in gas pumps since the beginning of the year. Local County Police Officers and service technicians have informed us that they have been discovering these devices throughout the state as well. Our inspectors check for skimming devices during routine inspections as well as on complaint investigations. †

## MISSISSIPPI

### Consumer Protection Division:

Since the beginning of the state’s fiscal year, the Division has conducted 1,341 UPC inspections (281 failures), tested 5,918 scales (242 rejected), and conducted 674 package check inspections (41,992 packages checked; 6,077 placed off-sale for short weight).

The Department has fined 21 stores for repeated UPC failures.

### Metrology Lab Division:

With the support of the administration staff, the metrology lab has secured several pieces



Mezzanine with 50 & 100 gallon provers.

of equipment over the last 6 months. A mezzanine to house our large volume provers was manufactured and installed in late December 2016. This not only houses our State standards, but also provides a much safer and much more efficient method for calibrating large volume provers.

Additionally, a 165 lb. EasyArm jib crane was installed in early January 2017 next to our new Mettler Toledo XPE6400 comparator used for calibrating 25 & 50 lb. weights. This is a real ‘back saver’ and is a very nice addition to the lab.

Because of its obsolete status, we replaced our Mettler KC500 comparator with a new Mettler XPE604 comparator for calibrating 500 & 1000 lb. test weights.



Mel lasigi & EasyArm.

Most recently (early June), we purchase a testing table/sink from Seraphin which will be used in the calibration of 5 gallon test measures. This piece of equipment is another 'back saver' and according to other state labs this device makes it a dream in emptying the 5 gallon test measures.

This team effort of updating our lab not only makes us more efficient, but makes a safer work environment.

**Weights and Measures Division:**

Weights and Measure was involved with an NTEP test on a grain hopper scale manufactured by Adams Equipment. The device failed the first test, so Adams Equipment made the necessary adjustments and it passed the next test. Adams made the required weighments in a timely manner and the device passed the final test and an NTEP number will be assigned.

**Greg Gholston**, Supervisor for Weights and Measures, was one of the instructors in two of the NIST classes offered recently, the Medium Capacity Class in Lincoln, Nebraska (May 2017) and a Livestock Scale Class in Manhattan, Kansas (June 2017). We are very glad to have **Greg** on our team. Additionally, **David Smith**, one of our inspectors, attended the Livestock Scale Class.



Testing Table/Sink for 5 gallon test measures



Weights and Measures recently held a training session for the Division's inspectors.



NTEP Test

## North Carolina

Hello everyone!

It has been a good year so far. NCD&CS field inspectors have been very busy with their regular work and doing the seasonal inspections and testing. Taxi meters in Raleigh required several inspectors for three weeks. Fertilizer and Mulch inspections have required multiple return visits due to excessive failures. There have been several civil penalties assessed to different fertilizer companies. Strawberry scales were tested promptly at the very opening of the season and our farmer markets had gatherings so that the inspectors could test most of the scales for the independent vendors at one location.

Our Gasoline and Oil inspectors have been steady on skimmer complaints and investigations. We are finding more as time goes on. With this we have made changes on our inspection forms for RMFD's to capture as much of the data as possible for skimmers along with other changes to assist in any surveys or summary reports that we may need to do. I want to thank **Susan Myrick**, our Business and Technology Applications Analyst, for doing such a great job on our data bases and data entry.

We have several new faces with us since the previous newsletter and a promotion. **Ethan Taylor** has accepted a position as Eastern Heavy Scale Inspector (Standards Inspector I). **Austin Stoltzfus** has accepted a Gasoline and Oil Inspector position. He will have his work cut out for him in the counties that he has. We welcome them to our inspection staff!

Congratulations to **Jason Wethington** on his promotion to Calibrator II.

While we are on personnel, **Mike Dunn** has announced his retirement being effective June 30, 2017. I remember meeting **Mike** back in 2000. It has been a real pleasure working with him and I wish him the best!!!

Equipment is being replaced in a timely manner. Several of our bar code printers are old and we are starting to replace them with the newer model. We are going to put a new truck with a slide in test unit for retail motor fuel devices on the road soon. We have also been updating some very old package testing scales.

Thanks, **Allen Katalinic**

## Standards Laboratory

During the month of April, we participated in the Southeastern Measurement Assurance Program, SEMAP, which took place in Raleigh, North Carolina. **Van Hyder** and **Sharon Woodard** represented North Carolina during this training process. North Carolina successfully demonstrated proficiency in several areas including PT Reporting and Planning; Data Integrity, Measurement Assurance, Statistics and Control Chart Reviews; Weight Cart and LPG Prover Calibrations and Inspections.

The NCDA&CS Standards Laboratory received the Second-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.

Our Grain Moisture Section was able to complete all of our inspections in the first half of the year. We completed SRWW harvest at the beginning of June. We were able to collect grain in the desired moisture ranges for the 2017-2018 testing season! We are looking forward to a good corn harvest in late summer.

**Sharon Woodard**

## LP-Gas Section

We have a new LP-Gas Site Inspector for the western part of North Carolina, **Ray Walker**. **Ray** comes to us from the North Carolina Department of Transportation. He is in the training process as of this writing.

There was a meeting of the Southeastern Measurement Assurance Program in Cary, NC, in April 2017. We provided an LP-Gas prover for inspection as part of that meeting.

**Richard** attended the NPGA Southeastern Conference and International Propane Expo in Nashville, TN, in April 2017. Besides attending some educational session, he had an excellent opportunity to speak with vendors and manufacturers about many things related to propane safety, including one current topic on low emission transfer. There has been some interest in the industry for low emission transfer dispensers for filling cylinders. This process is not covered by the *LP-Gas Code*, so separation distance reductions are not possible for filling cylinders. This is being explored as a possible change in the next edition of the code.

**Richard** continued his learning process of things associated with hot air balloon operations so to be better informed in evaluating the recently-added material in the *LP-Gas Code* concerning filling hot air balloon propane containers by being a volunteer crew member at the WRAL Freedom Balloon Fest in Fuquay-Varina, NC, over the Memorial Day Weekend.

**Richard** and our field supervisor, **Randy Renfrow**, attended the summer board meeting of the NCPGA on June 27. **Richard Fredenburg**

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## Motor Fuels Section

In early March the existing sample vault at the Motor Fuels Laboratory was shut down and construction to attach a new, pre-fabricated vault to our existing building was started. The new vault is currently going through the final inspection process and should be open within the next week or two. At the same time our laboratory staff have been focusing on reviewing the plans for the new Co-located laboratory as we enter the design development phase of the project. This project is still on schedule to be completed in 2020 and will provide us with a new state of the art facility for motor fuels testing.

In personnel, related news, Inspector **Ron Earnhardt** retired at the end of May after 27 years with the Department. **Ron** was the inspector in the southern central region of the State and his presence will be greatly missed. We have also added two new inspectors to fill vacancies in the Charlotte and Fayetteville areas. **Daniel Gonzalez** will be the inspector in the Charlotte area and **Mikaela Lee** is the new inspector for the Fayetteville area. In addition to adding new inspectors to our roster, we have also reviewed and updated the Field Manual used by the inspectors to include the new products we encounter in the marketplace while also incorporating the new policies and procedures of our new Quality Management System. †

### Dr. Marcus Helfrich

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

Membership inquires should be directed to: N. David Smith, SWMA Secretary-Treasurer

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