



# Southern Weights & Measures Association

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151st Edition

SWMA Newsletter

January 2018

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## JURISDICTIONAL NEWS

### GEORGIA

In November we conducted a training meeting for our Fuel Inspectors at the Department's laboratory facility in Tifton. We were fortunate to have two trainers from the State of Florida to conduct a session on illegal credit card skimmers. Our inspectors were able to see all of the new technology that is out there now in this ever growing important field. **Amy Carter** and **Leslie Davis** were also in attendance and they have a very informative article in the latest edition of the Department of Agriculture's newspaper, "the Market Bulletin".

**Amy Carter** and **Leslie Davis** also recently tagged along on a Grain and Cotton Audit with several of our Warehouse and Bonding personnel. The audit took place at Roche Farm & Garden in Dublin GA, we looking forward to an article in an upcoming edition of the Market Bulletin.

**Kirk Andrews**, **Lynn Bowen**, **Jason Hitchcock**, and **Mike Stafford** did a great job of representing the Fuel & Measures Division at the Georgia Association of Convenience Stores annual tradeshow. The tradeshow was November 8 and 9 at the Centreplex in Macon, GA.

Big Congratulations to Senior Supervisor **Cedric Lloyd** on his recent wedding! **Cedric** and **Brigeda Lloyd** were married on November 4 in Decatur. We wish them many years of happiness.

We have acquired a new heavy scale inspection truck. This will be the 3<sup>th</sup> new truck in the past 5 years. We are expecting delivery of the truck very soon. We have a new 20 gallon L.P. gas prover that we have placed into service for stationary meters. We have also recently equipped our small scale inspectors with 25 pound test weights, replacing the 50 pound weights.

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**New Heavy Scale Inspection Tuck**



**New 20 Gallon L.P. Gas Prover** 📌

## MARYLAND

Our staff has done an excellent job inspecting gas pumps over the past few months. Our four new inspectors have been fast learners and helped to clean up some of the overdue areas this fall. As the weather changes, most inspectors are moving inside to inspect scales and point-of-sale systems. In addition to our four inspectors that started in June, we would also like to welcome two additional inspectors to our staff. **Thomas Cugle** and **Hannah Seaton** joined the Weights and Measures staff at the beginning of December and they are currently training on scales and point-of-sale systems in their respective areas. We are currently only one inspector shy of having a full staff!

Field inspectors continue to find credit card skimmers at gas stations periodically throughout the state. Even if an inspector is only at a station for a consumer complaint, they still open the cabinets on all the pumps to ensure no credit card skimmers are present.

**Roger Martin** traveled to Little Rock this past October during the SWMA Annual Meeting so that he could attend the NIST price verification training class. He enjoyed his time in Little Rock and learned a great deal at the NIST Training class.

On December 14, we had our annual Holiday Meeting and luncheon for current and retired staff. **Chuck Coleman** was kind enough to bring in his smoker to the event. He smoked two hams, 20 lbs of chicken breasts and some fantastic macaroni and cheese. The rest of the staff contributed dishes as well, which allowed us to have a fantastic selection at our pot luck luncheon. Everyone enjoyed the delicious food while conversing with good friends, old and new.

Here's to hoping that everyone has a wonderful new year. 📌

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## MISSISSIPPI

### Weights and Measures

Weights and Measures put off sale 104,000 pounds of product in last couple of months because of short weight. Administrative penalties were issued due to non-compliance at the packing facility as-well-as store front locations.

Our Weights and Measures inspectors found a scale company operating without a scale company license and scale repairman's license. Also, their test standard did not have a current calibration certificate. This company was issued administrative penalties. The company has since come into compliance.

Weights and Measures **Coda Medlin** inspector for North West, MS helped grade peanuts for last few months. We are glad to help other division when needed.



Weights and Measures Intermediate Inspector, **Michael Blackwell** testing scales at the Mississippi State Fairgrounds in preparation for the livestock shows during the Mississippi State Fair in October 2017. (Left)



**Greg Gholston** Weights and Measures Division Supervisor teaching livestock scale class in Kansas City on 2017. (Right)



**Mel Iasigi**, Director of the Mississippi Metrology Laboratory, working on Weights and Measures field standards. 📌

## **NORTH CAROLINA**

### **Standards Laboratory**

The last quarter of the year is usually a slow time for Standards Laboratory. We had our 150<sup>th</sup> State fair from October 12 – 22, 2017 at our local fairgrounds. The theme for the fair was “Nothing Could Be Finer”. Some of our area inspectors participate including the Standards Laboratory staff. Grain Moisture Program Supervisor **April Lee** was the coordinator for this year’s fair.

One of our senior metrologists, **Sherry Teachey** took the vacant position in our grain moisture program as a field inspector. Our grain moisture program has suffered a loss with the retirement of **Joe Huntley**, field inspector, with over 32 years of experience.

Currently the Standards Lab is advertising for a metrologist and a field inspector for our grain moisture program.

**Sharon Woodard**

### **Motor Fuels**

In late December, **Brandon Hicks** accepted an offer to be the full time general utility worker for the Motor Fuels Lab. **Brandon** had originally joined the lab in July as a temporary worker to fill this position.

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The design development phase of planning for the new laboratory wrapped up in December and the plans have been submitted for evaluation to State Construction. We are working on verifying the casework and interior design elements in anticipation of the ground breaking later this spring. In addition, the bidding process for the ventilation upgrade for the distillation and can cleaning rooms has started and we look forward to starting the work in the next month or two.

## **Marcus Helfrich**

### **LP-Gas Section**

Truck inspector **Wayne Manning** retired with almost 45 years of service in August. **Ernie Camilleri** was recently hired to take his place. **Ernie** comes to us by way of New York and many years of experience in the LP-Gas industry.

**Wayne Joyce**, a site inspector, retired at the end of December with 25 years of service. Most of this career was in the LP-Gas Section. We expect to advertise for his position soon.

**Richard Fredenburg**, our LP-Gas Engineer, participated in the first draft meeting for the 2020 *LP-Gas Code* in Tampa, FL, in October.

**Randy Renfrow** performed over 1900 propane inspections at the State Fair in October.

### **Measurement Section**

**Allen Katalinic** retired at the end of December with 31 years of service, the search for his replacement is continuing. **Gerald Brown**, our Western NC Supervisor has announced his retirement, to be effective April 1, 2018.

We are in the process of bidding out a new box for one of our heavy scale inspection trucks and waiting for our first slip in unit for testing retail dispensers. In the past our RMFD test units had custom built bodies that we moved to a new chassis, but the cost of moving and refurbishing those bodies is not as cost effective as it once was.

## **From the Editor**

A friend sent me the following because we have seen, and discussed, some very unusual methods for hauling construction material and the lengths some people will go to save delivery charges...

My friends, I give you . . . THE DUMBEST GUY ON EARTH!? This picture is real and was taken by a Transportation Supervisor for a company that delivers building materials for 84 Lumber. When he saw it in the parking lot of IHOP, he went to buy a camera to take pictures.

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The car is still running, as can be witnessed by the exhaust. The driver finally came back after the police were called, and was found crouched behind the rear of the car, attempting to cut the twine around the load! Luckily, the police stopped him and had the load removed. The materials were loaded at Home Depot. Their store manager said they made the customer sign a waiver. While the plywood and 2X4s are fairly obvious, what you can't see is the back seat, which contains -- are you ready for this? -- 10 bags of concrete @ 80 lbs. each! They estimated the load weight at 3000 lbs. Both back tires exploded, the wheels bent, and the rear shocks were driven through the floorboard. 🚗

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