

# Southern Weights & Measures Association

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152nd Edition

SWMA Newsletter

April 2018

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## JURISDICTIONAL NEWS

### ARKANSAS

Training and safety measures are two major components of maintaining an efficient and successful workplace. To better ensure the security of the state standards of Arkansas the Bureau recently upgraded the building security system with a more efficient alarm system. A major renovation of the roof structure further protects the sensitive equipment and standards housed in the State Standards facility.

Testing intermediate weights in the 25-50 pound range can be fatiguing even to the most fit individual. Fatigue can be a factor in accidents. Steel-toed shoes are a required safety measure, but we have installed a wall-mounted jib crane to further ensure the process is safe and efficient.

**Houston Naugher**, Metrologist recently completed the Fundamental of Metrology course at NIST. This is an intensive week of instruction, calculations and procedures. Not for the faint of heart or mathematically challenged. When asked how it was he replied: "It was a great learning experience."

**Wilford Jones**, Petroleum Quality Section supervisor recently attended an ASTM training seminar focusing on aviation gas fuel specifications and test methods. The course covered accepted procedures, methods, and test applications in an ever increasingly important petroleum field.

**Wilford** also attended the ASTM International meeting in Houston which offered workshops and symposiums on topics ranging from New Mass Spectrometer Analysis for Water to Measurement Uncertainty for ASTM methods.

**Tim Chesser** represented the State of Arkansas at the NCWM Interim Meeting held in St. Petersburg, Florida. **Tim** currently serves on the National S&T committee and has been asked to preside over the voting session at the upcoming meeting.

The Bureau of Standards will attend the upcoming Arkansas Oil Marketers Association annual convention in Hot Springs. This annual event is a chance for retailers and service companies involved in the petroleum industry to market their latest in advances and technology.

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This trade show serves as an opportunity for us to promote the Bureau's services as well as update and inform the over 1000 plus attendees.

2018 promises to be full of challenges but we are preparing for the work ahead of us. †

## FLORIDA

Here are a few things that are happening in Florida, I sent them to Ken Ramsburg in January but I think he just used them in a report to the NCWM board of directors. If you have seen these before please let me know and I will send some new ones.

- Hurricane Irma forced us to vacate our petroleum testing lab in Ft. Lauderdale before we were planning to, a new lab is under construction, but we had planned to remain in the old lab until spring. The September hurricane demolished sections of the roof on the old lab and forced us to vacate. Construction delays have held up our projected occupancy date until April or May 2018 and in the meantime our Tampa lab has been handling all of the petroleum testing and some of the antifreeze testing. We are anxious to get into the new lab and get all of our operations back to normal.
- The Bureau of Standards has completed the rulemaking process and has updated their rules to adopt the 2017 versions of NIST Handbooks 44, 133 and portions of 130.
- Plans for the SWMA annual meeting are shaping up, the meeting will be held at the Omni Jacksonville Hotel on the St. Johns River in Jacksonville. A fun outing on the river is in the works and we are working out the final details. An online hotel reservation link for the meeting can be found on the SWMA webpage <https://www.swma.org/calendar/meetings> or at the <https://www.omnihotels.com/hotels/jacksonville/meetings/southern-weights-and-measures-conference>
- The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Service emphasizes continuing education and development of its leaders. Lab Administrator **Vanessa Benchea** just graduated from the Legacy Leadership program. Field Administrators Mauricio Mejia, Alan Walker and Field Supervisor, Valeria Cheeping are currently enrolled in the Certified Public Manager Program.
- We were fortunate to be able to purchase some new equipment to enhance our field inspection program. We purchased 25 new 5-gallon test measures, 10 test measure carts and 15 tall funnels as well as 200 – 25 lb cast iron weights, 30-30 lb weight kits and a number of miscellaneous weights to bring some of our older kits back into service.
- The Bureau of Standards will be hosting a NIST Handbook 133 Basic Net Contents class (May 14<sup>th</sup> – May 17<sup>th</sup>) and a Price Verification class (May 18<sup>th</sup>) in Plantation Florida.
- The skimmer count continues to rise in Florida, the number of skimmers located and removed by the Bureau of Standards Inspectors in 2017 is nearly triple the total removed in 2016. This number also exceeds the combined totals of 2015 and 2016. The annual skimmer totals are:
  - 2015 – 169 (10 months)
  - 2016 – 219
  - 2017 – 654
  - 2018 - 204 †

## LOUISIANA

### Inspector Training Videos Continue

The Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry (LDAF) Weights and Measures Division has completed price verification, fuel inspection, class one scale and recently completed the package inspection taping for inspector training purposes. The package inspection video is currently being finalized from a production standpoint. Special thanks to **Nikki Stuart** (District Supervisor) who was our star in the video! We also appreciate **Archie Lambert** (Program Manager) **Jennifer Finley** (LDAF Public Information Officer) as well as the team from the Civil Service Comprehensive Public Training Program (CPTC) in making this happen.



**Nikki Stuart** being taped as part of the package inspection training video. **Jennifer Finley** (PIO) and Todd Justice (CPTC) are producing this segment.

Up next will be feral swine trapping videos followed up by taxi cab meter inspection videos, standby. To maximize functionality as well as flexibility, these inspector training videos will be formatted in an inspector app that can be conveniently viewed on a smart phone. Consumer based videos will be housed on the LDAF consumer protection website and will also be delivered through social as well as other media outlets.

#### What's Your Personality?

Louisiana Weights and Measures Division Middle Managers attended a personality and conflict resolution training recently as part of their quarterly meeting held at headquarters. This is part of their training program outlined

to help develop management and leadership skills to better meet the needs of their inspectors relative to coaching, communicating as well as supporting professional development throughout the year. Topics for the annual training schedule were developed through input of middle managers through an interactive Kahoot online survey back in October.

This two-hour training conducted by **Julie Miller**, Training and Development Specialist with the Louisiana State Civil Service Comprehensive Public Training Program (CPTC), gave middle managers some effective tools based on their personality styles as well as tips on better communicating to assist in more effective communication as well as conflict management. Middle manager team members learned their personality style based on an online pre-test that put them into four different personality style categories using the DISC personality process.



**Julie Miller**, Training and Development Specialist with Louisiana State Civil Service discussing personality styles with Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry Weights and Measures middle managers.

The conflict management training allowed participants to improve their abilities to resolve conflict through analysis of issues, determination of underlying causes, and use of targeted strategies to best address the situation.

All middle managers as well as field inspectors have previously participated in an Effective Communication with Leadership presentation at district meetings that focused on the Steven Covey Habit 5 which is ***“To Seek first to Understand, then to be Understood.”***

Some Leadership Tips learned:

1. Don't engage teams, engage individuals.
2. Communicate, communicate, communicate. Help people understand the task, goals and objectives of their work.
3. To build ownership, let people own it. Commitment can't be achieved without involvement.
4. Help people believe.

With the implementation of the Leadership, Evaluation, Accountability and Direction (LEAD) Expectations on October 1, 2017, our team of inspectors and middle managers are working together based on clearly written goals and expectations. This is based on inspections conducted (60%) as well as professional competencies and performance (40%) to support the State Civil Service Performance Evaluation System (PES) process.

Middle managers meet and ride with each inspector quarterly using a competency based working document to determine strengths as well as training opportunities during the day. In addition, this is documented as a quarterly planning session using the PES process and helps supervisors as they navigate the evaluation process culminating with the evaluation after the fiscal year ends.

### **Weights and Measures Featured**

Louisiana Civil Service recently completed a “Pop Up” YouTube video featuring Louisiana Departments and how they impact citizens every day on their way to work. Our Weights and Measures Division is featured three times in the video highlighting the consumer protection work being done in Louisiana! 🇺🇸

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## NORTH CAROLINA

### LP-Gas Section

**Richard Fredenburg** participated in a number of meetings this quarter. They were:

- The Committee on Explosion Protection Systems in Savannah, Ga, on February 21 & 22.
- The National Propane Gas Association Technology, Standards, & Safety Committee in Savannah, GA, on March 4-6
- A presentation about North Carolina LP-Gas rules and changes coming to the *LP-Gas Code* to the NC Fire Prevention School at Ft. Fisher, NC, on March 9
- A presentation to North Carolina Propane Gas Association on meter seals, Winston-Salem, NC, on March 20 – We saw last year that there was a significant percentage increase in violations for broken meter seals. We added an emphasis responding to violations and on how to report broken seals to help prevent being cited for seal violations. There was some confusion in the industry about this, so Richard wrote some articles for the in-state trade magazine and made a presentation to help educate the industry.

Requests for propane system inspections on food trucks has spread to several counties this year. We added information on these inspections to our website and included an online inspection request option.

We have one opening for a site inspector because of the retirement, late last, year of a long-time inspector, **Wayne Joyce**.

**Richard Fredenburg**

### 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 calibrated and to get ready for customer calibrations. So far, this year we have had some environmental challenges, but we were able to begin customer calibrations by February 1<sup>st</sup>. I applaud the efforts of our metrologists, **Robert Rogers**, **Nick Cercone**, **Van Hyder** 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.

After a three-month vacancy at the metrologist I position, **Marina Paggen** has agreed to come on board. She began her state agency employment on February 19, 2018. Marina comes to us after serving our country in the United States Army. She has bachelor degrees in both mathematics and physics. We look forward to the many contributes Marina will make to our laboratory.

**Robert Rogers** attended a three (3) day NCSLI Technical Exchange on February 26– March 1, in Orlando, Florida. He attended very informative sessions on the Realization and Dissemination of Mass in the “New SI”; Performance via Process Mapping and Theory Operation of Dry-Block Temperature Cal.

In safety news, we will continue to participate in the Carolina Star Program. Our safety team representatives for this year are **April Lee** and **Nicholas Cercone**. 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 abide by the common goal of keeping safety first.

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Our Grain Moisture program is in the middle of its inspection season. **Sherry Teachey** completed training at the beginning of the year and is completing field inspections. In February, we hired Steven Clapp to fill the vacant field inspector position. He will complete his training within the next week. We are looking forward to finishing the first round of field inspections and warmer weather as we prepare for wheat harvest.

**Sharon Woodard**

## Measurement Section

Greetings from North Carolina,

As this is my first article, I would like to take a few words to introduce myself. Some of you I have met and others I have not. My name is **Chad Parker**. As many of you know, **Mr. Allen Katalinic** retired at the end of December. I am honored to be able to step into the measurement manager position and continue to move our section forward. Overall, it's been an easy transition. The absolute worst part is the travel to and from Raleigh every day, but once you get past that the job aspects are good.

I started out in my section as a Gas and Oil inspector, inspecting retail fuel meters. After a few years, I was promoted to our Weights and Measures inspector position, where I dealt with small retail scales, grocery store inspections, and all kinds of seasonal inspections. Close to three years later, I became a supervisor over 1/3 of our state. (Our state is broken down in 3rds for supervision) Allen told everyone back then he was going to stay around for at least five years. Well, 2 and ½ years in, we were informed that Allen was retiring. So here I am doing the best with our transition.

And it has been a transition. Lots of inspectors/personnel have been moving around with promotions and such. The most important and close to my heart are my new supervisors. We still have our eastern supervisor **Mr. Hunter Hairr**. Our western supervisor **Mr. Gerald Brown** is retiring at the end of March after almost 37 years of service. We will surely miss him and his experience but wish him the best in this new part of his life. **Mark "Buddy" Dutton** will be his replacement and they have been training together for a few weeks. We are waiting for final approval on the central supervisor position, formally held by me.

Other staff changes include **Richard Sigmon**, retiring at the end of March after 24 years. **Chad Dillon** joined us in February as the Greensboro area inspector for fuel dispensers. **David Lynch**, a dual role inspector in the region north of Raleigh, plans to retire May 1.

I look forward to introducing our new central supervisor in the next article that is submitted. Until then, I hope you and your family are doing well.

God Bless,

**Chad Parker**

## Motor Fuels Section

In January, **David Moninger** accepted a position testing the physical properties of diesel and kerosene samples in the Motor Fuels Lab. Dave has been with the lab for 11 years as an octane analyst and had previously conducted

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these tests on a part time basis while in this role. Searches are currently underway for both a new octane analyst and for a new field chemist to cover the central southern portion of the State.

North Carolina’s Motor Fuels Inspectors have recently started collecting samples of “303” tractor hydraulic fluids that are being sold across the state. The aim is to test their physical properties to determine if these oils meet the required John Deere J20C specifications. We are currently weighing the options available to our Program to remove these oils from sale if these products do not meet these requirements.

The lab is also currently in the process of upgrading a gas chromatograph that had been used for biodiesel analysis to run ASTM test method D5501. This upgrade will help us more accurately determine the concentration of ethanol in the flex fuels that are increasingly entering the North Carolina market. In addition, the project to upgrade the ventilation in the distillation and can rooms started in early March and demolition of the old spaces should start sometime within the next month. The aim of this project is not only to improve the ventilation but also bring these two spaces up to code. The project should be wrapped up by October.

**Marcus Helfrich**

## **SOUTH CAROLINA**

### **Metrology Laboratory**



**Metrology Lab Entrance**

Construction of the new Metrology Laboratory has been completed. The installation of lab equipment is in process. After the equipment is installed, the metrology staff will make daily measurements for the next several months to obtain the data necessary for NIST Certification. The new lab will have all new equipment which will allow us to continue to operate while transitioning to the new lab without interruption of services.

**Small Volume**

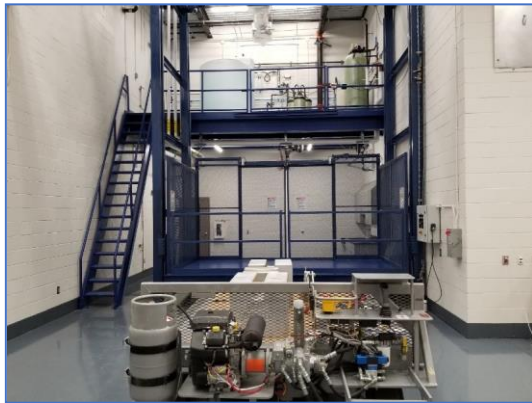




Large Mass Lab with Technicians installing large capacity balance.



Balance and Jib crane for calibrating weights up to 50 pounds



Weight transfer cart with large volume lift in background

### Consumer Services

The South Carolina Department of Agriculture, Consumer Services Division received a onetime funding of a million dollars for new equipment. With that funding, the 23 field inspectors were provided with new laptops, cell phones, and mobile field printers. We were able to purchase two vehicle scale test units, four RMFD slide in test units, one 25/100-gallon LPG prover trailer mounted unit, and two 100-gallon skid mounted provers to be used for fuel oil. The new equipment will allow us to have a faster response and turnaround time.

A new livestock test unit has been ordered and should be delivered to us by July 1, 2018. This unit will replace our current test unit which is over 30 years old.

As of February 5, 2018, we are fully staffed with 23 inspectors.



100-gallon skid mounted test unit





LP Test Unit



LP Test Unit



Scale Weight Truck

RMFD slide in test unit



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