



# Southern Weights & Measures Association

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153rd Edition

SWMA Newsletter

July 2018

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## JURISDICTIONAL NEWS

### Arkansas

**Benjamin Disraeli** was quoted saying “Change is inevitable.” The same is still true over 150 years later at the Arkansas Bureau of Standards.

**Roger Frazier** joined the Bureau in May of 1977 as an Investigator I and after years of distinguished effort and diligence retires as the Agriculture Weights and Measures Supervisor. It is an understatement to say his experience and contributions to the state of Arkansas will be missed. He was a great colleague and friend. We wish him the best of luck in the ensuing years. **Tim Chesser** will take over duties as the Weights and Measures supervisor.

**Don Siefken**, Area 1 inspector, retired after joining the Bureau of Standards in 2011. Don was the area Weights and Measures inspector responsible for Benton and Washington counties with a combined population of nearly ½ million people (475,149 and growing). It was quite a challenge, but Don proved more than capable of dealing with the workload. Likewise, we wish Don nothing but the best for the years to come.

After 15 years of service, Metrologist **Charles Hawkins** decided to pursue a different calling. Charles took a position as chaplain at the Arkansas State Hospital. Best wishes to this gentleman. 🙏

### FLORIDA

Greetings from The Sunshine State. We are looking forward to seeing everyone in October for the 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual SWMA meeting. The meeting will be held at The Omni Jacksonville Hotel and we are very excited about the location and our outing to Top Golf, please take a look at what they have to offer at: <https://topgolf.com/us/gallery/?venue=jacksonville>. This should be a great time for all, and you don't need to golf to have a great experience there.

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The Bureau of Standards has added another trainer, bringing our training team to six full time trainers and a training supervisor. The Bureau has worked for several years to write a detailed procedure manual that covers everything we do. The procedure manual has proven to be a great resource for the field inspectors, covering everything from routine paperwork and reports to considerations and details for each type of inspection that the Bureau performs. This manual helps us ensure that inspections are performed uniformly across the state. Our Trainers maintain a smaller inspection territory than most Inspectors, but this allows them to train in a familiar area but also travel anywhere in the state to perform their duties. Our Trainers work one on one in the field with new employees and they also schedule time to work with our more experienced field inspectors for refresher training.

We are currently finishing the construction of our new lab in Pompano Beach, and we expect to move in sometime in July. The new lab will test petroleum products including alternative fuels, ethanol blends and Biodiesel, antifreeze and brake fluids. **Eileen Castillo** has been promoted from her chemist position to Lab Manager of our Pompano Beach facility.



**New Pompano Beach Lab**

During the week of August 20<sup>th</sup>, we will hold our annual inspector workshop in Lake Mary FL. During the week we have a full agenda with topics pertaining to our inspection program and sessions for each of the different inspection disciplines. Some of this year's guest speakers are **Mr. Charlie Stutesman** with The Kansas Dept. of Agriculture, **Ms. Amy Topol**, Director of Consumer Services. In addition to training topics there will be workshops on stress management and active shooter training. We also have Employee Recognition Awards and we host an Employee Appreciation Dinner.

We are all looking forward to seeing everyone in Jacksonville this fall so be sure to register and please check The Top Golf link posted above, See You in October! 🏌️

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## GEORIGIA

Back in February our department issued a stop sale order for Tractor Hydraulic Fluid which is labeled as meeting the THF 303 specification. The 303 spec became obsolete back in the 1970's and it was brought to our attention that it was still being marketed in Georgia. Retailers are required to relabel any of the product still being sold and they have until August to be in compliance.

A new law was recently passed in Georgia which addressed the licensing and bonding requirements for livestock auction markets and dealers. We have been working to update our rules and regulations in this area to address the new law. We recently held meeting with both the Livestock Marketing Association and the Packers and Stockyard Administration to discuss the updates and obtain feedback.



Supervisor **Mark Andrews** and Inspectors **Clayton Sheffield** and **Billy Steed** recently attended a training session in Montgomery, Alabama. The class covered proper procedures for package testing and was conducted by NIST.



We have a new 20 gallon l.p. gas prover that we have placed into service for our inspectors to test bottle fill type dispensers that use a meter rather than a scale. We are starting to see some of these at truck stops. 🚛



## LOUISIANA

### New Fuel Lab Equipment

Our fuel lab recently acquired a gas chromatograph that allows us to test the ethanol content of gasoline per the ASTM test methods D4815 and D5501. This will allow us to test ethanol percentages from 0 to 100. With Louisiana getting more gas stations with different percentages of ethanol, we feel this will be a very helpful tool to help us regulate the industry.

Fuel Program Manager **Jarrad Poirrier** testing the new gas chromatograph in the fuel lab.

### Inspector Training Manual

We are also working on a comprehensive training manual modeled after the NCWM Training Materials found at <http://www.ncwm.net/training/training-materials>. Hopefully, this project will be completed this year to be implemented in 2019 training efforts. We plan to use the manual, videos, and NIST training to further our efforts in professional development of our inspectors and supervisors.

### NIST Training Classes

LDAF will be hosting two NIST training classes in October 2018. NIST HB 133- Checking the Net Contents of Packages - Basic will be held on Oct. 22 -25, and NIST HB 130 - Price Verification will be held on Oct. 26. Both classes will be held in Baton Rouge on the LDAF Campus. There are still a few spots open! <http://www.ncwm.net/training/training-events>

### Inspector Training Videos Continue

Louisiana Weights and Measures Division just wrapped up a training video on taxi meter inspections in New Orleans. The taxi meter video is the last of the series which includes small scales, price verification, net contents of packaged goods, and retail meter inspections. Thanks to all those that worked to plan, film, and produce this video series. These videos will be featured on the LDAF website and hopefully on our YouTube channel soon.

### Website Improvements

We have continued to look at ways to have technology work for us in Louisiana. We are in the process of making our material placed in service and registration forms more user friendly. Placed in service forms are now PDF formats that are fillable, printable and submittable online for our service companies.

All new device and registrations forms are now combined into one and our weighmaster exam (plus service tech exams in 2019) will soon be able to be taken online using Google Forms. Exams will be graded using the Google forms process and scores dumped into a spreadsheet format for record keeping purposes.

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"Winning Takes Talent, to repeat takes character." **John Wooden**

## MISSISSIPPI

The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce welcomes **Commissioner Andy Gipson** as the eighth Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce.

**Commissioner Gipson** was sworn into office by **Chief Justice William Waller, Jr.**, during a ceremony held at the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce on April 2, 2018.

**Gipson** replaces **Cindy Hyde-Smith**, who was appointed to the U.S. Senate by **Gov. Phil Bryant** last month. **Gipson** will carry out the remainder of **Hyde-Smith's** term.

As a farmer, lawyer, pastor and former **State Representative**, **Gipson** looks forward to working with everyone in Mississippi to promote, market and strengthen agriculture and commerce in the state.

"It is crucial that we work together to plant and tend the seeds of opportunity for agriculture," **Gipson** said. "I invite all Mississippians of every background to work in unity to strengthen and grow this, the state's largest economic sector. Let's go to work together and pull in the same direction."

**Gipson** plans to delve into his new role by leading a Mississippi Farm Listening Tour during the 2018 growing season in an effort to build relationships with farmers across the state.

"This summer, my family and I will travel to all regions across the state visiting its diverse farms to get to know our farmers and their issues, challenges and opportunities," he said.



**Gipson** has owned and managed a cattle operation in Simpson County for more than 20 years and a tree farm since 2004. He is a member of the Mississippi Cattlemen’s Association and the Simpson County Development Foundation.

He represented House District 77, which serves parts of Simpson and Rankin counties, in the Mississippi House of Representatives since 2008. During his legislative service, **Gipson** acted as the chairman of the House Judiciary B Committee from 2012-2018 and chairman of the Ethics Committee from 2016-2018, and he served as a member on the House Agriculture, Appropriations, Ways and Means, County Affairs, Insurance, Municipalities and Transportation committees. He was recently selected as the Mississippi Legislative Conservative Coalition’s 2018 Conservative Legislator of the Year.

**Gipson** was treasurer for the Mississippi Legislative Conservation Coalition from 2010-2017 and treasurer for the Mississippi House Republican Conference from 2012-16. Mothers Against Drunk Driving named him Legislator of the Year in 2014, 2015 and 2016. In 2014, Pro-Life Mississippi named him Pro-Life Legislator of the Year. The National Rifle Association bestowed its Defender of Freedom Award on **Gipson** in 2013. That same year, the Central Mississippi Friends of NRA selected him for the **Kirk Fordice Freedom Award**, named after the former governor.

**Gipson** earned a Bachelor of Arts in political science in 1999 from Mississippi College and a Juris Doctor from Mississippi College School of Law in 2002, graduating first in his class of 113 students. He was active in the Christian Law Students Association and was editor-in-chief of the Mississippi College Law Review. He has been in private law practice since 2002.

**Gipson** is a Baptist minister and has served as pastor of Gum Springs Baptist Church since 2011. He and his wife, **Leslie**, have been married since 2001. **Commissioner Gipson** joined by his wife, **Leslie** and their four children **Joseph** (back left), **Benjamin** (back right), **Abigail** (front left) and **Sarah** (front right). They reside on their small working farm in Simpson County.



The mission of The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce, led by **Commissioner Andy Gipson**, is to protect and promote agricultural-related businesses within the state and to promote Mississippi’s products throughout both the state and the rest of the world for the benefit of all Mississippi citizens. This is accomplished through many bureaus and divisions within the agency including the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry

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Museum, Mississippi Farmers Market, Mississippi Agricultural and Livestock Theft Bureau, Bureau of Plant Industry, Market Development Division and Bureau of Regulatory Services. To learn more about MDAC, visit [www.mdac.ms.gov](http://www.mdac.ms.gov).

## Petroleum news

All Petroleum Equipment Repairmen licenses expire June 30<sup>th</sup>. Appointments should be scheduled to have your test measures and provers calibrated at the Mississippi State Metrology Lab, located on the campus of Alcorn State University, in Lorman, by contacting **Mel Isigi**, the State Metrologist, at 601-877-3802. Be sure that any equipment shipped to the lab has been properly cleaned or it will not be tested.

Summer has arrived, and with that additional vacationers traveling through our state. The department is receiving a higher number of consumer complaints. Typically, the most common complaints are those that deal with tank capacity and price per gallon signage. As a reminder, when price per gallon increases, it is best to make the change first to the road price signs; when the price per gallon decreases, it is best to make the change to the device pump price sign. This process reduces the confusion for the consumer.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer. If I or any of my staff can assist you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact our office at 601-359-1101.



**Brent Bowman**, (left) Director of the Weights and Measure Division served as a panelist at the Mississippi Solid Waste and Recycling Conference, Bay St. Louis, MS on May 16, 2018. He presented a PowerPoint presentation on how the Weights and Measures Division perform scale test inspections.

**Gary Smith**, (right) Inspector for the Weights and Measures Division is testing a hopper scale (right) with his 500 pounds test weights to assure that scale is in tolerance. When testing a hopper scale, we test with known test weights as well as doing a material build up test.



**Gary Smith** (left) is applying an inspection sticker to a scale after scale inspection was approved. 🇺🇸

## NORTH CAROLINA

### Measurement Section

The temperature is warming up here in NC and plenty of farmers want their produce scales tested. It's a busy time for our weights and measures inspectors. Also, you have probably noticed that gas prices have jumped up for the driving season. When that happens, it seems like gas complaints get multiplied by five. We try to check each complaint within 24 working hours, so our inspectors have been very busy lately. Right now, the measurement section has nine open positions and management are working hard to fill those as quick as possible.

In the last letter, our central supervisor had not been appointed yet. I am happy to announce **Bryan Moore** was promoted to supervisor. He has been with our division for 13 years as a fuel inspector and a weights and measures inspector. Also, during this time, **Tim Quinn** was promoted to our calibrator position which deals with large meters. **David Lynch** retired at the end of May, and we wish him the best in his new life. **Michael Beal** decided to take a position with the veterinary division and he will be missed. We had three open "trainer" titles. **Tommy Nixon** will step in to be our new fuel inspector trainer. **Mark Lanning** and **Clay McIntyre** will fill our weights and measures trainer slots. Personnel is ever changing it seems.

We are in the process of equipping our heavy scale truck with a brand-new body, boom, and crane unit. Kanawah Scale and Systems are putting that together at this moment. We hope to have the unit ready in a month. We also received a new slide-in unit for testing fuel dispensers from Seraphin. Next month we will be working on getting a new calibrator unit and transferring our 100-gallon prover to a new truck.

Maybe between the excitement I might go visit the beaches of NC. Until next time, I hope you and your family are well.

God Bless,

**Chad Parker**

### LP-Gas Section

April 6-8 - Our LP-Gas Engineer, **Richard Fredenburg**, attended the NPGA Southeastern Convention and International Propane Expo in Atlanta, GA, including the Cylinder Exchange Council meeting. This was an excellent opportunity to interact with manufacturer reps and other industry people.

April 12 – Our Emergency Programs Division presented some training to propane companies about protecting from spreading animal diseases, especially avian influenza. This training was suggested by the NCPGA Safety and Education Committee. The training is available to be given at multiple places across North Carolina.

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May 9 – The Wake County Environmental Health, the people in charge of licensing food trucks, held a training session for inspectors from other counties about food truck inspections. One of our LP-Gas Inspectors, Randy Renfrow, had a place where he shared about the requirements for the propane systems on these trucks. **Randy** shows the location and requirements for an ASME tank on a truck in one photos and some DOT cylinders on a food trailer in the other.

## Standards Laboratory

During the month of April and May, we participated in the Southeastern Measurement Assurance Program, SEMAP, which took place in Bay St. Louis/Biloxi, Mississippi. **Nicholas Cercone** and **Ashley Lessard** represented North Carolina during this training process. Topics of discussion but not limited to included proficiency tests; ISO/IEC 17025 revision; new NISTIR series of calibration procedures and calibration intervals for field standards.

The NCDA&CS Standards Laboratory received the Third 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 completed SRWW harvest at the beginning of June. We were able to collect adequate grain in the desired moisture ranges for the 2018-2019 testing season! We are looking forward to a good corn harvest in late summer.

## Motor Fuels Section

Over the last three months, several projects in the Motor Fuels section have started to come together. The inclusion of wording regarding gasoline and ethanol blends up to 15% by volume in ASTM test method D4814 last year has led us to re-evaluate how we regulate E15 during the summer months. If the word “unleaded” is used in the brand name of the E15 product, we considered this product to be gasoline but there have been some challenges to this that we are trying to sort out. We have been working with Sheetz, the largest purveyor of E15 fuels in North Carolina, and **Kristi Moore** of Fuel Tech Services to address any industry concerns with this change. As a result of our discussion so far, **Kristi** has identified several places in ASTM D7794 – concerning mid-level ethanol blends that need some clarity that the committee will work on.

The tractor hydraulic fluids collected in March were tested during the month of April, and eight of the fourteen fluids labeled as specifically as “303 tractor hydraulic fluid” failed to meet the current J20C specifications. In addition, several of the hydraulic fluids were found to be labeled as “universal” and failed to provide information regarding the types of equipment the products for suitable for use in. We are currently preparing a stop sale order to halt the sale of these products until the quality and labeling problems are addressed by the manufacturer.

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In the lab, the ventilation upgrade is ahead of schedule and is over 60% complete. This project should be wrapped up in late July for inspections and everything should be operational in the first week of August. We have also started building a motor fuels inspection portal into the GRID system currently used by our LP gas section. This will automate the inspection process and allow the effectiveness of the section to be better tracked. As a part of this effort, we have also started a project to move the existing brand name registration system off paper and into the Department's automated licensing system. †

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

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