



Southern Weights & Measures Association

154rd Edition

SWMA Newsletter

October 2018

JURISDICTIONAL NEWS

ARKANSAS

Thirteen years ago **Tom Pugh** was appointed director of the Arkansas Bureau of Standards, a division of the Arkansas State Plant Board, under the Arkansas Agriculture Department. Tom previously had been the manager of numerous aspects of his family's enterprises. It was a learning experience, but Tom was up to the challenge. Through his experience and leadership our agency has prospered through some uncertain times.

Tom Pugh left the agency Sept 1 to enable him more time with his family. We wish him the best in whatever endeavors he wishes to pursue.

Our newly appointed director is **Christian Olson**. Christian is a summa cum laude graduate of the University of Central Arkansas with a B.A. in Political Science. He worked as a policy analyst for the Arkansas Commissioner of State Lands before serving as a policy adviser for Governor Asa Hutchinson. In 2016 Christian joined the Arkansas Agriculture Department as Marketing Director, growing and organizing the Marketing Division and Grants Programs before his appointment as director of the Bureau of Standards.

He currently resides in Little Rock with his wife **Melissa**, son **Seth**, and another son **Matthew**, expected in early 2019.

Tim Chesser, Agriculture Inspector Supervisor recently received his Award of Appreciation for his term on the NCWM Specifications and Tolerances Committee. His year-long appointment ended in July of this year.

Metrologist **Houston Naugher** recently returned from the Southwestern Assurance Program meeting in Oklahoma City. Among the topics discussed were changes in ISO/IEC 17025 standards, updates in HB 143, and proposed new SOPs, methods and new test procedures. A very informative and intensive week.

October 15-26th Houston will be headed to NIST to complete the Mass Metrology Course. This is one of three courses required for a metrologists to become signatories. ⚖️

FLORIDA

Greeting from Florida, we just finished up our Annual Inspector Workshop in Lake Mary FL. Once again it was a great success! Florida would like to thank Mr. **Charlie Stutesman** with the Kansas Dept. of Agriculture for his presentation on their inspection program. Our inspectors enjoy learning about how other states run their inspection programs. Let this also serve as a warning: we may be asking some of our southern friends to speak at next year's workshop.

In the last newsletter we spoke about opening our new Pompano Beach Petroleum Lab, however, due to some unforeseen construction delays we now will be opening in October or November. The staff at this lab are all new to The Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and we are looking forward to working with all of them. This team is currently in training at our temporary headquarters in Pompano and at our petroleum lab in Tampa. Our Metrology lab in Tallahassee is preparing for their biennial audit to keep up their NAVLAP and ISO17025 certifications.

The past few months have been busy for us, we are currently revising our Petroleum, Weights and Measures, LP Gas, Antifreeze and Brake Fluid rules. On a bitter sweet note, about 4 years ago The Department merged The LP Gas inspection program into The Bureau of Standards. Along with the program came a great supervisor, **Betty Merritt**. Betty brought a wealth of knowledge with her and has been a very valuable member of our team. Unfortunately for us, Betty is retiring in February of next year, we will miss her expertise in LP gas but most of all, her friendship. We wish her all the best!

One of our constant concerns in the Bureau of Standards is employee turnover and we have been focusing on ideas to improve our employee retention. An idea that we are experimenting with is offering a flex schedule to our field inspectors. We currently have about 10 inspectors on a flex schedule, meaning that they work either four 10-hour days, or they can start earlier or later in the day which ever they prefer. One of the problems that we foresaw was coverage of their area if they were off. We talked with all the supervisors about this and they volunteered to cover for them or assign another inspector in a nearby area to cover any complaints in those areas should the need arise. So far, this is working well and the inspectors really like having the option.

We look forward to seeing you all at the 73rd annual meeting of the Southern Weights and Measures Association in Jacksonville, Florida from October 7th through October 10th! 🇺🇸

GEORGIA

We have been quite busy at the Georgia Department of Agriculture with the Fall season now in full swing. The Stop Sale Order that we issued a while back for 303 Tractor Hydraulic Fluid seems to have been very well received by our industry partners. So far everyone has been in compliance.

We have been busy checking on and inspecting corn vending machines recently. They are very much in use right now due to hunting season. We have not seen any problems as of yet.

We want to offer our best wishes and prayers to our neighbors in North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia with the difficulties that they encountered during Hurricane Florence. We issued an RVP waiver in Georgia to assist with the fuel supply issues during the hurricane.

We are excited to have several upcoming events that we will be participating in. They include the Georgia National Fair in Perry, the Sunbelt Expo in Moultrie and the Georgia Association of Convenience Stores Trade Show in Macon.



We have been very fortunate to recently acquire a new Retail Fuel Inspectors Position for Metro Atlanta. We have just purchased a new “slip-in” fuel inspection unit and truck for this position. This will bring our number of full-time fuel inspectors up to 21. This will be a great help in the Atlanta area. †

LOUISIANA

Change in the Weights and Measures Commission:

Effective August 1, 2018, we added alternates for all of the members of the [Weights and Measures Commission](#) that hear our adjudicatory hearings. The change was made during the recent legislative session to ensure that we have a quorum at each of our hearings. The alternate members will serve in the place of a member that cannot be present.

Videos:

Our training and informational videos are now available on YouTube. You can find them by searching “[LDAF Internal](#)”. We already have 10’s of views. Help us *geaux viral!* Special thanks to LDAF Public Information Officer, **Jennifer Finley** and **Todd Justice** of Louisiana Civil Service for all of their hard work on this project.

NIST Training Classes:

We are looking forward to hosting NIST Handbook 133 Package Class and Handbook 130 Price Verification Class in Baton Rouge during the week of October 22, 2018. Thanks to our Assistant Director, **Paul Floyd**, for coordinating this with NIST! We will have participants from Alabama and Mississippi as well.

NCWM Exams:

We have worked out an agreement with Louisiana Civil Service Testing Center to proctor the NCWM Exams for our inspectors. Our first two candidates will be taking the Basic Competency Exam in October. Our goal is for all inspectors to have at least one NCWM credential. Starting in July of 2019, this as well

as our own state mastery and credentialing process will be incorporated into our promotion process for newly on-boarded inspectors as part of their career progression in Weights and Measures.

SWMA S&T Committee:

Our Assistant Director, **Paul Floyd**, has been appointed to the SWMA Specifications and Technology Committee and will begin serving in that position at the 2018 SWMA Annual Meeting in Jacksonville, FL.

New Positions:

Louisiana is in the process of hiring three full time positions including the following Agriculture Specialist 1-2 opportunities:

1. Metrology Lab, Metrologist in Training. Baton Rouge
2. Heavy Duty position for class three vehicle scales, also comes with new test truck purchase. Baton Rouge District
3. Position in the French Quarter and CBD of New Orleans. New Orleans District. 📍

MISSISSIPPI

Consumer Protection Division:

The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce welcomed its new Director of Consumer Protection, **Henri Fuselier, Jr.**, on July 23, 2018. Henri is from Madison, Mississippi, and graduated from Mississippi College in 2006 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology. Henri joined the Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce following 11 years of employment as a Consumer Services Manager and Legal Inquiry Specialist.

The Consumer Protection Division also welcomed a new Inspector, Mr. **Mark Hancock**. Mark joined the Consumer Protection Division following 11 years of service with The Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce's Meat Inspection Division as an inspector, as well as a compliance officer.



Henri Fuselier

Mississippi Department of Agriculture and Commerce retail food licenses expired on June 30, 2018. The Consumer Protection Division inspectors have worked diligently to ensure all retail food licenses are renewed for the 2019 calendar year. The Division's goal is to have the 2019 renewals completed by October 1, 2018.

The Consumer Protection Division is also performing Country-of-Origin Labelling (COOL) inspections through a cooperative agreement with the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service. Foods such as muscle cuts of meats, fresh fruits and vegetables, and unprocessed nuts must have country-of-origin declarations at the final point of sale.

Weights and Measures Division:

The Weights and Measures Division welcomed new inspector, **Jonathan Wilson** on August 13, 2018. He is from Jones county in South Mississippi. Jonathan will be inspecting heavy capacity scales, weighmaster licenses, pulpwood licenses and timber businesses.



Jonathan Wilson



Aguster Lewis

Aguster Lewis will be supervising the Biscuit Booth at the Mississippi State Fair. Aguster is the Administrative Assistant for the Weights and Measures Division.

Greg Gholston, our Weights and Measures supervisor, received certificates for passing the Small Capacity Weighing Systems Class III exam and Package Checking Basic exam from NCWM. This is the second time Greg has completed both of these exams. In addition, Greg is involved in the Train the Trainer program.



Greg Gholston

NORTH CAROLINA

Our thoughts and prayers for all those affected by Hurricane Florence. As I write this, 2 weeks after landfall, NC still has significant flooding in many areas of Eastern NC. All our employees are fine, and nobody experienced any damage to their homes, though many could not get out to work for several days. They were among the fortunate as many people lost everything. Some had not yet completed rebuilding after Hurricane Matthew in 2016 when Florence arrived. We are still in recovery mode and expect to be for some time.

On a lighter note, we are preparing for the NC State Fair, held Oct 11-21. Our division has a booth each year, which includes a scale to provides their “official” weight. We’ll feature our LP-Gas program this year and our increasing demand for food truck inspections. Many county health departments now require our inspection as part of their permitting process. We will also have employees working several other events and displays during the fair. We also have a booth during the Mountain State Fair, held in early September, which closed a day early due to Hurricane Florence.

We are finally moving dirt on the site of our new labs! We will soon go through safety training for the site as some of us are expected to visit on a regular basis. We are also bust finalizing some details in the building, working on the furniture and AV equipment needed and have started a group to organize the move. Still a lot of work for us to do while construction is going on.

LP-Gas Section

Our LP-Gas section has a new site inspector, **Wesley Brown**. Wesley comes to us from NCDOT’s License and Theft Bureau and has a degree in Mechanical Engineering. We also have a vacancy in the Southeast area of the state.

Our LP-Gas Engineer, **Richard Fredenburg**, was involved in various committee meetings in September. The first was the National Propane Gas Association’s Technology, Standards, and Safety committee, held in Indianapolis, IN, on September 9-11. The next was the National Fire Protection Association’s Technical Committee on Automotive and Marine Service Stations, held in San Diego, CA, on September 12-13. The NFPA’s Technical Committee on LP-Gases met on September 24-26 in Baltimore, MD. The North Carolina Propane Gas Association’s annual convention in Asheville was postponed by Hurricane Florence. The projected date for the convention is October 28-30.

Richard Fredenburg

Motor Fuels Section

We recently hired a new field chemist **Fisher Midgett**, based out of Manteo and covering the Northeast part of the state. We have advertised on Octane Analyst position several times this year and are having trouble getting qualified candidates.

We have been dealing with several “water in gas” complaints after Hurricane Florence. We have had about 18 in the last 2 weeks, confirming a problem in 12 of them, with another one having a problem with a product other than the one that caused the complaint. Usually the rate of confirmation of a problem is much lower than what we are experiencing with these.

Stephen Benjamin

Standards Lab

During the past quarter several employees took advantage of attending conferences and training events. In the month of August our Quality Assurance Manager **Robert Rogers** attended the Advanced Mass Seminar, which took place on the campus of the National Institute of Standards and Technology [NIST] in Gaithersburg, Maryland. Also, in the month of August, Metrologist **Van Hyder** attend the NCSLI Workshop & Symposium, which took place at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland, Oregon.

The Grain Moisture Section completed corn harvest early this year due to Hurricane Florence. We were able to collect adequate corn samples this season despite the weather. We are now beginning our soybean collection season. We are hoping for better weather and successful sample collection.

Sharon Woodard

Measurement Section

I am composing this letter the week after hurricane Florence just tore through our state. The eastern part of our state received the worst with flooding, trees down, power outages, and just a real mess. We did have several staff that was affected, but luckily there were no injuries in our section. The economic impact to the farmer is going to be one of the biggest issues going forward. Many crops and animals were lost due to the flooding.

With all this happening, the Mountain State Fair was going on in the western part of the state. Turnout was good up until the last few days when Florence decided to head their direction. I would like to thank my western supervisor **Buddy Dutton** for heading up our part of the fair. This was his first year heading things up and everything went smoothly. That sets us up for the North Carolina State Fair in mid-October. We have already been planning our part out for a few months now. Looking forward to a successful fair season.

Speaking of seasons, we finally got around to hiring season in my section. We have added on quite a few new inspectors lately and still have a way to go. **Walter Creech** accepted our fuel dispenser position in the eastern part of the state. **Tom Corriher** who has been with us 17 years took a promotion and stepped into our weights and measures position in the western part of the state. I would like to welcome **Erik Harrell**, he took our fuel dispenser position in the central, and **Ronald Prater**, who

accepted our weights and measures position in the central. Finally, **Bradley Sifford** took our heavy scale position in the west. Welcome to all the new hires. We have many more to come. Soon I hope.

We are STILL in the process of equipping our heavy truck with the new body. Hopefully no more delays and we should have it very soon. Also, at this time we have a new calibrator unit being assembled. Our calibrator trucks have a 100-gallon prover mounted in the bed. So that is being worked on at Akins Equipment in Charlette.

Until next time, enjoy the fall and the nice cool days. God Bless,

Chad Parker 🇺🇸

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

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