



Southern Weights & Measures Association

165th Edition

SWMA Newsletter

January 2022

Happy New Year Everyone!

The NCWM interim meeting was held in Tampa, January 9-12. It was a hybrid meeting and well attended. The committees did a great job getting through the agendas. I was able to attend in person and it was great to see people after 2 years of virtual events! The NCWM Annual meeting will be in Tacoma, Washington, July 10-14.

Congratulations to Gene Robertson, Mississippi, on his nomination as chair-elect for NCWM. The vote will occur at the July meeting and he will step into that role at the end of that event. Gene has been the SWMA representative on the NCWM Board of Directors, so they will be looking for a replacement for him.

We would like to welcome, and congratulate, Mark Hanes, who has taken over as the Weights and Measures Administrator in Tennessee, with the retirement of Ed Coleman. Ed left after 30 years of service to the state. He was the SWMA President in 2019 and hosted our annual meeting in Knoxville that year.

2022 Annual Meeting

North Carolina will be hosting the event, with Chad Parker as President. We will meet in Raleigh, October 9-12, at the Embassy Suites by Hilton Raleigh Crabtree. The room rate will be \$149 plus tax. I will provide more information, including the reservation link, in the next newsletter. I do plan to host a tour of our new building, the Steve Troxler Agricultural Sciences Center, on Sunday, Oct 9th. I expect this would be after lunch, with agenda reviews beginning mid-afternoon. So, if you are interested in this, please plan your travel accordingly.

Oklahoma

Here in Oklahoma it's pretty much business as usual for Weights and Measures. Nothing really to report other than we are getting ready to start on our annual checking of Ranch Scales throughout our state. Stay safe.

Gary Smith

North Carolina

Metrology Laboratory

The last quarter of the year is usually a slow time for Standards Laboratory. We had our North Carolina State fair from October 14 – 24, 2021 at our local fairgrounds after being on hiatus from Covid-19 protocols. The theme for the fair was "Worth the Wait". Some of our area inspectors participate including the Standards Laboratory staff. Senior Metrologist, Van Hyder was one of the coordinators for our booth at this year's fair.

No Training for the quarter because the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in Gaithersburg, Maryland was closed for Covid-19 protocols. One of our Senior Metrologist, Ashley Lessard accepted a position with the North Carolina Education Lottery in November 2021. Her position is currently being advertised.

We officially moved to our new address in August. Since that time, we have been steadily preparing to re-establish our NIST recognition and our NVLAP accreditation program.

The Grain Moisture Section is currently completing routine inspections throughout the state. We are also in the process of filling our vacant field inspector position. We look forward to hosting the interviews at our new facility. We continue to resolve the challenges of working in a new laboratory space.

Sharon Woodard

LP-Gas Section

We will be participating in the NIST study for filling of nominal 20-pound propane cylinders coming up in February - April.

We have been working with NIST on a study for developing a Protocol for Validation of Coriolis Mass Flowmeters as Field Reference Standards for Liquefied Propane Gas.

Richard Fredenburg participated on some virtual meetings as a committee member on NFPA 30A (Code for Motor Fuel Dispensing Facilities and Repair Garages) and NFPA 59 (*Utility LP-Gas Plant Code*) in October.

Richard Fredenburg

Measurement Section

Greetings from the Tarheel state, North Carolina.

Welcome 2022! We enjoyed about six months of being fully staffed. Two long-time friends of mine in the division retired. We are going to miss Glen Farmer and Tom Corriher. May they enjoy their retired life. We are advertising their positions and hopefully be able to move quick on the hiring process.

We are planning on getting some new trucks if they can get through the supply chain quick enough. We will keep our fingers crossed. Not much else to report this time around. May 2022 be good to you.

God Bless,

Chad Parker

Fuel Quality

At the start of December, the Fuel Quality field inspectors officially shifted to using the Department's online GRID inspection system. This change will allow inspection data to be collected and rapidly disseminated to various stakeholders while also reducing the need to maintain large amounts of paper files.

In personnel related news, Andrea Crisp joined the Fuel Quality Section at the start of January as the Section's quality manager & safety officer. Andrea has a background in laboratory testing and has been working as a quality manager in private industry for the last twelve years. We look forward to her helping us continue to build a robust quality system while also putting new eyes on our well-established safety program.

Dr. Marcus Helfrich

Louisiana

On July 1, 2021, Governor John Bel Edwards signed into law Act No. 145 from the 2021 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature. This law increased the license registration fees for commercial weighing and measuring devices, weighmaster licenses, and service technician licenses. The last fee increase for weights and measures occurred in May of 2003. This increase helps Louisiana Weights and Measures

Division remain 100% self-funded and should offset the reduction of our budget authority in the Petroleum Fund.

Here are the items that changed:

<i>Device Type</i>	<i>2022 Registration Fee</i>
Official Category 1 Scales	\$50
Official Category 2 Scales	\$115
Official Category 3 Scales	\$215
Official Class 1 or Class 2 Mass Flowmeter	\$250
Weighmaster License Fee	\$100
Service Technician License Fee	\$65

We are continuing our Professional Development efforts in 2022. To date our staff has successfully completed:

- 73 NCWM Professional Certifications
- 44 NCWM Basic Comp Certifications
- 364 State Training Manual Course Exams
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We have also developed eight Training Courses on topics such as Weighing Devices, Laws, Rules, and Regulations, and Motor Fuels. We also developed six Worksheets on topics such as scale divisions, tolerances, and retail meter volumetric testing. These training materials are improving our knowledge and consistency in our day-to-day operations. We plan to continue these efforts and we would be happy to share this information if you would find it useful.

A main training focus for us this year will be effective report writing, consistent data entry, and proper equipment maintenance. We have tutorials and webinar trainings planned to improve these often-overlooked areas of our daily work. We're also making a point to educate our office staff on the details of our field work so that they can better serve inspectors and citizens throughout their work.

Both our Motor Fuels, and Metrology Labs, have remained open throughout the duration of the recent Covid-19 surges. We have been able to maintain continued operation of our labs due to extensive efforts in preventing exposure. This has been achieved by a combination of limiting lab accessibility, scheduling tasks in different work areas within the labs, and continued efforts by all lab employees to prevent exposure. The new norm has required us to remain alert and be willing to adapt our daily practices as the need for continued safety and precautions continue to evolve.

Made available by:

Paul Floyd

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Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry

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