

Southern Weights & Measures Association

132th Edition

SWMA Newsletter

April 2013

JURISDICTIONAL NEWS

KENTUCKY

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who attended the annual meeting of the SWMA in Louisville last October. A special thank you to all who took time to serve on or chair a committee.

The Department is starting its annual testing of retail motor fuel dispensers. With the addition of 7 new slip in provers, all of our inspectors testing retail motor fuel dispensers will have one. Our goal is 100% completion by October.

This winter we placed an emphasis on package inspections. We noticed an increase in package and labeling violations. In January the metrology laboratory retained its NIST recognition for the year.

The Division has added several inspectors this year. We added two new large scale inspectors, this will give us three large scale test trucks. We have four new egg quality inspectors and two new amusement ride inspectors. All of our Amusement ride inspectors attended the annual National Association of Amusement Ride Safety Officials training in January. We look forward to seeing you all in July at the annual meeting in Louisville. ☮

MISSISSIPPI

The Regulatory Division continues to work towards a more efficient staff with the help of our IT staff. As you will read, each division is getting updated versions of WinWam. We remain committed to protecting the consumer while working with industry to provide the balance necessary to achieve the best results.

Weights and Measures

The Weights and Measures and IT Divisions have been diligently working for approximately a month on installing new WinWam Software Version 5.4.200 (Database Version 8.24) for our new HP Laptops. It was a long process and a lot of hard work but now we are completely updated with software and hardware. The greatest addition is the WinWam Synchronization, no more writing or reading transfer files. Our inspectors will just connect to the internet and synchronize daily with the office, updating the data on both ends. Inspectors only had about a week of down time and now back in the field doing inspections.

Consumer Protection Division



John Eddleman

The Consumer Protection Division hired John Eddleman, in February of this year, as an inspector for the position that was vacated in the Mississippi Delta area. John was formerly employed with the Mississippi Public Employees Retirement System (PERS).

The division is expecting to get new computer tablets and an updated version of WinWam about the middle of April. These tablets

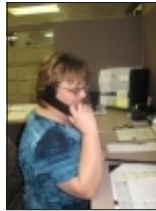
will replace some older laptops and will be used in the division's weights & measures program, retail food sanitation program, as well as other inspection duties that the division is responsible for.

Petroleum Division

The petroleum division has been able to fill 2 positions recently vacated, one field inspector position due to retirement and the other an office Administrative Assistant Position. Both Scotty Deare and Lane Matthews have been hired effective February 1, 2013.



Scotty Deare



Lane Matthews

The division has processed nearly 300 distributor registrations since January 1st, and will begin renewals for Petroleum Equipment Repairmen April 1st. ☪

NORTH CAROLINA

Measurement Section

Spring is just around the corner and we have completed our mulch and fertilizer package inspections. We are glad to report we only found minor problems with correct net content, much better than past years. I would like to contribute these good results to the assistance our inspectors have provided to companies with their quality control programs. Our job is not merely weighing packages to see if they meet correct net content. A little constructive time can pay dividends down the road.

We are also seeing good results with our price scan inspections. For an inspection period of December 1, 2012 through February 28, 2013 we had 6 civil penalties issued for a total of \$10,700.00. For that same period last year, December 1, 2011 through February 28, 2012, we had 11 civil penalties issued for a total of \$22,395.00. This is a decrease of

almost 50%. (I picked these months because they are during wet cold weather when our inspectors are mostly inside doing inspections.) Our initial 50 or 100 item scan inspections were still around the 10% overcharge error rate but our return 300 item scan inspections were a fraction of what they were a few years ago. As you can see we only had 6 for a 3 month period. Maybe after many failed 300 item scan inspections, folks finally realized we are not going away until they get it correct.

After many months of being short handed in our inspection staff, we are finally getting folks back in place. Ronnie Abbott has returned to work after successful cancer treatment. Ronnie we are thankful you are better and back on the job. Good things do happen if you believe. We have hired Hunter Hairr and Ron Roberson as Standard I Inspectors to fill the voids some promotions created. We still have 3 more vacant positions to fill, but maybe they will soon be forthcoming. Our Central Area Supervisor, Wayne Compton, hopes so anyway, all these vacancies have been in his area. He is getting behind through no fault of his own. As a new supervisor, he is doing great with what has been thrown at him. Hang on Wayne; we'll get there one day!

Jerry Butler

LP-Gas Section

The computer-based inspection program expanded to all types of LP-Gas inspections in January 2013 with the addition of the miscellaneous inspections form and the bulk plant inspection form. The need for paper forms is essentially gone, but on occasion weather, computer problems or even the database problems could have us back on paper temporarily. It has been an adjustment for some staff. It is an improvement to the program that allows for precise and consistent handling of the multiple types and seriousness of violations. It is also causing a distinct improvement in responses from dealers in how they can better deal with correcting violations and reducing penalties with prompt corrective action.

The LP-Gas inspectors no longer inspect scales. They had been checking scales and applying an approval sticker to scales at propane dispensers. During some training, it became evident that these inspectors could not do a proper inspection since

they do not carry enough test weights. This, along with some issues with electronic scales, helped us decide to transfer scale inspections to W&M inspectors.

Richard Fredenburg

Motor Fuels Section

The Motor Fuels Section is in process of acquiring several new instruments. Generally speaking, the Motor Fuels Lab tests a high volume of samples with our instruments and often maintains them for a period of time beyond which the manufacturers still stock parts for them. This year's major purchases include a Cold Crank Simulator, a Gas Chromatograph for oxygenates, One D56 Flask Point Analyzer and One D86 Distillation Instrument.

The state's Air Quality Section is looking to have the EPA approve data so that 7.8 psi gasoline would no longer be required in a handful of NC counties. While approval is not expected before this summer, when the program takes effect, they have asked for that "enforcement discretion" to be granted by the EPA. This would allow the state not to use this fuel pending the review of the data. There has been a significant price difference at retail between 7.8 psi and 9.0 psi gasoline, so there are some financial considerations here also.

Art Rupard

Standards Laboratory

This year was the first time we did not calibrate our own standards in house. With the loss of our echelon I and echelon II accreditation we had to send our standards to an outside source. We received our standards back in a timely manner and were able to begin customer calibrations by February 1, 2013. I applaud the efforts of our metrologists (Robert Rogers, Kris Simino, Van Hyder, and Ashley Lessard) for a job well done.

Again this year we will be participating in the Carolina Star Program Conference. We are assigned to the Northeast regional team and we had our first meeting March 5, 2013 at Skanska USA Building in Durham, North Carolina. This is an opportunity for us to network with other non government agencies who have committed themselves to the common goal of keeping safety first. This year's topic is "Evolution of Safety." Our safety team representatives are Van Hyder and Sharon Pulley.

Our Grain Moisture section is still participating in the soybean quality traits program. The next set of soybean samples were just received for testing due May 1, 2013. Early indications say the wheat crop is looking good. Unless we have a late frost or excessive rainfall, we are very optimistic and expect a good wheat harvest.

Sharon Woodard

MARYLAND

Maryland Weights and Measures is pleased to announce it has hired three new inspectors starting March 20: Derrick Jones, Jeff Dean and Daniel Jester. We will advertise two open field inspector positions later this spring, which will bring us up to full staff. While we have had some turnover in the workforce, we are pleased with the professional work of our staff and enthusiastic about working with new people.

We held a two-day training class in February on small scales and LMDs with an emphasis on understanding and applying HB 44 LMD and scale code sections. The training concluded with the NCWM RMFD test for accreditation. More training is scheduled prior to our staff taking the NCWM Small Capacity Retail Scales test. We aim to have all inspectors be accredited through the NCWM professional certification program on both the RFMD and the Small Capacity Retail Scales.

During our training session the whole staff was available for a special presentation. Governor O'Malley, in an official proclamation, declared the week of March 1st to March 7th as weights and measures week in recognition of the "vital and necessary role of weights and measures in society" and the 214th anniversary of the first federal weights and measures law in the US. Our own Secretary of Agriculture, Buddy Hance, presented the proclamation. Thank you to the Governor and Secretary. The recognition is greatly appreciated.

From January 1, 2013 to March 13, 2013, the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) took the following enforcement actions against violators in short weight packages and misrepresentation of prices:

- On January 17, MDA received \$1,000 for a civil penalty assessed for short weight to Safeway #945 of Potomac, MD 20854
- On January 17, MDA received \$500 for a civil penalty assessed for short weight to Safeway #107 of Greenbelt, MD 20770

- On January 23, MDA received \$2,000 for a civil penalty assessed for short weight to Weis #129 of Damascus, MD 20872
 - On January 28, MDA received \$500 for a civil penalty assessed for short weight to Roots Market of Olney, MD 20832
 - On January 31, MDA received \$500 for a civil penalty assessed for short weight to Safeway #2848 of Bethesda, MD 20814
 - On February 13, MDA received \$500 for a civil penalty assessed for short weight to Whole Foods #52 of Gaithersburg, MD 20878
 - On February 19, 2013 MDA received \$750 for a civil penalty assessed for short weight to Grand Mart of Gaithersburg, MD 20878
- The next issue will highlight Maryland field activities for fiscal year 2013. ↗



Secretary of Agriculture Buddy Hance (front left) presents the official proclamation to Chief of Weights & Measures Ken Ramsburg and his staff.

Contact SWMA

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