

# Southern Weights & Measures Association

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150th Edition

SWMA Newsletter

October 2017

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## JURISDICTIONAL NEWS

### GEORGIA

Hurricane Irma is the first hurricane where the entire state of Georgia was under a Hurricane Watch/Warning and Tropical Storm Watch/Warning. There were several areas across the state that reported wind gusts of 70 mph. Additional reports included flooding, extensive power outages, downed trees, road and bridge closures, and fuel availability/outages that have affected communities across the state.

**Rich Lewis, Jason Wamba, and Chuck Royal** recently attended a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Georgia Pecan Commission. The meeting was held in Macon at the state farmers market.

We were very pleased to help host a tour of the Tifton Fuel Lab for an Ad Hoc committee of the Georgia Oilman's Association. We had a very good meeting with the committee and they were very impressed with the Lab and its personnel.

We want to welcome aboard our newest employee. **Ms. Jasmine Richardson** has joined us as our Retail Fuel Inspector for Cobb and Cherokee Counties. We are very pleased to have her.

Lastly, several staff members of the Fuel & Measures Division and the State Fuel Lab attended a Fuel Seminar hosted by the Georgia Tank and Equipment Association at Kennesaw State University. **Rich Lewis, David Au, and Dr. John Shugart** all spoke at the seminar. There was some very good information that was presented and discussed. †

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## MARYLAND

As we move into fall, our four new inspectors continue their training as Weights and Measures inspectors. All four are now inspecting retail motor fuel dispensers on their own as we try to complete as many gas station inspections as possible in the state before winter arrives.

Most of our other inspectors have been taking advantage of the warm dry weather by inspecting gas stations in their assigned territories, and Inspector **Brian Flagg** continues to find credit card skimmers in the areas he inspects.


**Katie Hall** is close to completing inspections at loading rack terminals in Baltimore. She has done an exceptional job and learned a great deal, as this was her first time going through and inspecting the majority of the loading rack meters in the state.

**John Hartman** is nearing completion of large and vehicle scale inspections in the western portion of the state.

Maryland Weights and Measures once again had a presence at the Maryland State Fair, which was held the 10 days before Labor Day. Our display included information for consumers related to receiving the proper amount of fuel at a gas station, weighing of items and labeling requirements in the marketplace, and what our inspectors do on a daily basis. We also had a few credit card skimmers on display so the public could see first-hand what they look like and ask questions.

We recently held a two day staff meeting where our inspectors took various NCWM certification exams, had safety training on proper lifting techniques and learned about customer service and conflict resolution.

Congratulations to **Don Mason** who retired at the end of September after 35 years with Maryland Weights and Measures. His knowledge and experience as a Field Supervisor will surely be missed.

For FY 2017, field inspectors conducted 817 (15.5% in violation) large scale inspections, 398 (13.6% in violation) medium scales and 4,399 (15.8% in violation) small scale inspections. The meters inspected were 18,247 (16.8% in violation) retail motor fuel meters, 407 (13% in violation) propane gas meters, 890 (11.2% in violation) vehicle tank, and 108 (3.7% in violation) grain moisture meters. Other inspection types include 856 (11.6% in violation) tare inspections, 3,255 (2.3% in violation) price verification, and 4,460 (22.7% in violation) package lots. The NTEP lab conducted 32 type evaluations of devices. The program investigated 430 consumer complaints, most of which were related to retail motor fuel dispenser accuracy. 

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## MISSISSIPPI

### Consumer Protection Division

Since the beginning of the state's fiscal year, the Division has conducted 340 UPC inspections (71 failures), tested 1,433 scales (48 rejected), and conducted 89 package check inspections (6,419 packages checked; 594 placed off-sale for short weight).

The Department has fined four stores for repeated UPC failures so far this fiscal year, totaling \$1,200 in fines.

### Petroleum Division

The Petroleum Division recently proposed and amended the regulations to include E15 and Flex Fuels. Working with the MS Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association (MPMCSA) insured that the rules change was favorably accepted and assisted with "getting the word out" in regard to the new requirements. The new rules are consistent with FTC and EPA labeling requirements as well as ASTM.

The division along with the MS Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) recently hosted a fall Tank Owner conference, which was an opportunity to meet with industry and discuss recent changes not only to the Federal Requirements for Tank Owners, but changes to the Departments Regulations addressing E15 and Flex Fuels. Feedback from industry is favorable for these joint meetings.



The division closed out Fiscal Year 2017 on June 30; inspecting nearly 65,000 devices and issuing over 4,200 violations for non-compliance. The division sampled over 2,100 products, resulting in 134 being placed off sale for failure to meet ASTM Specifications and collected \$24,000 in Administrative penalties.

Joint efforts with MDEQ also addressed gasoline RVP waivers granted by EPA during Hurricane's Harvey and Irma allowing product to reach those up the supply chain not directly affected by the disasters. Our thoughts remain with all our counterparts in those affected areas.

With the budget woes recently experienced by our state and agency, creative management is a must. One of our recent costs savings efforts, emailing inspection reports, has proven to be not only a dollar savings, however a savings in time for field inspectors. Personnel can collect all the necessary information required for emailing reports and vacate the premises once the signature has been obtained and avoid the "battle" of printing reports. The division currently has two vacancies and hopes to fill those posts in the next fiscal year. For the time being, current staff has managed to address complaints and other issues in those vacated areas. †

## **NORTH CARLONIA**

This is always a busy quarter for us with the Mountain State Fair in September and the State Fair mid-October, which started the day after we got home from Arkansas and the SWMA conference. The remnants of Harvey closed the Mountain State Fair one day, but there was no damage and it was a successful event. The State Fair again had over 1 million people attend! Department employees devote a lot of time to the Fair, staffing various booths and events, animal welfare inspections and for us, checking commercial scales (once) and all the LP-Gas tanks on the grounds (each day).

### **Motor Fuels Section**

The Motor Fuels Section has recently welcomed **Anas Salifu** and **Justin Davis** as new inspectors within our Program. Anas is a recent graduate of Wingate University and will be covering the central Piedmont region. **Justin** came to us by way of the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality where he was an inspector, and will cover the northeastern coastal region of the state. Both are currently in training and hope to be in the field by the end of October. We have also hired **Brandon Hicks** as a temporary general utility worker to fill the void left when our previous general utility worker, **Willie McCook**, was promoted to be the section's courier driver. We will introduce these three new members to the rest of the staff at the end of October during our annual safety meeting in Raleigh.

In laboratory related news, the new sample storage vault received final approval from State Construction in early June and has been in service for the last several months. We are currently working out the final kinks with the vendor and look forward to moving it to our new laboratory facility in 2020. The planning for the new laboratory remains on track and we have been working to finalize the list of equipment that we will be purchasing to expand our testing capabilities. We are also working to finalize the plans for State construction on a ventilation upgrade for the distillation and can cleaning rooms to improve the safety in these areas.

### **Marcus Helfrich**

### **Standards Laboratory**

During the past quarter, several employees took advantage of attending conferences and training events. In the month of August, metrologists **Nicholas Cercone** and **Van Hyder** attended the Advanced Mass Seminar, which took place on the campus of the National Institute of Standards and Technology [NIST] in Gaithersburg, Maryland. In the month of September, our annual Carolina Star Safety Conference took place in Greensboro, North Carolina. The theme for this year's conference was "The Power of Safety: Is Your Battery Fully Charged?". **Robert Rogers** and **April Lee** represented the Standards Laboratory during this period. Special thanks to all the staff members for a job well done and for continuously keeping safety a top priority.

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The Grain Moisture Section completed corn harvest early this year due to our hot, dry summer season. This was a successful collection season despite the threat of multiple hurricanes. We are now beginning our soybean collection season. We are hoping for good weather and successful sample collection.

**Sharon Woodard**

## **LP-Gas Section**

The public input for proposals for the 2020 edition of the *LP-Gas Code* will be considered by the Technical Committee on LP-Gases on October 17-19, 2017, in Tampa, FL. Our LP-Gas Engineer, **Richard Fredenburg**, was present and participated in the process.

The LP-Gas Section personnel attended training given by NFPA on the 2017 edition of the LP-Gas Code on July 20, 2017, at the North Carolina State Fairgrounds. Also in attendance were authorities having jurisdiction from Georgia and South Carolina and fire inspectors and fire marshals from across North Carolina.

**Wayne Manning**, LP-Gas Inspector for over 44 years, retired on September 1, 2017. **Wayne** was instrumental in developing the propane meter calibration procedures in use in North Carolina. He was awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine on his retirement.

**Richard** participated in the NCPGA Technology, Standards, and Safety Committee meeting on September 10-13, 2017, in Colorado Springs, CO. He also attended the NC Propane Gas Association meeting on September 27<sup>th</sup>, with the recently retired Wayne Manning being present at their invitation for recognition for his many years of service to the industry.

**Richard Fredenburg**

## **Measurement Section**

Fall is here and combines, harvesters and tractors are busy in the fields gathering crops trying to stay ahead of bad weather. Trucks are taking the harvest to the buyers and grain elevators. Seasonal work was very busy with tobacco, cotton and peanut scales taking up a lot of time in the past months. Our NC Western Fair wrapped up in September and was a great success due to the hard work of a lot of people. I especially want to thank our western area personnel for their contributions to our booth and displays. Our NC State Fair was October 12 through October 22 and we had many employees working at the fair during this time. It is a fun time even though we are working. It surprises me every year some of the comments we get. "We did not know anyone did that", most referring to testing scanners in grocery stores and the testing of correct measure of gasoline from motor fuel devices. The certified scale at our exhibit is a lot of fun. Anyone that wants their true weight can simply step onto our scale and it will print or stamp it on a card for them. There are many folks that have the weight cards from as far back as we

began stamping them. The ladies mostly know their weight and our scales are always incorrect. We have fair goers that weigh when they get to the fair and they weigh right before they leave to see if their weight leaving coincides with the amount of great food they consumed while at the fair. No matter what your age you will have a good time at the fair!

Normal duties are still taken care of. We are handling fuel related complaints daily and scanner related issues as they are coming in to the office. Last quarter registered 72 complaints and 53 requests. My recent survey of our complaint/request log for last quarter, 83.3% of complaints were handled within 24 hours and the other 16.7% were handled as soon as we could get to them due to receiving the complaint on a weekend. We have 106 failed first scan locations this year so far. Most passed on the re-inspection. Fines were levied on 16 locations for a total of \$20,300.00. Two locations received multiple civil penalties.

We have two Standards I positions (fuel dispenser inspections) posted and hope to have at least one of them filled before this is published. We have filled a Heavy Scale Standards Inspector I position. **Brad Casstevens** accepted this position. We welcome **Brad**. He will have approximately one quarter of the state to cover.

All and all everything is running along smooth.

**Allen Katalinic** 📧

<p>The SWMA Newsletter is published quarterly: Annual dues are \$50. Membership inquires should be directed to: N. David Smith, SWMA Secretary-Treasurer NC Department of Agriculture &amp; Consumer Services, 1001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1001 Phone: 919-707-3031 Fax: 919-715-0026 E-Mail: David.Smith@ncagr.gov, Website: <a href="http://www.swma.org/">http://www.swma.org/</a> News may be submitted to: SWMA, 1904 Mission Road, Birmingham, AL 35216, E-mail: <a href="mailto:wdbasher@charter.net">wdbasher@charter.net</a></p>
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