



Southern Weights & Measures Association

119th Edition

SWMA Newsletter

January 2010

JURISDICTIONAL NEWS

GEORGIA

Just as the winter weather moves in so does all the rain, and more rain, and more rain, you get the point. We went from being in a drought, deficit of rain to an over abundant of rain. Lucky this has not caused as much trouble with water in the underground tanks and gas problems as we could have had.

We have just come to the end of one of the worst fiscal years in Georgia history and the Agriculture Department took furlough through out the year to get our budget cuts in. We are still a few inspectors short, but have been able to hire back several inspectors' positions that had retired or quit. Our inspectors have banded together very well in these tough times to help out in other areas without inspectors.

The Weights & Measures Lab recently received their 2010-2011 N.I.S.T. certificate of recognition, which included area's of mass, volume, grain moisture and a new area of discipline for our lab - length.

Our small scale inspectors will be one short after Feb. 28 when our only Metro Atlanta scale inspector, Mr. Ben Rallo, retires after over 12 years of service with us. Ben said he is over 65 and wants to take it easy for a while in the North Georgia Mtns.

We have downsized our Heavy Scale Trucks to 5 that covers the state due to retirements and budget cuts. We have realigned every territory to keep coverage in all areas. Some inspection teams gains several more scales, and more miles to travel.

After the end of this year we will have something we have not had in over 41 years in the Georgia Department of Agriculture, A new Ag. Commissioner. Commissioner Tommy Irvin has said he will call it

quits at the end of 2010. He is the longest serving elected official in the United States. He will leave a legacy behind that started at the beginning of 1969.

We would like to congratulate Harold Shubert on his retirement with the Department of Agriculture. Harold had been a Retail Fuel Inspector for over 15 years and will be missed. We have been able to hire Clayton Sheffield to replace Harold in that position and wish him well in his new job. We have been able to hire two other Retail Fuel inspectors in the metro Atlanta area. We would like to welcome aboard, KeAndrea Morrow and Kevin Holts to the Fuel and Measures team. These two guys will have there hands full because KeAndrea has Fulton Co. with over 10,000 gas pumps and Kevin has 8 counties with over 8,000 gas pumps. This ought to keep them busy for awhile.

Last, but not least we at the Georgia Department of Agriculture would like to congratulate our Director of Fuel and Measures, Rich Lewis on his recent marriage before the Christmas holidays. We wish Rich and his new bride, Angie lots of luck in their new adventure together. †

NORTH CAROLINA

Motor Fuels Section

The majority of retail stations in NC are now selling gasoline that is blended with up to 10% ethanol. We have seen several cases of phase separation occur in the storage tanks of some retailers. Although, it seems like a wide spread problem, the reality is that only a small fraction of stations that have converted to E10 have experienced this issue. We have stepped up on-site testing of ethanol content and education of tank owners with the importance to minimizing bottom water in the storage tanks.

Two new employees were hired during the previous quarter. Steven Hasty joined the staff as a Field Chemist in the Western District and Jonathan Hoyle now works in the lab as a General Utility Worker. Both of the positions have been vacant for some time.

All except two of inspectors are currently driving Dodge Sprinters that we have been purchasing for use as mobile labs. The Sprinters are diesel, use less fuel than the step vans that we previously used, and the employees also greatly prefer driving them.

The section responded to about 425 fuel quality complaints and requests in 2009.

LP-Gas Section

A revision to the LP-Gas Laws went into effect on October 1, 2009. The major changes are:

- Created two classes of LP-Gas Dealer licenses, increased the liability insurance required for those who transport LP-Gases, and changed the expiration date of the license to match the insurance policy expiration date.
- Increased the maximum amount of civil penalties and changed the language for notification for imposing civil penalties. As a result of this change, a penalty matrix was developed to help administer the penalty process.
- Added a statement making the authority for performing inspections clearer.

Our LP-Gas Engineer, Richard Fredenburg, participated in the NFPA's Technical Committee on LP-Gases meeting held in Des Moines, IA, in October. It was the final meeting to determine which changes will be made to the next edition of the LP-Gas Code, NFPA 58. Even though this was the final meeting before the NFPA Annual Meeting where the changes will be officially accepted, there will be an attempt to make a few more changes using the TIA method to correct some errors and revise the interval for testing underground tanks for corrosion protection.

The North Carolina State Fair was held in October and our LP-Gas Inspector, Randy Renfrow, inspected about 250 propane installations each day of the 10 day event.

Standards Lab

The staff had a wonderful ceremony on November 17, 2009 to celebrate their recognition as a NC Star Public Sector Site. The event was attended by NCDA&CS Assistant Commissioner Howard Isley,

Standards Division Director Stephen Benjamin and members of both the division and department safety committees. The awards (a plaque and a flag) were presented by Commissioner Cherie Berry of the Department of Labor, who encouraged them to continue to keep safety 1st and asked that they continue to be a leader for the department by setting a good example.

The lab had a successful NVLAP accreditation audit in December. Our quality manager, Cliff Murray, did an excellent job preparing the staff for this three day audit.

We are still working on the validation of the Sartorius Robotic System. We are currently reviewing a project plan for the robotic system. In the near future, we hope to be the first state lab to provide a calibration using the robotic system.

Our grain moisture section finished the year with strong corn, wheat, milo and soybean harvests. For the third year, we provided soybeans for the 2009 Soybean Quality Traits (SQT) NIR Applicability Study. We joined the American Oil Chemists' Society (AOCS) Laboratory Proficiency Program (LPP) for moisture testing and participated in our first sample exchange program, but test results won't be available to us sometime after February. We again anticipate a busy season for the grain moisture program as they begin testing meters using our first small harvest of milo.

Measurement Section

Our inspection work for the Year 2009 has come to a conclusion and our accomplishments have exceeded our results for Year 2008. Of course we were fully staffed for the entire year with no vacant positions for the first time in many years and actually were able to add a new Gas and Oil Inspection Position at the end of 2008.

2009	Tested	Rejected	Rejection Rate (%)
Retail Motor Fuel Dispensers	123,397	13,175	10.68
Fuel Meters	3,346	504	15.1
Small and Medium Scales	33,308	3,173	9.5
Large Scales	2,557	458	17.9
Price Scanning Systems	2,557	238	9.31
Packages	3,295,202	106,167	3.22
Complaints/ Requests- Total			
Total Visits	20,216		

We've had a good Holiday break, are rested and should be ready to go. We almost completed all our inspection duties in 2009. Let's hope we stay fully staffed and healthy and can get all our goals accomplished in 2010. †

WOTTHLIE CHIEF OF MARYLAND WEIGHTS AND MEASURES TO RETIRE

Richard W. (Will) Wotthlie, chief of the Maryland Department of Agriculture, Weights and Measures Section plans to retire December 31, 2009. He is well known in the weights and measures community for his active participation in technical and policymaking committees of professional associations, including the National Conference of Weights and Measures (NCWM), the Southern Weights and Measures Association, and the NCWM/NTEP program. He currently serves on the board of the NCWM as treasurer. He is widely known and respected in the national and regional conferences for stating his opinion on the floor and steering the conference progressively. Wotthlie also has conducted many liquid measuring device and LPG training classes across the United States for the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

Will served as chief of the Maryland Department of Agriculture's Weights and Measures Section for over five years. In this role, he was responsible for ensuring fairness in the marketplace through the inspection and regulation of all weighing and measuring devices used in commerce in Maryland. He also supervised laboratory services, including Maryland's National Type Evaluation Program (NTEP) laboratory, one of only three in the nation qualified to certify liquid measuring devices and one of only four in the nation qualified to certify weighing devices used commercially in the United States.

Wotthlie began working for the Maryland Department of Agriculture in 1979 as a field inspector for Frederick County, responsible for all weights and measures activities in that region. He was also responsible for the inspection and testing of all liquid propane gas (LPG) and loading rack meters located west of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge. In 1989, he was promoted to field supervisor for the western and central parts of the state. In 1994, Wotthlie became program manager for all activities pertaining to small and large scales in Maryland and also performed NTEP evaluations for Liquid Measuring Devices. In 2003, Wotthlie additionally assumed the duties as program manager for liquid measuring devices. After Louis Straub retired, Wotthlie served as acting chief of the section. In 2004, Agriculture Secretary Lewis R. Riley appointed him as chief of Weights and Measures. †

Southern Weights & Measures Association

65th Annual Meeting

South Carolina is proud to be hosting the 65th Annual Meeting of the Southern Weights and Measures Association. The location, hotel, and dates are all but finalized. The meeting will be October 3 - 6, 2010 in Columbia at the Hilton Columbia Center, 924 Senate Street. This hotel is located in the Congaree Vista Area. With over 45 restaurants and bars, 60 artists' galleries and specialty shops, and a diverse mix of businesses and services, the Congaree Vista offers an array of choices all in one convenient location. Plus, the area's proximity to the Congaree River, downtown business district, and University of South Carolina, make it the ideal place to visit, live, work and play. Room rates will be \$93.00 per night plus tax. Columbia is served by the Columbia Metropolitan Airport (CAE) and only a few miles from the hotel. For more information, please contact SWMA President Derek Underwood, Carol Fulmer or John Stokes @ 803-737-9690. As more details of the meeting are finalized, we will keep you informed. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending this year's SWMA Meeting. †

Contact SWMA

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