



# Southern Weights & Measures Association

129th Edition

SWMA Newsletter

July 2012

## JURISDICTIONAL NEWS

### MARYLAND

Maryland has several personnel changes this quarter. Two field inspectors have completed their training will join the current staff of 12 field inspectors. We are also hiring two new field inspectors to replace those who have recently retired/resigned.

MDA is pleased to announce that former field inspector Elizabeth Koncki has been promoted to Packaging and Weighing Devices Assistant Chief.

Continuing education training in devices and packaging is a goal of the program. On February 29 and March 1, NIST led a hand-on training seminar for all MDA Weights and Measures inspectors on liquid packaged goods and price verification.

On June 27, staff will participate in training to review electronic device audit trails and be updated on technology changes as the state migrates to a Google platform for email and documents.

The program continues taking enforcement actions against violators in packaging and price verification. In the first half of 2012, the enforcement actions taken are:

#### Price Verification:

On January 9, the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) received \$250 for a civil penalty assessed for price verification to Staples 758 of Catonsville, MD 21228.

On February 9, the MDA received \$500 for a civil penalty assessed for price verification to Staples 1273 of Silver Spring, MD 20904.

On February 14, the MDA received \$250 for a civil penalty assessed for price verification to CVS# 1440 of Wheaton, MD 20906

On February 14, the MDA received \$250 for a civil penalty assessed for price verification to CVS# 1471 of Waldorf, MD 20602

On February 14, the MDA received \$250 for a civil penalty assessed for price verification to CVS# 7656 of Baltimore, MD 21227

On February 14, the MDA received \$500 for a civil penalty assessed for price verification to CVS# 1463 of Silver Spring, MD 20902

On February 14, the MDA received \$500 for a civil penalty assessed for price verification to CVS# 1471 of Waldorf, MD 20603

On February 14, the MDA received \$500 for a civil penalty assessed for price verification to CVS# 1973 of Wheaton, MD 20902

On February 14, the MDA received \$250 for a civil penalty assessed for price verification to CVS# 4411 of Baltimore, MD 21215

On February 27, the MDA received \$500 for a civil penalty assessed for price verification to Advanced Auto Parts # 9011 of Adelphi, MD 20783

On February 28, the MDA received \$250 for a civil penalty assessed for price verification to Home Depot# 2589 of Annapolis, MD 21401

On March 9, the MDA received \$500 for a civil penalty assessed for price verification to Advanced Auto Parts # 8597 of Silver Spring, MD 20906

On May 31, the MDA received \$500 for a civil penalty assessed for price verification to Advanced Auto Parts #5106 of Baltimore, MD 21223

On May 31, the MDA received \$1,000 for a civil penalty assessed for price verification to Advanced Auto Parts # 1602 of LaVale, MD 21502

On May 31, the MDA received \$500 for a civil penalty assessed for price verification to Advanced Auto Parts # 6407 of Cumberland, MD 21502

#### Random Package Testing:

On January 9, the MDA received \$2,000 for a civil penalty assessed for short weight to Giant Food # 151 of Rockville, MD 20850

On January 17, the MDA received \$500 for a civil penalty assessed for short weight to Pan Am Supermarket of Laurel, MD 20707

On January 19, the MDA received \$750 for a civil penalty assessed for short weight to Safeway #4114 of Bowie, MD 20715

On January 19, the MDA received \$250 for a civil penalty assessed for short weight to Safeway #2848 of Bethesda, MD 20814

On January 19, the MDA received \$1,000 for a civil penalty assessed for short weight to Safeway #107 of Greenbelt, MD 20770

On January 19, the MDA received \$1,500 for a civil penalty assessed for short weight to Safeway #1089 of Gaithersburg, MD 20878

On February 9, the MDA received \$750 for a civil penalty assessed for short weight to Giant Food # 108 of Baltimore, MD 21212

On February 9, the MDA received \$2,000 for a civil penalty assessed for short weight to Giant Food # 125 of Rockville, MD 20850

On February 22, the MDA received \$500 for a civil penalty assessed for short weight to Grand Mart of Landover, MD 20784

On February 28, the MDA received \$250 for a civil penalty assessed for short weight to Whole Foods #70 of Rockville, MD 20852

On March 1, the MDA received \$500 for a civil penalty assessed for short weight to Grand Mart of Gaithersburg, MD 20878

On March 12, the MDA received \$500 for a civil penalty assessed for short weight to Whole Foods #52 of Gaithersburg, MD 20878

On March 30, the MDA received \$1,000 for a civil penalty assessed for short weight to H&A Supermarket of Langley Park, MD 20783

On March 30, the MDA received \$1,000 for a civil penalty assessed for short weight to HA HA Food Market of Baltimore, MD 21237

On March 30, the MDA received \$1,000 for a civil penalty assessed for short weight to H&A Supermarket of Langley Park, MD 20783

On March 30, the MDA received \$750 for a civil penalty assessed for short weight to Harris Teeter #403 of Olney, MD 20832

On March 30, the MDA received \$750 for a civil penalty assessed for short weight to Safeway # 1315 of Rockville, MD 20853

On April 6, the MDA received \$250 for a civil penalty assessed for short weight to J's Produce Market of Reisterstown, MD 21822

On May 1, the MDA received \$2,000 for a civil penalty assessed for short weight to Mega Supermarket Int'l of Riverdale, MD 20737

On May 1, the MDA received \$2,000 for a civil penalty assessed for short weight to Safeway #2713 of Bowie, MD 20720

On May 4, the MDA received \$1,500 for a civil penalty assessed for short weight to Giant Food #135 of Silver Spring, MD 20906

On May 4, the MDA received \$750 for a civil penalty assessed for short weight to Giant Food #127 of Olney, MD 20832

On May 4, the MDA received \$500 for a civil penalty assessed for short weight to Giant Food #357 of Bethesda, MD 20816

On May 4, the MDA received \$2,000 for a civil penalty assessed for short weight to Giant Food #198 of Potomac, MD 20854

On May 4, the MDA received \$1,500 for a civil penalty assessed for short weight to Giant Food #108 of Baltimore, MD 21212

On May 4, the MDA received \$2,000. for a civil penalty assessed for short weight to Giant Food #125 of Rockville, MD 20850

On May 4, the MDA received \$2,000 for a civil penalty assessed for short weight to Giant Food #329 of Rockville, MD 20850

## MISSISSIPPI

The MS Department of Agriculture and Commerce has a new Commissioner. In November of last year, State Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith from Brookhaven, MS was elected Commissioner. Commissioner Hyde-Smith took office in January of this year. She and her family are partners in a local stockyard auction market. So, she is very knowledgeable about the importance of weights and measures inspectors. We are excited to welcome her to the Department!

In other news, the MS Metrology Lab will also be operating under a new director. Mel Iasigi has moved from Weights and Measures Field Supervisor to the Director of the State Metrology Laboratory. Many of you may know that John L. Sullivan, our former lab director, took a position in private business. John L. served this Department very well and will do a great job in private business. Mel brings to the lab a wide array of experience in field work and lab work, and we are looking forward to his leadership in the Lab.

Also, Julie McLemore has returned to the position of Director of the Bureau of Regulatory Services. The Department's Bureau of Regulatory Services includes five divisions, the Weights and Measures, Petroleum Products Inspection Divi-

sion, Consumer Protection, Commodity Inspections, and Meat Inspection.

Finally, we are so appreciative of the interest Commissioner Hyde-Smith has taken in what is going on out in the field. Recently, she spent time in the field with a number of the Department's inspectors learning their day-to-day duties. The following are some pictures from those visits. 📷



**MDAC Inspector Craig Allgood demonstrates how inspectors verify the weight of pre-packaged items for Commissioner Cindy Hyde-Smith. From left to right Hyde-Smith, Allgood, and Inspector Brent Bowman.**



**MDAC Inspector Clay Hammons demonstrates how the Department tests for water in petroleum tanks for Commissioner Hyde-Smith. From left to right Hammons, Deputy Commissioner Andy Prosser, Petroleum Division Director Jennifer Thompson and Hyde-Smith.**

## NORTH CAROLINA

### LP-Gas Section

The LP-Gas Program has been going through some changes over the last 6 months. The new web-based database for performing inspections and processing any warning or penalty letters took a major step in May by reaching the point where past inspections can be entered as historical information as well as the ability to do new inspections. They will be testing the "admin" side which automatically generates the letters in coming weeks.

A long-time goal of providing computers for LP-Gas inspectors was realized in June. Inspectors received their HP Toughbooks computers and basic computer training. They will get accustomed to logging their timesheets and communicating by e-mail with the computers. Once the database is complete they will begin performing their inspections electronically.

Our LP-Gas Engineer, Richard Fredenburg, taught a class on the LP-Gas laws and the LP-Gas Code at the North Carolina Fire Prevention School in April.

Richard Fredenburg

### Standards Laboratory

During the last of March we participated in the Southeastern Measurement Assurance Program, SEMAP, which took place in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Metrologists, Tal Anderson, Ashley Lessard; Quality Manager Robert Rogers; and Lab Manager Sharon Woodard represented North Carolina during this week long training process. Topics covered included Supplier Evaluation, Laboratory Customer Service, Traceability Assessments, Mass Calibration Procedures and Assessments (NISTIR 5672, 6969) and Volume Calibration Procedures and Assessments (NISTIR 7383).

On May 1, 2012, longtime metrologist Tal Anderson resigned and took a position with Xerox Corporation. With his departure, North Carolina has lost a lot of our expertise in many areas of accreditation. As a result, we are currently accredited for Echelon III, Gravimetric Volume, Volume Transfer and Lottery Balls level. We are in the process of filling a vacant metrologist position and current staff members are getting the necessary training to regain our previous accreditation status.

The NCD&CS Standards Laboratory received the prestigious Third Consecutive Year Gold Star Award for having outstanding safety and health efforts in the work place. The recognition comes from the North Carolina Department of Labor Safety Awards Program. Special thanks to all the staff members for a job well done and keeping safety a top priority.

During the month of June we filled our vacant Grain Moisture Supervisor position. April Lee joined us on June 1, 2012. April obtained a Bachelor's degree in Poultry Science with a minor in Animal Science in 2010 and also graduated with a

Master's degree in Nutrition/Feed Science in 2011. During her education at North Carolina State University, she worked as a Research Assistant, Teacher Assistant, and Feed Mill Operator. After graduation, she worked at Novozymes as a R&D Intern.

Once April gets "settled in", we plan on having dialogues regarding the resolution of issues in order to have the NIST accreditation restored at the grain moisture level. We are presently involved in cleaning the wheat we harvested. We are keeping our fingers crossed for a good corn harvest in late summer!

Sharon Woodard

### Measurement Section

The Measurement Section is in the midst of many personnel changes after enjoying several years of steady staffing.

Mr. Donald Byrd started the ball rolling with his retirement in April this year. Wayne Compton was promoted to fill his supervisory position in May. One of our Gas and Oil Inspectors, Mr. Bryan Moore, was then promoted to fill Wayne's vacant position and we are now advertising Bryan's vacant G & O Position. Mr. Randy Ramsey has been hired to fill Randy Snipes inspection position which has been on hold for almost 2 years as Randy Snipes

has been battling problems with double knee replacement and complications from that surgery. Mr. John Rogers will be retiring as of July 1st. We plan on promoting one of our present inspectors to his position. That means his position will then have to be advertised and filled. (I guess this proves Newton's Law that every action causes a reaction.) We have several more people that have their 30 years in or are of the age they can retire. Let's hope they stay on for a while longer and let the dust settle first.

We hosted a NIST Vehicle Scale Training Class the week of June 11, 2012. We had four guest state regulators, eleven NC Highway Patrol Motor Carrier Enforcement personnel, three private scale company representatives and our four vehicle scale inspectors along with our three area supervisors present. Rich Harshman and John Barton of NIST had a great presentation and excellent field demonstration. All I heard was very good comments and the scale companies wanting them to hold a class just for scale companies.

We are hoping to host another NIST training class on Packaging and Labeling in the fall. We'll keep you posted.

Jerry Butler 🇺🇸

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### Contact SWMA

The SWMA Newsletter is published quarterly. Annual dues are \$50. Membership inquiries should be directed to:

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