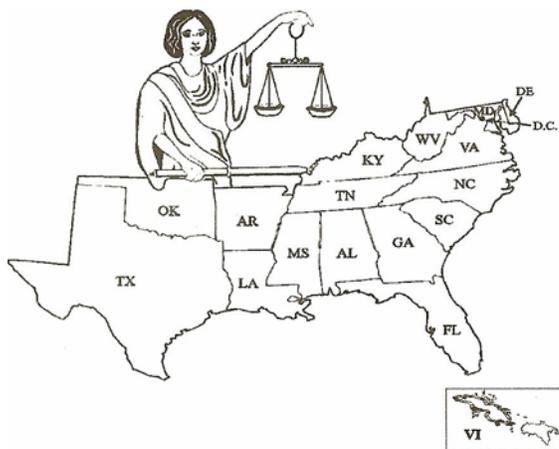


# Southern Weights & Measures Association



140th Edition

SWMA Newsletter

April 2015

## JURISDICTIONAL NEWS

### MARYLAND

Spring is here and our inspectors are happy to be out in the nice weather at the gas stations.

In 2015 Maryland Weights and Measure has begun to conduct inspections with digital device inspection reports. In January we had some awesome, exciting training from WinWam, a company that provides electronic inspection software. WinWam came to our office in Annapolis and trained all the field and office staff on WinWam devices and packaging software. We all worked hard on understanding WinWam and how it works.



Since January, we took our knowledge of the WinWam software into the field. The field inspectors have been busy inspecting all kinds of devices and packages, including liquid packages at manufacturers such as dairies and soft drink bottlers. Now office personal have more data to help them organize and direct program inspections in a more productive and efficient manner.

In February, we normally have our training school. This year, we met at the office to review the WinWam software. Our field inspectors had a productive time sharing ideas and comments about the new inspection process. Assistant Chief Joe Eccleston then educated us all on the rules and regulations of Weights and Measures in Maryland. Our next staff training session will be in June 2014 and we look forward to some VTM in-house training and maybe taking the NCWM VTM professional certification exam.

Our field staff has been doing well. Our recent hires have learned about small scale devices and retail motor fuel meters and have a better handle on electronic inspection reports. We remain staffed with 17 of 18 field inspectors. We plan to begin the hiring process to fill the vacant positions of one field inspectors soon.



We announce the retirement of Metrologist Zenon Waclawiw, who has provided MDA with more than 15 years of service. We wish him the best in his future endeavors. The Metrology Lab has three part-time staff. The staff is working hard on the process of accreditation and is taking classes and participating in Round Robin PTs. We recently installed in December a new comparator in the large mass lab for calibration of 500 to 1,000 lb standards. This replaces an outdated balance.



XP64 Balance under test

In March, the MD NTEP team of Ed Payne and Joe Eccleston attending the NTEP lab meeting in Sacramento, CA and toured the CA lab facility.

Maryland Weights and Measures staff continues package testing and price verification activities. The following enforcement actions have been taken against violators:

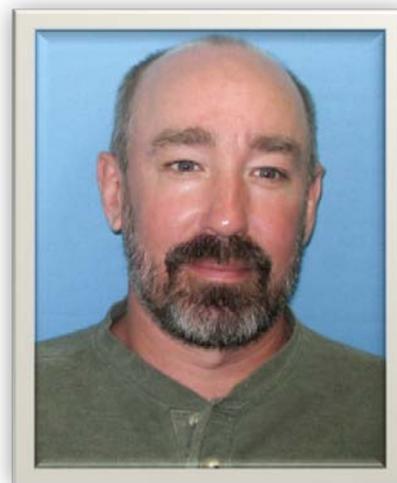
On January 30, 2015, the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) received \$250.00 for a civil penalty assessed for short weight to Giant Food #192 of Gaithersburg, MD 20879.

### MISSISSIPPI

We are still in the planning stages for the SWMA 2015 conference coming this October, but we do have the dates and location. The dates will be October 24<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> at the Golden Nugget Biloxi, MS. <http://www.goldennugget.com/biloxi/> Stay tuned for more information.

#### Consumer Protection Division:

Consumer Protection Division Supervisor, Rick Wheeler, recently passed both the Small Capacity Weighing Systems Class III



Rick Wheeler

Certification and the Package Checking Basic Certification. Rick has a lot of knowledge and experience in the areas of small scales and net weight inspection procedures. His comprehension showed on NCWM's certification tests.

Since the last newsletter, the Consumer Protection Division has made an effort to focus on price verification inspections in grocery stores, dollar stores, and drug stores. In this period, we have conducted 395 of these inspections to ensure price accuracy in these particular stores.

### **Petroleum Division:**

The Petroleum Division is hoping to fill a position recently vacated by retiring Sam Nash. Sam covered the Mississippi Delta area since 1998. We wish Sam the best of luck on his retirement.

In other news, the division has collected \$12,000 since July 1<sup>st</sup> in Administrative Penalties. Penalties are assessed for non-complaint fuel quality issues found in the sampling process.

### **Weights and Measures:**

The Weights and Measures Division would like to welcome recently hired, Eric Sessums. Eric will test scales in the Southeast area of the state. He will be testing intermediate scales that have a capacity of five thousand (5,000) pounds or less.



Eric Sessums

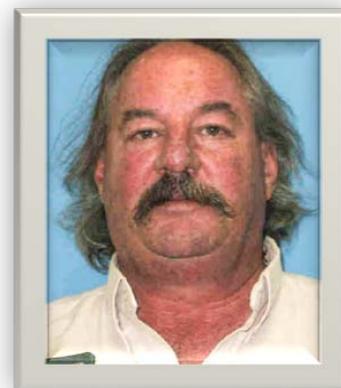
Weights and Measures Inspector, Brent Bowman, is shown with his new 2015 Kenworth truck. This truck will be used to inspect scales with capacity of 10,000 pounds or more. Brent calls his Director every day and tells her, "I Love My Truck!"



Brent Bowman

### **Happy Retirement!**

It saddens us to announce the retirement of George Windham on January 31, 2015. George has been an integral part of the Bureau of Regulatory Services / Weights and Measures Division for the last 29 years. His hard work,



George Windham

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commitment, and dedication are worthy of admiration. George Windham will be greatly missed. 卐



**SWMA 2015 CONFERENCE  
OCTOBER 24<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>  
GOLDEN NUGGET BILOXI, MS**

## **NORTH CARLINA**

### **Measurement Section**

Spring is almost here. Thank goodness! We have completed our fertilizer package inspections for the Spring. Maximum Allowable Variations (MAV's) during inspections were quite high. Most of the lots tested had an average plus error but also had many out of the MAV so the lots failed. Consistency in packages was not good to say the least. When we looked into their quality control programs, we found that many were not being followed or non-existent. We try to help them establish one or get their present quality control programs back into use. Hope they will continue to follow good practices to help with this problem. We will return again during the year to see how things are going.

We have not gotten to our mulch inspections due to our unusually cold, snowy and icy weather. Hope to get into testing of these products in the next couple of weeks. Weather has broken and folks will be getting back into their yards soon I'm sure. We want to stay ahead of any problems that might be out there.

We are also seeing good results with our price scan inspections. We have had only three civil penalties for excessive over charge errors this year. Normally we would have had a dozen by now. This is our busiest time of the year with scanning as the weather chases our inspectors inside. This constitutes a larger number of scan errors and civil penalties as the number of inspections are up. Again, looking much better in 2015.

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After a couple of years being shorthanded, we are almost full staffed. We only have one vacancy and hope to advertise that soon. Having said that, we have 4 of our inspection staff retiring this year, including myself. Full staffed will be short lived.

My last day will be April 30. I have enjoyed meeting and working with a lot of you. I have formed friendships with a lot of you and will miss talking with you on the phone and seeing you at our meeting. If any of you are ever passing through Eastern North Carolina, look me up.

Jerry Butler

## **Standards Laboratory**

Its official, Our Echelon I/Echelon II program was re-instated January 1, 2015. This means we were able to calibrate our own metric standards, 30 kg – 1 mg in house. We still had to use an outside source to calibrate our other standards, but we're one step closer to restoring all aspects of our Echelon I program.

We received our standards back in a timely manner and were able to begin customer calibrations by February 1<sup>st</sup>. I applaud the efforts of our metrologists (Van Hyder, Ashley Lessard, Robert Rogers and Sherry Teachey) for a job well done.

Again this year, Van Hyder, will serve as chairman for the Legal Metrology committee by NCSLI. We look forward to the many opportunities and contributions Van will make to enhance the legal metrology world. One goal that continues to be a point of focus is the promotion of educational programs and the recommendation for uniformity and quality of standards in specific measurement arenas.

In safety news, we will continue to participate in the Carolina Star Program. Due to inclement weather our first meeting was postponed. Our safety team representatives for this year are Joe Huntley and Sherry Teachey. I believe they will do an excellent job keeping us informed of the many changes in the safety community. We have made the commitment to ourselves to make sure we exercise the common goal of keeping safety first.

Our Grain Moisture section is in the height of its inspection season. We are looking forward to better weather as we finish our inspections. Throughout the state the wheat crops are looking good. We expect a smaller wheat crop this year due to weather during planting season, but, if the warmer weather continues, we expect a good wheat harvest.

Sharon Woodard

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## LP-Gas Section

Inspector Randy Renfrow inspected propane container installations at the Southern Farm Show in Raleigh in February. He performed 106 inspections over the course of three days, finding 28 violations that had to be corrected. Many of these were booths or displays

LP-Gas Engineer Richard Fredenburg gave a talk on propane safety at the Carolinas Balloon Association safety seminar on February 21.

Richard participated in the NPGA Technology, Standards, and Safety Committee meeting in San Antonio, TX in early March.

Richard gave his annual talk about the LP-Gas Law and how it works with the Building Code to the North Carolina Fire Prevention School on March 27. †

The SWMA Newsletter is published quarterly: Annual dues are \$50.

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