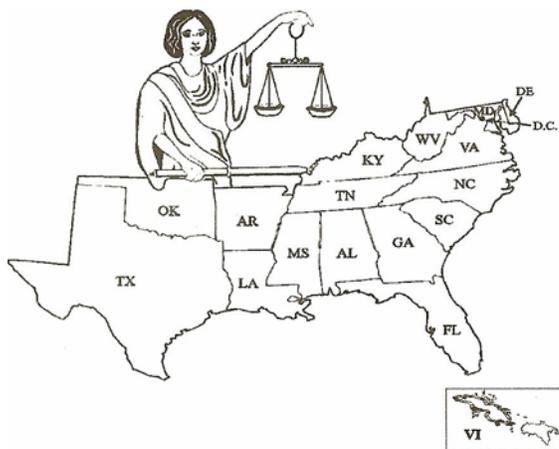


Southern Weights & Measures Association



137th Edition

SWMA Newsletter

July 2014

JURISDICTIONAL NEWS

MARYLAND

Summer has come to Maryland, and we are all a little surprised how few hot and humid days we had this spring. The cool days allowed us to inspect propane meters way into late spring. Our remaining staff is benefiting from the cool days as well as they test home heating oil meters.

A note of caution to everyone out there on the road: It is an unpredictable work place. Pictured below is our propane prover trailer. It detached from the tow vehicle and flipped on its side, bending the trailer deck and shearing off the supports and fittings from the prover. This was due to the physics of a side impact to the tow vehicle at low speeds. No injuries. Always watch out for the other guy.



On June 12 and 13, our field inspectors came together at the main office for a training class and picnic. Assistant Chief Joe Eccleston led the class in learning all about VTMs, for both oil and propane products. The team learned proper inspection procedures, safe operation, and proper cleaning and care of standards. We are pleased that our field staff submitted good comments and suggestions during this training session. Unfortunately, the NCWM professional certification exam for VTMs was not yet available for this session.



Inspector Jeff Dean, a 1.5-year inspector, qualified for his CDL and is now operating the straight body weight truck in the central Maryland area. Congratulations to Jeff!

Maryland is sending two field inspectors and one NTEP evaluator to the July NIST-sponsored "Livestock & Animal Scales" training class in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Livestock scales are geographically spread out in Maryland. Having more inspectors able to inspect livestock scales will help Maryland Weights and Measures be more efficient and informed, and help comply with USDA testing requirements.

We are pleased to announce the hiring of three Agricultural Field Inspectors: Xiaoli Hu, Dimeka Patterson and Jeff Wenk. All three live in the Baltimore area. Since June 2,

they have been out in the field working with lead field inspectors to inspect those VTMs and RMFDs. Training is going well. This puts us back to full strength staffing in the field with a total of 18 inspectors.

After 25 years of devoted services to NVLAP, NIST and the Maryland Metrology Laboratory, our lab manager Steve Barry has decided to retire. Within the next two weeks Steve will be leaving Maryland and settling back to his boyhood hometown of Lebanon, Pennsylvania. Steve requested that his retirement not be announced prior to his departure. Our hope is to have Steve attend our December Staff Meeting, providing us the ability to give Steve a proper send off. Best of luck and pleasant wishes to Steve.



Pictured from left to right: Metrology Lab Manager Steve Barry, Assistant Chief Joe Eccleston, Chief Ken Ramsburg and Metrologist Zach Tripoulas.

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

- On April 18, 2014, the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) received \$500.00 for a civil penalty assessed for price verification to GNC #8420 of Salisbury, MD 21804.
- On April 21, 2014, the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) received \$500.00 for a civil penalty assessed for price verification to Advance Auto Parts #5376 of Baltimore, MD 21229.
- On April 21, 2014, the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) received \$500.00 for a civil penalty assessed for price verification to Advance Auto Parts #6245 of Dunkirk, MD 20754.
- On April 21, 2014, the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) received \$500.00 for a civil penalty assessed for price verification to Advance Auto Parts #9012 of Germantown, MD 20874.
- On May 2, 2014, the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) received \$500.00 for a civil penalty assessed for price verification to CVS #4411 of Baltimore, MD 21215.
- On May 2, 2014, the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) received \$500.00 for a civil penalty assessed for price verification to CVS #1881 of Dunkirk, MD 20754.
- On May 14, 2014, the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) received \$500.00 for a civil penalty assessed for price verification to CVS #2865 of Baltimore, MD 21221.
- On June 9, 2014, the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) received \$500.00 for a civil penalty assessed for price verification to Walgreens of Lusby, MD 20657
- On June 10, 2014, the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) received \$500.00 for a civil penalty assessed for price verification to Advance Auto Parts #1419 of Ellicott City, MD 21042.
- On June 10, 2014, the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) received \$500.00 for a civil penalty assessed for price verification to Advance Auto Parts #1357 of Baltimore, MD 21218.
- On June 25, 2014, the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) received \$1,000.00 for a civil penalty assessed for price verification to GNC #8420 of Salisbury, MD 21804.
- On June 30, 2014, the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) received \$1,000.00 for a civil penalty assessed for price verification to CVS #4411 of Baltimore, MD 21215
- On April 21, 2014, the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) received \$750.00 for a civil penalty assessed for short weight to Safeway #1956 of Rockville, MD 20850.
- On May 19, 2014, the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) received \$500.00 for a civil penalty assessed for short weight to Lotte Plaza of Gaithersburg, MD 20878.
- On June 23, 2014, the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) received \$250.00 for a civil penalty assessed for short weight to Giant Food #107 of Beltsville, MD 20705.

- On June 23, 2014, the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) received \$250.00 for a civil penalty assessed for short weight to Giant Food # of Germantown, MD 20874. ⚖️

MISSISSIPPI

June 30th marked the end of the fiscal year for the Department. We are looking forward to what the next FY brings us.

Petroleum Division News

The petroleum division would like to welcome recently hired, Drew Villar. Drew will cover one of the largest areas in the state, Hinds and Warren counties and will inspect nearly 6,000 devices annually.



In other inspector news, Scotty Deare recently obtained Certification in the category of Retail Motor Fuel Dispensing Systems, giving the division to a total of 3 inspectors certified to date.

In administrative news for the division, nearly \$26,000 in penalties and fees has been collected for product failure for the fiscal year ending June 30th.

Consumer Protection Division

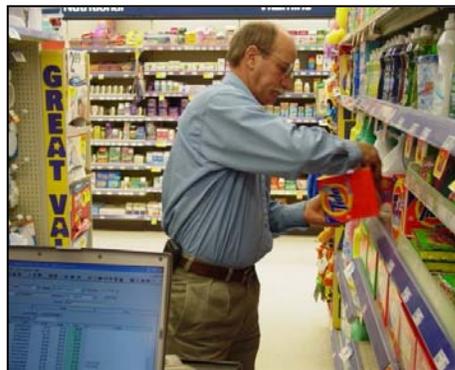
The Consumer Protection Division recently hired two new employees: Jacky Moore of Okolona, MS and Rob Clanton of Bruce, MS.



Rob was most recently with the Meat Inspection Division, where he inspected animals and processing plants.



Jacky brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Division after working in various farming and agriculture related positions. ⚖️



Recent Retiree

In May, William Blissett retired from the Department after 14 years of service with the Consumer Protection Division.

NORTH CAROLINA

Standards Laboratory

The second quarter has been a busy time for us. We have participated in a couple of ISO/IEC 17025 trainings conducted by an A2LA representative. April Lee, Van Hyder, Ashley Lessard, Kristopher Simino and Sherry Teachey attended the last two days of NCSLI Technical Training held in Raleigh, NC at the Marriot Crabtree Hotel. Georgia Harris also paid us a visit during that week to offer technical assistance and get a status update. The North Carolina Standards Laboratory is in the process of regaining its Echelon I accreditation and recognition. Now that we are fully staffed, efforts are being made to regain our accreditation/recognition in a rigorous 10 month schedule. We are oh so close to reaching our goal.

Good News! Our request to the state budget office for funds to renovate the Standards Laboratory HVAC has been APPROVED!!! We can now move forward with our plans to improve relative humidity and temperature as it relates to maintaining specified controls in our calibration laboratories.

This is the first year we have calibrated all our area inspectors' standards in the month of June. That means we tested both mass, volume and weight carts for them. We have over 45 area inspectors for the state of North Carolina. It has truly been a busy quarter for us. I applaud the efforts of our metrologists (Robert Rogers, Kris Simino, Van Hyder, Sherry Teachey and Ashley Lessard) for a job well done.

Our Grain Moisture section completed their SRWW harvest at the beginning of June. We had wonderful weather this season and were able to collect adequate grain in the desired moisture ranges for the 2014-2015 testing season! We are currently cleaning the wheat samples and looking forward to a good corn harvest in late summer.

Sharon Woodard

Measurement Section

The Measurement Section is still going through lots of changes due to retirements. Jimmy Bowles retired June 30th after 25 years of great service to the Division.

Jimmy was also one of our Retail Motor Fuel Dispensers trainers, he will be missed. His vacant position now gives us a total of 5 vacant positions, however we expect 2 new employees to begin mid-July.

Ryan Coffield is filling Lang Bailey's position as a Heavy Scale Inspector. He will be responsible for testing vehicle, livestock, asphalt, and other large capacity scales in Eastern NC. Jeremy Hinnant will be filling Ray Winslow's position as a Dual Role Inspector. He will be responsible for testing retail motor fuel dispensers, small and medium capacity scales, packages for correct net content, and pricing scanning. He will be responsible for 11 counties in Northeastern NC.

This will leave us 3 vacant positions which we are hoping to fill soon. It will be nice to have all positions filled and no one out for knee replacements, back injuries, or shoulder surgeries.

By the time we get these filled, we will have 2 more inspectors, maybe 3, retiring in September and an Area Supervisor retiring at the end of December. It's a never ending "Circle of Life". That's what happens when you have a "bunch" of older guys on staff. I'm getting there myself.

Jerry Butler

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