

Chairman Elect's Address
National Conference on Weights and Measures

Detroit, Michigan

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Missouri Department of Agriculture

One Hundred Years: Building On The Past

I feel so very honored to stand before you as the Chairman of the National Conference on Weights and Measures, especially on the eve of the 100th meeting and the 110th anniversary. I want to thank those that have given me guidance in preparing me for this role.

As I looked back at agendas of past chairs of the conferences, I noticed the goals set for the conference could not always be met in the short one-year term. Many times these goals were not implemented until after their term expired. In 1991, N. David Smith from North Carolina was chairman of the conference. His vision was to establish a petroleum subcommittee to expand from a basic petroleum laboratory guide and develop fuel quality laws and regulations. This subcommittee is, of course, now known as FALS. States such as Minnesota, Tennessee, Illinois, New York, and Michigan had already committed resources to improve the quality of fuels. This idea would take a few years to complete and the following chairman, Sid Colbrook from Illinois, appointed the committee, comprised of both public members and industry representatives. A few of the original appointees who are still active are at this meeting. It was a great pleasure for me to read the distinguished service award given to Randy Jennings, state of Tennessee, for continuous excellence of service on the Fuels and Lubricants Subcommittee.

Goals:

1. Continue the enhanced training by NIST.
2. Build closer relationships with other standard development organizations.
3. Establish a more effective communication plan with federal agencies.

In the last few years, under the leadership of Carol Hockert, NIST has placed more instructors throughout the nation, increasing training on fundamentals of Weights and Measures functions. This also compliments the current NCWM Certification program.

From the very beginning of the National Conference on Weights and Measures, we have partnered with other standards development organizations, such as the American Society for Testing and Materials, scale manufacturers associations, the American Petroleum Institute, Gas Pump Manufacturers Association, and others. As new ways of measuring commodities evolved, we gained working relationships with other standards writing organizations. For example, in 2011 we allowed seed count for agriculture seed. Without an automatic seed counter, it would not have been possible to verify seed count claims. Thanks to the American Seed Trade Association and the Association of Official Seed Analysts we were able accept the use of seed counter devices.

Our standards often reference standards from other standard writing organizations. However, I think it's time we have our standards recognized in more federal and industry standards. NCWM and other standards organizations need to compliment each other's standards when we can. For example, PEI has several standard practices for storage tanks. Our labeling requirements could be referenced in their documents making their standards more complete.

In the last month, letters from PALS and FALS were sent to the FTC on separate proposed rules. A more effective communication plan with federal agencies will allow NCWM and federal agencies to be more efficient in both of our regulatory roles.

I am looking forward to the next 12 months. I will continue to enjoy my interaction with each regional association and each opportunity to share our knowledge with each other.

Appointments

Specifications and Tolerance Committee

Ivan Hankins, Iowa, 5 year term.

Laws and Regulations Committee

Kristin Macey, California, 5 year term

Professional Development Committee

1. Angela Godwin, Ventura County, California replacing Kristin Macey, 2 years
2. Dale Saunders, Virginia

Nominating Committee

1. Committee Chair – John Gaccione, Westchester County, NY
2. Judy Cardin, Wisconsin
3. Charles Carroll, Massachusetts
4. Randy Jennings, Tennessee
5. Joe Gomez, New Mexico
6. Kurt Floren – Los Angeles County
7. Steve Benjamin, North Carolina

Parliamentarian

Louis Straub, Fairbanks Scale, Inc.

Chaplain

Stephen Langford, Cardinal Scale Manufacturing, Co.

Credentials Committee

Ethan Bogren, Westchester County, NY

Presiding Officers

1. Lawrence Nolan, Los Angeles County
2. Jack Walsh, Town of Wellesley, Massachusetts
3. Tim Chesser, Arkansas
4. Marco Mares, San Diego County, California

Again, thank you for the privilege of being asked to serve on this incredible conference.