

**Chairman's Address**  
**National Conference on Weights and Measures**  
**Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**  
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**Jefferson City, Missouri**

Good morning,

I am honored to have this opportunity to speak to you as Chairman of the 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the National Conference on Weights and Measures.

I have been fortunate to be part of NCWM for more than 30 years, but I have to say these last two years have been the most fulfilling of my career. It has been great to meet many of the local weights and measures jurisdictions throughout the country and share this knowledge with both my state and regional associations. Thank you for your hospitality and generously sharing your knowledge and ideas.

Three goals were selected for the conference this year, so I thought I would start by sharing a progress report on those goals and finish with NCWM's path to the future.

The first goal was to continue to enhance our training programs and the professional certification program. The NCWM Professional Certification Program provides confidence that an individual has a strong understanding of U.S weights and measures standards as adopted by NCWM and published in *NIST Handbooks, 44, 130, and 133*. The Certification Program was a huge undertaking for a committee of volunteers, so the BOD took action to get the test exams on a faster pace. Ross Andersen, retired New York W&M director, accepted the challenge to lead the development of these testing examinations. In the last quarter three more exams have been posted to the NCWM website making a total of six modules. I would like to thank Ross, the PDC members and the many volunteers who provided test questions. Next on PDC's schedule is the LPG and price verification modules and volunteers are needed.

It may be that I have simply been more aware of training opportunities, but it seems that training is at an all time high. NIST's grant and leadership role for training has provided many training opportunities throughout the country. Not only has NIST staff been at each of the regional meetings assisting in the technical committees, but they've also been there to provide additional training in specialized areas. The NIST "Train the Trainer" classes have strategically positioned qualified trainers evenly throughout the country. Many thanks to the Associate Membership Committee which provided assistance with sharing expenses for trainers in many of the local training classes. I would also like to recognize Mr. Michael Cleary (retired from the state of

California) for his willingness to travel and provide training to regional associations on the “Model Field Training Program”.

The second goal was to build a closer relationship with other standards development organizations. An example of this would be our relationship with the Petroleum Equipment Institute (PEI). PEI has fourteen recommended practices including design, installation, and service and repair in areas of underground fuel storage systems, above ground fuel systems, motor fuel dispensers, diesel exhaust fluids, and compressed natural gas. PEI maintains relationships with federal, state, and local agencies and other industry related groups allowing them to funnel regulatory interpretations and information on current technology and compliance issues. Twice a year, following the NCWM interim and annual meetings, PEI reports a summary of the activities from these meetings in their “PEI Journal”. I urge you to visit their website [www.pei.org](http://www.pei.org) and review the latest “NCWM feature report” following each interim and annual meeting.

Another standards development organization, ASTM International, is headquartered in the Philadelphia metro area. On Tuesday afternoon’s technical session during our 100<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting, the conference will have a panel discussion on “Complementary Collaboration, A Case Study in Standards Development Cooperation”. The panel will include representatives from NCWM and ASTM International. Additionally, the conference will have another panel of experts presenting the recent CRC Report No. 667 – Diesel Fuel Storage and Handling Guide. This presentation will be a condensed version of an ASTM workshop that was held at the D02 Committee on Petroleum Products, Liquid Fuels, and Lubricants meeting in June 2015. NCWM representation was included in this workshop presenting the role of the weights and measures official in the area of fuel quality.

Recently, Kristy Moore, a NCWM member and a member of FALS, was attending a Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) meeting. In a committee meeting, there was discussion related to problems with new gasoline dispenser nozzles not fitting properly in new vehicles. Kristy informed the committee that NCWM recently adopted a SAE standard practice for diesel dispenser nozzles to address mis-fueling of diesel powered vehicles. Members of this SAE committee were pleased that the conference had adopted the practice but encouraged NCWM to adopt the same practice for gasoline and flex-fuel vehicles.

These ongoing examples are just a few of the ways we collaborate with other standards writing organizations and demonstrate the impact NCWM can have.

ASTM, API, SAE, PEI, ANSI, NFPA, UL, NCSL, OIML, and other standards writing organizations develop specialized standards and recommended practices; but they have no significance unless they are used in contract agreements or adopted by a law or regulation. For the common consumer, it is impractical to have a contractual agreement for each transaction. That is why it is necessary to have a law or regulation to protect both the buyer and seller.

The third goal is to work closer with federal agencies such as the FTC, FDA, USDA, and others. Both the Fuels and Lubricants Subcommittee and the Package and Labeling Subcommittees have been providing guidance to FTC and FDA during the rulemaking process. Many of the NCWM recommendations are being recognized giving the work of the conference acceptance in federal regulations.

A major milestone of the conference was reached in 1984 when motor fuel users were complaining to weights and measures officials about fuel quality and vehicle performance. While a few officials argued weights and measures officials should not cross the line from quantity assurance programs to programs regulating quality, delegates were persuaded that the issue needed immediate attention. This new area of responsibility complements the device inspection part of weights and measures. This provides for a government that is more responsive and efficient. A few years later the conference created and adopted a Uniform Engine Fuels and Automotive Lubricants Regulation.

Traditional fuels are changing and many new fuels and energy sources are emerging to meet the demand for environmental quality and to minimize climate change. In the last 30 years, mass flow meter technology has evolved to handle these new fuels as well as other commodities that are difficult to measure with traditional meter technology. Model specifications for these devices were needed and were developed.

As technology moves forward so does NCWM by forming various subcommittees, work groups, steering committees and sectors and partnering with NIST and with national experts. The structure of the conference is working well. Since the establishment of our home base in Lincoln, Nebraska, the conference is more responsive to the needs of society than ever before. I do not hesitate in saying; NCWM is the best it has ever been.

In our changing world for more energy, alternative energy, green energy, and zero emission vehicles, fuels are being developed to meet the requirements creating new challenges. We have some of the world's best fuel experts as members of the NCWM Fuels and Lubricants Subcommittee.

Autonomous (driverless) vehicles are currently under development and in the very near future we will see driverless taxi cabs. Weights and measures officials will again have new issues to address. Consumers will wonder if tipping is still expected and I will wonder if the ride from the airport to the hotel will be as thrilling as the one I experienced this week.

Chair elect, Jerry Buendel, will discuss the vision of NCWM. I believe we should take another look at our voting process and consider voting more than once per year on issues. Another topic we must continue to do more is to move this country towards the use of the Metric System.

Carol Hockert's presentation on the history and evolution of the conference shows how dynamic this organization is. The diversity of knowledge shared among our regulatory officials and industry partners makes this a great organization. Success happens when we are willing to work together!

Our special event will be at the National Constitution Center where we can explore the history and relevance of the Constitution, celebrate our freedom and embrace our role in the story of "We the People".

Congratulations NCWM on your 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting!