

2013 Chairman's Address

John Gaccione, Chairman
Westchester County, New York

Good morning and thank you.

I begin by thanking Steve Benjamin. Steve made being chairman look easy. But the reality is that Steve never stopped working for NCWM. NCWM continues to be a well respected organization because of Steve. Thank you, Steve, for all of your guidance in preparing me in my new role as NCWM Chair.

I would also like to thank all the members of the Conference for electing me Chairman of the National Conference on Weights and Measures. I am humbled and it is an honor I do not take lightly.

More thanks go to Kurt Floren and Tim Tyson for their advice and help. And to all the previous chairpersons for their hard work and dedication in bringing the Conference to where it is today, an organization that is respected, recognized and a model for other organizations on how to get things done.

Thank you to the NCWM staff; Don, LuAnne, Elisa, and Jim. Everyone should take a moment to see how much they do and how well they do it. And thanks also go to Carol Hockert and the NIST staff for their never ending assistance.

With that, I promise I will be brief, “not boxers”, briefs.

Going slightly off course I wanted to share with everyone a column which some of you may have seen, but what it says is important.

It appeared in the about.com Guide, August 13, 2012

Weights, Measures, and the Election

By Dana Anspach, she writes:

“As I'm driving to work today the radio morning show began talking about my state's Weights and Measures Department. Apparently they go around testing gas pumps to see if in fact we are getting what we pay for at the pump. I had no idea such a department existed. The conclusion? Of the pumps tested about 200 some pumps were overcharging... but 800 were giving us more than we paid for.

Until I heard this, it never even crossed my mind to wonder if I was being ripped off at the gas pump. How the heck would I know if in fact 16.3 gallons was delivered? I simply trusted the system.

It wasn't until this morning's drive that it hit me that the reason I can trust the system is because some of my tax payer dollars pay for the Weight and Measures department. I

wonder how many other things my tax payer dollars pay for that I am simply unaware of, and would in fact, be in favor of?"

Words well written and worth repeating. Spread the word.

Today we are face challenges that were never dreamed about 10 or 15 years ago.

Right now you can:

- Catch up on television news, order lunch and earn points towards future purchases while filling up at the gas pump.
- Fuel up with an “alternative” to good old gasoline and diesel.
- Stand in an aisle in a store and compare prices with other nearby stores and on the internet, and read consumer reviews about a product.
- Go into a grocery store, scan and bag your own purchases long before you reach the cashier. Or from home, place an order with the supermarket or grocery store and have it delivered to your door step.
- Track a purchase on its long journey from its supplier to your home.
- Charge your electric vehicle while at your workplace or at transportation hub or while shopping.
- Look at the label on an item and know not just its weight and who packaged it, but its nutritional value, its country of origin and under what conditions it was grown, prepared and packaged.
- Encounter a new method of sale for how a commodity is sold.

Every day, we see how rapidly change occurs.

NCWM must be ready to meet these new challenges.

While we continue to ensure a fair and equitable marketplace place, we must recognize that change and new technology arrive at a much faster pace than it did in the past.

With that my theme for the coming year is “*Meeting Tomorrow’s Challenges Today*”.

I constantly remind my own staff that “change is good”. Change is not easy.

Change many times leads to a new, more efficient way of getting things done. Change allows the formulation of new ideas. Change allows us to meet tomorrow’s challenges.

Paraphrasing President John Kennedy, “*We chose to do things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard, because the results will measure the best of our energies and skills.*”

Are we ready for those new challenges? I believe we are. With everyone’s participation, NCWM is ready to meet new challenges.

Thank you all, please arrive home safely, and see you in Albuquerque.

And now, my appointments:

Specifications and Tolerances Committee

- Matt Curran, Florida

Laws and Regulations Committee

- Craig Vanburen, Michigan
- Steve Grabski, Wal-Mart

Professional Development Committee

- Julie Quinn, Minnesota
- Richard Shipman, Rice Lake Weighing Systems

Nominating Committee

- Stephen Benjamin, Chair, North Carolina
- Charles Carroll, Massachusetts
- Tim Tyson, Kansas
- Tim Chesser, Arkansas
- Joe Gomez, New Mexico
- Frank Greene, Connecticut
- Angela Godwin, Ventura County, Ca.

Chaplain – Steve Langford, Cardinal Scales

Parliamentarian – Lou Straub, Fairbanks Scales