

## 2013 Chairman's Address

Stephen Benjamin, Chairman  
North Carolina

Thank you Commissioner Comer and Dr. May for being with us today.

Good morning and welcome to the 98<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the National Conference on Weights and Measures. It has been my honor and privilege to serve as Chairman this past year. I'll admit it has been a challenge at times, but it has been a rewarding experience.

My theme this year was "On the Path to Tomorrow". With that in mind, I would like to briefly review some of the accomplishments of NCWM this past year. We just launched our new website, which has a number of new features and is friendly to mobile devices. The Professional Certification Program launched two new tests, Small Capacity Weighing Systems Class III and Package Checking Basic and they are working on two more. We have advertised for a new staff position that will allow for the expansion of the VCAP program and provide another option for NTEP evaluations.

I have mentioned some of these items as I attended the regional meetings this year. While there, I often heard a comment or two about membership. How the number of members has declined the last few years along with the budgets of the weights and measures programs as well as our industry members. The Board of Directors has worked for a number of years to make improvements in our services and benefits, in part, to make membership attractive; to make it of value to a member. While membership numbers are great, what keeps us successful is *participation*.

This is most obvious with the Standing Committees and the Board of Directors, as we sit before you through open hearing and voting sessions. Then we have our Subcommittees, the NTEP Sectors, Work Groups and Task Groups. You will find a list of these willing participants in the front of each Publication 15 and 16. In the last newsletter there was a list of Subject Matter Experts or SMEs that have contributed to the Professional Certification Program. I would even extend this list of participants to the Regional Associations as they mirror the NCWM structure.

My point is that participation is critical to this organization. There are many places for you or members of your staff to contribute, even if one cannot attend the Interim or Annual meetings. The SMEs and NTEP Sectors are excellent examples of this and include a good mix of regulators and industry. NCWM and NIST OWM have the ability to host conference calls and web-meetings. These have been used by Work Groups and Task Groups which has allowed for a lot of work to be done between meetings and involve new people who otherwise could not attend.

So, I would like to thank all of you that have stepped up and participated in one, or more, of the many committees, subcommittees or other groups within NCWM and the Regional Associations and I hope you continue to do so. I would encourage all of you to seriously consider accepting

one of these roles if you are asked; or volunteering for one if you have an interest or expertise. It is also an opportunity to both learn and teach.

The newly formed Training Manual task group, for example, is in need of members. Their efforts are complimentary to the Professional Certification Program, so it would benefit many outside this room when they are successful with their task.

Don't be shy! I was the manager of our fuel quality program when I became the Director of the Standards Division in August 2004. I knew very little about the conference then. I had attended one Interim Meeting, in January 2005, before I was asked to serve on the Laws and Regulations Committee. I will admit I hesitated to accept the appointment. However, I decided what better way for me to learn this new world of weights and measures and start making contacts with my peers and industry. Participation is part of where the NCWM's strength lies.

In closing, what we do here at NCWM, both at this meeting and outside of it, in our committees and work groups, is a team effort. I would like to thank the membership and the Board of Directors for their support this past year. The NCWM staff went through a lot of changes, but they were always professional and accomplished their goals. Thank you to our Associate Members and Measurement Canada as they actively participate in our processes. Finally, I would like to recognize our partners in the NIST Office of Weights and Measures, for without their technical expertise and daily work in the areas of Weights and Measures and Legal Metrology we would be hard pressed to move forward on many of the issues that come before us.

Thank you all for allowing me to be your chairman this past year and I look forward to working with John this coming year.