

New Chairman's Address  
Jerry Buendel, State of Washington  
July 23, 2015

It is indeed an honor to be entrusted with the role of Chairman of the National Conference on Weights and Measures. In the past year I have had the pleasure of traveling to the regional meetings to meet officials and industry members and come to recognize the incredible talent we have in this organization.

In watching our Chairman Ron Hayes and the chairmen before him I've learned that this job requires uncommon dedication and tests one's skills in ways that our present jobs and past experiences do not prepare us for. Thank you, Ron for setting an excellent example and for your work in making this celebration of our 100<sup>th</sup> meeting a rousing success.

I pledge to you that I will do my best to lead this organization and more importantly to lead by making the most of the willing and talented individuals in this organization.

I certainly hope the nominating committee didn't offer my name using the same criteria as our keynote speaker – "cheap and available."

Carol Hockert spoke so eloquently of our past and both her verbal presentation and the wonderful photos painted a picture of where we've been, the many challenges our predecessors dealt with and the high standards they set – except for the death of the Deputy Sealer of Maine who died in 1935. Steve Giguere – these aren't footsteps you want to follow. I only hope that I can in some measure contribute to their body of work and not be mentioned in the body of work of our friends Spheeris, Oley and Lena. Carol – thank you for that visit with the ghosts of the past and for entertaining us with the misadventures of those characters.

As is our practice I need to speak of the future and I think it is appropriate at this 100<sup>th</sup> meeting to talk a vision and of goals for the next year. I have chosen a theme of: NCWM – Strengthening a Progressive Organization.

I'd like to spend the next few moments talking about our future as an organization, a vision of coping with change and some goals for the next year.

I think we should spend some time in thoughtful reflection and try to imagine what the next 100 years will bring and what you as an individual will do to meet those challenges in writing the history of this organization.

First let me speak of a vision around change. I was inspired last night by the courage, conviction of our founding fathers that was so well depicted at the Constitution Center. The intense debates and collaboration must have been a sight to behold. These were passionate, highly intelligent people focused on a common goal and committed to creating a system of government that would allow its citizens to live and prosper in ways that mankind had never conceived of or operated under before. That government – our wonderful democratic system - has proven to be lasting, durable and amenable to gradual yet profound change to meet the needs of a growing and evolving society.

While moving through the displays that walked us through our rich history I came to see some similarities with our organization – NCWM. I recognized the work our predecessors did in structuring our committees, taking on things like motor fuel quality, making adjustments to our operations and establishing NCWM as a nonprofit corporation and operating the National Type Evaluation Program. I also came to realize a call for change as our members spoke sometimes in the hearings and sometimes in the halls of the need to explore ways to conduct our business so that we can quickly and responsibly respond to a rapidly changing marketplace and the needs of industry.

The strength of NCWM is its ability to respond to marketplace regulatory needs with the best thinking available. We regularly do the “hard” things well. I want to be proactive in responding to that call. I will begin by charging your board of directors to look at the way we operate, develop standards and interact with the many stakeholders and identify areas for improvement and recommendations for changes. I will expect them to be bold yet thoughtful and mindful of our fundamental values in their work.

Next I'll talk about one of two goals for the coming year.

The inspiration for my first goal came on Tuesday while listening to our keynote speaker, N. David Smith. He outlined the eight strengths and achievements of NCWM. He reminded us that equity does matter and he spoke of building and maintaining a progressive and vibrant organization. At the very heart of progressive, vibrant organizations are professionals delivering the highest quality service to the public and to the customers they serve. I would argue that having well trained staff bearing credentials from a rigorous certifying body is a major step toward achieving uniformity and assuring equity in the marketplace.

The first goal for next year is really a modification of a goal from last year. That goal is to continue to enhance our training and professional certification programs. As the Professional Development Committee nears completion of the Professional Certification Exams your board is directing them to begin developing basic competency exams that can be used by jurisdictions to certify service technicians and to assure their newly hired staff are progressing in their training and are competent to begin their regulatory duties in the marketplace.

Inspiration for my second goal comes from Chairman Ron Hayes. His toast at the beginning of our outing to NCWM as "The most powerful organization that no one has ever heard of" is both a source of pride in our organization and a challenge that must be addressed. As the most impactful consumer protection organization in the country our stories must be told – our organizations must be supported. The Tool Kit Work Group has had a breakthrough with the video you saw on Tuesday and I am challenging them to continue their efforts in producing more of these videos that can be used either outright or serve as a model for local production. The group has also made progress on developing models to show the economic impact of weights and measures and I challenge them to further develop these models and have them ready for publication by at our 2016 annual meeting.

I want to take a moment to express sincere appreciation to our Associate Members for their work in developing standards and for their leadership in this organization – without you our work would be impossible.

I also want to thank NIST for their tireless efforts in providing technical support, training and funding to the conference and the member jurisdictions.

Thanks also to our friends from Canada that so faithfully participate and bring their technical expertise and friendship to the conference.

Thank you to the NCWM staff that work so hard to make our work and our celebrations successful.

Finally, I want to thank you all in advance for the hard work you will be doing throughout the year.

I think now is a good time to take heed of the word's in Poor Richard's Almanac – "A man may speak too long on a good topic," and close by announcing appointments for 2016.

The Associate Membership Committee has selected their slate of officers for 2016 and they are:

Chair, David Calix, NCR

Vice Chair, Richard Shipman, Rice Lake Weighing Systems, Inc

Secretary/Treasurer, Bill Callaway, Crompco

I am pleased to announce the following committee appointments:

**Specifications and Tolerance Committee:**

Rachelle Miller, Wisconsin

**Laws and Regulations Committee:**

Ha Dang, San Diego County, California

Ethan Bogren, Westchester County, New York

**Professional Development Committee:**

Cheryl Ayer, New Hampshire - Cheryl did not attend this year. I thought it curious that the New Hampshire delegates to the constitutional convention – John Langdon and Nicolas Gilman - did not attend because their legislature refused to foot the bill. Some things never change.

**Nominating Committee:**

Ron Hayes Chairman

John Gaccione, Northeastern Representative

Stephen Benjamin, Southern Representative

Kurt Floren, Western Representative

Randy Jennings, Tennessee

Joe Gomez, New Mexico

Charles Carroll, Massachusetts

**Parliamentarian:**

Lou Straub

**Credentials Committee:**

Lori Jacobson, South Dakota

Matt Maiten, Santa Barbra County, California

**Presiding Officers:**

Laurence Nolan, Los Angeles County, California

Jack Walsh, Town of Wellesley, Massachusetts

Tim Chesser, Arkansas

Steve Harrington, Oregon

**Chaplain:**

Constantine Cotsoradis

The Sergeants-at-Arms positions will be announced later and I intend to fill those positions with individuals from our host state.

Please mark you calendars for the 2016 NCWM Interim Conference – January 10 to 13 in San Diego, California.