

Chairman's Address
July 26, 2016

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It's my pleasure to welcome everyone to Denver and the 101st annual meeting of the National Conference on Weights and Measures. We continue to have excellent attendance with 240 attendees. This includes 39 state representatives, our Canadian partners 2 officials from Curacao and one from American Samoa.

I want to thank our distinguished guests, Dr Willie May, Director of the National institutes of Standards and Technology. We appreciate NIST's continuing commitment to NCWM. NIST's mission of accelerating innovation and bringing world class technology to the marketplace highlights our need as a standards setting organization to move forward quickly with regulations to protect consumers and assure fair competition in the marketplace.

Thanks to Dr Donna Lynne, Colorado's Lieutenant Governor. We are grateful for her time and support of the important work we do here. Thanks also for the administration's support of Colorado's measurement standards programs – the good work they do provide leadership on topics such as CNG the way and significantly influences national approaches to these emerging areas. Mahesh Albuquerque and his staff make valuable contributions to this conference and our regional conference. Nick Brecham has helped my home state, Washington, with regulating scales used for recreational marijuana sales.

In looking at some facts on Denver I found that Denver lays claim to the invention of the cheeseburger. The trademark for the name Cheeseburger was awarded to Denver businessman Louis Ballast in 1935.

Last year I chose the theme of NCWM-Strengthening a Progressive Organization and set three ambitious goals for this year. I want to report to you on the progress we made in meeting the goals.

The first goal was to develop basic competency exams that can be used by jurisdictions to certify service technicians and to assure newly hired regulatory staff are progressing in their training and are competent to begin their regulatory duties. The Professional Development Committee has risen to the challenge and has made excellent progress towards this goal. They will be contacting the state directors and conducting a survey to see that they are on target with their efforts – thank you PDC for keeping your customers first. I've talked to some registered service agents and heard that they would welcome the chance to test once and use those test results to license in multiple states. I ask that each of you both regulators and industry officials to put these tests to work and continue to participate in training and testing that improve staff and the services they deliver

A second goal was to continue our progress in telling our story. The Tool Kit Work Group has produced another video on scales and is near completion of videos on retail fuel station inspections and motor fuel quality. These short concise videos tell our story in a concise and engaging way and can be used for a variety of audiences. The videos will be available on the NCWM website and I encourage you to take a

look and put them to work. Thank you to Stephen Benjamin for producing the videos and the AMC for your financial support.

My third and a priority goal was to begin a systematic effort of improving our standards development process. Our current processes work but we need to look at ways to develop standards so that we can quickly and responsibly respond to an ever rapidly changing marketplace, adapt to new technology and meet the needs of industry while safeguarding the interests of consumers. A charter team led by John Gaccione completed the first phase of that effort by delivering a report on the current condition of our standard setting process. You heard Dr. Matt Curran present a report on that topic and the eight recommendations of the committee. The Board plans to continue that effort into next year and will formulate a charter to move us forward in this improvement effort. You'll hear from Chair Elect Kristin Macey on her plans to continue that effort.

As you know the Board is charged with overseeing the operation and administration of the conference. We're growing on a number of fronts. As you know we're growing on a number of fronts and I'm pleased to report to you that we have a board made up of talented, dedicated board members that are up to the challenge. I want to express my gratitude to them for their thoughtfulness and professionalism.

So what are the challenges and accomplishments?

One of them is simply dealing with the number of issues we're handling. Because of the growth we'll be revising our item numbering system.

We are on a regular cycle of updating policies and we've made some changes this year. One of those policies clarified the roles and operations of subcommittees and workgroups that support the work of the standing committees. We've also made some changes to our meeting policies to provide for a student registration category – this year we have two young ladies in that category, Katlyin Kunselman and Holly Butcher – please stand and be recognized.

At this meeting the board approved the posting of job recruitments on the NCWM website. Members will be allowed to post job opportunities and everyone will have access to the postings.

We've published three new professional certification exams – large capacity scales, medium capacity scales and vehicle tank meters. Thank you again PDC for your efforts.

One of the most visible is electronic voting – the new method will make our meetings more efficient and eliminate any counting mistakes.

I want to thank Carol Hockert for service and friendship and more importantly her leadership in strengthening the national measurement system. She has repaired the NCWM-NIST relationship and the training and workshops have been invaluable. She'll be missed.

Thanks too to the NIST technical advisors that we rely upon for the expertise and training they provide.

I know there's much more to come through our joint efforts. I'd like to welcome Dr. Doug Olsen to the conference. We look forward to continuing our work together in serving the consumers and businesses

in our great nation. Doug will be visiting the regional conferences and states over the next year to learn more about our labs, regulatory programs and the standards setting process.

Part of being chairman is participating in the regional meetings. At each of the regions I was impressed with the commitment and dedication to developing proposals and to improving our skills. I started the circuit in September of last year with my home region, the Western Weights and Measures Association. We met in Boise, Idaho where Kevin Merritt and his staff hosted us and I had the privilege of serving as President. The next stop was Biloxi, Mississippi where Gene Robertson put together a great conference and showed us the finest traditional southern hospitality. This year NEWMA and the Central were back to back. NEWMA was held in Portland, Maine where Marc Paquette of Vermont served as Chairman and treated us to some great Maine Lobster. Lori Jacobson chaired the Central meeting. It was held in Rapid City South Dakota in the shadow of Mount Rushmore and the beautiful Black Hills. In addition to the conference a NIST Retail Motor Fuel Dispenser class was held. It included members for three regions and was taught by Tina Butcher and three of our trained-trainers.

All of the conferences featured a NIST led management seminar on program evaluation. The seminar gave us some tools to take home and improve our programs. The SMA roundtable stimulated some discussion on how we license and regulate service companies.

I also want to recognize and thank the NCWM staff for their dedication and hard work. Don, Elisa, Tyler, Jim and Darryl keep us pointed in the right direction and do so much more than making these conferences a success – I can always count on straight answers and quick reliable service.

Kristen Macey, Chair Elect - thank you for the help and insights you have given me throughout the year. You have helped me think through things and anticipate the needs of our organization. I can tell you that you have a strong capable leader and a bright future ahead.

I challenge each of you to participate and contribute in some form or fashion. You'll find it to be an excellent growth opportunity as well as a fulfilling and satisfying experience.

So we're off and running into the next 100 years. Again, thank you everyone for attending and participating and thank you for making NCWM a strong successful organization. It has been a privilege and a pleasure to serve as your Chairman.