

THE NEW COMPONENT

NORTHEASTERN WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ASSOCIATION

Since 1972

ISSUE 41

NEWMA NEWSLETTER

August 2014
Newsletter Editor, Bob McGrath

NORTHEASTERN WEIGHTS & MEASURES ASSOCIATION OFFICERS 2014-2015

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Nominating

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2014 NEWMA INTERIM MEETING OCTOBER 15-16, 2014

Holiday Inn Norwich

10 Laura Boulevard
Norwich, CT 06360

Reservations <http://www.holidaynorwichhotel.com>

Phone: (860) 889-5201

Reservations:

Online Hotel Reservations

Room Rate: \$85.00/per night + tax

Group Code: NWM

Early Bird Hotel Reservation Deadline: Saturday,
September 13, 2014

Block Available: October 13-16, 2014

Parking: Free

Meeting Register available online:

<https://newma.ncwm.net/meetings/interim/registration>

Interim Meeting Registration

The registration fee this year is only \$25.00.

**The cut-off date for Form 15 proposals to the standing committees is two weeks prior to the meeting.*

DATES TO REMEMBER

2015 NCWM Interim Meeting – January 18 - 21, 2015 Hilton
Daytona Beach Oceanfront Resort, Daytona, FL More Info: >>
https://www.ncwm.net/sems/event_detail/2014-interim-meeting

NEWMA Annual Meeting 2015

Saratoga Spings, NY, May 4-8, 2015

Holiday Inn Saratoga
232 Broadway
Saratoga Springs, NY 21866
P: (518) 580-1924

Reservations:

Online Hotel Registration [here](#)

Room Rate: \$104.00/per night + tax Free Parking

Group Code: WM3

Early Bird Reservation Deadline: April 3rd, 2015

Block Available: May 3-9, 2015

More information will be available closer to the meeting date.

**INTERIM MEETING AGENDA
NEWMA
OCTOBER 15TH AND 16TH, 2014**

Wednesday, October 15th

1:00 Call to Order and Introductions NEWMA Chairperson,
Cheryl Ayer, NH

1:10 L&R Committee Open Hearing
Lou Sakin, Chairperson, Hopkinton/Northbridge, MA

3:00 Break

3:15 S&T Committee Open Hearing Chairperson, Jane
Zulkiewicz, Barnstable MA

5:00 Adjourn

6:00 Chairman's Reception - Location to be announced at
meeting

Thursday, October 16th

9:00 Professional Development, Open Hearing,
Chairperson, Cheryl Ayer, NH

10:00 Break

10:15 BOD and NTEP Open Hearing
S. Giguere, J. Cassidy, M. Coyne, J. Gaccione

11:00 Old Business

Secretaries Report
Secretary Jim Cassidy, Cambridge, MA

Treasurers Report Treasurer Charles Carroll, MA

11:30 New Business Open discussion

2015-16 Meeting Schedules

1:00 Adjourn

(please give some thought to future annual meeting
locations that will be discussed at the business
meeting)

MEETING REGISTRATION (or register online)

<https://newma.ncwm.net/meetings/interim/registration>

FIRST NAME:

MIDDLE NAME:

LAST NAME:

TITLE:

ORGANIZATION:

MAILING ADDRESS:

CITY:

STATE:

ZIP:

TELEPHONE:

OFFICE

OTHER

FAX

EMAIL

REGISTRATION:

\$25.00

**NEWMA no longer charges a fee for
membership**

**Make Check Payable to: **Northeastern
Weights & Measures Association****

**Mail to: Charles Carroll
Division of Standards
One Ashburton Place,
Room 1115
Boston, MA 02108**

**If you wish to pay the registration fee at the
door, please register by phone, fax or e-mail
in advance**

Phone: (617) 727-3480, ext. 21131

Fax: (617) 727-5705

E-mail: Charles.Carroll@state.ma.us

2014 NEWMA Interim Meeting Highlights

- 6 new proposals to HB 44 Taximeter Code from the USNWG on Taximeters
- Debate on CNG/LNG conversion factors (S & T + L & R) carried over from the NCWM Annual Meeting
 - Including alternate proposal submitted by NIST
- Proposal for a tentative code for “electric charging stations” (S & T)

Meeting Document's (below are links to NCWM Committee Agenda's)

L & R, S & T, BOD & NTEP

<http://www.newma.us/resources/dyn/files/1245117ze1ed7e01/ fn/NEWMA-LR-Agenda.doc>

<http://www.newma.us/resources/dyn/files/1245121z23a388f7/ fn/NEWMA-ST-Agenda.doc>

<http://www.newma.us/resources/dyn/files/1245114z78e42fbb/ fn/NEWMA-BOD-Agenda.doc>

<http://www.newma.us/resources/dyn/files/1245119z6555306/ fn/NEWMA-NTEP-Agenda.doc>

At the time of this newsletter, the **PDC Committee was not available. Please check back on <http://www.newma.us/meetings/interim/meeting-documents> to find this report. When new proposals (Form 15) have been submitted they will be found in this section or we will e-mail them.

Technical Data Supports B20 in Existing Heating Oil Equipment at ASTM Northeast Oilheat Associations Support Approval of B20 in D396 Heating Oil

By Rebecca Richardson, Marc IV Consulting

ASTM has begun the balloting process to increase the level of biodiesel formally covered under the D396 heating oil standard from the current 5% maximum to a proposed 20% maximum. The technical data package amassed on higher blends of biodiesel in existing home heating oil equipment over the last 6 years indicated use of B20 meeting the proposed D396 specs will perform as expected in existing home heating oil systems without modification of the equipment or fueling infrastructure. The move is supported by various state oilheat trade associations, who encouraged ASTM to expedite the ballot process for B20. The first ballot, which was adjudicated in June 2014 and did not pass, proposed to increase the biodiesel level in #1 and #2 heating oil to 20% and modified parameters for B6-B20 blends analogous to that used for on/off road diesel fuel since 2008. ASTM members felt it would be better to have a separate grade for B6-B20 rather than just increasing the levels in the current grades. With fuel survey data conducted by Brookhaven National Laboratory indicating over 40,000 customers already using blends higher than B5 in the market with no significant issues different than conventional heating oil, and at the urging of the existing oilheat trade associations, ASTM agreed to move forward with a concurrent Subcommittee E/D02 Main Committee ballot in the fall of 2014.

Weights and Measures Inspection with a Stylish Hat



NCWM to Conduct 100th Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, July 19-23, 2015

The history of Weights and Measures in the United States would truly take volumes to detail. This attempt is to briefly touch on some of highlights that led to the formation of the National Conference on Weights & Measures.

Foreign standards, English common law, colonial law and the practices of a number of other countries created a pretty mixed-up system that awaited our founding fathers when the United States gained independence. From George Washington onward, presidents and also the Congress continually showed concern and expressed the necessity of “fixing the standards”. First and foremost, this was done in the custom houses (imports/exports) and the Treasury (coinage) and second, by 1850, uniform standards were sent to all the states. About this very same time, as our nation underwent rapid growth, better roads were built and soon railroads were going coast to coast. Paralleling all this was a booming system of interstate commerce that had a little bit of a problem, there was no uniformity of weights and measures laws, regulations and enforcement from state to state. Although there were uniform standards, there were no specifications or standards for devices along with no uniform method to test them. The inspection and testing of weights, measures and devices varied from place to place and in some areas, it was non-existent.

In 1901, The National Bureau of Standards (NBS) was formed and along with it, the Office of Weights and Measures. In 1905, the NBS requested the states to meet and to discuss the lack of uniform standards as well as the lack of regulatory oversight. The participants decided to meet again the next year marking the birth of the National Conference on Weights and Measures (NCWM). In 1918, the NBS issued “NBS Miscellaneous Publications – No. 1 Manual of Inspection and Information for Weights and Measures Officials”. In 1929 they published NBS HB M85, then came NBS HB H22 in 1937, NBS HB H29 in 1942 and finally in NBS HB44 in 1949. It has been HB 44 ever since.

Until 1958, the NCWM Annual Meeting was chaired by the Director of the Bureau of Standards. Since then, the NCWM Chairperson has been a state or local regulatory official. Until 1997, the NCWM was managed by NBS/NIST (NBS changed name to NIST in 1988) and then the NCWM incorporated as a non-profit organization (NCWM Inc.). In the first 10 years, NCWM Inc. was managed by a professional management company and since then, the NCWM has managed itself. Aside from our small but very capable management staff, headquartered in Lincoln, Nebraska, the NCWM operates with volunteers that serve as a Board of Directors (that sets policy) and many others who make up the Technical Committees and Technical Sectors. The founder of our organization, NIST OWM, still has a major presence in the NCWM, with the OWM Chief serving as NCWM Executive Director and other OWM Specialists serving as Technical Advisors to committees and also leading various task groups. The other major component of the NCWM is the participation across the board from many sectors of industry. Industry members serve on committees and technical sectors, bringing critical knowledge and expertise to the process. Lastly, the NCWM has maintained a true partnership with Canada for many years. Measurement Canada officials serve on all NCWM Committees and on the Board of Directors.

The NCWM has long served as a model for other organizations. The harmonious relationship of state, local and federal officials, private industry members and foreign officials working to create standards, confront issues and to achieve stability in an area of immense national importance, is unsurpassed in a world where mutual cooperation is very scarce.

You may ask why the 100th meeting is taking place in 2015 if the first meeting was in 1905. Well, it's not because weights and measures folks can't count, it is because there wasn't a meeting during certain years (1909, during WW1, the Depression & WW2). I wonder if the 11 delegates who attended the very first conference in 1905 could imagine what the NCWM looks like today...but then again, can any of us imagine what the NCWM will look like 100 years from now.



1928 NCWM Meeting Group Photo, Washington, DC

Made to Measure

by Cormac MacConnell, *The Irish Voice*, 1999 (article contributed by Jack Quinn, Springfield, MA Weights and Measures)

He was a neat, brisk, erect man when I met him first. He was the Sergeant of Weights and Measures for his police district in the West and that was seen by his colleagues as being a nice, soft, easy job. He had earned it, I was told, because he had been a sharp detective earlier in Dublin but wanted, after marriage, to get back down to the West of Ireland, where he was born, with his wife and children.

Come to think of it, I never met his wife or any children. You always saw him alone, not even with other policeman. He was a solitary guardian of the Weights and Measures of one segment of the Irish world.

It was his job, once a year, to go to all the shops. There he would produce his own official weighing machine and check that the weights being used by the shopkeepers for their scales and balances were accurate. Do any of ye remember those weights for the old balancing scales? The official iron or brass weight was placed on one pan and the substance being measured was placed on the other with a needle quivering in the dead center when balance was reached.

When the weights were accurate... and they always were...he would turn them over and here was a little circular opening underneath. Inside this he would officially stamp them with the year. The stamp was lead and replaced that of the previous year. Some of those weights, especially in the grocery shops, were little works of art. The brass ones nestled inside each other, usually all the way up to two pounds from an ounce, a polished pyramid: it was lovely to hold any of them in your hand. Our friend the Sergeant stamped them all. I know he also did something with the measures in the public houses. All the little spirit measures, those small silvery cuplets for the whiskey and brandy that preceded the optics, he had to brand all these for accuracy as well. And I think he even had the job of marking at least one of the pint glasses for accuracy. And the weighbridges on the Fair Greens and Market Squares, those huge things for weighing cattle and trucks, they also fell inside his jurisdiction.

I saw him many times down the years, always erect, always with a big ledger under his arm, always like a man in exact control of the situation. Sometimes, as a reporter covering Courts, I heard him give evidence against shopkeepers who were short-changing their customers in the matter of weight. His evidence was always exactly measured and clipped, like the man himself. I would say his conviction rate for the minority of men and women he brought to Court for breaches of Weights and Measurements was one hundred percent.

Maybe it is true that too many of the times I saw him, he was coming out of the pubs. That is not unusual in the West, even for policeman! At any rate, it is a fact. I was a little shocked, about ten years ago, to see him coming out of a seaside pub, three o'clock in the evening, to see the change in him.

He was no longer sharply erect and brisk. His nose and cheeks had that telltale ruby bloom that is associated with the higher shelves of pubs; with those small silvery spirit measures. Dramatically, too, all his measurements had increased except his speed of foot. He was moving at about half his former gait. And he had put on an immense amount of weight everywhere about his body. Where, before, he had been hardy and muscled, now he was, in plain man's language, similar to two or three of the big bags of flour that used be in our shop's store. He had turned into a Six and Fifty.

I asked somebody local about him. The comment was dry and quick: "He's concentrating a lot more on the Measures nowadays than on the Weights." It said it all. He was still working but, you see, new automated scales had now replaced the most of the old balanced scales. And the optics in the bars had replaced the majority of the little spirit measures. So he was on other duties as well.

I asked about him the other day when I read his death notice in the Irish Independent. I telephoned somebody in the town.

He retired three or four years ago on full pension. He took up gardening in the daytime and heavy drinking at night, the wife having died, the clan having flown fast and far. His roses and his gardenias were beautiful, his scallions and his cabbages and his carrots and parsnips the prizewinners at all the local shows. His drinking was as destructive as his garden was productive. What happened to him, at the start of this year, to any viewing eye in the town, was that he started to lose weight frighteningly fast. From being obese, in a few months he became skeletal, his ruddy face jaundiced in color, his fingers like bones around the whiskey glasses. He even made jokes about it himself. I cannot remember any of them now but I heard some of them, which hinted that he was not measuring up with the accuracies of his lifetime trade.

Accordingly it is appropriate for me to record the fact that when he died, it was exactly ten minutes past four in the evening. The previous week, when he was weighed by his doctor at the County Hospital, he was exactly six stones (or 84 pounds) in weight. His grave was seven feet deep, according to the men who dug it. There were 397 people at his funeral. The requiem Mass and interment ceremony, in the graveyard right next door, lasted exactly one hour and seven minutes. Afterwards, in The Way Inn just across the road, 38 of the mourners, including 7 old colleagues, drank exactly 117 drinks, including 76 pints of Guinness, seven brandies, and a solitary gin and tonic for an old Inspector who said the dead man had been the most efficient Sergeant of Weights and Measures the force had ever seen.

Massachusetts Weights and Measures Association

Brief History 1896-2014

The records of this Association, the very first of its character in the United States, show that it was organized at a meeting held at the Massachusetts State House on December 2, 1896. The original name was “Massachusetts Association of Sealers of Weights and Measures”. The original meeting consisted of 25 Sealers. The name of the association was later changed in 1944 at a meeting in Boston to the present name of “Massachusetts Weights and Measures Association” (MWMA).

Up until 1907, the Treasurer of the Commonwealth was the Ex-officio State Sealer of Weights and Measures. Until then, just one person, known as the Deputy State Sealer, comprised the entire working force at the “state level” to enforce weights and measures laws in the Commonwealth, with city and town sealers performing the function in their respective jurisdictions. In 1907, Massachusetts became the first state to establish an independent State Department of Weights and Measures. This department consisted of a Commissioner of Weights and Measures and four inspectors. In time, the title changed to the Commissioner of Standards and then in 1919, the department became the “present day” Division of Standards led by the Director of Standards.

Always leading the way, Massachusetts possessed the first state association of weights and measures officials and then the first state to have an independent department of weights and measures. A quick glance at our current laws in an “annotated” version of our Massachusetts General Laws (MGL) will show that many weights and measures laws enforced today have been amended continually since the 1600’s. Many of our current laws relating to weights and measures can find their roots in English Common Law and Colonial Law. MWMA has had considerable input during its history in shaping and re-shaping MGL(s) relating to weights and measures, which have been often used as a model, by other states. As our population grew and commerce between cities and states respectfully increased, it became critical that officials communicated with each other in order to uniformly enforce laws and to amend and create laws to reflect the ever changing technologies and consumer marketplace. The longstanding partnership between the MWMA and the Division of Standards has been a model of cooperation between municipal and state government.

MWMA has held their Annual Meetings across the Commonwealth, from North Adams (1928) to Provincetown (1986). Twenty-six Annual Meetings have been held in Boston, but none since 1966, due to the cost. In the old days, many meetings were held in Boston’s Faneuil Hall with attendees commuting into the city or staying in nearby hotels in old Scollay Square. In 1927, the annual Meeting was held on the campus of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

MWMA has continuously sought to provide professional standards to the duties performed by Sealers. By providing a forum to discuss common areas of concern and by providing professional training, MWMA seeks to promote uniformity in weights and measures enforcement across our Commonwealth. MWMA members have always taken a leadership role in regional and national weights and measures conferences, with several members having served as Chairman of the National Conference on Weights and Measures (NCWM) and countless others serving on national committees.



IT'S WHAT YOU SCATTER

I was at the corner grocery store buying some early potatoes... I noticed a small boy, delicate of bone and feature, ragged but clean, hungrily appraising a basket of freshly picked green peas. I paid for my potatoes but was also drawn to the display of fresh green peas. I am a pushover for creamed peas and new potatoes.

Pondering the peas, I couldn't help overhearing the conversation between Mr. Miller (the store owner) and the ragged boy next to me.

'Hello Barry, how are you today?' 'H'lo, Mr. Miller. Fine, thank ya. Jus' admirin' them peas. They sure look good' 'They are good, Barry. How's your Ma?' 'Fine. Gittin' stronger all'a time.' 'Good. Anything I can help you with?' 'No, Sir. Jus' admirin' them peas.' 'Would you like to take some home?' asked Mr. Miller. 'No, Sir. Got nuthin' to pay for 'em with.' 'Well, what have you to trade me for some of those peas?' 'All I got's my prize marble here.' 'Is that right? Let me see it', said Miller. 'Here 'tis. She's a dandy.' 'I can see that. Hmm mmm, only thing is this one is blue and I sort of go for red. Do you have a red one like this at home?' the store owner asked. 'Not zackley but almost.' 'Tell you what. Take this sack of peas home with you and next trip this way let me look at that red marble'. Mr. Miller told the boy.
'Sure will. Thanks Mr. Miller.'

Mrs. Miller, who had been standing nearby, came over to help me. With a smile she said, 'There are two other boys like him in our community, all three are in very poor circumstances. Jim just loves to bargain with them for peas, apples, tomatoes, or whatever. When they come back with their red marbles, and they always do, he decides he doesn't like red after all and he sends them home with a bag of produce for a green marble or an orange one, when they come on their next trip to the store.'

I left the store smiling to myself, impressed with this man. A short time later I moved to Colorado, but I never forgot the story of this man, the boys, and their bartering for marbles.

Several years went by, each more rapid than the previous one. Just recently I had occasion to visit some old friends in that Idaho community and while I was there learned that Mr. Miller had died. They were having his visitation that evening and knowing my friends wanted to go, I agreed to accompany them. Upon arrival at the mortuary we fell into line to meet the relatives of the deceased and to offer whatever words of comfort we could.

Ahead of us in line were three young men. One was in an army uniform and the other two wore nice haircuts, dark suits and white shirts...all very professional looking. They approached Mrs. Miller, standing composed and smiling by her husband's casket. Each of the young men hugged her, kissed her on the cheek, spoke briefly with her and moved on to the casket. Her misty light blue eyes followed them as, one by one; each young man stopped briefly and placed his own warm hand over the cold pale hand in the casket. Each left the mortuary awkwardly, wiping his eyes.

Our turn came to meet Mrs. Miller. I told her who I was and reminded her of the story from those many years ago and what she had told me about her husband's bartering for marbles. With her eyes glistening, she took my hand and led me to the casket. 'Those three young men who just left were the boys I told you about. They just told me how they appreciated the things Jim 'traded' them. Now, at last, when Jim could not change his mind about color or size....they came to pay their debt.'

'We've never had a great deal of the wealth of this world,' she confided, 'but right now, Jim would consider himself the richest man in Idaho ...' With loving gentleness she lifted the lifeless fingers of her deceased husband. Resting underneath were three exquisitely shined red marbles.

The Moral:

We will not be remembered by our words, but by our kind deeds. Life is not measured by the breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath.

IT'S NOT WHAT YOU GATHER, BUT WHAT YOU SCATTER THAT TELLS WHAT KIND OF LIFE YOU HAVE LIVED!

Enjoy the rest of your summahh kids!