# President’s Address

## National Institute of Standards and Technology

Louisville, Kentucky

July 16, 2013

Dr. Willie E. May

Associate Director for Laboratory Programs/Principle Deputy

Dr. Willie E. May presented the following presentation on the behalf of the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

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# Chairman’s Address

## National Conference on Weights and Measures

Louisville, Kentucky

July 16, 2013

Stephan Benjamin

North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

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

Good morning and welcome to the 98th Annual Meeting of the National Conference on Weights and Measures (NCWM). 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 National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Office of Weights and Measures (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 January2005 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.

# Chairman Elect’s Address

## National Conference on Weights and Measures

Louisville, Kentucky

July 16, 2013

John Gaccione

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 the National Conference on Weights and Measures (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 NCWM. 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 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 National Institute of Standards and Technology (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 that some of you may have seen, but what it says is important.

It appeared in the “About.com Guide” (<http://moneyover55.about.com/b/2012/08/13/weights-measures-and-the-election.htm>), 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 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, 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, Walmart

**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, California

**Chaplain:** Steve Langford, Cardinal Scales

**Parliamentarian:** Lou Straub, Fairbanks Scales

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# 2013 National Conference on Weights and Measures

## Special Award Recipients

**Contribution Award:**

Maureen Henzler, Kansas Department of Agriculture

**Distinguished Service Awards:**

Mike Belue, Retired, Belue Associates

Wes Diggs, Retired, Virginia

Ken Simila, Retired, Oregon

Lou Straub, Fairbanks Scales

Juana Williams, NIST Office of Weights and Measures

**Lifetime Achievement Award:**

Dr. Charles (Charley) H. Greene, Retired, New Mexico

**Attendance Recognition:**

5 Years

* David Calix NCR Corporation
* Ryanne Hartman Michigan Department of Agriculture
* William Hornbach Chevron Products Company
* Henry Kellogg Compucom
* Michael Kerr Southern Company Services
* Russ Lewis Marathon Petroleum Company LP
* Tim Lloyd Montana Weights and Measures Bureau
* Girard Lukowiak City of East Orange, New Jersey
* James McGetrick BP Products
* Paul Moyer Nebraska Division of Weights and Measures
* Rebecca Richardson MARC IV Consulting
* Mike Roach VeriFone

10 Years

* Joe Benavides Texas Department of Agriculture
* Paul Glowacki Murray Equipment, Inc.
* Raymond Johnson, Jr. New Mexico Department of Agriculture
* Brett Saum San Luis Obispo County Weights and Measures,  
   California
* Jack Walsh Town of Wellesley, Massachusetts

15 Years

* Stacy Carlsen Marin County Weights and Measures, California
* Ed Luthy Schenck Process
* Curtis Williams CP Williams Energy Consulting, LLC

20 Years

* Marilyn Herman Herman and Associates
* Neal Nover WinWam Software

25 Years

* Richard Tucker RL Tucker Consulting, LLC

35 Years

Ross Andersen no affiliation