

THE NEW COMPONENT

NORTHEASTERN WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ASSOCIATION

Since 1972

ISSUE 39

NEWMA NEWSLETTER

August 2013
Newsletter Editor, Bob McGrath

NORTHEASTERN WEIGHTS & MEASURES ASSOCIATION OFFICERS 2013-2014

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Specifications & Tolerances

Jane Zulkiewicz, Town of Barnstable, MA ©

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James Cassidy, City of Cambridge, MA

Nominating

John Gaccione, Westchester County, NY

Charles Carroll, Commonwealth of Massachusetts

James Cassidy, City of Cambridge MA

2013 NEWMA INTERIM MEETING OCTOBER 16-17, 2013

Holiday Inn Norwich

10 Laura Boulevard
Norwich, CT 06360

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

Group Code: NEW

Phone: (860) 889-5201

Reservation Deadline: September 15, 2013

Block Available: October 15-17, 2013

Room Rate

\$79.00 per night plus tax

Parking

Free

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

2014 NCWM Interim Meeting – January 19 - 22, 2014 Hotel
Albuquerque, Albuquerque, NM More Info: >> <http://www.ncwm.net/>

NEWMA Annual Meeting 2014

Saratoga, NY, May 5-8, 2014

Radisson Hotel Manchester Downtown
700 Elm Street
Manchester, NH 03101

Reservations:

www.radisson.com/manchesternh

Group Code: NEWM14

Phone: (603) 206-4109

Reservation Deadline: April 4, 2014

Block Available: May 4-8, 2014

Room Rate

\$87.00 Single, \$97.00 Double, \$107.00 Triple per night plus tax

Parking

Validated Overnight \$10.00 (a 50% savings), Validated Daily Attendee \$5.00

More information will be available closer to the meeting date.

Interim Meeting 2014:

October 15-16, 2014

**INTERIM MEETING AGENDA
NEWMA
OCTOBER 16TH AND 17TH, 2013**

Wednesday, October 16th

1:00 Call to Order and Introductions NEWMA Chairman,
Lou Sakin, MA

1:10 L&R Committee Open Hearing

Chairman Lou Sakin, Hopkinton/Northbridge, MA

3:00 Break

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

5:00 Adjourn

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

Thursday, October 17th

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

10:00 Break

10:15 Executive 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

2014-2015 Meeting Schedules

12:00 Working Lunch

1:00 Adjourn

**MEMBERSHIP & MEETING
REGISTRATION FORM**

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

2013 NEWMA ANNUAL MEETING RE-CAP

This past May in Saratoga Springs, NY at the Holiday Inn, the NEWMA Annual Meeting was held. Chairman Frank Greene did a terrific job, including the hosting of a “VTM” training class...everything came off perfect, including the weather. Dick Suiter conducted the VTM Training, which was attended by many NY Inspectors. Tina Butcher (Alternative Fuels) and Carol Hockert (Data Collection) from NIST, OWM conducted very informative presentations. Kristy Moore, representing the Renewable Fuels Association, gave another excellent E15 update.

Darrel Aubertine, Commissioner, New York State Dept. of Agriculture & Markets, provided a very nice welcome to the attendees during the Opening Ceremony. NCWM Chairman Steve Benjamin, NCWM Chair-Elect John Gaccione (now Chairman) and NIST OWM Chief Carol Hockert gave fine speeches bringing us up to date on their respective organizations. A special presentation was made to Tom Geiler citing his countless contributions to NEWMA, NCWM and the W & M community.

At the NEWMA Business Meeting, **the group voted to no longer charge a fee for NEWMA membership.**



Dick Suiter and class participants conducting field test during NEWMA VTM Training

2013 NCWM ANNUAL MEETING RE-CAP

This past July, in Louisville, KY at the Seelbach Hilton, the 2013 NCWM Annual Conference was held. The moisture allowance consideration for “pasta products” finally passed. NEWMA strongly lobbied to strengthen the “printer ink/toner” item by adding a supplemental ISO “page count” declaration and ultimately the item was pulled from voting status and sent back to the L & R Committee. Hopefully, the addition will be made, giving consumers some ability to make a value comparison. Another important adoption was the Method of Sale for Electric Charging Stations. There wasn’t a great deal of controversy but we did get a little drama when it came time to adopt “as a whole” the Report of the L & R Committee. The Committee had withdrawn the “Dispenser Filters” item, which had been lingering in the Committee agenda for several years without much information coming from the Fuels Subcommittee. A member rose to request that the Committee reconsider and keep the item on the agenda. The Committee said no and then it got interesting. Debate raged on and on, amendments were contemplated and it was feared that the L & R Report “as a whole” may not get adopted. Had this happened, the items that were already approved would not go into effect (such as the Pasta Products & Electric Charging items). Long story short, the L & R Committee acquiesced and allowed the item (dispenser filters) to stay on the L & R Agenda as a “developing item”.

This was also a special meeting because longtime NEWMA member John Gaccione of Westchester County, NY ascended to the position of NCWM Chairman at the close of the meeting. John is a great guy (despite being a NY Yankee fan) and he is going to be a fantastic Chairman. All of us at NEWMA wish the best of luck to John during his year as Chairman. Several retiring officials were recognized during the Opening Ceremonies including Clark Cooney of Oregon, Max Gray of Florida and our own Tom Geiler of Massachusetts.

OTHER NEWS



HE'LL BE PARKING ELSEWHERE - Tom Geiler, director of Barnstable's Regulatory Services Department, in the offices at 200 Main St., Hyannis. Tom retired August 8th after nearly 39 years of town service.

Tom Geiler retired after nearly 39 years

(from the Barnstable Patriot)

When Tom Geiler saw a job opening for a sealer of weights and measures for the Town of Barnstable in 1974, he knew what that unusual job title was as he had been working as the meat manager at a local A&P supermarket for 15 years. He took the job and became a one-man department.

When the selectmen asked him the next year to be licensing agent as well, he told them, "I don't what it is." He soon learned that licensing is for liquor stores, restaurants, theaters and other public places. As both jobs grew he was supervising four inspectors and overseeing the town's weights and measures program and, eventually, for all the towns on the Cape except Falmouth and those on the outer Cape.

In the mid-'90s after Barnstable's changeover to a town manager form of government, Geiler became head of the Regulatory Services Department with its four divisions: building services, conservation, consumer affairs and public health. Soon to be 73, Geiler will leave the town's employment on Aug. 8 after 38 years and seven months.

"I never intended to work this long," he said in an interview at 200 Main St. in Hyannis, where all of his department's divisions are under one roof. "I enjoyed going to work and the people I worked with and for. It's what made the whole thing shine."

In announcing Geiler's retirement at the June 20 Town Council meeting, Town Manager Tom Lynch said, "He's an example of the type of commitment people have made to the town." The council rose in a standing ovation.

As Geiler's responsibilities continued to grow, so did his knowledge of many aspects of town government. He was on hand for the town's transition from selectmen to the council-manager form of government. He saw parking violations become a noncriminal, civil process. He started using carbon paper and state forms and has been working for 10 years to get permit renewals on-line because "the public wants it." He went from retail meat department manager to chairman of the National Weights and Measures Association for three years in the '90s.

Even though Geiler took on many hats, he kept his interest in and developed an expertise in weights and measures. In the national association, he worked with industry to harmonize regulations between Mexico and the United States. He noted that the United States is the only major country with no federal weights and measures standards, but the national association developed model laws that many states adopted and still use, he said.

Geiler also has held many offices in the state and Northeast weights and measures organizations, work that brought him a Lifetime Achievement Award from the national association last year.

He's proud of the civil process that decriminalized municipal violations, which former Town Attorney Bob Smith instigated, making the town first in the state to use the process. It meant that violations, such as a parking ticket, would not go on a person's criminal record and a violator would still have the choice of paying or appealing in court.

"The value to the town is tremendous," Geiler said because it eliminates much staff time in court. The process also has been expanded to other types of municipal violations, including those involving dogs, shellfish, and other matters.

"We're getting more of that user-friendly type of process," Geiler said. "It's our job to make it as painless as possible."

Geiler sees the consolidation of the Regulatory Services divisions at the 200 Main St. building a dozen years ago a major accomplishment of his tenure. The Steamship Authority offered the former Hinckley Lumber Co. building to the town for \$1 and public works employees remodeled it for \$450,000, adding a second floor for a total of 30,000 square feet.

Before the move, Geiler said citizens had to run all over town to find the various services. "Employees and customers like it," he said.

Geiler's department, with a \$2.6 million budget, provides many vital services: dealing with infectious diseases, providing permits for septic system, making food handling inspections and monitoring water quality in the town's ponds and beaches. Rental fees for both seasonal and year-round rental housing protect renters from substandard housing and help landlords market their properties, he said.

In his last budget presentation to the Town Council, Geiler wanted to add the town's first housing code enforcement officer, but the council voted it down. Geiler defended his position, saying that such a person would be especially helpful to the elderly, who don't like to squeal on their neighbors.

Geiler says the role of town government is to work for "John Q. Public." They "are not always right," he said, "but they're always in charge." The public expects things to get done and, "We've got to fix it," he said. He believes Barnstable has done a good job in that regard, but added, "There are areas we could do better and we're always working on it."

Personally, Geiler said he couldn't think of anything during his town service that would have made him want to quit. He said his many years as a reserve police officer until 1998 provided him a good awareness of the structure of law and town government as well as "an opportunity to give a little bit back."

Geiler is not sure what he'll do during retirement since he doesn't golf or fish, but he enjoys reading and traveling and will be able to spend more time with his wife, Sheila, who also worked in several town departments. The couple has two sons who live on the Cape.

Two skimming devices found

Technology at pumps can steal card info

Aug. 9, 2013

Delaware Inspectors discovered two skimming devices Friday morning inside the fuel pumps at a New Castle gas station during a routine inspection, state police said.

At this point, it is not known how long the devices – used to record customers' credit card information – were in place and if they successfully captured any of the customers' credit card information, said Cpl. John Day. The gas station involved was the Hess station at 506 N. Du Pont Highway, where inspectors from the state Department of Agriculture Weights and Measures section were inspecting the pumps. The inspectors notified state police of the discovery, and troopers removed the two devices, Day said.

The devices were contained entirely inside the payment mechanism of the pumps and were not visible on the outside of the fuel pump, he said. "Even if you knew what you were looking for, you wouldn't have seen it, because it was hidden inside the pump," Day said. According to state Department of Agriculture spokesman Dan Shortridge, the state's six Weights and Measures inspectors check every gas pump in the state annually and if they receive a complaint.

Last fiscal year, between July 1, 2012, and June 30, inspectors checked 9,270 gas pumps at 348 gas stations in the state. "They do volume tests using specially calibrated devices to measure the output and make sure that consumers are getting what they pay for," Shortridge said. "If a gas pump is found to be out of compliance, inspectors will take it out of order until it has been fixed and retested for accuracy."

Shortridge said if the inspectors encounter any skimming devices in the pumps, they contact state or local police.

A Hess company spokesman said they are examining fuel pumps at stations throughout the state and working with the state's Weights and Measures inspectors. In April, maintenance workers located two skimming devices while checking the fuel pumps of a north Wilmington gas station.

The electronic devices were placed inside the pumps at the Shell station at 4201 N. Market St. to secretly record the cardholders' credit and debit card information, leaving them vulnerable to identity theft.

Wilmington's case is still under investigation, Cpl. Jermaine Crawford said Friday. Day said it was not immediately known if the devices found in the machines Friday morning are linked to the April incident in Wilmington. Customers should use the credit card feature when paying for gas at the pump rather than their personal identification number with their debit card, authorities said.

Editors Note:

Just prior to this episode, skimming devices were also found at several gasoline stations in Ohio. Is this something that needs more attention from Weights and Measures? Is it a Weights and Measures issue? If so, could there be some instruction on how to detect this type of fraud?

<http://www.wdtn.com/dpp/news/local/montgomery/skimmers-found-in-local-gas-pumps>

<http://www.mainstreet.com/article/moneyinvesting/credit/debt/credit-card-skimming-mysteries>

Former NEWMA Chairman Sam Valtri Passed Away

Sam F. Valtri, 89, of South Philadelphia, former chief of the Philadelphia Bureau of Weights and Measures, died Friday, July 26, of cardiac arrest at Methodist Hospital.

Mr. Valtri joined the bureau in 1952 as a field inspector and rose to head of the bureau in 1967. Under Mr. Valtri, the bureau, a division of the Department of Licenses and Inspections, was responsible for testing all weighing and measuring devices used commercially in Philadelphia to ensure their accuracy.

The testing included scales in supermarkets, bakeries, groceries, and hardware stores; gasoline pumps at service stations; meters on fuel- and oil-delivery trucks; and fabric-measuring devices. The bureau analyzed commodities, both in prepackaged form and those weighed or measured at the time of sale, to make sure consumers got what they paid for.

"The [bureau] would send in buyers to buy the product, and go to a truck, and test it for weight. If it wasn't right, they would go back and issue citations. After so many citations, the store owner would have to see a judge," said Mr. Valtri's son Sam E. Over the years, Mr.

Valtri flagged merchants who injected hams with water and jerry-rigged scales with string and a foot pedal to make the weighed product seem heavier than it was. He kept a collection of the illegal devices and demonstrated them at seminars. Another son, Steven A., said some merchants were not trying to deceive customers and welcomed the bureau for catching their mistakes.

Mr. Valtri's work helped set consumer-protection standards during Philadelphia's food-manufacturing boom of the 1970s.

He was secretary and president of the Pennsylvania Association of Weights and Measures and served on committees for the Northeastern Weights and Measures Association (Chairman 1982) and the National Conference of Weights and Measures.

Mr. Valtri received many awards for his work, the most notable of which was a citation from Mayor Frank L. Rizzo as an outstanding supervisor for L&I. He retired in 1982.

Mr. Valtri was a member of the Philadelphia Municipal Employees War Veterans Association, the South Philadelphia Lions Club, and the League of the Sacred Heart, and an associate captain of the Men of Malvern Retreat League.

A native of South Philadelphia, he graduated from South Philadelphia High School in 1938. In 1943, he served as a member of the Army's 87th Division of Artillery at Camp McCain, Miss. Mr. Valtri will be remembered for "his love of God, his kindness, and his never-ending charm," his family said in a statement. He enjoyed hunting and fishing, and summers at the Jersey Shore.

Surviving, besides his sons, are his wife of 63 years, the former Sylvia Guinto; daughters Sylvia Capozzoli, Stephanie Eisenbach, and Stacy Domozych; 16 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.