

President's Address
National Conference on Weights and Measures
Orlando, FL
July 12, 2005

Dr. Hratch Semerjian
Acting NIST Director

Thank you for that fine introduction. I welcome this opportunity to address the National Conference on Weights and Measures' 90th Annual Meeting, a meeting that celebrates the NCWM's 100th anniversary.

It's an honor to be part of this centennial celebration. I feel right at home. At home—not only because I am, as the Acting NIST Director, the Honorary President of the National Conference on Weights and Measures—but also because everyone in this room, including this speaker, shares the same vision.

The theme of our conference is “100 Years of Equity in the Marketplace.” Certainly, the quest for honest weights and measures and all that this entails for competitiveness, commercialization, innovation and open markets are the heart and soul of both our organizations. It is our way of life. It is our mission. It is the way we serve our nation, its people and, increasingly, the world.

It is a pleasure to recognize at the outset of my remarks one very special person — Henry Oppermann. Henry was, until his retirement two weeks ago, chief of NIST's Weights and Measures Division. He is, in a very real sense, one of the authors of this feast, a weights and measures person who has devoted 30 years to nurturing the NCWM-NIST bond. Henry is a long-time friend and tireless champion of our work and has had a hand in virtually all the joint programs I will talk about today. His technical expertise and vision are without compare, and he is widely respected in all arenas of the weights and measures community. His contributions have spanned the spectrum of the legal metrology system, from laboratory metrology to type evaluation to field inspection to weights and measures administration.

Thank you, Henry, for a lifetime of service and contributions to the people and the nation. We are grateful for your promise to be available for consultations and advice to both NIST and the NCWM.

Weights and measures have been a national concern from the birth of our republic. Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution declares, “The Congress shall have the power to ...fix the standard of weights and measures.” In 1901 the federal government established the National Bureau of Standards (now NIST). Within four years – 1905 – Samuel Stratton, NBS's first director, and Louis Fischer, the Bureau's chief of weights and measures, convened a meeting of state sealers of weights and measures. That meeting of officials from eight states and the District of Columbia marked the birth of this great organization.

We were born in an era when good men and women first understood the dangers of adulterated products as well as the need to enact reforms such as the pure food and drug laws. We opened up shop as America moved on to the world stage as an industrial power. With each passing year, advances in science and technology have expanded our means of serving the nation.

Together, NIST and the Conference helped shape a new age, fostering—with honest weights, sure measures, and common national standards—the economic miracle that has brought a good, decent life to millions.

Now some, especially people outside this room, might be tempted to ask what am I talking about! That's understandable.

I once saw a *New Yorker* magazine cartoon that captured a more stereotypical view of our work. It portrayed a group of glum, mustached bureaucrats sitting around a conference table. A bespectacled, middle-aged man at the

head of the table is saying, “I’m afraid, Gentlemen, we must learn to live with the hard truth. The Office of Weights and Measures is, by its very nature, colorless, non-controversial, scandal-free, and likely to remain so forever.”

Well—let’s face it—as a bureaucrat, I have to admit—colorless is fine... non-controversial is desirable...and scandal-free is more than good. It is absolutely necessary.

As weights and measures officials, state laboratory metrologists, and industry leaders in weighing and measuring devices, however, we know one very important truth—we have laid the groundwork for today’s fair, competitive and equitable marketplace benefiting the citizenry and business.

As Massachusetts Governor Curtis Guild told the Conference in 1908, “Some reforms only touch the average citizen once in a lifetime; but the enforcement of honest weights and measures touches every human being at every moment of every day.”

Our collaboration is symbolized by this commemorative reprint of the NBS 1915 publication on the tolerances and specifications for weighing and measuring devices. This publication was the forerunner of NIST Handbook 44, which has been adopted by all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the Territories as their standard for commercial weighing and measuring devices. It is used in everything from gas pumps to grain moisture meters.

Handbook 44 paved the way for other weights and measures handbooks including Handbooks 112, 130, 133, 105, 143, and 145. They cover model laws for states, standardized field test procedures, and ways to check the net contents of packaged goods—from corn flakes to cooking oils. They save us immense time and expense and promote uniformity in weights and measures requirements and practices.

Our collective efforts have resulted in documents used by an estimated 3,200 state and local weights and measures officials across the United States and 50,000 private-sector representatives.

It is a fact that weights and measures rules, regulations, and standards annually affect about \$4.5 trillion transactions, representing over half of the U.S. gross domestic product (GDP).

Yet another fact, one that grows in importance every day, is that while we have accomplished much in the last 100 years, we now must do even better.

It’s the 21st Century. We are beginning to recognize that the system created in 1905 is less and less suited for the needs of the marketplace in 2005, let alone 10 years from now. The marketplace is changing—and significantly today’s environment is faster paced. Weighing and measuring equipment grows ever more diverse and complex. Administrators must tackle high turnover and lengthy training periods for the staff. Manufacturers, competing in a global marketplace, must continually be on guard for international standards that are at variance with national standards. Businesses must comply with a daunting network of regulations, many overlapping and sometimes conflicting. Consumers’ needs have changed, with a strong focus on convenience and timeliness.

Clearly we need continually to reassess how we do business with regard to standards development. Technical topics are so diverse and technology so rapidly changing that the current system cannot provide the technical expertise needed to address the wide range of topics. Affected parties aren’t effectively informed about impending changes. Limited budgets prevent participation in many of the technical discussions. Decisions are often made without adequate information or understanding. Too often, for instance, NCWM committees neither have sufficient time to adequately review and make decisions about technical issues nor do they have access to the technical resources they need.

And on top of all that, our weights and measures budgets have shrunk. At both the federal and state level, weights and measures jurisdictions compete for funding with other functions, such as homeland security, health, education and welfare.

So, what needs to change? What are the most significant influences we face? How can we be most expedient? How can we ensure input and involvement from all parties? How can we ensure sound technical decisions? And how can we be most cost-effective as resources grow increasingly scarce?

NIST has begun a long, hard look at these challenges. We have gone to our customers and asked, “What needs to be changed?” We have asked that question not just in technical meetings and through correspondence but also in focus groups, including meetings with many of the manufacturers and weights and measures officials here today.

We are learning a great deal. We have ideas for a new template for legal metrology standard development, a way to better organize this effort, and even a national plan to roadmap America’s measurement needs for a stronger innovation infrastructure.

Our conversations convince us that it is critical to expand participation in the development process for legal metrology standards.

Again and again we have heard calls for more **transparency** in the process with an end to hidden agendas or behind-the-scenes actions. Many parties stress the need for **openness, impartiality, due process, balance** and **consensus** with information freely shared and readily available to all impacted by the prospective standard ...decisions based on the national interest ... the views of all duly considered. ...results generally agreed to and accepted by all participants.

Others call for more **relevance**, in which standards are championed that have real benefit and impact on products. And for **performance orientation**, in which actions take into account the impact of potential standards and their cost benefit to products. As well as **timeliness**, in which actions reflect priority needs of manufacturers distributing goods and services, as well as regulatory officials faced with ensuring an environment for fair competition among businesses.

People want **flexibility** that allows a standard to survive changing needs of parties due to changing technology, changing global influences, changing market practices and changes in related regulations. And, of course, there is a plea for more **technical literacy** and **coherence**—in other words, a standards development process that avails itself of technical expertise and produces results that are clear and understandable.

Few of us would disagree with the desirability of a legal metrology standards development process that is characterized by all these elements or virtues, from **transparency** and **openness to coherence** and **technical literacy**.

It’s a bit like being in favor of motherhood and apple pie. But the big question is how do we do it? How do we make the ideal that we all strive for, the norm for all of us?

NIST and the NCWM Board of Directors are engaged in a joint effort to consider alternatives for improving and enhancing the current system. This partnership is lighting the way to a more productive future.

Recently, we met to discuss an approach, which would expand upon a “work group” model that NIST uses to develop U.S. comments on International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML) documents, as well as for the development of technical requirements and test procedures for specialized technical topics such as belt-conveyor scales.

You may have already heard of this proposal through presentations given at the Spring 2005 regional weights and measures association meetings by your incoming NCWM Chairman, Don Onwiler.

Under this model, work groups consisting of technical experts from industry and the regulatory community would be used to develop and address technical issues such as those currently considered by NCWM standing committees.

Recommendations of the work groups would feed into the existing NCWM process, thereby providing additional technical resources to the standing committees and enhancing the efficiency of the process.

These work groups may draw upon the expertise of existing technical committees, such as the National Type Evaluation Technical Sectors.

Both NIST and the NCWM Board of Directors are optimistic that such an approach could, if properly implemented, address many of the key issues and concerns about the current process.

NIST is excited by the prospect of **partnering** with the NCWM to implement such a model to facilitate the development of legal metrology standards in the U.S.

We look forward to working with the NCWM leadership in the coming months to develop the details of this effort.

I also look forward to NCWM participation in the initiative we recently launched to take the pulse of U.S. measurement capabilities and infrastructure. NCWM is a logical partner in this effort. Its work to set legal metrology standards—combined with NIST services—is central to the national measurement system.

In 2004 NCWM-member state metrology laboratories provided more than 360,000 calibrations to regulatory agencies, research institutes and manufacturers and scale and meter service companies. This year the 16th state laboratory received its accreditation under NIST's National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP)! That's a great accomplishment! Mass calibrations concerns will be a major concern of the initiative and NCWM can make a fine contribution to this effort.

This strong private-public sector partnership called "Roadmapping America's Measurement Needs for a Strong Innovation Infrastructure" will make the first-ever evaluation of the breadth, depth and overall health of the U.S. measurement system.

The final report, expected in early 2007, will identify priority measurement infrastructure needs across industry and the economy, recommend steps to address them, and point out the consequences of inaction.

To kick off this process, NIST is reaching out to top customers and stakeholders in the United States Measurement System, such as NCWM. We are collecting and reviewing previously published roadmaps and workshop reports focused on future science and technology challenges and opportunities, and we are planning an initial set of focused workshops in key technology areas.

Business, trade and professional associations are encouraged to identify and advise NIST of pressing measurement needs and gaps in their particular areas.

Together we will document America's priority measurement needs and their economic implications. We anticipate that our findings will motivate interested and affected parties to take action and ultimately ensure that our national measurement system is healthy and capable of serving U.S. institutions and citizens in the 21st Century.

Meanwhile, we will continue efforts to document best practices, harmonize national standards with international standards, and prepare for a new metrics-only ruling that could affect U.S. exports.

Thanks to the input received from the weights and measures community, as well as industrial partners, NIST recently completed a two-year benchmarking and needs assessment study. This limited look at the effectiveness of the national weights and measures infrastructure identified some of the challenges facing regulators and industry. With this kind of information plus your feedback on the study and with the help of experts in the field, we hope to begin identifying "best practices" and components, starting with the area of retail motor-fuel dispensing inspections.

Efforts in this field could be the prototype of more efforts in other weights and measures inspection areas.

As we work together to enhance our national system, we are also confronted with the need to think more globally. To keep markets open to American manufacturers of goods and services, our national system must strive to establish national standards that are harmonized with (or at least equivalent to) standards adopted by other nations.

NCWM efforts complement NIST efforts in this field. NCWM committees routinely consider international documents when considering proposed changes to U.S. standards. In addition, NCWM participation in the International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML) meetings helps to raise the visibility of U.S. standards and eliminate differences. NCWM is considering participation in an OIML Mutual Acceptance Arrangement (MAA),

which would greatly facilitate the type approval process for device manufacturers. And that would be very good for us all.

I cannot close my remarks without mentioning the metric system. We are very conscious of the fact that the European Union has set January 1, 2010, as the deadline for implementation of a Metric Directive that requires only metric units to be used on products, including packaged commodities. This deadline is of significant concern to U.S. exporters. With others, we are exploring the possibility of changing the U.S. Federal Fair Packaging and Labeling Act to allow consumer packaging companies to continue labeling the net contents of packages in both inch-pound and metric units as they do now or to label, on a purely voluntary basis, the net contents in only metric units.

Today 45 states allow metric only labeling for products. I strongly encourage the remaining states to move forward with the adoption of NIST Handbook 130, which permits metric-only packaging.

And now, my friends, I congratulate you once more and wish you well as you begin your second century of service to the nation. I am confident that with imagination, creativity, cooperation and hard work we—together—will build a better future for our nation and our people. Thank you.

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Chairman's Address
National Conference on Weights and Measures
Orlando, Florida
July 12, 2005

G. Weston Diggs
Virginia Office of Product and Industry Standards

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 90th Annual Meeting of the National Conference on Weights and Measures. It has been an honor to serve a second term as Chairman of this Conference. We are here to conduct important business that relates to weights and measures issues that will affect us nationally and internationally. At the same time, we are celebrating 100 years of providing equity in the marketplace. In this celebration, we recognize our relationship with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). In 1905 the Department of Commerce, in its mission to establish uniformity in weights and measures, created the National Conference on Weights and Measures. To a great extent, we owe our success to our partners at NIST. Although, like in any relationship, we have had our differences; the leadership and support provided by people like Mac Jensen, Carol Brickenkamp, Henry Oppermann and their staff have been invaluable.

I would like to take some time to discuss a few of our accomplishments that occurred this year, as well as some of what I believe to be challenges for the future.

The National Conference is gaining international recognition. We have, to some extent, always been involved in the international world of legal metrology. For the most part this was accomplished through the sponsorship of NIST at meetings of the International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML) where NIST represented the United States. This year, Steve Patoray, our NTEP Director, was invited to speak at a Japanese Forum on legal metrology. He was asked to discuss the U.S. system of weights and measures and our National Type Evaluation Program. Partly as a result of Steve's visit, a delegation from Japan visited California, Maryland, and NIST and met with me representing the National Conference before going to Canada. Japan is in the process of modifying its legal metrology system. This delegation was looking for ideas they could incorporate into their new system. In support of our members that export weighing and measuring devices, the Conference is participating in OIML's Committee on Participation Review. The long-range goal is to become an "issuing authority" under the Mutual Acceptance Agreement. This would mean we could issue OIML certificates in the same manner we now issue NTEP certificates. We will not sign any agreement until we have reached the status of an "issuing authority." The reality of our international involvement is that it is very expensive, in terms of money and time for meetings and travel. I believe it is important, as we develop international relations, to identify a single person to represent the National Conference. For the sake of consistency, I believe Steve Patoray needs to be that person. That lends itself to another problem—Steve has enough to do with his current workload in NTEP. We are adding international travel and the possibility of a new NTEP Software Sector. Even with the capable assistance of Linda Bernetich and Steve Cook, Steve Patoray's workload is reaching the crisis point. Next year the Board of Directors will have to make some tough choices in this area.

The Conference must do more to make the public aware of the importance of its work. Over the years we have made attempts in this area with very limited success. The last effort I can remember was in the mid-nineties when we considered having Popeye, the cartoon caricature, as the NCWM spokesman. With the addition of Judy Markoe to the Management Solution's staff, we have a resource that could develop a plan for marketing, not only the importance of the Conference activities, but weights and measures in general.

On June 30 our new website was activated. Based on the initial feedback, this new site is a vast improvement over what we had in the past. A lot of money and time has been expended to make this site a reality. It is our hope the new site is more user-friendly and helpful to those interested in the National Conference's activities. We would like to express our appreciation to the AMC Committee for its support of this effort. I would also like to acknowledge the hard work of Linda Bernetich, Steve Patoray and Judy Markoe of our management staff.

I was your chairman in 2000 when we were experiencing a low point in the Conference's relationship with our partners at NIST. I am happy to report that since that time, with Henry Oppermann's leadership and the support of NIST upper-management, our relationship has continued to improve. Henry cannot be replaced but we look forward to working with whomever follows in his place.

With our partners at the Weights and Measures Division, the Board of Directors is planning to initiate an improved method of managing conference issues. On the surface this may seem to be adding another level of bureaucracy to the process. We need to realize we have many new officials on committees who are learning about the conference process. This process is designed to help direct issues coming from the sectors and regional associations to the appropriate committee or work group. In some cases a special work group may have to be created to develop the issue or, if the issue lacks adequate information, it may be returned to its source. Don Onwiler and Henry Oppermann will go into more detail on this plan later during the Conference.

The system of weights and measures in our country is unique in that there is no federal weights and measures law. Although federal agencies preempt us in certain areas, the enforcement is the responsibility of state and local officials, which is particularly true at the retail level. In recent years, the Conference, as well as the weights and measures community as a whole, has been frustrated because of dwindling resources. Weights and measures jurisdictions continue to be asked to do more with fewer resources, not only in terms of dollars but in terms of people. Both conditions are having an adverse effect on the Conference and its ability to operate. The money is no doubt important. Besides running our respective programs, it also allows us to attend the meetings and be involved in development of the issues. However, even now the lack of people with weights and measures experience is affecting our ability to operate as effectively as we would like. The lack of experienced people is not only on the regulatory side but on the industry side as well. No one is questioning the dedication to our profession by our new officials and industry members. It takes time to gain the knowledge to understand the wide range of issues that come before our Conference. While knowledge is necessary, it has been my experience this Conference operates to a great extent on a person's credibility. Whether it is desirable or not, issues are often decided by the position a person with credibility takes on an issue. My point to this is credibility doesn't come by registering and getting a name tag. In this organization it takes both time and participation to gain credibility.

Most of us in government, and perhaps the industry members as well, have to justify travel to meetings and conferences to a higher authority within our agencies. If you are a weights and measures official, you probably justify attendance at conference meetings by saying it is important because this is where the requirements relating to weights and measures are developed that affect the citizens in your jurisdiction. I believe this a true statement, but it goes beyond that. You are to be complimented by your attendance and participation because in doing so you are supporting our system of weights and measures in the United States. Without your continued participation our system would surely fail.

Before I close, I would be remiss if I did not touch on two other topics. You have heard this from me before so I will keep it short. First, the Conference must do something to correct its current voting requirements for getting issues passed. It is ridiculous that because of low attendance three or four members can cause an issue to fail. Those not in attendance have in effect voted "NO" on all the issues. In many cases these jurisdictions may not be members of the Conference. It is not equitable to those who invest their time and resources developing issues and have them fail because of a relatively few "No" votes at the Annual Meeting and the "NO" votes by those who do not attend. Second, I believe NIST Handbook 44 needs to be brought inline with today's technology and written so its intended users can effectively use it in the field. I would like to believe I am wrong concerning both of these issues, but only time will tell.

In closing, I would like to thank the Board of Directors and all of the Conference membership for their support during this past year. I would especially like to express my thanks to Beth Palys and the staff at the NCWM Headquarters. Until you are chairman of this Conference, you have no conception of the amount of work turned out by our management group or how much is done without the knowledge of the general membership. I also would like to thank the staff at home for their support.

As I close out my career in weights and measures, I hope you will remember me as someone who was not always right but someone who would always listen and you always knew where he stood.

I thank you very much, and it has been an honor to serve as your Chairman.

New Chairman's Address
National Conference on Weights and Measures
Orlando, Florida
July 14, 2005

“Back to the Basics as Stepping Stones to the Future”

Don Onwiler

Nebraska Department of Agriculture/Weights & Measures

As I was preparing for this, I took the time to review remarks of previous chairmen in the Annual Reports. Several talked about “change.” It’s not one of our favorite subjects. The NCWM, it’s members and partners have all seen many changes in recent years. We have been through some challenging times in terms of defending our programs, protecting our budgets, and focusing on “maintaining” when we would prefer to focus on “improving.”

Difficult times are also times of opportunity. Willingness to adapt is how we grow. Should we simply concentrate on doing those things that have worked for us in the past, or should we be looking for a fresh approach to those difficulties we face? In our program back home, we emphasize both. There I have learned the importance of researching and understanding our history while maintaining an eye on the horizon. This is the foundation for this year’s theme, “*Back to Basics as the Stepping Stones to Our Future.*”

So what did get us where we are? In his speech on Tuesday, Dr. Semerjian reflected on that first meeting in 1905. The subsequent success of NCWM is based on recognition that attendance, thoughtful participation, inclusion of our stakeholders, and tireless volunteer effort are critical to meeting our goals. The success of both NCWM and NIST Weights and Measures Division has hinged historically on a spirit of cooperation toward that end.

Concern for a healthy system of measurement goes back farther than that meeting of state officials in 1905. In his first message to Congress in 1790, George Washington said, “...uniformity in the currency, weights and measures of the United States is an objective of great importance, and will, I am persuaded, be duly attended to.”

Unfortunately, there is no longer strong recognition or acknowledgement from our leaders in Washington of the importance of weights and measures. Many state and local governments are also overlooking this fundamental ingredient to a fair business environment. One reason for this is that we have done such a tremendous job of instilling confidence into the marketplace. We should take pride in that. But, as former Chairman Dennis Ehrhart pointed out, we need to be in the public eye. We need an identity.

Creating awareness of weights and measures activities is not our specialty, but we’re working on it. We have revamped our website to be more interesting and informative to first-time visitors. In the process, we have made it more functional to our members. We will also draw on the expertise of Judy Markoe, a new member of the Management Solutions team. She will help us develop a plan to elevate the NCWM to a higher level of public awareness.

The NCWM has also struggled recently with reduced attendance. The effects of this are tremendous. Valuable input has been lost. We have a smaller pool of volunteers to serve on committees and work groups. We are doing less mentoring in the organization because we can’t afford to get new people to the meetings. Go back and read those reports from the early 1900's. Do you think it was easy getting to meetings then? It was a challenge, but they persevered. When we do get new attendees, we sometimes overlook them. When we get new volunteers, we tend to overwhelm them. Sure, as the economy improves membership and attendance will rebound, and attendance is also issue driven to some degree, but there are things we can do to help—basic things.

As an example, I'll take you back to my first National Conference in 1993. I did not know anyone at that meeting, not even the other representatives from my state, so Tina Butcher of NIST took the time to tutor me on the process of the Annual Meeting. Darryl Brown of Iowa and Will Wothlie of Maryland told me my input was important and I should speak up. Others, like Steve Malone of Nebraska and Sid Colbrook of Illinois, asked me my opinions and, Heaven help them, they even listened to me. David McKay from Utah and his wife Carolyn saw a newcomer from Nebraska who looked lost. Now, David was a quiet man, but he promoted the NCWM by doing what came naturally to him. He extended friendship and offered support. And, lastly, I was asked to serve.

Now I ask you, aren't all these basic things that we can be doing? How often have we all overlooked them? No doubt, some of you wish I had been ignored in 1993 so that, just maybe, I would have gone away. Had I been ignored, I would have.

Once we gain awareness and get new people involved, they must find value in our organization or we will lose them. The efforts of the Professional Development Committee and NIST to improve training and create a certification program will provide part of that value. The value will also come from our proactive approach to standards development. A process that is responsive to the needs of our stakeholders will provide benefit in participation. We will continue working to develop and implement the plan Henry Oppermann and I presented to you this week to improve our standards development process. I like this plan because it does not replace what we do. It enhances what we do. I also like it because it is something the NCWM and NIST are developing together. As we move forward, it will continue to require a strong partnership of our organizations.

The relationship between the NCWM and NIST has been a concern. Both organizations have had to redefine themselves to some degree. There may have been occasions where we have duplicated efforts or neglected needs. There may have been occasions when some of our membership has been compelled to "choose sides." I am asking you now to let that go. Both organizations remain committed to our respective charges. Both continue to share common goals. We will continue to have agreements and disagreements along the way, but we are finding ways to move forward together, rebuilding the partnership that has served us so well in the past. I thank Henry Oppermann and Wes Diggs for the role they have played in that effort.

Another thing I remember from my first meeting was how much I admired the people who served on Standing Committees. They worked long hours, often into the evenings. They understood the need to put forward a quality agenda for the voting session. I noticed they included very difficult, sometimes political or emotional issues on the agenda. They welcomed stakeholders with specific agendas and members with unpopular opinions to the microphone. The Committee members demonstrated dedication, intelligence, patience, and a desire to get it right. They knew the tough issues were also important issues.

It was all so glamorous from the outside looking in but any of us who have been there know it is difficult to listen to disagreements among membership, sorting through the opinions and facts to work toward the best solution. It is difficult to generate quality final reports to serve as an historical record of the NCWM. But it's worth it. I commend all of you who give so much of yourselves to be part of that process.

Over the years, we have endured many discussions regarding harmonization with OIML standards. Do you know that one of the early roadblocks to developing our system in the U.S. was the lack of a uniform measurement system internationally? Efforts toward harmonization are similar to our struggle for uniformity among the 50 states. We will never fully achieve it, but working toward the goal is a necessity if we want to improve the measurement system in the U.S. We will continue to strive for harmonization by considering proposals to amend our standards and making recommendations to modify international standards. We will continue to consider our options in the world arena as we participate in the development process for the Mutual Acceptance Arrangements.

So you see, I'm not suggesting change after all. I'm not advancing a new agenda as your Chairman. My agenda dates back to 1905. If we look back at our successes and our failures, learn from those experiences what works and what doesn't, we can apply that knowledge, and we will be successful. Let's get back to the basics, be innovative in our approaches, and keep our eye on the horizon.

What do you see when you look forward? Where do you think we need to be in terms of technology, training, and field enforcement? How well we predict these things and respond to them will determine the effectiveness of the NCWM and our level of importance in United States legal metrology.

Part of the equation lies in computer technology. I appreciate the Board of Directors' decision this week to address software in a comprehensive manner. Once again we are leaving our comfort zone. The Software Sector will draw new experts into our organization, increasing our abilities and broadening our resources. These particular experts are the future of our business and we will surely welcome them in.

The Board of Directors and NIST WMD have committed to performing market surveys in the next year. We will follow the protocol established by the NCWM in 1999. Our first task will be to identify the scope of the survey. We have a team established per NCWM protocol and the team will proceed, reporting to the Board of Directors. Market surveys may be conducted for devices, for packaged commodities, or any area of weights and measures enforcement activity.

The Board of Directors has heard criticism occasionally because our revolving door of leadership can easily create a change of priorities. This can cause issues or pet projects to go unfinished as new projects are introduced. Some might guess software to be my pet project. It's not. My pet project is doing what we can to get this organization hitting on all cylinders. Having a group of experts assembled to assist us on software issues is part of that effort. If we can do that, we will succeed as a multi-functional organization and projects won't fall through the cracks.

Temperature compensation, stored vehicle tare weights, software-based devices... there is no lack of difficult issues, but think about the marketplace in 1905. Think about the technology or, if you prefer, lack of technology that existed at that time. Keeping up with new technology and marketing practices is our business. It's not getting harder. We just struggle sometimes to fully implement the system we have. We face the same obstacles that have been there from the beginning, and we honor those who are committed to helping this organization overcome those obstacles.

Let's recognize those who attend, participate, and contribute their talents. Let's be proactive in promoting our meetings and our agendas. Let's instill pride, the kind of pride so many of us have, into every new member who walks into the room. Let's not be afraid to take on tough issues. Let's talk to the political leaders and invite them to participate. Let's work with our partners to achieve good things.

Now, with our eyes on the horizon, I make the following appointments:

Laws and Regulations Committee:

Stephen Benjamin, North Carolina (5)

Specifications and Tolerances Committee:

Brett Saum, San Luis Obispo County, California (5)

Professional Development Committee:

There are no vacancies on this committee this year. The committee has requested a reassignment of terms of its current members to provide for the traditional staggered terms for standing committee members. In response to that request, I am extending the following terms:

Ken Deitzler of Pennsylvania to 2007

Will Wotthlie of Maryland to 2010.

By recommendation of the Associate Membership Committee, Gary Lameris will serve as the Associate Member to the Professional Development Committee.

Nominating Committee:

Ross Andersen, New York

Tom Geiler, Barnstable, Massachusetts

Max Gray, Florida

Steve Malone, Nebraska

Aves Thompson, Alaska

Jim Truex, Ohio

Credentials Committee:

Mark Buccelli, Minnesota (3)

Presiding Officers:

Kristin Young, Colorado
Bill Timmons, Massachusetts
Steve Pedersen, Iowa
John Junkins, West Virginia

Parliamentarian:

Aves Thompson, Alaska

Chaplain:

Mike Belue, Belue Associates

Sergeants-at-Arms:

To be provided by the City of Chicago, Dept. of Consumer Services

Board of Directors to complete Mike Cleary's term:

Joe Gomez, New Mexico (2)
Jim Truex, Ohio, will continue as NTEP Committee Chairman to fill the vacancy resulting from Wes Diggs' retirement. Thank you, Jim, for your continued service. We are fortunate to have you.

Thank you, each of you, who have accepted appointments for offering your time and talents to the NCWM.

Now some personal remarks if I may: To my wife, Peggy, and our children, Phil, Mark, Tim, and Janessa, who are here this morning, thank you for your tolerance, thank you for being here this week, and most of all thanks for not changing the locks when I'm away.

To Steve Malone and our staff back home, thank you for giving me your support to dedicate so much time to the NCWM. Steve, you have always seen more in me than I could see in myself. Thank you for giving me the confidence to stand here today and thank you for allowing me to make my own mistakes.

It will be my honor to serve the NCWM this year. Chairman-Elect Mike Cleary and I look forward to seeing all of you again throughout the year as we visit the regions and continue the work of the National Conference on Weights and Measures.

Thank you.

NCWM 2005 Annual Meeting Honor Award Recipients

Full Name	Organization	State	No. of Years
Steven B. Steinborn	Hogan & Hartson	DC	5
Brett Gurney	Utah Department of Agriculture & Food	UT	5
Steven Beitzel	Systems Associates, Inc.	IL	5
Kenneth Deitzler	Bureau of Ride & Measurement Standards	PA	5
Stephen Casto	West Virginia Weights & Measures	WV	5
William Cobb	West Virginia Weights & Measures	WV	5
Robert McGrath	Boston ISD Weights & Measures	MA	10
O.R. "Pete" O'Bryan	Foster Farms	CA	10
Jack Kane	Montana Bureau of Weights & Measures	MT	10
Gordon W. Johnson	Gilbarco, Inc.	NC	15
Gilles Vinet	Measurement Canada	Ontario	15
Robert A. Reinfried	Scale Manufacturers Association	FL	20
Robert G. Williams	Tennessee Dept. of Agriculture W&M	TN	25
Richard L. Davis	Georgia-Pacific	WI	25
Henry Oppermann	NIST	MD	25
Steven Malone	Nebraska Division of Weights & Measures	NE	30

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