NCWM Announces Weights and Measures Week:
March 1-8, 2019

The National Conference of Weights and Measures and The Erie County Auditor’s Office, Richard Jeffrey Auditor and Weights and Measures Inspector Jeff Fantozzi, are proud to support the 2019 National Weights & Measures Week. The 2019 Theme is “Valued Traditions & New Innovations – Confidence in Every Transaction”

These dates are designated every year to commemorate President John Adams’s signing of the first United States weights and measures law on March 2nd, 1799.

The measurement does not change. However, the measuring devices and systems have evolved greatly since the early 20th century from mechanical, to electronic, to the proverbial black box, to cloud-based measurement systems of today. The Erie County Auditor’s Office Weights and Measures staff take pride in keeping up along with its surrounding jurisdictions to maintain communication and training amongst their Inspectors. These changes in the field affect Erie County’s Buyers and Sellers. New commercial standards for vehicles for hire that use GPS to measure distance traveled, electric vehicle charging stations that measure in kilowatts per hour, systems that measure hydrogen fuel by the kilogram to fuel hydrogen vehicles, medical cannabis and multi-dimensional measuring devices are just some areas where the weights and measures standards have been developed to accommodate the expanding technologies of the 21st century. Another new initiative being assigned to weights and measure inspectors is looking for highly sophisticated credit card skimmers that are being installed illegally in gas pumps across the country. These devices cause millions of dollars in losses to consumers and businesses.

NCWM is now working with a growing list of jurisdictions across the country on weights and measures standards to apply to legalized sale of cannabis. There is a need for this guidance for regulatory officials, consumers, and the cannabis industry. Five focus groups were created through the NCWM that will address the suitability of scales, proper method of sale for cannabis in its various forms, packaging and labeling, reasonable moisture loss of packaged products, safety for inspectors and more. The goal is to have a NCWM guidance document in place for weights and measures officials to use in regulating cannabis in the marketplace.

The NCWM noted “We owe a great debt of gratitude to the regulators and industry representatives for their ability to come together at NCWM to adapt and provide reasonable commercial standards for the fast-paced changes in the American marketplace. If you see a weights and measures inspector while out and about in your community, please thank them, whether that be at a supermarket or a gas station in the great tradition of the NCWM motto, ‘That Equity May Prevail’. Weights and Measures Inspectors protect the marketplace for consumers and businesses, without consumer confidence the marketplace would suffer great losses.”

The National Conference on Weights and Measures is a professional nonprofit association of state and local weights and measures officials, federal agencies, manufacturers, retailers and consumers. NCWM has developed national weights and measures standards since 1905. The organization brings the right interests together to keep pace with innovative advancements in the marketplace. For more information, please go to their website, http://www.ncwm.net/about or the Erie County Auditors website, http://erie.iviewauditor.com for updates and information about Weights and Measures.