



# PROGRAM NOTES

SPRING/SUMMER 2006



Published for stores enrolled in the Scanning Certification Program

## **New Acmes Push Membership Above 1,300 Mark**

Acme Markets' Pennsylvania stores have been valued members of the Scanning Certification Program (SCP) since 1999. The retailer recently enrolled 32 more locations, in New Jersey and Delaware, in the SCP. That expansion has propelled overall program membership above 1,300 stores for the first time in SCP history.

Each new Acme has received a SCP Operations Manual and orientation training. Inspections will start in April of 2006. Special thanks to Acme's Pattie Shekiro for bringing the stores on board. We look forward to assisting our newest members work toward certification!

## **Board to Meet in May**

The next meeting of the SCP Board of Advisors will take place on May 24, 2006 in Hershey, Pa. The board meets twice a year to discuss price accuracy issues and review program operations and results.

SCP members and other retailers are encouraged to attend. Contact Autumn Thomas at 1-888-SCAN-SCP to register or receive for more information.

## **Happy Birthday SCP!**

Wow, where did the time go? The Scanning Certification Program is 15 years old this year. A special commemorative issue of *Program Notes* will be issued this fall.

Congratulations and thanks to all members, program staff and board volunteers — you are the reason the SCP is recognized nationwide as a premier retail price accuracy program!

## **SCP Honored at PAWM Conference**

**A**t its training conference in March, the Pennsylvania Association of Weights and Measures (PAWM) announced the recipients of its annual industry and consumer awards. The Scanning Certification Program was honored with PAWM's 2005 Industry of the Year Award.

PAWM's Dean Ely presented the award to SCP Executive Director Autumn Thomas and called the Scanning Certification Program a model for how to efficiently and fairly ensure equity in the marketplace for both buyer and seller.

In accepting the award, Autumn thanked PAWM members for their support and noted that SCP's success is also PAWM's success. "Without the help of volunteers such as Dean Ely, who worked with other price accuracy stakeholders to develop the Scanning Certification Program, the program probably wouldn't have gotten off the ground," she said. "Dean and fellow PAWM member Ed Arnoldi's ongoing involvement with the SCP Board of Advisors adds a lot of experience and credibility to our effort."

Attorney Charles Pascal of Leechburg, PA was named PAWM's Consumer of the Year. He got thousands of dollars of parking tickets dismissed for a client by exposing the fact that the parking meters had not been inspected by Weights and Measures within the past

three years as mandated by state law.

Other happenings at PAWM's 91<sup>st</sup> annual meeting included updates on state and national weights and measures activities, a panel discussion on the future of Weights and Measures in Pennsylvania and certification courses for county sealers.

Autumn Thomas updated weights and measures officials on SCP activities and inspection results. She described

how she uses inspection statistics to monitor inspector performance and confirmed that frequent shopper card prices are tested during inspections.

Kent Shelhamer, Jr., Director of the Bureau of Ride and Measurement Standards, talked about the challenges facing his department. Since Act

155 was passed in 1996, 44 counties have dropped their weights and measures programs, leaving over 5.7 million Pennsylvanians with no county protection. The state is required to assume the work, but has had no increase in funding or staff. There are only 17 state inspectors to check everything from gas pumps to deli scales to car wash timers, although Kent noted that temporary full-time inspectors have been added to assist with price verification.

There was candid conversation during the panel discussion about the backlog of inspections caused by the decline

(see PAWM Conference on page 3...)

**The Scanning  
Certification  
Program received  
PAWM's 2005  
Industry of the  
Year Award.**

# 100% Club Honors

Listed below are the 230 most recent qualifiers for the 100% Club. Each store, inspected between November 1, 2005 and March 31, 2006, achieved a price accuracy rating of 100 percent during its on-site inspection and was also found to be in compliance with other Scanning Certification Program requirements concerning price accuracy policy signage, employee training, documentation and shelf tag clarity. **Congratulations!**

Acme Market #7715	Sunoco APlus #7261	Wawa #45	Wawa #287	Wawa #692
Beaver Valley SNS	Sunoco APlus #7263	Wawa #56	Wawa #297	Wawa #693
Clemens Market #7	Sunoco APlus #7267	Wawa #59	Wawa #314	Wawa #713
Clemens Market #12	Sunoco APlus #7284	Wawa #61	Wawa #322	Wawa #714
Clemens Market #22	Sunoco APlus #7288	Wawa #66	Wawa #338	Wawa #725
Giant Eagle #8	Sunoco APlus #7289	Wawa #67	Wawa #345	Wawa #728
Giant Eagle #60	Sunoco APlus #7291	Wawa #69	Wawa #348	Wawa #739
Giant Eagle #73	Sunoco APlus #7293	Wawa #72	Wawa #350	Wawa #741
Giant Eagle #76	Sunoco APlus #7315	Wawa #74	Wawa #352	Wawa #753
Giant Eagle #697	Sunoco APlus #7349	Wawa #79	Wawa #355	Wawa #765
Giant Eagle #699	Sunoco APlus #7392	Wawa #80	Wawa #362	Wawa #777
Giant Food Store #25	Sunoco APlus #7421	Wawa #87	Wawa #369	Wawa #782
Giant Food Store #43	Sunoco APlus #7484	Wawa #89	Wawa #372	Wawa #824
Giant Food Store #94	Sunoco APlus #7493	Wawa #101	Wawa #383	Wawa #825
Giant Food Store #252	Sunoco APlus #7501	Wawa #111	Wawa #385	Wawa #829
Giant Food Store #278	Sunoco APlus #7509	Wawa #128	Wawa #395	Wawa #832
Giant Food Store #316	Sunoco APlus #7524	Wawa #130	Wawa #398	Wawa #837
Giant Food Store #336	Sunoco APlus #7526	Wawa #152	Wawa #411	Wawa #838
Kennie's-Gettysburg	Sunoco APlus #7527	Wawa #159	Wawa #413	Wawa #842
Midway Supermarket	Sunoco APlus #7529	Wawa #170	Wawa #416	Wawa #843
Nell's Shurfine #1972	Sunoco APlus #7531	Wawa #171	Wawa #427	Wawa #845
Oregon Dairy	Sunoco APlus #7544	Wawa #173	Wawa #433	Wawa #848
PathMark-Fairless Hills	Sunoco APlus #7548	Wawa #179	Wawa #434	Wawa #849
PathMark-Glenolden	Sunoco APlus #7577	Wawa #185	Wawa #446	Wawa #852
Perryopolis Sav-A-Lot	Sunoco Optima #1300	Wawa #191	Wawa #469	Wawa #855
Sunoco APlus #2327	Sunoco Optima #1302	Wawa #199	Wawa #471	Wawa #909
Sunoco APlus #2330	Sunoco Optima #1306	Wawa #206	Wawa #472	Wawa #911
Sunoco APlus #2346	Sunoco Optima #1312	Wawa #207	Wawa #477	Wawa #917
Sunoco APlus #2348	Sunoco Optima #1316	Wawa #212	Wawa #479	Wawa #923
Sunoco APlus #2349	Sunoco Optima #1323	Wawa #213	Wawa #480	Wawa #929
Sunoco APlus #2350	Sunoco Optima #1325	Wawa #218	Wawa #482	Wawa #932
Sunoco APlus #2619	Sunoco Optima #1328	Wawa #229	Wawa #485	Wawa #935
Sunoco APlus #2628	Sunoco Optima #1329	Wawa #234	Wawa #486	Wawa #938
Sunoco APlus #2658	Sunoco Optima #1331	Wawa #235	Wawa #532	Wawa #940
Sunoco APlus #2662	Sunoco Optima #1334	Wawa #237	Wawa #555	Wawa #952
Sunoco APlus #2666	Sunoco Optima #1339	Wawa #242	Wawa #556	Wawa #953
Sunoco APlus #2672	Sunoco Optima #1347	Wawa #253	Wawa #563	Weis Market #7
Sunoco APlus #2689	Sunoco Optima #1358	Wawa #255	Wawa #579	Weis Market #10
Sunoco APlus #6021	Sunoco Optima #1359	Wawa #266	Wawa #583	Weis Market #26
Sunoco APlus #6035	Sunoco Optima #1386	Wawa #267	Wawa #586	Weis Market #39
Sunoco APlus #6962	Wawa #11	Wawa #270	Wawa #588	Weis Market #55
Sunoco APlus #7148	Wawa #29	Wawa #272	Wawa #654	Weis Market #77
Sunoco APlus #7188	Wawa #34	Wawa #273	Wawa #656	Weis Market #103
Sunoco APlus #7194	Wawa #40	Wawa #276	Wawa #669	Weis Market #112
Sunoco APlus #7216	Wawa #42	Wawa #277	Wawa #679	Weis Market #192
Sunoco APlus #7251	Wawa #43	Wawa #282	Wawa #682	

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## Price Accuracy Spotlight on Wal-Mart

According to two recently released studies, Wal-Mart shoppers in four states—California, Illinois, Indiana and Michigan—should be worried about whether they are being charged the correct prices for their purchases.

University of California-Berkeley researchers found that 87 percent (52 out of 60) of Wal-Marts tested in California fell short of federal standards for accurate pricing.

Those federal standards are set by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and require any store with more than 3 checkouts to score a price accuracy rating of at least 98 percent on a random sample of 100 items. That means no more than 2 errors—overcharges or undercharges—out of 100 items.

The researchers at the University of Illinois-Chicago checked Wal-Marts in Illinois, Indiana and Michigan, and found more than 2 pricing errors in 66 of the 78 stores examined.

In the midwest stores checked, 6.4 percent of all items bought were priced incorrectly. That same figure was 8.3 percent in the California tests.

Trained volunteers purchased randomly selected items according to a procedure that generally followed NIST's industry standard sampling methodology. The price of each item purchased was recorded on a tally sheet, which was sent with the cash register receipt to researchers for analysis. Stores did not know the inspections were taking place,

nor did they have an opportunity to verify the results.

This alleged price accuracy problem comes at a delicate time for Wal-Mart, as it's been under increasing scrutiny for its treatment of employees and suppliers. Both studies were funded by the United Food and Commercial Workers union, a leading Wal-Mart critic. The union has tried, unsuccessfully to date, to organize the retailer's employees.

On November 21, 2005, WakeUpWalmart.com, an anti-Wal-Mart advocacy group funded by the food workers union, and the National Consumers League, sent a joint letter to the Attorneys General in all 50 states calling on them to launch investigations of Wal-Mart's pricing practices. WakeUpWalMart.com also encourages consumers to report overcharges to its website.

In response to that letter, Pennsylvania Attorney General Tom Corbett asked the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Ride and Measurement Standards, which oversees weights and measures inspections in the commonwealth, to check Wal-Mart's price accuracy.

Fifty-one of the state's 116 Wal-Mart's underwent price verification inspections at the beginning of 2006. According to Department of Agriculture spokesperson Chris Ryder, all but two of the stores inspected met the federal standards for accuracy. He added that the department sees no reason for further investigation of Wal-Mart at this time.

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## PAWM Conference *(...continued from front page)*

in local weights and measures programs. Noted Dean Ely, "In 1970, every county and 38 cities had a weights and measures program." Inspectors have more devices than ever to check, but cost-cutting has reduced the ranks of inspectors to one third the number employed thirty years ago.

Some at the state level are floating privatization—perhaps similar to what has been implemented in Kansas and New Hampshire—as a possible way to improve Weights and Measures. PAWM has expressed reservations, particularly since privatization won't do anything to increase funding for Weights and Measures. Consumer advocate Mary Bach is also concerned. "The problem with privatization is you take away objectivity between the buyer and seller and open the opportunity for much more graft," she said.

Legislation has been proposed to move Weights and Measures enforcement to the Attorney General's office. Critics, however, contend that this won't improve weights and measures protection in Pennsylvania because lack of manpower is the main problem, not jurisdiction for enforcement. As one sealer put it, "enforcement is a moot point if inspections don't occur, and we just don't have the resources to get the job done."

Mary Bach wants the entire state weights and measures program moved to the Attorney General's Bureau of Consumer Protection. "I view both consumers and sellers as consumers at one level or another and retailers need to know that the advertised quantity of goods they buy is what they're actually getting," she said. "In today's economy where Weights and Measures does so many checks that aren't farm-related, I think Agriculture is no longer the appropriate home for the department."



*L to R: Consumer Advocate and SCP board member Mary Bach; SCP Executive Director Autumn Thomas; PAWM Executive Director and SCP board member Dean Ely at the PAWM awards banquet.*

# MERGER CHANGES SCP BOARD OF ADVISORS

Point-of-sale technology company Retalix, based in Warrendale, PA, has announced its acquisition of C & L Retail Solutions of Bensalem, PA as of March 1, 2006. The employees of the former C & L now report directly to the management of the Retalix Pittsburgh office.

Retalix and C & L have operated very similar business models for the past 25 years. "Both companies specialize in serving the technology needs of the independent retailer," stated Retalix VP of Sales Steve Swan. "The Philadelphia office of Retalix will offer the full complement of products from StoreNext and various other hardware and software vendors," he added.

Steve, a member of the Scanning Certification Program Board of Advisors since 1994, notified SCP's Autumn Thomas that he's stepping down from the board effective April 1<sup>st</sup>. "I've really

enjoyed being involved with the Scanning Certification Program and working with other stakeholders on price accuracy issues," Steve said. "But if both Bill Wolf and I remain on the board, Retalix will have double representation," he explained. Bill Wolf, another long time SCP Board of Advisor, was employed by C & L Retail Solutions and now works as an account executive for Retalix as a result of the joining of the two firms. Bill will continue to serve on the Board of Advisors.

"We're going to miss Steve and his expertise—he's helped us understand point-of-sale systems, innovations such as Reduced Space Symbology (RSS) and how it all relates to price accuracy," Autumn said. Added SCP Board of Advisors Chairman Drew Hyman, "Steve's been a tremendous asset and we wish him all the best in the future."

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- Subscription is included in the cost of program enrollment.
- If you have any questions or comments, please write to:

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