

# USMA Overview

## Who We Are & What We Do.

### 2022 Virtual Open House

Presented by the President

**DON HILLGER**  
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Became **Metric Association**  
Original newsletter  
**Measurement**  
(1925 to 1931)

~ **1925**

Became **US Metric Association**  
(USMA)

**1975**

1st **Website**  
launched (27 years)

**1996**

**VIRTUAL  
OPEN  
HOUSE**

**2022**

**1916**

Started as **American Metric Association** (AMA). Originally an affiliate of the American Association for Advancement of Science (AAAS)

**1966**

Louis Sokol began publishing the **Metric Association Newsletter**

**1990**

**Metric Today** newsletter began in 1990 (57 years)

# USMA and its Mission

The US Metric Association (USMA), Inc., is a national non-profit organization that was founded in **1916**

## USMA Mission Statement:

- USMA advocates completing the US conversion to the **International System of Units**, known by the symbol *SI* (ess-eye) and also called the metric system
- The process of changing measurement units to the metric system is called metric transition or metrication



# USMA and its Mission

## Which includes:

- Promoting/encouraging metric system use (particularly in the USA)
- Helping with proper metric use (for those who may not fully understand or may incorrectly use the metric system)
- Coordinating with other metric organizations, businesses, and individuals:
  - DoC/NIST Laws and Metric Program
  - UK Metric Association (UKMA)
  - Businesses which want to metricate (a few contacts every year)



## USMA does not overemphasize:

- Spelling issues (e.g. meter/metre)
- Pronunciation issues (e.g. kilometer, not ki-LOM-eter)
- Deprecating the centimeter

# USMA Officers

## President

- George F. Kunz (1917 to ?)
- John T. Johnson (1935 to 1960; 25 years)
- Robert Fischelis (1966 to 1967)
- Fred Helgren (1967 to 1969)
- Douglas Frost (1969 to 1971)
- Louis Sokol (1971 to 1986; 15 years)
- Lorelle Young (1986 to 2015; 20 years)
- Don Hillger (2015 →, 7 → years)



## Executive Director

- Valerie Antoine (1986 to 2015) [recently passed away at 105 years old!]
- Currently vacant, although this is generally the staff at USMA Headquarters (currently in Colorado)

# USMA Officers

## Vice President

- Valerie Antoine (1978 to 1991) became the USMA Executive Director
- Paul Trusten (2015 →, currently vacant)

## Area Directors

- Eastern US: **Don Jordan**
- Central US: **Mark Henschel**
- Western US (late Mary Gerke, currently vacant)

## Certified Metrication Specialist (CMS/CAMS) Program

- Chris Stone (National, now retired)
- **Don Jordan** (South Carolina and National)

## Science Fair Program

- Bill Hooper (1982 to 2017)
- **Mark Henschel** (2017 →)



# Metric Today Newsletter

Original newsletter - *Measurement* (1925 to 1931)

- **Since 1966 (57 years)**

- Started as *Metric Association Newsletter* in 1966
- *US Metric Association Newsletter* in 1975
- *USMA Newsletter* in 1980
- *Metric Today* in 1990
- Became fully electronic (PDF) in 2015

- **Our 54<sup>th</sup> year/volume with following editors:**

- Started by Louis Sokol (1966 to 1980, 15 years)
- Continued by Valerie Antoine (1980 to 2006, 25 years)
- Continued by Gary Brown (2006 to 2015, 10 years)
- Continued by **Don Hilger** (2015 →, 7 years!)



Advocating the completion of U.S. conversion to the metric system



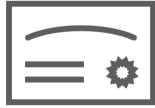
# Website (usma.org)

- Started in 1996 (originally hosted by Colorado State University)
- Primary domain name [usma.org](https://usma.org) (since 2019, donated in 2019 by **Varun Varada**, BlueHost server, using WordPress software)
- Other (parked) domain names
  - **us-metric.org** (started on BlueHost under this domain)
  - **usmetric.org** (donated in 2018 by Martin Ward, UK)
  - **metric.org** (provided since ~ 2006 by Jim Gottlieb)
- Web improvements under consideration:
  - Online store for metric supplies (started)
  - Online membership applications and dues payments
  - More? **What would members like to see?**





# Activities (in brief)



- **Science Fair awards** (annually, since 1982)
  - Science fair judges are supplied (if available among the USMA membership)
- USMA/Blake Family **Scholarships/Awards** (annually, since 2017)
- **Certified Metrication Specialist** (CMS/CAMS) certification (national and SC/state)
- **Speakers/presenters** for media interviews/conferences
- **Metric experts/consultants** (from among the USMA membership, more needed)
- **Social media** (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Reddit, etc.; outreach efforts)
- Yearly **Metric Week proclamations** by state Governors
- USMA **displays/booths** at local events (Tucson AZ, SARSEF example)
- **Collaborations with teachers/educators** (provide metric supplies, collaborate with NIST, which provides USMA rulers and cubes with NIST's Teachers' Kits)

# How can the USMA help you? How can we work together for the metric cause?

- **USMA Headquarters:**

PO Box 471, Windsor CO 80550-0471

- **USMA Website:**

[usma.org](https://usma.org) (main URL)

[metric.org](https://metric.org) (generic alias)

- **USMA e-mail:**

[don.hillger@usma.org](mailto:don.hillger@usma.org) (USMA President)

[contact@usma.org](mailto:contact@usma.org) (generic)

- **USMA social media: (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Reddit, etc.)**

