2022 USMA Summer/Fall Virtual Meet-Up

This meeting is a follow-on to our first/spring virtual meeting, during which USMA members and other metric advocates especially enjoyed the time to openly discuss the ongoing metrification of the USA.

Hopefully, we’ll continue to do these meetings twice each year, in the spring and again in the fall before Metric Week (the week with the 10th of October)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time (ET)</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:00 pm to 8:30 pm</td>
<td>90 minutes</td>
<td>Welcome Dr. Don Hillger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Metric Week: State Governor Proclamation Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Outreach Events Facilitator: Henry Knoepfle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Topic Discussions Facilitator: Dr. Don Hillger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Closing Dr. Don Hillger</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

• 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 metrificate (a few new ones every year)

• USMA does not over-emphasize:
  • Spelling issues (e.g. meter/metre)
  • Pronunciation issues (e.g. kilometer, not ki-LOM-eter)
  • Deprecating the centimeter, or renaming the kilogram
Current USMA officers

- President: Don Hillger
- Area Directors:
  - Eastern US: Don Jordan
  - Central US: Mark Henschel
- Certified Metrication Specialist (CMS/CAMS) Program: Don Jordan
- Science Fair Program: Mark Henschel
- Webmaster: Varun Varada
- Technical Advisor: Elizabeth Benham (NIST)
- Social Media Coordinator: Bryce Schuebert
- Outreach Coordinator: Henry Knoepfle
USMA 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)
• USMA displays/booths at local events (Tucson AZ, SARSEF example)
• Collaborations with teachers/educators (provide metric supplies, collaborate with NIST; USMA metric rulers and metric cubes for NIST’s Teachers’ Kits)
• Yearly Metric Week proclamations by state governors (emphasis at this meeting)
• New online USMA membership application and payment system
New online USMA membership application and payment system

• Developed by Varun Varada, USMA Webmaster
  • Varun first developed the USMA Online Store for ordering and payment for metric supplies
  • USMA Memberships are now one of the Online Store “for sale” items:
    • Currently allowing only 1-year and lifetime memberships

• Online store and membership applications are working!
Metric Week Proclamations by state governors (1 of 2)

• Proclamations for Metric Week ([https://usma.org/national-metric-week](https://usma.org/national-metric-week)) have been issued by governors of many US states dating back to the mid 1970s, with most proclamations issued in the 1980s

• Metric Week proclamations reached a maximum of 33 states in 1984

• A large number of proclamations were issued through 1988, after which such activity rapidly decreased

• A total of 43 out of 50 states have issued such proclamations. (Two cities have also issued proclamations: Los Angeles CA and Huntsville AL)

• Also, Don Jordan, USMA’s Eastern Area Director consistently applies for and receives Metric Week proclamations from the governor of South Carolina
Metric Week Proclamations by state governors (2 of 2)

• The states without any proclamations are some of the least populated states, such as North Dakota, Montana, and Wyoming

• Interestingly, Hawaii is among the states to never have issued a Metric Week proclamation

• The reason some states are missing is most likely the lack of an active metric advocate to contact the state governor and fill out the necessary application

• This is where USMA members and other metric advocates can have an impact on the metric cause

• Metric Week proclamations may at first appear as if they accomplish little, but an endorsement by state government is helpful and encourages other metric-related activity in schools and education in that state

• See USMA’s Governors Proclamation page https://usma.org/metric-week-governor-proclamations
Keynote presentation on Metric Week outreach activities

• Metric Week Governor’s Proclamations
  • This activity is coordinated by Henry Knoepfle, USMA’s Outreach Coordinator
  • Presented today by Elizabeth Benham, USMA Technical Coordinator (because Henry has a work commitment/conflict with this meeting)
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 (main URL)
  - metric.org (generic alias)
- USMA e-mail:
  - don.hillger@usma.org (USMA President)
  - contact@usma.org (generic)
  - media@usma.org (social media)
- USMA social media: (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Reddit, etc.)