



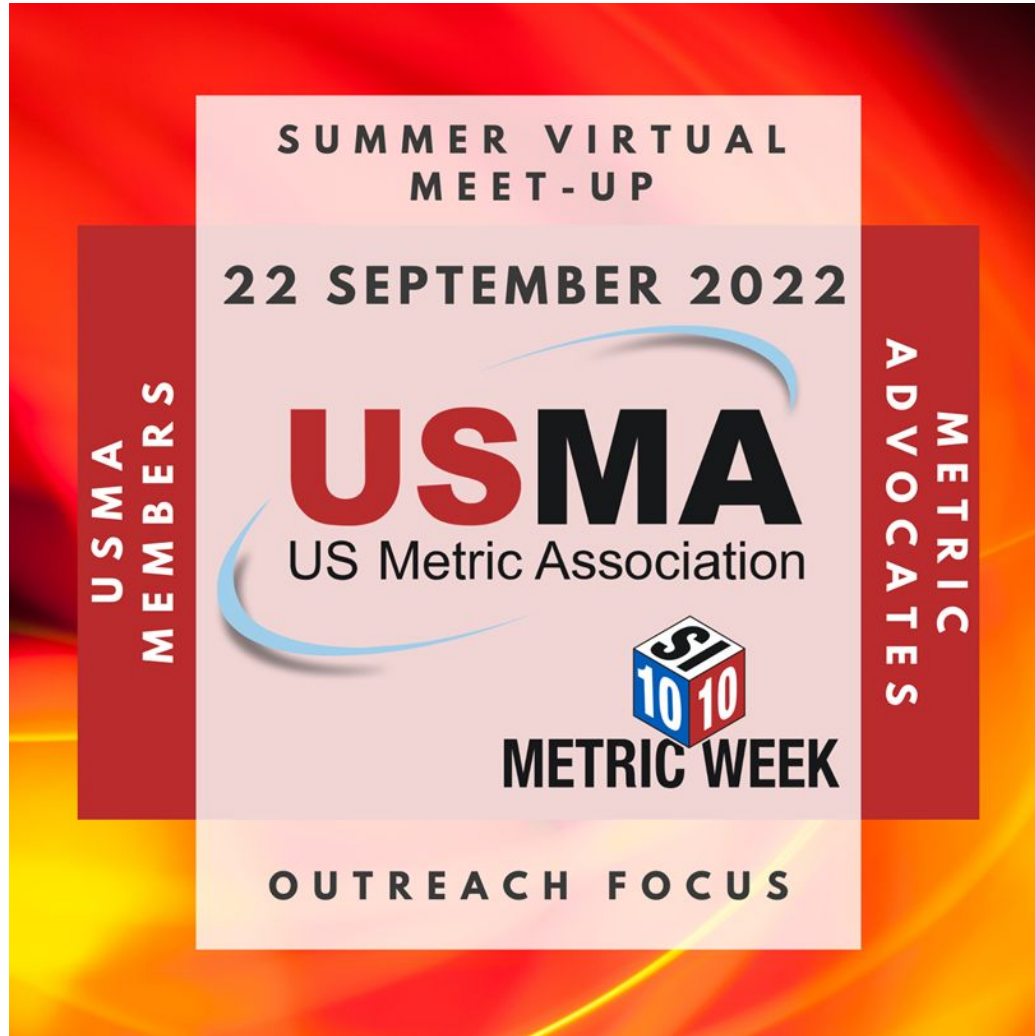
# **USMA Update (fall 2022)**

**Don Hillger, USMA President**

2022 USMA (Summer/Fall) Virtual Meet-Up

22 September 2022

# 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 metrication 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 10<sup>th</sup> of October)

# 2022 USMA Summer/Fall Virtual Meet-Up Agenda

<b>Time (ET)</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Thursday 22 September 2022</b>
<b>7:00 pm to 8:30 pm</b>	<b>90 minutes</b>	<b>Welcome</b> Dr. Don Hillger
		<b>Metric Week:</b> <b>State Governor Proclamation Project</b> <b>Outreach Events</b> Facilitator: Henry Knoepfle
		<b>Topic Discussions</b> Facilitator: Dr. Don Hillger
		<b>Closing</b> Dr. Don Hillger



# 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 metricate (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**



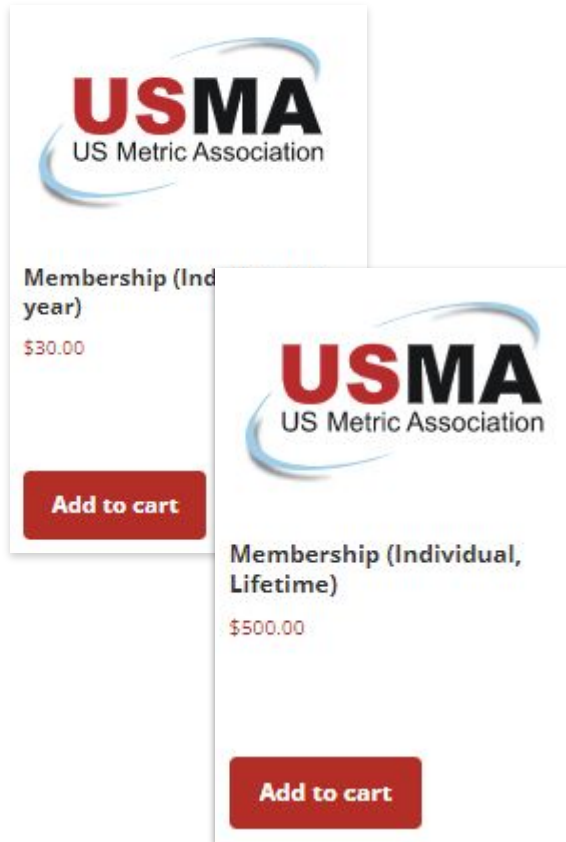
# USMA activities (in brief)

- **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>) 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](http://usma.org) (main URL)
  - [metric.org](http://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)
  - [media@usma.org](mailto:media@usma.org) (social media)
- USMA social media: (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Reddit, etc.)