



UP THE CREEK
November 1, 2009

Probably like you, we who toil at Up The Creek struggle with the long, awkward name of our beloved association. And, probably like you, we tend to abbreviate. The trouble is, it's almost as hard to remember the concocted acronym - USCDWUA - as it is to remember the whole name, which I forget right now, but has a bunch of U's and W's and stuff in it. Here in the office we solve the problem with a handy rubber stamp. You kind folks who are writing us checks without the benefit of a rubber stamp have to do it the hard way, resulting in some interesting variations. Such as "USUCAWD," "Upper Creek Water," "Up The Creek Water," and our favorite, "H₂OC_o." Fortunately, the bank accepts checks with strange names on the Pay To blank, even those where the writer failed to plan ahead, resulting in: *Upper Surface Creek Domestic Water Users Association*. We have received at least one envelope with the word "Association" wrapped around the right end and continued onto the back.

The shortage of available space in some computer forms has led to our company name being truncated in creative ways. We are known to a number of marketing firms as "Upper Surface Creek Domes," and we have received literature that would be helpful if we were in the dome business. On the other hand, some have apparently tried to reconstruct the name from the acronym, resulting in stuff like "Uniform Service Chrome Dish Washer Assembly."

We wondered if some useful mnemonics could be thought up to help people remember our initials, if not the full name. So here are some that have been suggested

By the employees: **Underpaid Slaves Coping Daily With Unfair Administrator**
By the Board of Directors: **Unkempt Slobs Creating Disarray With Utility Assets**
By happy customers: **Unique Service Company Doing Well Under Adversity**
By mad customers: **Unfair Steep Costs Dunned With Unctuous Attitude**
By warm fuzzies: **Unencumbered Serenity Cannot Develop With Useless Anger**
By Health Department: **Unhealthy Slime-Coated Drinking Water Unthinkingly Applied**

No doubt one of the above has occurred to most of you, plus a few of your own. If you have a prize-winner of a phrase that you think applies perfectly to USCDWUA, please keep it **Under Strict Cover, Don't Want Unsolicited Advice**.

***** WARNING, SERIOUS SUBJECT MATTER FOLLOWS *****

Our meter reading season is from March through October. Sometimes weather clobbers October, but this year, we were able to get them done, and the dry weather made it worthwhile, putting a few more dollars in the bank. It is the last reading before winter, and our meter readers were careful to be sure all meter pit lids were closed. Please leave them that way - cold weather is coming.

We realize, of course that meter reading is an **Uncertain Science Consumers Don't Want Undertaken Anyway**.

dh