



UP THE CREEK
January 1, 2011

Happy New Year!

To all of you who attended the Association's annual Stockholders Meeting in December, let us express our sincere gratitude. Once again, your thoughtful participation reminded us that our Association is blessed with members who care to know what is going on in their company, and who are interested in why the water comes out when the faucet is opened. (Or why not.) To those who could not make the meeting, well, there's always next year – keep it in mind.

The meeting was notable in that there was a change on the Board of Directors – a rare event indeed. The Board members of USCDWUA must wonder if this “two-year” term they signed up for is ever going to actually end. John Hawkins demonstrated that it does – eventually. Mr. Hawkins summed up his service to USCDWUA in words to this effect, “While I have very much enjoyed my time on this board, fifty years is enough!” John came onto the Board in 1960, was appointed Secretary-Treasurer in 1970, and held that office until 1996. During his time as secretary, he also served as acting manager, maintenance man, and construction superintendent. His experience and knowledge will be sorely missed. Thank you, John.

The new Board Member is Debbie Christner. She comes from an appropriate background, as her family started a small water system many years ago in a quaint little rural area known as Edwards, which has since grown uh, some. If Debbie has any fears about her Board term becoming a 50-year sentence, she didn't show it at the meeting, rather accepting her election with an air of confidence. Welcome, Deb, and may your service be rewarding. The year 2060 will be here before you know it.

Since its beginning, USCDWUA has benefited from the wisdom of unselfish directors who, working without pay, give of themselves to the community. The Association could not have grown, adapted, and thrived as it has without them. We at Up The Creek ask all of you to keep your Board members in your thoughts, and to join us in thanks for their dedication to the excellence of your water system.

While our system is indeed excellent, it is, alas, not perfect. With 105 miles of pipeline spread over 35 square miles, there is probably stuff going on out there that we don't know about. Leaks are a good example. Twice this year, serious leaks defied our attempts to find them even though we knew they existed, and even in which area. Both were finally discovered by others who stumbled across (or rather stepped in) them. As was pointed out in the first paragraph, our Association members are, to a one, exemplary people. So they did not hurry and rig up a way to pipe the leaking water to their own yard. Neither did they hurry to the water office to file a claim to this newly discovered “spring.” No. They hurried to the telephone to let us know that there was a leak that we might not be aware of.

Of course, not all people are equally exemplary in all ways. Sometimes the discoverer of a leak can't resist having a little fun, as in, “When are you guys gonna get after your leak that's been going for five years and 'bout swamped out my chicken house? And turned my alfalfa yella? And gullied my hillside?” And so forth. But that's OK. We are so relieved to find out where the darn thing is that such abuse is tolerable. So remember, if you see water where it ain't supposed to be, let us know. And have all the fun you want.