



## UP THE CREEK

January 1, 2012

### HAPPY NEW YEAR!

This letter is being written on the Winter solstice, the shortest day of the year. By the time you read this, perhaps around January 2, the day will be five minutes longer. You might assume, as I always did, that this means the sun will rise 2½ minutes earlier and set 2½ minutes later. But, on consulting a website operated by the US Naval Observatory (to comply with the Up The Creek fact-checking policy) this notion proves to be oddly wrong.

According to the USNO tables, the sun will rise *later* than it did this morning. On January 2, it will rise three minutes later – but will set eight minutes later, giving the five-minute net increase. It seems that the latest sunrises occur around January 5, the earliest sunsets around December 7. So, if you are trying to gauge the lengthening of the days, focus on the sunsets; the sunrise will give but cold comfort and late.

Thank you all who attended our annual Membership meeting. The major piece of business enacted was to eliminate the Association Membership Certificate, also known as Stock Certificate. This will bring elation to some, nostalgic sadness to others, and a shrugged “whatever” from, we suspect, the majority. It was also approved at the meeting to amend the bylaws and the articles of incorporation as necessary to remove references to the certificates. Please see our website [www.uscdwua.com](http://www.uscdwua.com) to view the amended bylaws, or stop by the office.

Barring intervention by the Law of Unintended Consequences, we hope that this move will prove beneficial, at least regarding the transfer of property, which in the past has often run afoul of lost stock certificates. Your membership in this Association is now certified by a record in the Association's Membership Book, and by your ownership of the property to which a USCDWUA water tap is attached. When a parcel of property changes hands, the water tap now changes hands by default, without the need for the seller to produce or bond the certificate. We will still require the buyer of the property to make application for membership, as that establishes a contractual bond between USCDWUA and the new member.

To those of you who have safeguarded your USCDWUA Certificates, we can only thank you for your diligence. Although the certificate no longer has its original legal force, we would like to have it returned to our office if convenient. However, you may elect to keep it, or you may dispose of it as you see fit.

Earlier, we asked you to weigh in on the idea of receiving your water bill electronically, and/or making payment by alternate means. You replied in considerable volume. For that, we are grateful – it has helped us decide where to begin. And so, we begin now by asking those of you who desire email delivery of your water bill to please make a formal request by email. Send your request using the email address that you want us to use for your bill. Send it to [billing@uscdwua.com](mailto:billing@uscdwua.com). This is a new address that we have set up for the purpose of electronic billing and correspondence pertaining thereto. We are asking for your request by email so that there will be fewer errors transcribing email addresses, which we all know to be quirky and often make no sense. **Members who do not request email service will continue to receive paper bills the regular way.**

As for payment – we will still require check, money order, or cash. For computer users, we recommend Online Bill Pay, a service available through many banks. You order payment, by computer, and your bank sends us a check. Usually this service is free.

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p.s. don't panic – email billing will include the newsletter as an attachment.