

Treasurer's Comments

October 2012

As I am sure all of you are well aware, the Association has been impacted by a leadership crisis this year. The elected President and Vice President have been unable to perform their duties and we have missed two General Membership Meetings. The lack of these meetings significantly impacts the Association in two areas; membership renewal procedures are disrupted, and the normal Coordination Board election process does not occur. Additionally, the longer term Coordination Board participation issues have worsened and there has not been an official meeting all year. Board Members have not performed their duties and there are Coordination items that have now been in process for over four years without action. I believe the participation and involvement crisis has reached a critical point for the Association.

IMPORTANT MEETING - The Secretary and Treasurer of the Association have taken action to call and schedule the 2012 4th Quarter General Meeting. This meeting is being held in Claremont in conjunction with the SCRRBA 2012 Annual Meeting in the hope that this central location and convenient schedule will allow for maximum participation. This meeting will be an important opportunity for interested members to meet and discuss the future of the Association in advance of January's Annual Election of Officers. It will also give us the ability to bring the Coordination Board election process up-to-date, including filling the two vacancies created by membership expirations.

MEMBERSHIP - The lack of normal communications with the membership and the failure to hold the prescribed quarterly meetings has had a significant impact on membership renewals. Not only is **continuing membership** critical for retaining participation eligibility and voting privileges, but it is important to the health of the Association. Please check your membership expiration date on the Website or on your Bulletin address label. Renewals are accepted immediately before all General Meetings, and if you can not make the meeting you can mail your renewal form and check to the Association address. If your membership has already expired, be sure to read the following paragraphs.

IMPORTANT MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION - Article II Section 2 of the Bylaws was specifically constructed to make it as easy as possible for members to retain their continuing membership. Not only was a 90 day grace period established, but provisions were incorporated so members could depend upon being able to attend a General Meeting before their continuing membership eligibility lapsed. Because there were no General Membership Meetings held in the 2nd and 3rd quarters of 2012, some of our members whose memberships expired several months ago are still eligible to retain continuing membership status if they renew before the start of the October meeting. Please come in time to complete this process before the meeting is scheduled to start.

MEETING AGENDA – I believe this could be one of the most important meetings in recent 220SMA history. Although it is not technically on the Agenda, I believe the membership needs to discuss the situation the Association finds itself in, and hopefully begin to plan where we go from here. The first meeting of the new year would be a good time to get to a new start.

Although this is an abbreviated meeting because we are sharing the room with SCRRBA, I suggest that we allot time during the Old Business portion of the meeting to a general discussion and brain storming session. What actually happens will depend upon you.

I do not know at this time if the President or Vice President will be in attendance.

Quoting from my President's Message of January 2002 after 13 years in that office:

"My final comment is to remind you that in order to have a strong and meaningful organization we must all do our part. Some need to be leaders and some need to be followers, but there must be both. Please consider volunteering to be a leader for a while. The Association needs you now."