

President's Message

The past year has been a busy one for the WMA. We discovered in May 2011 that the WMA had lost its non-profit corporate status with the State of Utah in 2006. A Salt Lake City attorney was retained to help re-establish our corporate status with the State. In our discussion with this attorney we also explored whether the WMA had been registered with the IRS. Our records indicated an application had been filed in 1986 but no record of the IRS ever recognizing the WMA as confirmed by this attorney. The membership approved some new Articles of Incorporation which were short and generic in nature as recommended by the attorney. We then filed the appropriate paperwork with the State of Utah and were granted non-profit corporate status in August 2011. We then filed an application with the IRS to become a 501 C6 non-profit corporation. Discussions with IRS personnel indicated the WMA had been granted a 501 C3 status in 1986 but this status expired in 2006 when we lost our non-profit status with the State of Utah. Approval of this application was received in January 2012 but backdated to our Utah incorporation date in August, 2011. Discussions with our attorney and a requirement of the IRS were that the WMA adopt Bylaws that specify how the corporation operates (the WMA had previously never had any Bylaws, just Articles of Incorporation). Draft Bylaws were prepared by our attorney and modified to better represent the WMA's specific interests. Draft Bylaws were approved by the Board of Directors and submitted to the membership for comments. The draft Bylaws were then revised and re-submitted to the membership for a vote. These Bylaws were accepted by the membership in March 2012.

Other achievements included:

- The approval of a revised Capabilities Statement thanks to the efforts of the Standards and Ethics Committee.
- Development of some Frequently Asked Questions and Answers (FAQs) regarding precipitation enhancement thanks to the work of the Publications Committee.
- Ongoing improvements were made to the WMA web site which included adding a list of past officers, posting the FAQs, providing a list of all WMA Journal articles dating back to 1969, and development of a separate Las Vegas meeting web site. Thanks go to Stephanie Beall for all her hard work as WMA's web site manager.
- Development of a WMA Facebook page. Thanks go to Duncan Axisa and Stephanie Beall our co-hosts of this web site.

We have experienced some personnel changes in a couple of key areas: Executive Secretary/Treasurer and WMA Journal Editor. After 34 years of outstanding service to the WMA as its Executive Secretary/Treasurer, Hilda Duckering informed the WMA at the 2011 Park City annual meeting of her desire to retire. She agreed to serve one more year and to cross train with a replacement to be selected by the WMA membership. Two replacement candidates were considered; Amber Blount with SOAR and Laurie Capece with NAWC. Laurie Capece was selected through a vote of the membership. Laurie and Hilda have successfully worked together since the Park City meeting in order for Laurie to get up to speed on the duties associated with this very important position. For all that know and love Hilda, even though small in stature, her "shoes" will be difficult to fill. Thank you Hilda for your unwavering dedication to the WMA you have been a good example for us all! You have been the stable "rock" that others have turned to for advice and counsel as numerous previous WMA officers fully recognize and appreciate.

Andy Detwiler served as the Editor of the WMA Journal of Weather of Weather Modification from 2005 to 2011. He, like Hilda, informed the WMA membership of his desire to step down from this position in 2011. Again, high commendation goes to Andy for his fine work in nurturing and developing the Journal of Weather Modification into the fine Journal that it is today. Thanks Andy for all your hard work as Editor as well as Connie Crandall who served as your able assistant! Fortunately Dr. David Delene of the University of North Dakota stepped forward to become the new Editor following the Park City meeting. Welcome aboard, David!

The WMA is dependent on the involvement of its members to carry out the goals of the Association. Many WMA members have served as officers or committee members during this past year. Speaking for the Association, your involvement and support has been greatly appreciated. I issue a special charge to the in-coming members of the Board of Directors of the Association. You will fulfill increasingly important roles as granted in the newly approved Bylaws of the Association. You are our elected representatives; do your jobs well!

Unfortunately a number of former WMA members passed during the year including: Charles Chappell, William Finnegan, Nancy Knight, Harold Orville, Pierre St. Amand and Barbara Welles. Each contributed to the weather modification field; they will be missed.

I believe the future of the WMA is bright. There will be increasing interest in the type of weather modification activities that the WMA supports. This increased interest will be driven by increasing demands on fresh water supplies around the world: the need to increase municipal water supplies due to rising populations, the desire for clean energy sources (e.g. hydropower), concerns about having adequate irrigation water supplies and reducing crop damage due to hail.

Don Griffith
WMA President 2011-2012