

November 18, 1963

NEWSLETTER TO ALL MEMBERS OF  
THE MISSISSIPPI WATER & SEWAGE  
WORKS OPERATORS ASSOCIATION.

Your secretary had the pleasure of attending the annual meeting of the Alabama-Mississippi Section of the American Water Works Association in Jackson on October 7-9. While there he was able to meet with officers of our Association and discuss various matters relating to the business of the Association. This is intended as a report on these discussions and other matters.

Item 1. Dues Change:

At the last annual meeting of the Association at State College in May the question of raising the annual dues for membership in the Association was discussed. According to the minutes of the business meeting held on May 10, Mr. Smathers moved that the annual dues be raised to \$3.00. The motion was seconded, and was passed without an opposing vote. In the By-Laws, Article IV - Fiscal Year and Dues, Part 2., states, "The annual dues shall be two dollars (\$2.00), payable in advance of the beginning of the fiscal year, except Honorary Life Members shall be exempt from payment of dues". In the By-Laws, Article IX - Amendments, states, "Any amendment to the By-Laws may be made by a two-thirds vote of the Active Members present at any Annual Meeting; provided it has been previously proposed in writing with signatures of at least five (5) Active Members, and due notice thereof has been sent to each member with a notice of the Annual Meeting."

Your secretary did not attend the business meeting where the above mentioned vote was taken. When he learned of the action he wrote President Brock on May 15 as follows. "In looking over the minutes of the business meeting of the Operators Association, I find that a motion was made and passed to raise the annual dues to \$3.00, presumably effective January 1, 1964. I am certainly not opposed to the increase in dues but am wondering if our By-Laws permits such action except under certain conditions. I call your attention to certain articles in the By-Laws that seem to have a definite bearing on this question. Please read Article IV - Fiscal Year and Dues and Article IX - Amendments in the By-Laws. If I am correct in my interpretation of these articles the vote on raising the dues was irregular and cannot be put into effect. This matter should be discussed by officers and directors of the Association and a decision should be made by them before the change in dues is made.

A meeting of the Board of Governors was held in Jackson on October 9, 1963. Those members of the Board of Governors who were in attendance were: President, C. M. Brock; President-Elect, F. M. Kirkpatrick; Past-President, Wilson Ruff; Secretary-Treasurer, Howard K. Williford, and Ed May, director Third District. It was their decision that the vote on the increase in dues was irregular and should be disregarded. The secretary was instructed to continue receiving dues payments of \$2.00 until such time as the dues are changed in the manner provided in the By-Laws.

It is the wish of the Board of Governors that all members be advised that the Board is not necessarily opposed to an increase in the dues. If sufficient members feel that such a change is desirable for the benefit of the Association, they certainly have the right to propose the change, so long as it is done in the manner prescribed in the By-Laws. Please see Article IX - Amendments.

Item 2. Rebate to Districts:

In my letter to President Brock I had this to say, "The minutes of the meeting state that a motion was made to refund \$1.00 per member to the various districts and received 19 votes "for" and 15 "against". In my opinion this question is not settled, in that a change in the By-Laws must be made in accordance with provisions spelled out in Article IX. It would also seem to me that it failed in passage, in that Article IX states that such changes must receive two-thirds of the vote of active members present at any annual meeting. This motion received only 19 "for" as opposed to 15 "against", a total of 34 votes in all. I do not know how many active members were present, but evidently there were a good many present who did not vote on this motion. In any event, 19 is only 56% of 34 and is short of the 2/3 majority required." I have had no occasion to change my mind since this above mentioned letter was written. It is the opinion of the Board of Governors that the motion was irregular and failed in passage.

The above decision does not mean that such a motion cannot be made in the manner prescribed, and discussed on its merits. If it is the desire of any members to reintroduce this matter at the next annual meeting, the By-Laws make provision for doing so. So far as I am personally concerned, I should prefer to let the districts collect the dues from their own members, however.

Item 3. District Associations:

Your attention is called to Article V - District Associations of the constitution. This article spells out in detail how District Associations may be formed. It is the sincere wish of your secretary, and all others interested in this work, that District Associations will be formed. I firmly believe that the District Associations are potentially more valuable to our overall effort than any other one thing, and this includes the State Association and the Annual Short Course. That this is so is borne out most forcefully by the experience in District IV. That District has been organized over a year now and has been having some excellent, well attended monthly meetings. Under the able and enthusiastic leadership of John McElroy they have really shown what work and interest can accomplish. I would like to see the time when every district in the state had a similar program.

It is encouraging to know that District V is holding an organizational meeting on November 21 at 5:30 p. m. in Hattiesburg. I am including a copy of Mr. F. M. Kirkpatrick's letter giving details of this meeting. You are urged to attend if at all possible.

Dear Friends:

On November 21 at 5:30 p. m. , we are having our first meeting in District 5 of the Mississippi Water and Sewage Works Operators Association. This meeting will be held in the Veterans of Foreign Wars building, located on Front Street just south of City Hall in Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

We are planning on having a very good program at this meeting, including election of officers for this district, welcome address by Mayor Claude F. Pittman, Jr. and if possible, the presence of our two commissioners, Mr. C. B. Patterson and Mr. W. P. Harrington.

There will be a very good meal prepared for your enjoyment; of course, dutch at \$2.00 per person.

We will also be honored at this meeting with the group of men from the East Central district of the Mississippi Water and Sewage Works Operators Association. This group has been organized for over a year now and it has been my pleasure to attend many meetings held in their district. I can truthfully say that I have learned something at each of these meetings which has been most beneficial to our operations in Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

I am enclosing a form and self-addressed envelope for your convenience, to let us know how many people will attend this meeting. Please return this information as soon as possible so we will know in advance how many people to prepare meals for.

Thanking you in advance for your cooperation in this endeavor, I remain

Yours very truly,

John H. Stinson

F. M. Kirkpatrick, President-Elect  
Mississippi Water and Sewage Works  
Association  
Fifth District

Melvin Sartin of Columbus and J. P. Phillips of Starkville are preparing plans for an organizational meeting for District II for about the middle of January. You will be hearing more about this in the near future. The exact date, time, and place for this meeting have not been set, but expect an announcement soon. This will mean that three of our five districts will be organized soon. It would be really wonderful if Districts I and III could soon get underway with some activity.

#### Item 4. Committees:

President Brock submitted a list of committee appointments and they are listed below.

## RULES COMMITTEE

Tip H. Allen - Chairman  
Lewellyn Dean

Ed May  
Wilson Ruff

## PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Howard K. Williford - Chairman  
J. E. Johnston  
F. M. Kirkpatrick

Scott Lyles  
E. C. Frazier  
L. L. Brown

## MEMBERSHIP

Lester Wilch  
Elbert Manuel  
John Stinson

Buddy Bow  
Hugh Burns

## PUBLICITY

Hugh Clift  
John McElroy  
F. M. Kirkpatrick  
Dave Ressler

Johnny Boucum  
L. L. Brown  
L. B. McRaney  
D. H. Wicker

### Item 5. Nomination of Officers

The nominating committee met on October 9, and presents herewith its nominations for the officers for the association for the coming year.

For President - F. M. Kirkpatrick

For President-Elect - J. P. Phillips

For Secretary-Treasurer-Howard K. Williford

Director, District V-Wilson Ruff

District II-Edsel E. Posey

Your attention is called to Article VI-Nomination and Election of Officers, in the Constitution for rules governing their activity. For your information this article is quoted in part. "Any 5 active members shall have the power to make nominations to be voted on in the regular manner." "Nominations other than those by the Nominating Committee may be submitted to the Secretary-Treasurer not later than thirty days before the annual meeting.

### Item 6. Annual Meeting

The Tenth Annual Short Course will be held at State College March 9-11. The annual business meeting of the Operators Association will be held on Tuesday, March 10. If you have not started making plans to attend it is hoped you will soon do so.