



UP THE CREEK
December 1, 2016

The final quarter of the year is a little strange. It is the only quarter made up of months that are named for numbers – *Octo*, *Novem*, and *Decem*, which are Latin words for eight, nine and ten. “*Ber*” is attached to each of them to indicate the season of the year. It is a Bulgarian word meaning “not hot.” This all worked fine in the early Roman calendar, because there were only ten months, starting with March. The missing months of January and February were assumed not to exist, a sensible idea in our opinion.

Since the invention of the Gregorian calendar, we now know that the final quarter contains the tenth, eleventh and twelfth months, except in the wonderland of USCDWUA fiscal accounting procedures. There, November is declared to be the twelfth month of the fiscal year and December becomes the first month of the next fiscal year. This is done so that the Annual Shareholders Meeting may be scheduled on the second Tuesday of December, which conflicts invariably with all of the school concerts in the district, as well as generally being the coldest night of the year. There, you see, everything makes sense now.

This year’s Annual Meeting – and probably every school concert – will be on **December 13**, at the Cedaredge Community Center. The event is advertised in local papers, and you should have received notification by mail earlier in November (the eleventh/twelfth month). Included with that notice is a proxy card that you may use to assign your voting privilege to another person in case you cannot attend the meeting. **Please** assign the proxy to someone you know will attend, and either drop it in the mail or give it to your proxy person. Each year, it is a nervous time wondering whether or not we will achieve the quorum necessary to hold a meeting. Without a quorum, the meeting might have to be rescheduled, possibly to an even colder, more conflict-ridden date. Not a happy prospect.

The Annual Meeting is your time to have a say in the operation of your association. You elect directors to represent you, approve a budget, and get your questions answered and your concerns heard. This year we will address the Association's relationship with the Town of Cedaredge, possibly for the last time. Please plan to attend.

By the way, if we applied numerically correct Latin roots to rename the three months of the last quarter to conform to the Gregorian calendar, they might be called *December* (tenth), *Undecimber* (eleventh), and *Duodecimber* (twelfth). So it’s probably better to leave them the way they are.

Oh, and that word “fiscal” that we used in an earlier paragraph - well, that's the name of a bird, a variety of shrike that lives only on the island of Sao Tome' off the west coast of Africa. I wonder if the fiscal bird and the secretary bird ever get together?