

## **Public Utilities**

**In 1909 emphasis was placed on securing electric street lighting and the installation of gas, water, and sewer mains in Chevy Chase. Two years earlier, in 1907 in New York, utility regulation had its beginnings. Governor Charles Evans Hughes proposed a utility commission to approve the issuance of securities by utility companies, examine properties and accounts of the companies, establish reasonable utility rates, and protect the public interest.**

**This proposal was a response to corporate corruption, stock watering, and the merging of utilities into holding companies that influenced jurisdictions beyond the local government. New York established the model for the rapidly expanding number of state public service commissions; Maryland and the District of Columbia established commissions in 1910 and 1913, respectively.**

**The inherent conflict that occurs when the same body acts as prosecutor and judge led to the establishment of the D.C. Office of People's Counsel in 1926 to intervene in judicial proceedings to protect utility consumers. This office was abolished in 1952 by reorganization Act No. 5 and reinstated in 1974 by Congress, when the public was experiencing the large increases in rates for electricity and gas.**

**The association has been concerned with the cost and services of public utilities over the years, and the concern has greatly increased during the past ten years. Annice Wagner became the first People's Counsel in 1975. She organized the Office of People's Counsel and proposed to the Commission a consumer bill of rights. At the end of her three-year term, she was appointed a judge. An adhoc committee of utility consumer advocates, on which the association was represented, wanted her replacement to be equally sensitive to the public interest. This committee interviewed candidates and reviewed their records. From several excellent candidates, the committee selected Brian Lederer and recommended him to the mayor and D.C. Council for appointment as People's Counsel in 1977. Discovered in this process was Elizabeth Patterson, who was supported for appointment as a Public Service Commissioner. She became an outstanding chairman of the Commission.**

**From this beginning an interrelationship between the People's Counsel and the public grew. In order to have greater public participation in the regulatory process and the conservation of energy, the Consumer Utility Board (CUB) was established in 1978. George J. Haley was the Association's representative. The Board, through a grant from the Department of Energy, studied ways to**

**conserve electrical energy and published in 1979 its study, Report to the Community, Sharing the Burdens and Benefits of Electricity Conservation in the District of Columbia. The Board presented its findings to elected District officials and electric company executives. The Board also intervened in utility cases before the Public Service Commission and published CUB News to inform the public on matters pertaining to utilities.**

**Among the achievements of the People's Counsel and the Consumer Utility Board have been securing a Consumer Bill of Rights, eliminating construction work-in-progress from the rate base, holding down increases in authorized utility revenues, reducing the gas company system charge, transferring advertising costs from customers to stockholder, monitoring fuel adjustment and production efficiency by the Public Service Commission; analyzing the electric company's construction and financial program, proving the value of independent demand and reliability analysis, Introducing new regulatory philosophy to replace rate-case to rate-case under company control by long-term planning involving both the District and the companies; designing rates better so that customers save money when they conserve energy; revealing "phantom taxes" paid by consumers but not paid by the utilities to the government, and securing the establishment of an energy office in the District government.**

## **Chevy Chase, D.C., Business Community .**

**In recent years, the association has undertaken a number of outreach efforts to the business community. As we entered the 21st century, under the leadership of then-Association Vice President Sarah Pokempner, CCCA convened a group of business owners from upper Connecticut Avenue to explore interest in establishing a business association. Several meetings were held and there was significant interest. In the end, the timing seemed not to be right and the plan to form an association was deferred.**

**Having initiated an effort to strengthen relations with business owners, the Association then worked to develop a more aggressive approach to recruiting business memberships at various levels and a range of benefits. This has been very successful, bringing in many new members and additional revenue.**

**In 2005 and 2006, the association sponsored Chevy Chase, DC Days on a weekend day in September that offered another opportunity to engage with the business community who held sidewalk sales, offered specials for the day, and underwrote many of the activities. The Chevy Chase Community Center and Chevy Chase Library also offered activities that attracted large crowds from both within and outside the Chevy Chase neighborhood.**

**A fixture of the business district, the Avalon Theater, abruptly closed in 2001 after nearly 80 years of operation when its owner, Loews Cineplex, filed for bankruptcy. A community effort, supported by the Association, succeeded in reopening the Avalon two years later. The Avalon offers diverse programming that includes outstanding independent, foreign, and documentary films as well as the best commercial films.**

**A Look to the Future (to come from Jon Lawlor)**

**Note: The Constitution of the Chevy Chase Citizens Association appears on the Association's Web site, <http://chevychasecitizens.org>**

## **Presidents of the Association**

**1909 P. L. Ricker**  
**1910 George B. Sudworth**  
**1911 John B. Williams**  
**1912 W.M. Steuart**  
**1913 Edward F. Colladay**  
**1916 L. A. Rogers**  
**1917 D.F. Hewett**  
**1918 W.S. Elliot**  
**1919 Clyde D. Garrett**  
**1920 Fred S. Lincoln**  
**1923 Harry S. Ridgely**  
**1924 Atwood M. Fisher**  
**1925 J. Francis Moore**  
**1928 Major John R. Wheeler**  
**1929 Arthur Adelman**  
**1931 Herman V. Schreiber**  
**1933 George E. Strong**  
**1935 Edwin S. Hege**  
**1938 Winthrop G. Batcheler\***  
**1938 Donald M. Carpenter**

**1940 Godfrey L. Munter**  
**1942 Herman V. Schreiber**  
**1943 Archibald M. McLachlen**  
**1944 J. Barrett Carter**  
**1945 Henry M. Fowler**  
**1947 Charles G. Lueck**  
**1948 Dean P. Kimball**  
**1951 John D. Fitzgerald**  
**1952 Donald M. Merryfield**  
**1953 William K. Norwood**  
**1955 F. Reed Dickerson**  
**1956 A. Lee Painter**  
**1957 Lee F. Dante**  
**1959 James A. Willey**  
**1961 Victor C. Swearingen**  
**1962 James G. Ellis**  
**1964 John A. Patterson, Jr.**  
**1965 Thomas D. Quinn**  
**1966 Byron Welch**  
**1967 William F. McIntosh**  
**1968 Joseph O'Neill**  
**1970 Charles N. Mason**  
**1972 John F. Healy**  
**1974 Robert D. Stiehler**  
**1976 James H. Molloy, Jr.**  
**1978 Donald W. Kief**  
**1979 George J. Haley**  
**1981 Karl F. Mautner**  
**1983 Gary P. Jani**  
**1985 Allen E. Beach**

**1987 Mark S. Whitty**  
**1989 Jeffrey B. Norman**  
**1991 Ursula McManus**  
**1992 Doris Ingram**  
**1994 Evelyn M. Wrin**  
**1996 Walter Beach**  
**1998 Susan Carr**  
**2000 Bob Wrin**  
**2002 Steve Zipp**  
**2004 Sarah Pokempner**  
**2006 Edward Hayes**  
**2008 Julia Ulstrup**  
**2010 Jonathan Lawlor**

\* Died in office