

## INTERVIEW WITH MARY WOOD



In another of our series of Retiree Interviews, I (SM) spoke with Mary Wood (MW), who retired from SDG&E in 1998. Mary worked in the Law Department from 1978 – 1980; was Manager, Land Department 1980 – 1983; and was appointed Assistant General Counsel in 1983 until she retired.

(SM) Tell us a little bit about what you have done since you retired.

(MW) The day after my retirement, my husband, Rob Wade, and I took off on a driving trip to locate places where he could ski powder snow. After examining Jackson Hole, Grand Targhee, and several resorts in Montana, he picked Grand Targhee. Targhee is in Wyoming, but to get there you go to Driggs, Idaho and then up the road into the Rockies. We have spent a month most winters in Driggs, Idaho, renting a condo there. Targhee is an old fashioned type ski resort, very family oriented, decent season pass prices, and Driggs is a nice former farming town, now more recreation oriented. As a point of reference, Driggs is on the west side of the

Rockies – Jackson Hole, Wyoming is on the east side of the Rockies.

I have also visited Virginia, North Carolina and Charleston, South Carolina and have been to the Czech Republic, Hungary, Ukraine, England, Scotland. We made several trips to British Columbia and Alberta, Canada, so Rob could make sure that Targhee was still the best powder snow resort. We took a most educational and informative Viking Cruise in Ukraine a couple of years before Russia annexed Crimea. In Scotland, went to the Inner Hebrides and Orkney Island. I recommend the latter, but would not do Ukraine at this time.

After retirement, I started taking watercolor painting classes. From time to time I have exhibited paintings in the San Diego Watercolor Society Member Shows. One regular size painting won Best in Show; one mini painting won Best in Show. I Also make jewelry and art cards. (When paintings don't turn out – which is quite often – I tear up the paintings and collage them into art cards.) I have been in several shows, but I am better at making "stuff" than selling "stuff"! I also volunteer as the Secretary of the San Diego Watercolor Society, putting some of my legalese into use.

I love to travel and visit art museums. I also read a lot, garden a little and I like to cook.

(SM) You are one busy person! What about family? Are the close enough to spend time together?

(MW) Rob and I are enjoying our time together. We have five granddaughters, and two of them live in San Diego. We've enjoyed all of the girls, but naturally have spent more time with the local girls. One of the local granddaughters was born in 1998 shortly before I retired and the other local granddaughter was born in 2001. So I have spent a lot of time babysitting and doing things with them. Yesterday took them shopping for back to school outfits!

(SM) Spending time with grandkids is such a gift and it sounds like you are making wonderful memories with them. Other than your ability to travel and spend time with family, what's the best thing about retirement for you?

(MW) Having time to enjoy the "business" of living and not being sleep deprived! Having time to be with and help family and friends. Having time to go to the gym regularly and take walks, without having to get up at 5 a.m. to get it done before work!

(SM) What's your "retirement philosophy?"

(MW) Create a vacuum and something will come to fill it. People worry about what they are going to do with their time after retirement. I have found that if time is available you will find all kinds of exciting things to do, places to go, and people to meet.

(SM) Good advice. What is your fondest memory about working at SDG&E?

(MW) The other employees with whom I worked. While I was at SDGE I got to work with talented, down to earth, quality people. Being at SDGE during the transition from a traditional utility to the unregulated market was very interesting, and the people I worked with who made it happen were great.

(SM) It really is all about the people, isn't it? What do you do now that you couldn't do while you were working?

(MW) Spend as much time as I like with family and friends, read as much as I like, and do my art work.

(SM) Just one last question, Mary. Is it true that it's harder to get on your schedule now that you've retired?

(MW) No, I don't have a complicated schedule. I like to look at my calendar and see that I have nothing scheduled for the day.

(SM) If you have an idea about a retiree who would be interesting to interview (including yourself), please email me at [samm@samm-mcdonald.com](mailto:samm@samm-mcdonald.com) or leave me a message at 858.229.9671.