

eral Employee of the Year 1992); Certificate of Appreciation, USDA Agriculture Research Service (1992); Tom Slick Fellow, Texas A&M University (1987-1988);

STATEMENT BY JOHN WALKER

SRM has been an important part of my life. In addition to SRM, I am active in the American Sheep Industry Association and Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers association. I am connected to the resource and production agriculture for which rangelands are the base. Being involved in the transformation of solar energy into food and fiber to sustainably feed and clothe people is what really excites me.

I also appreciate the diversity of SRM, which is somewhat unique and reflects the diversity of rangelands. According to a 2012 membership survey 46% of the membership was employed by a land management agency, 23% were academics, and 5% were in production agriculture.

Creating new programs (e.g., the new format for the 2020 Annual Meeting) is fun and exciting; funerals not so much. But as Max Planck wrote: “*Science advances one funeral at a time*”; and perhaps it is time for some funerals. SRM must consider how to best distribute scientific information. Peer reviewed journals are coming under scrutiny; as evidenced by the University of California dropping its annual subscription to Elsevier, the world’s largest publisher of academic journals, and publisher of *REM*. The 2012 SRM membership survey showed that less than half the members subscribed to *REM*, and 41% of *REM* subscribers did not read the journal.

Most of our members are users of science not creators. We need to ensure that we are supplying our members with useful science and a platform to debate the discrepancies between science and field experience. ❖❖

