

SOCORRO ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Dear Members,

The longer days, blustery winds, and flowing acequias of spring mean it's time for the Socorro Electric Cooperative (SEC) Annual Meeting. That's when SEC members take stock of their co-op, celebrate its progress, and consider new efforts for an even better future. This year's agenda under New Business includes District II proposed Bylaw amendments.

Like all rural electric co-ops, SEC depends on member participation, so please make plans to attend the meeting April 26 at Finley Gym. Registration starts at 1:00 pm and the meeting starts at 3:00 pm.

Some members have asked why the so-called District V amendments, a set of 31 proposals from 2012, won't be up for a vote to approve or reject them. The simple answer is that the amendments have not met the requirements of our by-laws for properly proposing amendments.

In proposing the amendments, members in District V did not follow co-op by-laws or other laws and regulations, including state statute, when they attempted to approve the proposed amendments at the 2013 annual meeting, or its continuation meeting. None of these meetings had a quorum during New Business, the minimum number of members present to allow official business to proceed. Quorum is a basic requirement for passing by-law amendment proposals. Now too much time has elapsed for the proposals to be considered at this year's Annual Meeting.

This failure to follow the by-laws means the general membership cannot vote on the proposals until the proposals have been properly initiated at a meeting with a quorum present, by the majority of the board of trustees, or by a member petition, or at a District Meeting.

However, the co-op remains committed to improving our by-laws in two fundamental areas: making the co-op more responsive to member needs and cleaning up internal inconsistencies in the by-laws themselves. Some of our by-laws contradict each other or state statute. An SEC Member By-laws Committee has gone ahead and reviewed the District V proposals and considered other by-laws changes, as well. Members will have an opportunity to consider and vote on the committee's recommendations at a future meeting.

The Member By-laws Committee is just one example of the progress and forward-thinking that characterizes our co-op today. In other areas, we have fully implemented previous by-law changes proposed by members in 2010. These include adding mail-in ballots for voting, instituting a third-party election administrator, voluntarily submitting to the state Open Meetings Act and Inspection of Public Records Act, and limiting the expenses of Board members. With the recent election, we also completed the transition to a smaller board representing newly defined districts.

One important issue receiving attention lately has been the City of Socorro's franchise agreement, gives right of way to SEC to provide power in the town. We plan to continue keeping the lights on in Socorro for many years to come.

The SEC has shown impressive commitment to continuous improvement, much of it driven by members just like you. Help the Board of Trustees keep your Electric Cooperative, yours. I hope to see you at the 2014 Annual Meeting.

Sincerely,

Anne Dorough, District V
President
Socorro Electric Cooperative, Inc.



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