

021113- Commentary "What didn't make the news"

The Socorro Electric Cooperation has always been a rarity among cooperatives in New Mexico and the nation. As Tom Cole exposed in an ABQ Journal in April, 2008, its trustees were among the highest paid in the United States even among cooperatives with a membership numbering many thousands more than the SEC. The trustees and management ignored laws and bylaws and kept members from knowing what was going on within the corporation. As the members learned of their rights and duties, things began to change. When the Board of Trustees sued the members/owners, a revolt at the ballot box happened. But now the alliance of old guard trustees, management and SEC lawyers are trying to do away with the rights that the members have gained and solidify power in their hands. Questions are rising about expenditures within the corporate and the lack of transparency, fair dealing and honesty. Attention must be paid especially as we approach the 2013 Annual Members' Meeting.

The January, 2013 meeting of the Board of Trustees raised several issues that should be noted. These are in Agenda order. (*See Note 1*)

1. During the ACTION ON THE MINUTES for the Jan. 2, 2013 Re-Organization Meeting, Trustee Wagner raised the issue of improper notice of the meeting which resulted in all actions taking during that meeting being invalid. The excuse given for the improper notice by Mrs. Latasa was that there was not enough time for proper notice due to the holidays. This excuse does not override the Open Meetings Act. The SEC is already in trouble for noncompliance with the OMA and this meeting when Board officers were elected will join the list of invalid meetings with their invalid actions.

2. ELECTION OF NMRECA AND TRI-STATE REPRESENTATIVES AND ALTERNATES: Trustees started to nominate and elect new delegates when they were stopped in their tracks by Trustee Dorrough citing of Policies which mandated those elections in March and April of the year. Trustee Wolberg said that he would continue as the NMRECA delegate and alternate delegate to Tri-State until the time for specified for those elections. Background on these positions: Tri-State is plum position which gives the delegate at least \$1,600 in per diem, travel and lodging expenses (with no receipts required) per month. This post should rotate as is the common practice but for many decades has been held by only two trustees. It is a money maker for the delegate and the post is highly campaigned for. There are 44 delegates to the Tri-State Board and the cost of course is borne by the consumers. (*See Note 2*) for the video of NMRECA discussion.

3. SET DATE AND TIME FOR 2013 ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING. The Commentary and film of this attempt to shutdown the member's meeting is on this website. (*See Note 3*)

4. MANAGER'S REPORT; 1. Expenditure Report: The question of why the SEC is spending a fortune on an outside accountant/consultant was raised by Trustee Wagner. Commentary and new total amount posted here along with film of Manager Herrera's explanation! Well worth reading and watching. (*See Note 4*)

5. MANAGER'S REPORT; 9. Other. The 2012 Member Satisfaction & ACSI (American Customer Satisfaction Index) Survey which was taken many months ago was finally released. (*See Note 5*)

On page 8, this analysis is presented: "Socorro Electric Cooperative's ACSI satisfaction and retention scores fall significantly below the utility sector benchmarks provided in this study. Socorro Electric Cooperative also trails the Cooperative Difference benchmark group and the country's best investor-owned electric utility (Entergy) by a statistically significant margin."


The "Comments" section at about page 33 is very interesting. The entire Survey is posted on Here (*See Note 5*)

6. Immediately following the report on the Survey, Trustee Dorrough moved to place on the Agenda for the next board meeting, a proposal to reconsider placing the defeated trustee amendments from 2012 on the agenda for 2013. February's meeting is shaping up to be very interesting. Mrs. Dorrough's motion is on the Cynic's film clip entitled "Reconsidering the Board proposals for the annual meeting." (See Note 6)

7. The next item is also a film clip on the Cynic entitled, "Trustee attempts to bring District 4 election irregularities under review." (See Note 7)

State law requires an election to be reviewed when the results are within a certain percentage. This election was within 3 votes and had many irregularities but this motion died for lack of a second.

NOTES:

1 - [January 23, 2013- Regular Meeting Agenda](http://www.informedcynic.com/documents.html)  on <http://www.informedcynic.com/documents.html>

2 - [January 23, 2013 - Election of NMRECA and Tri-State Reps.wma](http://www.informedcynic.com/2013-recordings.html) on <http://www.informedcynic.com/2013-recordings.html>

3 - [January 23, 2012 - Annual Meeting Date video.wma](http://www.informedcynic.com/2013-recordings.html) on <http://www.informedcynic.com/2013-recordings.html>

4 - Accountant-Consultant cost Commentary <http://www.informedcynic.com/SEC/sec-docs-jan-2013-dec-2013/020213-Acct-Consultant-Costs.pdf> and video <http://www.informedcynic.com/SEC/sec-recordings/2013-video/SEC%20012313/102312-BryceWilsonAcctCost.wmv>

5 - Survey web page: <http://www.informedcynic.com/2012-survey.html>

6 - "Reconsidering the Board proposals for the annual meeting." at <http://www.informedcynic.com/SEC/sec-recordings/2013-video/SEC%20012313/012313-ReconsiderBoardProposals.wmv>

7 - "Trustee attempts to bring District 4 election irregularities under review." At: <http://www.informedcynic.com/SEC/sec-recordings/2013-video/SEC%20012313/012313-Dist4ElectionProblems.wmv>