

When Charlie Wagner decided to run for the SEC Board of Trustee, it was because he had worked with electric cooperatives for many years and understood how they worked and the good that they historically did for coop members. He learned that the SEC did not operate for the benefit of its members and spend money recklessly driving rates up. He made these facts known to the members through a series of talks and power point presentations to members and civic organizations. Members put reforms into effect and created a more open cooperative where they could attend board of trustee meetings, limit the amount of money trustees could spend and their terms of service, vote by mail, have more equal voting districts, etc. This history is recorded and available at the www.informedcynic.com website. And some of it did indeed make history!

Board members sued the membership because of enacted bylaws that shifted power from trustees to the members, a first in United States cooperative history. They also set up a campaign of harassment against Charlie and leaders of the SEC Reform Group. Prevarication, threats, physical and verbal attacks were common. Trustees used members' money to drag reformers into court. More insidious actions were those of members who ran for trustee positions as reformers and then used their power to act for their own benefit instead of for the members. Things reached a crisis this year and Charlie decided to resign judging that he would be more effective using his knowledge and abilities off the board. The exact reasons are contained in the attachment entitled "Resignation." The other attachment is the board's press release. They plan to appoint a District 2 member to fill Charlie's seat but are asking for people to submit their names for appointment. It is time for others to carry the torch for the members.