

# Wagner steps down

by [John Larson](#) | September 3, 2015 | Filed under: [News](#)  
<http://www.dchieftain.com/2015/09/03/wagner-steps-down>

Charlie Wagner, District II trustee with Socorro Electric Cooperative, resigned his position Wednesday, Aug. 26 at the start of the regularly scheduled Board of Trustees meeting.



John Larson - El Defensor Chieftain: Charlie Wagner resigned from the co-op board of trustees.

He read from a prepared statement.

“This is notice of my resignation effective immediately from the Socorro Electric Cooperative.

I cannot continue to serve on a board that operates under Bylaws that reduce benefits of members and strip them of their rights, not serve under policies that divest individual trustees of equality, independent judgment and their right of dissent as well as free speech.

This board, since the latest sham election, is composed of the same trustees that sued the entire SEC membership, drove the cooperative to the brink of bankruptcy and spent a half a million dollars on themselves. My association with them is an impossibility.”

Wagner then walked out of the boardroom.

An executive session, which had been scheduled as the last item on the agenda listing as the topic to be discussion “Trustee conduct at meetings,” was disregarded.

Charlie Wagner was elected to the board as a trustee for District V in 2005, taking his seat on Jan. 3, 2006. He joined Jack Bruton as the second trustee in District V. At that time there were 11 trustees, six of whom represented District III.

Wagner spearheaded the self-titled “reform group” which was to become the driving force in the reduction of the 11 member board and subsequent re-districting.

In July 2013 the board censured Wagner for violating board policy, including breach of confidentiality, disloyalty, willful misconduct and working against the best interests of the membership. Although the censuring did not carry any legal weight, it was a strong judgment of disapproval by the body.

A year and nine months remain on Wagner’s current term and the vacancy can be filled in one of two ways, according to the bylaws.

One option is to allow the District II seat to remain vacant until the next annual meeting on April 16, 2016, at which time an election for that position can be held.

Elections for Districts I, IV and V are already set for that annual meeting when the terms of Leo Cordova (I), Dave Wade (IV) and Anne Dorrough (V) will expire.

All candidates will have to file within 30 days after official publication of the meeting date.

A second option allowed by the bylaws is for the board President to appoint someone to fulfill the remainder of Wagner's term which will end in 2017. That appointee would have to be approved by the affirmative vote of a majority of the remaining trustees.

According to a press release for the co-op, "Members who reside within District II boundaries who may be interested in filling the vacant position on the Board of Trustees should contact the SEC General Manager or the President of the Board of Trustees."

In either case, whoever replaces Wagner must be a member in good standing and live in District II.

A third option, though unlikely, is the elimination of the vacant seat by the affirmative vote of the remaining trustees, which would reduce the board to only six trustees.

The board will make a decision on which avenue to take at its next meeting Wednesday, Sept. 23, at 2 p.m.

In other business:

With the installation of the two new trustees, Dorrough completed committee assignments, naming Don Wolberg to the Finance Committee, joining Dave Wade and herself, with Leo Cordova as chair.

She assigned Leroy Anaya to the Ethics Committee, joining Melissa Amaro and herself with Dave Wade as chair.

Presumably, the committees to which Wagner was assigned will be filled by Wagner's replacement.