

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Wagner Retains SEC Board Slot

By John Larson

MAGDALENA – With 54 percent of the vote, Charlie Wagner retained his position on the Socorro Electric Cooperative Board of Trustees for District V.

The vote was split between three candidates with Godin Otero closest to defeating Wagner.

Quemado School Superintendent Bill Green served as chairman of the Saturday, Oct. 10, meeting, which lasted about one and a half hours.

In a statement during the business meeting, outgoing District III Trustee Juan Gonzales was allowed to make a statement in which he claimed that fellow board member Wagner was from Louisiana and doesn't understand how the co-op operates. He also said that he hopes incoming trustees will learn about how the board is supposed to function.

Seven resolutions were passed and will be considered at the general membership meeting in April in Socorro. District V trustee Jack Bruton offered a proposition cutting out contributions to anything but student scholarships.

Other propositions included two term limit for trustees; a reduction of trustees from 11 to five with appropriate redistricting; reducing the number of board meetings from two to one per month and allowing cooperative member-owners to address the board during the meeting without prior approval; allowing voting by mail; and requiring transparency of actions with open access to SEC books, records, audits, and membership lists to members, for a proper, non commercial purpose with the exception of those records which would violate the Privacy Act.

Green ended the meeting by reminding the audience that their participation in the annual meeting in April was vital to the democratic principles of a member owned electric cooperative.

District V Trustee voting:

Charlie Wagner - 125

Godin Otero - 100

Clark Bishop - 5