



ORIGINALLY THE MAGDALENA MOUNTAIN MAIL, THE NEWSPAPER WAS FOUNDED IN 1888, AND SERVES MAGDALENA, AND SOCORRO AND CATRON COUNTIES.

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THURSDAY, JULY 8, 2010

Co-op Files Suit Against Its Members

By John Severance

SOCORRO -- Dennis Francish, the co-op attorney, finally filed suit to test the validity of three by-law amendments that were passed by members at the annual meeting on April 17.

The suit was filed in the 13th Judicial District Court in the County of Valencia on July 6 in a letter received at the Mountain Mail late Wednesday.

The SEC is listed as the plaintiff. And the defendants are Charlene West, members of the Socorro Electric Cooperative, the Mountain Mail and the El Defensor Chieftain. The civil lawsuit was entered in court by the SEC, whose objective is to obtain the Court's declaratory judgment and injunctive relief invalidating and voiding certain by-law amendments.

The bylaw amendments required the SEC to:

1. Abide by the New Mexico Inspection of Public Records Act and the New Mexico Open Meetings Act;
2. Permit the press and the members to participate in and be present during regular

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and special Board of Trustee meetings.

3. Guarantee transparency of actions with open access to SEC books, records, audits to members for a proper non-commercial purpose except those which would violate the Privacy Acts.

Francish had gotten the go-ahead from the Board of Trustees two months ago to submit the paperwork to test the validity of the bylaw amendments in a court of law. "I think it's a shame that the co-op board is following this gentleman (Francish) who is quite obviously after nothing but a good paycheck and really cares nothing about anyone involved on either side of this issue," Mountain Mail publisher Gary Jaramillo said.

When reached Wednesday, West said, "unbelievable".

"They are out to persecute me. It is a witchhunt and they have made me the witch."



POSTED BY MOUNTAIN MAIL NEWSPAPER AT 10:06 AM 

3 COMMENTS:



Harry in Magdalena [July 8, 2010 at 1:09 PM](#)

What an unconscionable waste of member owned resources.

[Reply](#)



Chrysalis Consultants LLC [July 8, 2010 at 5:55 PM](#)

This Egregious act of Ignorance, perpetrated against the owners and members of this cooperative; by the Trustees and their legal council is a prime example of the "Disease of Darkness" that grips our Society.

(20)

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We agree with the prescription, written by Justice Lewis Brandeis for such diseases, "Sunshine is the Best Disinfectant".

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Anne July 9, 2010 at 8:21 AM

The bylaw changes passed at the public meeting do not seem unreasonable. Why should the Board of Trustees *not* abide by state laws?

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Grande Estates

AG Office: No OMA
Violations In Reserve

Sylvia's Autobiography
Marches Onward,
Upward

Fire Update At The Cibola
Forest

Quemado: Book Mobile,
Senior Center

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State, Desert

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BLM Socorro office

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Catron County

City of Socorro

Middle Rio Grande

Conservancy District

New Mexico Attorney General's
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New Mexico courts

New Mexico Department of
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New Mexico Environment
Department

New Mexico Legislature

New Mexico Public Education
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Socorro Electric Cooperative

Socorro Soil and Water
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Village of Magdalena

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Hammel Museum

Keep Socorro Beautiful

London Frontier Theatre
Company

Magdalena Ranger District
(Cibola National Forest)

Magdalena Ridge Observatory

New Mexico Activities
Association

New Mexico Cattle Growers
Association

New Mexico Foundation for
Open Government

New Mexico Tech Golf Course

NRAO Very Large Array

Save Our Bosque Task Force

SCOPE (Socorro County
Options, Prevention and
Education)

Sevilleta National Wildlife
Refuge

Socorro Animal Shelter

Socorro Civitan Club

Socorro Community Theater

Socorro County Extension
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