

November 27, 2010 Press Release -

Terry Last of the El Defensor Chieftain (<http://www.dchieftain.com/dc/>) is doing a masterful job of reporting on the activities of the board so I will direct you to his writings in the Wed., November 24 & Sat., November 27 issue.

<http://www.dchieftain.com/dc/index.php/news/2463-tripp-proposes-amending-act-for-mail-in-voting.html>

<http://www.dchieftain.com/dc/index.php/news/2459-search-narrowed-for-co-op-gm-job.html>

<http://www.dchieftain.com/dc/index.php/news/2463-tripp-proposes-amending-act-for-mail-in-voting.html>

HIRING OF NEW SEC MANAGER:

The lead article in November 27th "Chieftain" raises the issue of the hiring of a new General Manager for the co-op. Unfortunately the hiring procedure is being done in a disingenuous and secretive manner which shuts out not only the members but also the full board of trustees. A Search Committee consisting of Trustees Don Wolberg, Prescilla Mauldin, Luis Aguilar, and Leo Cordova was appointed by Board President Bustamante to advertise for a new manager and head accountant. This committee has now become the screening committee which has taken the 27 applicants and winnowed them down to 3 finalists. The full board has had no formal function in this process. When the committee reported their actions to the board, Trustee Wagner requested that the applications be made available to the full board and over the objections of committee members, the board voted to hold a special meeting to review the applications. As reported in the "Chieftain," this meeting has been canceled for confidentiality." This is nonsense; an action passed by the vote of the board cannot just be dismissed. The lawyer did not comment on the vote at the meeting. Why and when did he change his mind? The board has a responsibility to look at all candidates and review their qualifications, etc. Four committee members do not have the right to decide such an important matter by themselves. Furthermore, such action leads to further mistrust of the present board as it is not difficult to imagine that many of the board members also have seen the applications and voiced their opinion to the committee. Trustee Wagner is probably the only trustee out of the loop and this is by design as he is always left out of the private meetings of the board majority and is often refused information that he has a right to know. By refusing the full board access to the hiring of a new manager, they are shutting Wagner out of the process.

The trust of the members is being further damaged by such actions. The SEC needs a strong, knowledgeable manager to straighten out the working of the co-op; it does not need the taint of a questionable hiring procedure. Another potential problem is meeting the objective hiring standards of the EEOC. A four person committee making decisions reserved to the board sets the stage for another lawsuit against the SEC from rejected applicants.

REDISTRICTING:

Another Trustee Wolberg committee - Mr. Bustamante does love to have Wolberg out in front (remember that expensive "Informational Meeting) perhaps to show that a man that ran as a reformer can be subverted. Any redistricting must be done by an outside agency to be effective and trustworthy. No incumbent board committee can perform this function as the members have made their distrust clear. The excuse that Wolberg's plan of redistricting will save money is misleading as SEC staff have been working many hours on this plan. The question of accuracy and fairness must also be considered. Any redistricting plan developed by this board is suspect and will be voted down by the members.

VOTING BY MAIL:

Our State Representative Don Tripp is doing his job as our in presenting a revision to the state law that will result in clearing the way to vote by mail at the district level. Co-ops can already vote by mail in any other election if their bylaws permit. Only four co-ops hold elections at the district level. We need to back Rep. Tripp and attend the committee hearings of the legislature to get this law passed.

Also on this subject, those of you who attended the April 17, 2010 Annual Members Meeting probably noted that the Nov. 24th issue of the "Mountain Mail" missed the fact that the members overwhelmingly voted for voting by mail at that meeting. Trustee Wagner has been researching firms that conduct voting by mail throughout the country and passed out materials on how such voting is conducted, fraud eliminated, and cost cited as less than that of past co-op conducted meetings.

See <http://www.informedcynic.com/index.html> for documents related to the Nov. 22, 2010 Board Meeting:

- 11-22-10 Meeting Agenda
- Board President Recall Petition
- Draft of State Legislation for vote by mail
- Notice of Hearing SEC v. West, Members, Mountain Mail and El Defensor Cheiftain