

March 1, 2012 – press release on February 29, 2012 board meeting –

One of the more interesting moments of an SEC meeting is watching the faces of members who are attending a meeting for the first time. They cannot really believe what they are seeing and hearing. The trustees either consider the members to be fools or are so arrogant that they do not care what the members think of them. As prime example, is the issue of PROPOSED TRUSTEE AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS.

PROPOSED TRUSTEE AMENDMENTS TO THE BYLAWS; www.informedcynic.com has posted copies of these proposed amendments and a Commentary to explain them to the members. Do you remember Trustee Don Wolberg's "Informational Meeting" in March, 2010 which explained that the Proposed Member Amendments to the Bylaws were wrong, illegal, etc. This Commentary is in the same vein. The Cynic has also posted the video of the coop's new lawyer describing and making the case for the Trustee Amendments. Remember this lawyer does not represent the members; she represents the "corporation," i.e. the Board of Trustees and the Coop. This is a fact that you must keep in mind as you listen to and watch the video.

Basically these amendments would undo the Bylaws that the members presented and approved on April 17, 2010 in a packed house that had enough energy and determination to power a new coop. For example:

Members voted for a Board of 5 Trustees - Trustees want to add 2 Trustees elected on an At-Large basis with the elections to take place at the Annual Meeting in Socorro.

Members voted to put a cap on expenses of \$10,000 per Trustee and \$15,000 for President – Trustees want to remove cap.

Members voted to exclude adult and civic organizations from Donations (the intent was to only fund student scholarships but that is another story) -- Donations are back although with their propensity to act as a lobbying tool.

Members voted for "voting by mail" election administration by "a third party accounting firm" -- Trustees are not putting this into practice; election officials are being appointed by Trustees.

Voting by mail is a huge issue and a hoax thanks to the Board of Trustees. Trustee Wagner and a handful of members made the trip to Santa Fe last year to work with Rep. Don Tripp to get the state law prohibiting vote by mail changed. They were successful. BUT, the issue of having vote by mail count toward a quorum was left to the individual coops. Our SEC Board will not act to remove the sentence in our current bylaws that blocks the quorum and they have blocked the members' efforts to introduce such an amendment. Their actions constitute a hypocrisy and a hoax. Your vote by mail at present is an expensive and useless action. If the members in the far reaches vote by mail, they have lost their voice and the power shifts to the members in attendance at the Annual Meeting in Socorro.

The only way to overcome this is DO NOT VOTE BY MAIL; attend the Annual Meeting, April 14, 2012 where the members can offer an amendment to make voting by mail part of the quorum.

There are two proposed amendments that can be termed, "Get Charlie and anyone else that opposes us." The first is in Article V, Section 5b&c and calls for a Trustee to be removed by a vote of the Board, an action that the previous SEC lawyer has often told the Board is illegal. The second is Article XII and threatens anyone who would dare to bring a suit against the SEC.

These proposals must fail and a message sent to the present board. The members do not trust the present board and want a new board (of 5 members).

The other hot item from last night's meeting was the subject of redistricting. Research and Polling, a company which handles redistricting statewide for various entities, was hired by SEC to consult on a redistricting plan. They submitted two plans. Last night the Board voted to submit only one of the plans to the members for their vote. When a motion to submit both plans to the members was offered by Trustee Wagner, the vote tied and Pres. Bustamante sided with the trustees who wanted to pick the plan for consideration. And so they did. This plan will be posted on www.informedcynic.com along with the tapes from the discussion. It has several pluses. The first plus is that once we have the five districts determined, we can hold elections to fill the five seats and get rid of the present board. The five districts are basically equal. Research and Polling is a highly reputable company. It is the better plan of the two presented. We can move on with the principle of equal districts, equal representation firmly in place. And we can get a new board!

But don't vote by mail that is a wasted vote. Come to the Annual Meeting and make your vote count.