

Last night was a repeat of so many SEC meetings. Lots of bad behavior as usual. One member stood up to leave, informed the board, "Mr Wade, you are a disgrace" and walked out. Lots of "I don't care if that's the law, the board will disobey and pass a motion to do something else." Sometimes you have to feel some sympathy for the lawyers. And the not so unusual grand finale of restricting Trustee Wagner's rights and duties and calling the cops to expel him from the executive session.

1. Contributions and fair play: Mr. James Lucero, coach of the Belen Eagles, made a heartfelt presentation on behalf of his teams' need for funds. He was asking for a sponsorship of \$650 or whatever the Board could donate. The question of whether the Board could legally donate to a youth football team was directed to the lawyer for a ruling before next months' meeting. A bylaw passed by the members in 2010 limits restricts the SEC Board of Trustees from making contributions to adult or civic organizations. The original proposition on this issue, passed at the 2009 District 5 meeting, had a second sentence which is not included in the bylaws, i.e. "[Contributions may only be made to student scholarships.](#)" No one at the meeting raised the question of how many youth athletic teams exist within the SEC Service Area which could in fairness demand equal treatment and funding if Ms. Wiggins declares the donation to be legal, nor did they mention the issue of the looming specter of the SEC slipping back into "technical default" (one of the major reasons for the new rate increase) which could occur with raised expenses and reduced income. Also unacknowledged was the aspect of pork barreling.

2. The manager's report on Member Applications and Cancellations lists 24 new connects, 38 reconnects, and 147 disconnects. The troubling trend is for a large number of disconnects.

3. One of the three lawyers present at this meeting, Ms. Patty Williams of Wiggins, Williams, and Wiggins, presented her analyses on the New District Elections and Term Limits. In short everyone can finish out their terms which means that this fall elections will be held in Districts 1, 4, & 5. The four trustees that each have one year left of their terms will remain on the board. As District 3 will have 3 holdovers, there will not be an election in District 3. The District 3 and District 2, also with a holdover, elections will be held in fall of 2013. Mr. Anaya who wants all trustees to run this fall asked if the board could make a motion to that effect. Mrs. Wiggins told him that the board could do so but it not be a legal act and would subject the board to a lawsuit. Sound familiar?

Term limits restrictions are not retroactive; the clock started to tick when the bylaw was passed in 2010. Therefore all of the present trustees can run again and have two full terms if they win. The time is short before qualifying for this fall's elections. A candidate for the board must file a declaration of candidacy 30 days before the election date.

Mr. Wade chose October 6, 2012 for the District 4 election, Mr. Cordova chose October 13, 2012 for District 1 and Mr. Wagner (District 2) chose October 27, 2012 for District 5 as that district has no incumbent. Members who want to run in District 4 must declare on or before SEPTEMBER 6, District 1 - September 13th and District 5 - September 27th. No much time for such an important mission. It is past time for a new board. Start thinking and urging good people to run.

4. The Executive Session was returned to the end of the meeting and as usual, Charlie Wagner was denied his right as a Trustee to attend the meeting. He protested, the manager called the police and three City of Socorro policemen and their cars arrived. As Charlie had already left the meeting room, they conferred, Charlie requested a copy of the police complaint, and everybody went home.