

From December 29, 2012 Chieftain under “2012 Year in Review” heading

Electric co-op member-owners defeat amendments at meeting

Socorro Electric Cooperative district elections were held in October, bringing some order out of a confusing and chaotic process.



File photo: Close to 700 people overflow the New Mexico Tech Macey Center on April 14 for the Socorro Electric Cooperative’s annual membership meeting to discuss proposed new bylaws.

During the June trustee meeting, in light of some controversy over whether or not present members should be allowed to serve out their current elected terms, the meeting specifically noted state laws require Districts 1, 4 and 5 to hold elections in 2012. Co-op member-owners decided in 2010 that the board should be downsized to five members. The four trustees that have one year remaining on their elected terms are to finish out those terms, regardless of recent redistricting.

According to a presentation given at the June meeting by Patty Williams, of Williams, Wiggins and Williams Law Firm, “Case laws say that if a member of a board is elected, qualified to have run and won an election, they have the right to serve out their term.” As qualifications for trustee position changed, all existing members were given a technical clean slate in relation to their term limits. This means they will, regardless of past terms served, be allowed to serve two more four-year terms if elected.

The District 4 election took place Oct. 6, District 1 took place Oct. 13 and District 5 took place Oct. 27.

In the District 4 Socorro Electric Co-op election, held at San Antonio Elementary School, David Wade, trustee incumbent, won the trustee seat against opponent Gayl Dorr by three votes. After the votes were tallied, including 47 mail-in votes, Wade came in with 122 votes and Dorr received 119.

Longtime Socorro Electric Cooperative trustee Leo Cordova won the District 1 election held at La Promesa School cafeteria in Las Nutrias. Cordova received 118 total votes while his opponent, James Bockenstette, received 56.

In the Socorro Electric Cooperative District 5 election held at Datil Elementary School, Anna Dorrough won the trustee seat by defeating Buster Green by a margin of 12 votes, 60 to 48.

All three elected trustees were certified by the election officials and should take their seats on the board for the January meeting.