

2012 Annual Meeting Comments:

This was a meeting without an actual agenda, a proper chairperson, but with enough provocation to invoke much more than the actual protests that the members raised.

The agenda or "Schedule of Events" as it was termed in "Enchantment" magazine was the same as called for in the Bylaws and had no mention of speakers, presentations, etc. An actual agenda would have noted these "events" and been available to the members. The refusal of the chair to call a vote on the motion to amend the agenda was wrong and the chair was out of line in his refusal to do so. He would be out of line many more times.

The stealth appearance of speakers one of whom wisely declined to speak was an affront to the members who wanted to use the Annual Members Meeting to conduct pressing business of the members. It could be argued that a state official making a campaign speech to the members was not appropriate regards of party, etc. It did lend a humorous or ironic note to the proceedings to hear how this gentleman cleaned up fraud and corruption. Wonder if he knew anything about the SEC.

The presentation of scholarships to the school children has traditionally taken place at the individual schools but never in recent memory at the annual meeting. There was no disrespect intended toward the children but the long delay in getting to business was once again frustrating. Members were speculating that the trustees were going to try to pull the "present quorum" rule by making the meeting so long that people would be forced to leave, the quorum would disappear, and the meeting would shut down without any member business being conducted.

There will be no comment on the speech of the General Manager other than to note that it should have occurred during the agenda item, "Presentation and consideration of the reports of officers, trustees and committees." It is recommended that members watch the actual tape of the speech posted on www.informedcynic.com

The chair refused to allow Trustee Charlie Wagner to give his Trustee Report during the above cited section of the agenda. The chair also refused to allow Trustee Wagner to present a motion ruling that Trustees couldn't talk at a members' meeting. Thankfully a member adroitly stepped up to present the motion which achieved the result intended.

Future Meetings:

It should be clear that neither Trustee nor lawyer should preside over the Annual Members' Meeting. The best course of action would be to have a Parliamentarian take the chair. Many organizations including NRECA do this in order to attain a properly run meeting. There are many qualified people in the SEC service area that could perform this duty. A parliamentarian is also needed at Board of Trustee Meeting but that is another subject.

The meeting itself should have an actual agenda with a committee of members involved in setting the items. This agenda should be published in the local newspaper and posted on the SEC website. Speakers are not generally well received and should be spared the embarrassment. The school children should be honored at their schools among their peers. Voting can end one half hour before the start of the business which would allow adequate time to tally votes. There would be no need of "fillers." The member's business could be dealt with early and members allowed to speak their minds. Members making motions should have them well thought out with a written version for presentation to the secretary of the meeting.