

Co-op looks to replace Wagner

By John Larson El Defensor Chieftain staff writer

Socorro Electric Cooperative's Board of Trustees is still one trustee short.

With the resignation of Charlie Wagner in August, District II is left without representation on the Board.

According to SEC's bylaws, the board has three choices. It can leave the District II seat vacant until the District's next election in 2017, it can call for an election at the next annual meeting, or it can appoint by affirmative vote a new trustee to fulfill the remainder of Wagner's term which ends in Spring, 2017.

At the board's monthly meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 23, it gave itself a deadline to appoint a new District II trustee by November 1.

General Manager Joseph Herrera said three persons have already shown interest in the District II position, but that he would like to see more apply.

"I recommend that we take steps to make sure everyone in District II knows about the vacancy," Herrera said.

Herrera has prepared a flyer to mail to District II members announcing the vacancy. The board gave him approval to spend \$600 for printing and postage.

District II covers a general area from Alamo to Magdalena to Socorro, including small sections of Cibola and Valencia counties. Socorro neighborhoods west of Lopezville Road and Neel Street are also in District II, including Cottonwood Valley Charter School and the industrial park area.

A map of all five district boundaries is posted on the co-op's website.

According to the bylaws the board should have seven trustees.

Current trustees:

District I – Leo Cordova

District II – vacant

District III – Melissa Amaro, Don Wolberg, Leroy Anaya

District IV – Dave Wade

District V – Anne Dorough

Elections for Districts I, IV and V are already set for

the Apr. 16, 2016 annual meeting when the terms of Leo Cordova (I), Dave Wade (IV) and Anne Dorough (V) will expire.

According to Section 5.05 in the Co-op's bylaws, "a candidate for the office of Trustee shall file a declaration of candidacy...not later than 30 days after the Cooperative publishes its notification of the date and time of the Annual Member Meeting."

The official notification will be made on Monday, Jan. 4, 2016. Members will have 30 days from that date to file their candidacy for Districts I, IV and V.

No mention was made at the meeting of the City of Socorro's initiative to explore operating its own electric utility.