

Express-News: Business

Luby's shareholders lose fight

By Elizabeth Allen and Bill Day

Express-News Business Writers

Angry shareholders packed the room and spilled into the halls Friday at Luby's Inc.'s annual meeting, where a group of insurgents learned they'd lost their rancorous fight to win a seat on the troubled company's board.

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The Committee of Concerned Luby's Shareholders had campaigned to get three representatives on the board of the San Antonio-based cafeteria chain. They lost by more than two to one, with about 75 percent of shareholders voting, a preliminary tally showed.

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Though the dissident group lost its fight, it received an outpouring of moral support. More than 500 shareholders filled the meeting room at the Omni Hotel, taking every seat, standing four deep against the walls, crowding at the doors and straining to hear speakers. Organizers opened up another section of the banquet room for the overflow crowd.

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Shareholders also applauded critical questions and booed when some speakers were cut off.

California lawyer Les Greenberg, who led the dissident shareholders, hinted that his group won't go away. He said the shareholder group spent less than \$15,000 for their proxy fight, while Luby's spent more than \$200,000.

"So it's easy for us to come back," he said. "We'll just add one phrase: 'We told you so.'"

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