

Over the past two months, Black Warrior Electric has taken a number of steps to provide factual information to members about Black Warrior's upcoming Annual Meeting and board election.

These steps included mailouts to all Black Warrior members about how to qualify as a candidate for the three board seats up for election this year, and how to be eligible to vote for those board candidates. The Official Notice of the meeting and ballots were mailed to all members in good standing with instructions on when to return the ballots in order for them to be counted. Members can also bring their certification card or proper ID and vote in person at the Nov. 2 Annual Meeting.

Many efforts have been made to dispel some of the falsehoods and myths presented certain groups. These falsehoods include the claim that Black Warrior has a \$72 million surplus, that our rates are high and that we charge different rates for different residential members.

Misinformation is being circulated in some areas claiming that more than 2,000 members must be present at the Nov. 2 Annual Meeting in order to reach a quorum for the meeting to be official. They warn that the board of trustees will cancel the meeting if less than 2,000 attend.

That is false!

While a quorum is required for an Annual Meeting to be official, reaching a quorum doesn't require 2,000 people. Based on the record date this year, a quorum will be a little more than 700 and will be achieved by those who voted in person **AND BY MAIL**.

The new Bylaws adopted this year allows members from across our large service area to have a voice and vote on any items listed in the Official Notice of the Annual Meeting without being present. **Please note, however, that the only item of business to be voted on at this year's annual meeting is the election of trustees.**

Let's face it, getting more than 700 people to a meeting is a tall order. Not being able to hold an official Annual Meeting hurts Black Warrior Electric, members and the board of trustees. That is why YOUR Board has adopted mail balloting for trustees and any other issues that might be placed on the Official Notice in future years.

If you haven't already, send in your ballot by the Oct. 30 deadline. That way, you get a say in who sits on your board of trustees AND you ensure there is a quorum for the Annual Meeting.

You are Black Warrior Electric. Exercise your right to vote!