



JOSH P. CROTZER

NEC employees will be on hand to assist members with registration and voting during the drive-thru event on Wednesday, April 1, from noon to 7 p.m.

# Official Notice of the 2026 Annual Meeting

**THE 86TH ANNUAL MEETING** of Newberry Electric Cooperative will be held at Mid-Carolina High School under the outside tent on Wednesday, April 1, beginning at 7 p.m. Drive-thru registration and voting will begin at noon and end at 7 p.m., when the meeting starts.

Pursuant to bylaw provisions, the following candidates were nominated for the election to the Board of Trustees by the Nominating Committee and/or by petition:

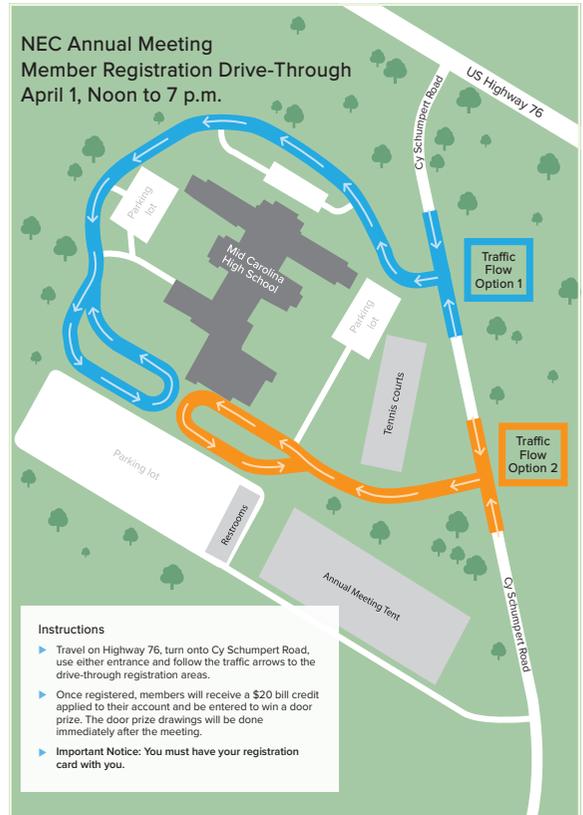
- ▶ **DISTRICT 1 M. Blake Brigman**
- ▶ **DISTRICT 2 Barbara C. Bishop**
- ▶ **DISTRICT 3 Melanie Bedenbaugh Hawkins**

All nominees were qualified by the Credentials and Election Committee before being placed on the ballot for the trustee election.

The order of business will be as follows:

- |                                      |                                 |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ▶ Call to order                      | ▶ Reading of Unapproved Minutes |
| ▶ Invocation                         | ▶ President and CEO's Report    |
| ▶ Welcome                            | ▶ Old or Unfinished Business    |
| ▶ Report of the Nominating Committee | ▶ New business                  |
| ▶ Reading of Notice of Meeting       | ▶ Declaration of Winners        |
|                                      | ▶ Adjournment                   |

**JOHN WAYNE NICHOLS**  
Secretary



## Know where to go

For directions to Mid-Carolina High School, see the Annual Meeting Member Registration traffic map on 12B.

The map also shows the planned traffic flow for drive-thru registration and voting on April 1 from noon to 7 p.m. Members will be able to drive up, register and vote, without leaving their vehicles.

**You must bring your registration card with you.**

## NEWBERRY EXTRA

### More Annual Meeting info

**SEE THE SPECIAL SECTION** on pages 12A–D for biographies of incumbents, the district map and a traffic flow map for drive-thru registration and voting. NEC financials will be available upon request when the 2025 audit is complete.

# You're invited!

**Newberry Electric Cooperative  
86th Annual Meeting  
Wednesday, April 1  
Mid-Carolina High School**

Drive-thru only registration and voting from noon until 7 p.m.

**REGISTRATION GIFT** Every member who registers and votes on April 1 will receive a \$20 bill credit. Members will not receive anything as they go through the line; the \$20 bill credit will automatically be credited to their account

**DOOR PRIZES** Two grand prizes of a \$500 electric bill credit, five \$100 electric bill credits, as well as many other great door prizes will be given away.

**You must be present and have registered and voted to be eligible for door prizes. Door prize drawings will take place immediately after the meeting adjourns.**

**TOWN HALL** NEC President & CEO G. Keith Avery will hold a town hall meeting at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, April 1, under the tent. Members should feel free to bring any questions or concerns about the cooperative and have them addressed.

**TUNE IN!**  
WKDK will broadcast the Annual Meeting live on April 1, beginning at 7 p.m.




The Joseph Grayson Band will provide entertainment beginning at 5:30 p.m. The band plays a mix of gospel, country, blues and more.

## You must have your registration card

**REGISTRATION CARDS** for the 2026 Annual Meeting will reach members around the first week in March. If you do not receive a card in the mail, please come by the co-op before the meeting, or call (803) 276-1121 and we'll provide a card for you.

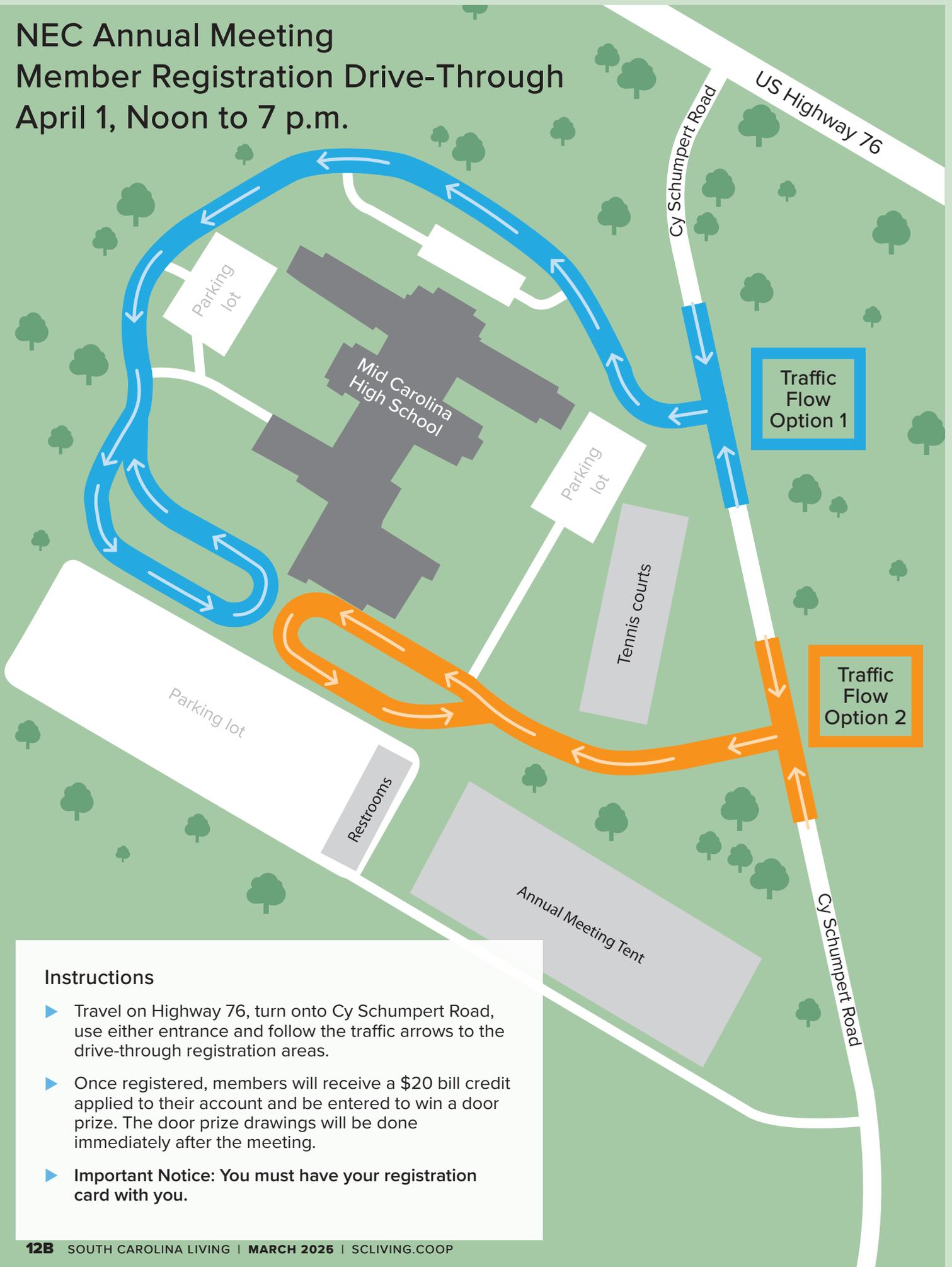
You **MUST** bring your card to the drive-thru, register and vote, to receive the \$20 bill credit and be eligible for door prizes. Anyone without a card will need to have one made for you, which will delay the registration and voting process.

As a reminder, we will tear off the right side of the registration card that says "Prize Stub" and put it in a container for door prize drawings after the annual meeting. You must be present and have registered and voted to win.



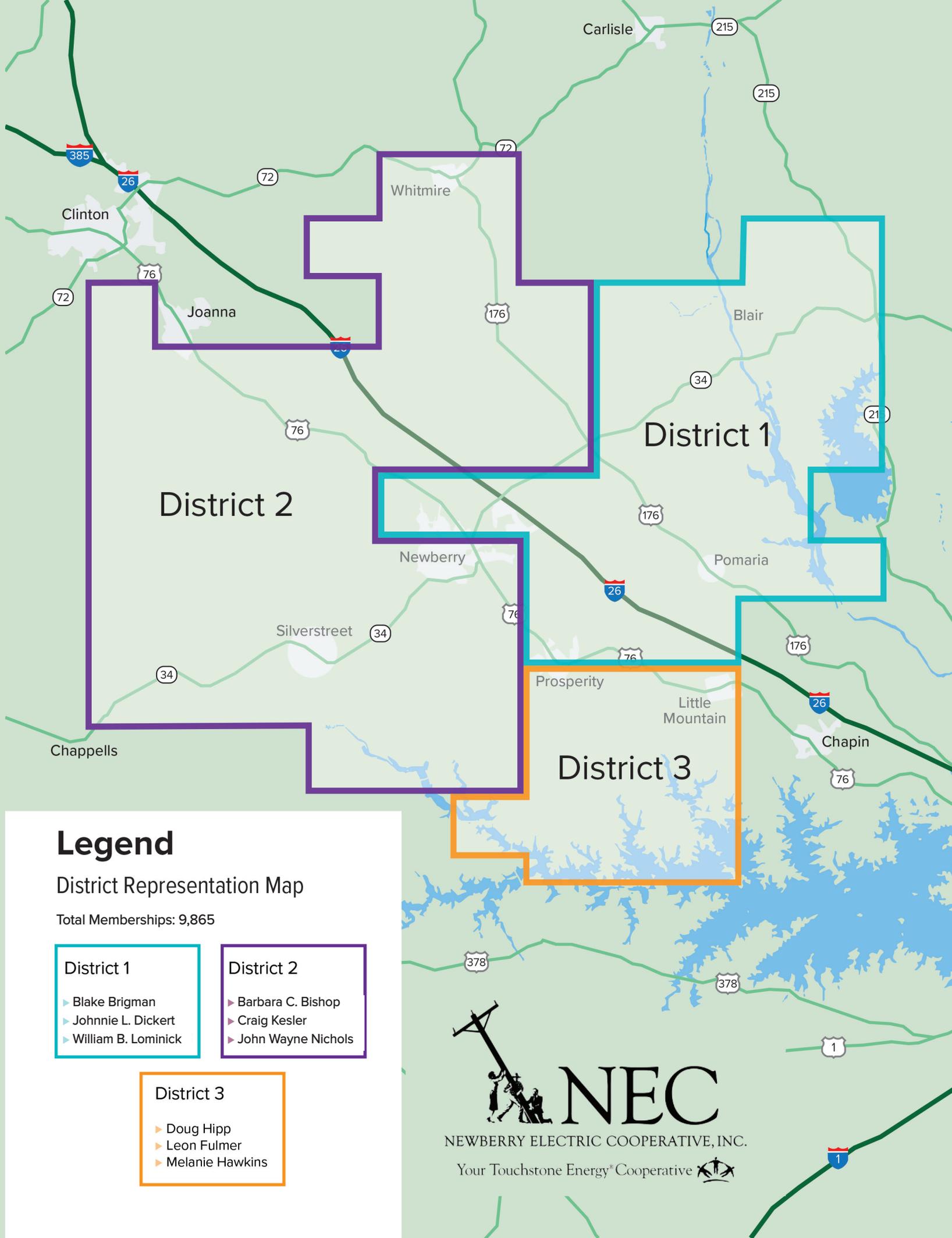
**Hannah Coker, operational support technician, reminds members that \$20 will be credited to your account when you register and vote.**

# NEC Annual Meeting Member Registration Drive-Through April 1, Noon to 7 p.m.



## Instructions

- ▶ Travel on Highway 76, turn onto Cy Schumpert Road, use either entrance and follow the traffic arrows to the drive-through registration areas.
- ▶ Once registered, members will receive a \$20 bill credit applied to their account and be entered to win a door prize. The door prize drawings will be done immediately after the meeting.
- ▶ **Important Notice: You must have your registration card with you.**



# Legend

## District Representation Map

Total Memberships: 9,865

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>District 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Blake Brigman</li> <li>▶ Johnnie L. Dickert</li> <li>▶ William B. Lominick</li> </ul> | <p><b>District 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Barbara C. Bishop</li> <li>▶ Craig Kesler</li> <li>▶ John Wayne Nichols</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>District 3</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Doug Hipp</li> <li>▶ Leon Fulmer</li> <li>▶ Melanie Hawkins</li> </ul>                |  |



# NEC

NEWBERRY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## Meet the candidates

**MEET YOUR BOARD** of trustees and learn more about your co-ops' progress at the 2026 Annual Meeting, 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 1 at Mid-Carolina High School.

In advance of the meeting, Newberry Electric Cooperative shares biographies of the board incumbents.

District 1 incumbent M. Blake Brigman, District 2 incumbent Barbara C. Bishop and District 3 incumbent Melanie Bedenbaugh Hawkins are running unopposed in this year's Board of Trustees elections. Below are biographies of each incumbent.



**M. Blake Brigman** District 1 incumbent

Mr. Brigman and his wife, Jennifer, reside on Bachman Chapel Road in Prosperity. They have two sons. They are members of Crosspoint Church.

Mr. Brigman is employed as President of Tom Brigman Contractors, Inc. He is a 1995 graduate of Clemson University, with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Construction Management.

Mr. Brigman has obtained the Board Leadership Certificate, Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate, and achieved Gold Director Accreditation from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) and serves District 1.



**Barbara C. Bishop** District 2 incumbent

Mrs. Bishop and her husband, Jason, reside on Beaver Dam Creek Road in Newberry. They have two children and a grandson. She is a member of Smyrna Presbyterian Church.

Mrs. Bishop works at Linda Renwick Realty as an office manager. She has previously served on the SC Bankers Association Bank Security Committee, the Carolinas Economic Crime Investigators Group and the Newberry County Chamber of Commerce Board.

Mrs. Bishop has obtained the Board Leadership Certificate and Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) and serves District 2.



**Melanie Bedenbaugh Hawkins** District 3 incumbent

Mrs. Hawkins and her husband, Patrick, reside on Bethel Church Road in Newberry. They have two children. They are members of Macedonia Lutheran Church.

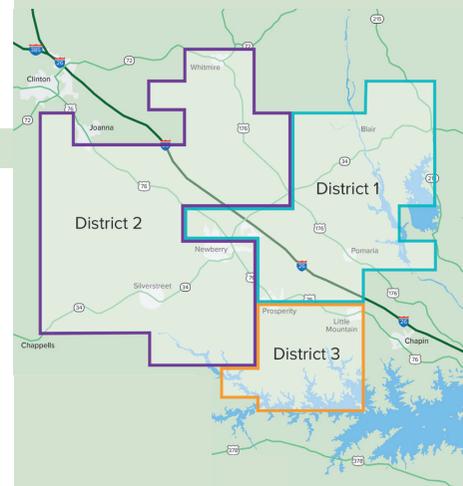
Mrs. Hawkins has a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education from Winthrop University and a Master's Degree in Elementary Education from Lander University. She works at Holy Trinity Preschool.

Mrs. Hawkins retired from Newberry County schools in August 2025. She is a member of Alpha Delta Kappa Educational society and serves on the Newberry County Library system board.

Mrs. Hawkins has obtained the Board Leadership Certificate, Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate, and achieved Gold Director Accreditation from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) and serves District 3.

### REMINDER!

Members who are unable to attend the Annual Meeting on April 1 are encouraged to tune in to WKDK 1240 AM or 101.7 FM and listen to a live broadcast of the meeting.



### Holiday hours

In observance of the Easter holiday, Newberry Electric Cooperative will be closed on Friday, April 3. To report a power outage or other electrical problems, please call (803) 276-1121, visit our website at nec.coop or download our free Newberry Connect App. Emergency crews will be on standby.

