

Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives
serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

Bedford REC

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Website: www.bedfordrec.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Attorney

John J. Dirienzo Jr.

Office Hours

Monday through Friday
7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

From the General Manager



You get the credit

By Brooks Shoemaker

BEDFORD Rural Electric Cooperative is not like other utilities. As a cooperative member, you are not just a customer. Instead, you are a member and an owner of the cooperative.

We operate the cooperative on a nonprofit basis, and one benefit of that membership involves the allocation of net income or margins at the end of each year as patronage capital credits. They are proportionally allocated (based on your kilowatt-hour use for the particular year) to all members who received service during the year.

Once capital credits are allocated, they are held by the cooperative as equity and used as a resource to rebuild aging infrastructure, increase capacity, maintain reliability, and to operate the cooperative. This helps keep your rates low and your service reliable. Those monies are then returned or retired (paid out) at the board of directors' discretion at some point in the future. A capital credits retirement is based on a number of factors, most importantly, the cooperative's overall financial condition.

In December, the co-op returned \$1.6 million in capital credits to current and former members. Some received a credit on their bill, while others who have moved off our system received a capital credits check. This is the third consecutive year the retirement has exceeded \$1.5 million. We have returned capital credits annually for the past 36 years, totaling over

\$16.6 million. Retiring capital credits is just one more way Bedford Rural Electric is looking out for you!

Rate change

For the first time since January 2009, we are increasing our rates. The change takes effect on Jan. 1, 2017, and it will be reflected on the bill you receive in early February. The only component of our rates that will change is our Base Charge. It will increase \$2 per month. For the majority of our members, it will mean an increase from \$24 to \$26, or \$35 to \$37. For the average residential member who uses 1,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh) per month, the bill will increase from \$117.60 to \$119.60, a 1.7 percent increase.

For an additional 6.5 cents per day, you are assured your expectations for continuous power and outstanding service continue to be met, and hopefully exceeded. The Base Charge component of the bill represents your share of what it costs us to maintain the basic distribution system, including trucks, poles, wire, transformers, and labor needed to build and maintain the electric distribution system, but there's even more. Keeping pace with increased system investments helps improve both capacity and reliability; implementing new technologies to provide increased reliability and operational efficiencies such as our outage management system, advanced metering infrastructure (AMI), tree trimming

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Foor women win numerous farm show ribbons

By Linda Williams

PAM FOOR, an avid cook and baker, had never really thought about entering a competition.

At the Bedford County Fair approximately 25 years ago, her husband, Tony, was checking out the baked goods and commented to Pam, “Your peach pie could beat any one of these.”

The next year, she gave it a try and won first place in the peach pie division.

In order to enter the Pennsylvania Farm Show baking competition, cooks must win first place at a local fair. With her first blue ribbon in hand, Pam entered several items at the state show and came home that first year with a nice array of ribbons and a bigger bank account.

Local and county fairs pay cash prizes, but the Pennsylvania Farm Show shells out much bigger cash prizes. A first place in some divisions can earn \$500.

The money doesn’t come easy. There



FAVORITES: Pam Foor shows off some of her favorite things: collectibles and a cookbook.

daughters, Courtney, 29; Alexis, 24, and Maddie, 20, involved in fair competitions.

“They say I dragged them into it,” Pam says with a laugh.

Courtney is now married and on her own, but Alexis and Maddie will both be on hand to enter this year’s Pennsylvania Farm Show baking competitions.

Last year, Alexis took a first place in

JUST A TASTE: Pam Foor and daughter, Alexis, show off a lemon angel food cake, one of the divisions they often enter in cooking competitions.

the Golden Barrel Molasses sticky bun division with a bacon-flavored recipe she originated.

All recipes for the Pennsylvania Farm Show baking competition must be original. It is permissible to use an existing recipe, but at least three ingredients must be changed.

The Foor women get their ideas from reading through thousands of cookbooks contained in Pam’s collection.

“We usually put two or three recipes together,” she explains.

Rules require that winning bakers must share their recipes.

“We have to say how much flour we use, but we do not have to say which brand,” Pam says. “And brands do make a difference in the texture and taste of baked goods.”

Pam has won first place in nearly every baking division of the Pennsylvania Farm Show with the exception of the chocolate cake category, and she hasn’t given up on succeeding in that one.

Maddie took first place in the snickerdoodle competition by adding a different flavor.

“You can’t do what has always been done and win top prize,” Pam adds.

Pam has also entered other competitions, including the Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers baking contest, where she entered a chocolate beet cake. It took first place. She also won the Taste of Home baking competition at Bedford High School.



TOP BAKERS: The Foors are featured in newspaper articles about outstanding Pennsylvania Farm Show bakers.



WINNING: Pam Foor displays a few of her ribbons.

To date, she and her daughters have won about 2,000 best of show, first- and second-place ribbons.

A collector, Pam enjoys buying and reselling antiques and collectibles and has a booth at Founder’s Crossing.

She plants a garden and has a few

fruit trees. She also enters jellies and jams made from elderberry, peach, apple and mixed berries in competitions.

Occasionally, she enters craft competitions at the Pennsylvania Farm Show. 🌻

From the General Manager

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and ash tree removal to help prevent outages; and finally, liability insurance, interest, taxes, and emergency storm restoration funds are also included in the Base Charge. All of these costs exist whether or not a single kWh of electricity is used. In essence, it is the basic minimum cost of having a meter on the side of your home or garage, regardless if you use any kWhs.

Interesting tidbit

Members often use electric space heaters to heat a single room or supplement the heat in a room. Did you know that a 1,500-watt heater, running continuously, costs about 17.64 cents per hour to operate? That's \$1.41 for an 8-hour period and \$4.23 for a 24-hour period. One running continuously (24 hours a day for 30 days) for an entire month would add \$127 to your bill.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

The average household owns 24 consumer electronics products (TVs, cellphones, computers, video games, etc.), which are responsible for 12 percent of household electricity use. Consider switching to Energy Star-certified equipment, which can be up to 50 percent more efficient than conventional models. 

NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative will be awarding four scholarships of \$1,000 each to non-traditional students whose primary residence is served by Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative.

For an application, go to our website at www.bedfordrec.com and click on **scholarship information**. Applications are also available at the office.

All applications and required information must be received no later than Feb. 1, 2017.

**Mail application to:
Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative
P. O. Box 335
Bedford, PA 15522**

Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc. Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.
Brooks R. Shoemaker
General Manager

TROUBLE CALL SCHEDULE

In case of trouble...

- 1** Check your fuses or circuit breakers.
- 2** Check with your neighbors, if convenient, to see if they have been affected by the power failure.
- 3** Call the 24-hour number, 623-7568, OR call 800-808-2732* during office hours.

**(Please help us save money - only use this number if toll charges apply.)*

Please give the person receiving the call your name as it appears on your bill, your telephone number and your map number if known. Any specific information about the outage will also be helpful in pinpointing the problem.

Alternate numbers ...

Dennis Tursich 623-0922 (Week of December 26)
Scott Shook 623-2395 (Week of January 2)
Ed Hankinson 623-7568 (Week of January 9)
Scott Bischof 839-4640 (Week of January 16)
Adam Claycomb 635-3376 (Week of January 23)

In case you cannot reach any of the above, call:

Jim Seymour 839-2848 (New Paris)
Jim Wood 623-6121 (Bedford)
James Clark 652-9791 (Everett)
Mark Rowan 623-7890 (Bedford)

During widespread power outages, many members are calling to report power failures. You may receive a busy signal, or in certain cases your call may go unanswered. This occurs in after-hours outages when the office is not fully staffed. Please be patient, and try again in a few minutes.