

Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives
serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

Bedford REC

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Bedford, PA 15522

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Website: www.bedfordrec.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President &

Allegheny Director

C. Robert Koontz

Colerain, Snake Spring and
South Woodbury Twps.

Vice President & PREA Director

Donald Hoenstine

Kimmel and King Twps.

Secretary

Ronald W. Wilkins

Napier and Harrison Twps.,
New Paris, Manns Choice and
Schellsburg Boroughs

Treasurer

Reuben R. Lafferty

Juanita Twp., Bedford County, and
Allegheny Twp., New Baltimore Borough,
Somerset County

Assistant Secretary

Earl W. Garland

East Providence Twp., Bedford County,
and Brush Creek Twp., Fulton County

Assistant Treasurer

Paul L. Rummel Jr.

Bedford and Cumberland Valley Twps.

William Howard Atkinson

Monroe and West Providence Twps.,
Everett Borough

John A. Oldham

East St. Clair Twp., Bedford County
Dale Sprigg II

West St. Clair, Pavia, and Lincoln Twps.,
Pleasantville Borough

Attorney

James R. Cascio

Office Hours

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

From the General Manager



Cooperative's 78th annual meeting

By Brooks Shoemaker

THE COOPERATIVE'S 78th annual meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 12, 2017, at the Crossroads Bible Church, which is located 2.5 miles north of the Bedford Turnpike Interchange on Business Route 220 near Cessna. Registration starts at 12:30 p.m., and the meeting begins at 1:30 p.m.

During the registration hour, attendees may take advantage of free blood pressure screening. Light refreshments will be served, and every registered member will receive a gift. Be sure to visit the display area, which will be devoted to new trends in the electric business.

"Take Two," a variety duo from Hancock, Md., will provide the entertainment. Russ and Donna Miller are the instrumentalists and vocalists who have been entertaining crowds across the mid-Atlantic region for over 30 years, featuring upbeat country, patriotic, Christian and many other types of music. Their performance includes a wide variety of instruments.

Each year, the annual meeting is the defining moment for all cooperatives across the United States. Why? Because it presents the opportunity for voting members to democratically control the future of their cooperative. Each member, young or old, large or small user of electricity, has an equal voice by voting for their member-representatives, the board of directors.

What better way of mapping the future of the organization than by helping to decide who sits on the nine-member board of directors?

Directors are elected for three-year terms, with three of the nine seats up for election each year. Despite the Nominating Committee's best efforts, a *Penn Lines* article and a billing insert, all aimed at attracting interested candidates, only four members were interested in being on the ballot. This year, we did receive two petitions from members requesting they be added to the ballot. However, one subsequently withdrew. The following pages contain the profiles of the five remaining candidates. As always, additional nominations may be made from the floor during the meeting.

Mark your calendars now and plan to join us on April 12. The official notice of the meeting will be mailed to you in late March. To simplify registration, please tear off the bottom section of the notice and bring it with you to the meeting. Remember, every vote counts!

Cooperative changes

Recently, Bedford Rural Electric said goodbye to longtime employee Jim Wood, our operations manager. Although we always hate to lose valuable, experienced employees, we are
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Director Nominees

The following are profiles of cooperative members nominated for the three seats up for election this year on the Bedford REC Board of Directors. Elections will be held at the Bedford REC Annual Meeting, set for April 12, 2017, at Crossroads Bible Church, Bedford, Pa.



DISTRICT 1: REUBEN R. LAFFERTY

Reuben R. Lafferty currently represents District 1 and serves as treasurer on the Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative Board of Directors. A graduate of Hyndman High School, he served for six years in the United States Marine Corps and 17 years in the United States Army Reserve. He retired from Bedford Farm Bureau as a deliveryman.

Lafferty and his wife, Barbara, reside at 130 Minnesota Road, Manns Choice. They have four children: Ruby, Donnie, Shannen and David. He is a member of Bedford Masonic Blue Lodge No. 320 F&AM, Harrisburg Consistory, Bedford County Detachment Marine Corps League and Fleet Reserve Association. He enjoys hunting, fishing and metal detecting in his spare time.

Candidate's Comments: *"As director of District 1, I will continue to work to ensure reliable service to the members of the cooperative."*



DISTRICT 5: JOHN A. OLDHAM

John A. Oldham was appointed to the Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative Board of Directors at the June 2016 meeting to complete the unexpired term of Owen Miller. Oldham retired from New Enterprise Stone and Lime after 20 years of service and was also a township supervisor for 20 years.

He attends the Chestnut Ridge Independent Fellowship Church, and resides on Adams Run Road, New Paris, with his wife, Dorothy. They are the parents of six children: Karen, Bonnie, Cindy, Daniel, Susie and Bobbie Jo.

He previously served on the cooperative board from 1981 through 1984.

Candidate's Comments: *"I am eager to serve my community. As a 56-year member of the cooperative, I also want to help keep rates low and affordable."*





DISTRICT 6: PAUL RUMMEL JR.

Paul Rummel Jr. currently represents District 6. Paul is a 1982 graduate of the Everett Christian Academy and spent four years in the United States Air Force.

For the last 12 years, he has worked at Shawnee Vinyl, where he is currently the general manager. He is a member of the ACTS Community Church and also serves on the leadership council. He enjoys metal detecting, wood carving, hunting and fishing.

Paul resides at 1365 Dogwood Road, Bedford. He has three children: Selena, Michaela and Nicholas.

Candidate's Comments: *"It is a privilege to serve the cooperative members alongside a team providing electricity to the community. My desire is for all the members to have reliable electricity at reasonable cost, and for our team be able to perform their duties with the equipment they need for a safe work environment."*



DISTRICT 6: J. ROY BENCE

J. Roy Bence, a cooperative member for 50 years, is a director candidate in District 6. He owns and operates Bence Farm Equipment and a family farm. For the past 20 years, he has served as a director for the Bedford Area School Board and the Bedford County Technical Center.

A 1953 graduate of Bedford High School, Bence, a recent widower, resides at 116 Willow Brook Lane, Bedford. He has three children: David, Sharon (Herline) and Donna (Gibbs). Affiliated with the Chestnut Ridge Independent Fellowship Church, Bence has held numerous positions on church boards and has been an adult Sunday School teacher for many years. In his free moments, he enjoys hunting, fishing and spending time with his family.

Candidate's Comments: *"Electricity is one of our most-used and least-appreciated conveniences. We have come a long way with the use of it, yet it is one of today's cheapest conveniences. It has many uses in our world of technology, and I'm interested in new areas to explore."*



DISTRICT 6: EARL H. "SKIP" ROTHFUSS

Earl H. "Skip" Rothfuss, director nominee for District 6, is a retired civil and environmental engineer from Baker Engineers. A graduate of Penn Hills High School, he earned a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in civil engineering from Carnegie Mellon University in 1969.

Rothfuss and his wife, Margaret, reside at 174 Flintlock Road, Bedford. He has one stepson, James.

Earl is active with the Bedford Food Pantry, having served as the project manager for the design and construction of the pantry warehouse in Bedford Township. He is a past president of the Bedford Pantry and currently serves as the secretary. He is a member of the Bedford Lions Club, where he is the recording secretary.

His hobbies include American history, especially the Civil War, and traveling the United States, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Candidate's Comments: *"Like the national parks, the rural electric cooperatives are one of the America's better ideas. Over the past 80 years, the RECs have made a huge positive difference in the lives of people in their service territories. Everybody who lives in rural America — farmers, families, retirees, work-at-home professionals and small businesses — depends on the REC's ability to deliver stable, reliable electric power at reasonable costs. As more and more electrical and electronic devices come into daily use at work and home, that need for stable and reliable power keeps growing in our society. The demands on RECs in general and on Bedford REC specifically keep growing. I hope to contribute to the work of our local REC by supporting the staff and management in responding to these needs in an effective, safe, and efficient manner."*

BE PREPARED BEFORE A STORM STRIKES

In the event of a power outage, be prepared by keeping the following items in an easy-to-find emergency supply kit.

■ WATER

Three-day supply, one gallon per person per day.

■ TOOLS

Flashlight, extra batteries, manual can opener, battery-powered or hand-crank radio, NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert.

■ FIRST AID KIT AND PRESCRIPTIONS

First aid supplies, hand sanitizer and at least one week's supply of prescriptions and medications for the family.

Learn more at www.ready.gov



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

Source: American Red Cross, Federal Emergency Management Agency

From the General Manager

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excited for them as they begin a new chapter in their lives.

Jim joined the cooperative as a lineman in 1985, after spending several years working for an investor-owned utility in Baltimore. He progressed through our ranks, and became the operations manager in 2003. He was a steady influence through many changes as we computerized our operations and automated many of our procedures. Jim left an indelible mark on the cooperative and we wish him many years of health and happiness while enjoying life's new adventures!

Jim Seymour has assumed the role of operations manager. He is a 29-year cooperative veteran who began his career here in 1988 as a lineman. In recent years, he has filled the role of staking engineer, working with members designing new electric facilities. Jim is also well known as the former owner of Almac's Market (now the Chestnut Ridge Market). ☀

OFFICE CLOSING

Bedford REC's office will be closed Friday, April 14, 2017, in observance of Good Friday.

The office will also close at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 12, 2017, for our annual meeting.

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 ...

Richard Mills..... 623-7568 (Week of February 27)
Dennis Tursich 623-0922 (Week of March 6)
Scott Shook 623-7568 (Week of March 13)
Ed Hankinson..... 623-7568 (Week of March 20)
Scott Bischof 839-4640 (Week of March 27)

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

Jim Seymour..... 839-2848 (New Paris)
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.