

Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

Bedford REC

P.O. Box 335
Bedford, PA 15522
814-623-5101

Email: support@bedfordrec.com
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



Be prepared to vote on every Election Day

By Brooks Shoemaker

THE 2016 elections are long past, but Bedford Rural Electric remains engaged in a national get-out-and-vote campaign called Co-ops Vote. While the next presidential election isn't until 2020, countless state and local elections are scheduled between now and then that will have a major impact on life in our local, rural American communities. We invite you to join us.

Co-ops Vote is a nonpartisan effort designed to encourage co-op members to vote and support their co-ops and rural America at the polls. The program does not endorse candidates for election. Instead, its goal is to reverse a troubling trend — the 18 percent decline in rural voters between the 2008 and 2012 elections. This was twice the voter drop-off seen nationally.

More than 700 electric co-ops in 47 states responded by joining the Co-ops Vote program to increase voter engagement in the communities they serve. It was a tremendous success in 2016 because rural voter turnout increased by more than a half-million Americans. Together, we grew our political

influence and encouraged lawmakers to pay more attention to the issues affecting rural Americans.

We need to maintain this momentum and ensure that the Co-ops Vote program continues to thrive. There are more than 1,000 local and state elections being held this fall across the country. Unfortunately, these critical elections are often ignored by the majority of voters. Many people see these “smaller” elections as less important than national elections. In reality, elections like county row offices, school boards, township supervisor, borough council and statewide elections for judge have an even greater impact on local communities because the candidates are running on local issues — issues that are closer to voters' everyday lives than many national issues.

Stay engaged in both our local and state elections this year and the federal election in 2018. Don't forget that Co-ops Vote has a number of activities to help rural Americans in the political process. Visit www.vote.coop to join and learn more. Most importantly, make sure you are registered to vote and that you cast your ballot on Election Day — every Election Day.

Growing up co-op

I love walking into a locally owned business, knowing that the profit, product and the employees' salaries all help to create the commerce of our community. The spirit of Main Street is embodied in these local businesses, just like it is at your cooperative, Bed-

(continues on page 14d)



Vietnam veterans gather in Bedford County

By Linda Williams

ANYONE interested in local history either knows or very quickly gets to know Bill Mock. A Civil War buff who has written a book on the local Underground Railroad, Mock is also a Vietnam veteran and proud of it.

He served four years in the U.S. Air Force. He was trained as a medical service specialist at Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio, where he attained the rank of sergeant during his assignment in a surgical ward. Later, he was placed in charge of the surgical clinic at the base hospital.

In 1968, Mock deployed to Vietnam to assist the 10th Aeromedical Evacuation Group with the treatment and evacuation of wounded comrades.

Dubbed a “patch-up” team, their duties were dependent on the number of casualties and condition of the wounded, so flight destinations varied. The missions included Da Nang, Tan Son Nhut, and Cam Ranh Bay.

Mock says, “Looking back, I am very proud to have served my country. Even with knowing the outcome of the war; with loyalty to my military brothers and sisters, I would do it all



over again ... for them.”

It was Gilliam Leach who originally wanted to see Bedford County do something special to honor the often-overlooked veterans of Vietnam. She thought it would be nice to connect it with Veterans Day; however, there were already a number of observances in place.

“And that is the day the Bedford County Vietnam veterans make their

ON DISPLAY: This photo taken by Paul Price at a “steak and shrimp” gathering in September 2015, is displayed at the 2016 Vietnam veterans gathering at the Bedford Historical Society.

annual pilgrimage on Bollman’s bus to Washington, D.C., for the service at ‘The Wall’ (the Vietnam Veterans Memorial),” Mock says.

Given the scheduling conflicts, Leach decided the group could schedule their event before Veterans Day. Mock, who is the head of the Bedford County Vietnam Veterans Association, presented the idea at the group’s next meeting, and it was approved.

The event, held in the upstairs of the Bedford County Historical Society building, lasts from Wednesday through Sunday. Dates this year are: Wednesday, Nov. 1, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Thursday, Nov. 2, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Friday,



MEMORIES: Birch Snider shows off his display of memorabilia from his Vietnam experience.



WAY BACK WHEN: This vintage photo shows Sgt. Roy William Mock in his flight suit.



WAR STORIES: The men discussing stories from the Vietnam War include, from left: Larry Garlock, Harvey Clark, Eugene Way, Don Bingham, Jim Barton, Roger Smith, Bill Ferriell and Doug Wishart. Frank Carney is in the background.

Nov. 3, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Saturday, Nov. 4, noon to 7 p.m., and Sunday, Nov. 5, 1 to 4 p.m.

This will mark the fourth year for the gathering of Vietnam veterans; the public is welcome to attend. Last year, attendees included 15 veterans and a number of teachers from various area schools who brought their students.

Participants enjoy the company of other Vietnam veterans, as well as reminiscing about the experiences in common they shared during their deployments. They also share pictures and various souvenirs from the war.

One of the members, Larry Garlock, has written a book, entitled "Badger

Bravo Six: Wolfhounds in the Midst," that is available through Outskirts-Press.com or at the historical center. Garlock says his book was written to honor the officers and soldiers of the 27th Infantry Wolfhounds as it reflects on their operations in Vietnam

The camaraderie shared by these American soldiers eventually led to the construction of the Vietnam monument in Bedford, which lists the men from Bedford County who lost their lives in the war.

Mock says, "In essence, using great plainness of words, their memory has been spiritually embedded in the hearts of the Bedford County Vietnam veterans, before being physically inscribed on the south side of our memorial. The monument was con-

CAMERA-READY: Raymond Horner holds the camera he used to take many pictures while he was serving in Vietnam.



PUBLIC WELCOME: A photo of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., is displayed at the Vietnam veterans event in Bedford. The public is welcome to attend the annual event.

ceived with love and loyalty, as a show of remembrance, reflecting honor and respect by those who shared common experiences in that faraway land ... when we were young."

The monument was completed in two phases. It was dedicated on July 4, 1994, after the holiday parade. There were three Gold Star Mothers present: Elsie Hinson, Dottie Lesh and Helen Kidd, all of whom had lost a child in the war. The three laid a wreath at the memorial as it was being unveiled by the veterans.

Over time, additional fundraising would allow the final phase to be completed. The names of the Bedford County servicemen killed while serving in Vietnam were etched onto the back of the memorial. On May 28, 1995, a rededication ceremony honored those whose names were listed on the memorial. It was an honorable remembrance by those who served with them. The program eulogized the fallen comrades and honored the families of those who died. 🌻



HOMETOWN HONOR: Local residents honor local Vietnam veterans with a memorial in Bedford.

From the General Manager

(continued from page 14a)
ford Rural Electric.

Electric cooperatives are as community-centered as it comes. We all know that we were founded to bring electricity to communities that investor-owned utilities (IOUs) thought were not profitable enough to serve. It was a monumental task. What our founders didn't anticipate was that we would become a primary cornerstone of community and economic development in rural America and beyond for decades.


That feeling I get when I patronize local businesses is the same feeling I get when I walk into the co-op each day. It is a feeling of pride. I am proud to be a part of an organization that serves our community, instead of a group of investors who will never set foot in our service territory.

Living on co-op lines is more than just knowing there are people out there working to bring you safe, reliable and affordable electric service. Living on co-op lines is an investment in our community and its members.

Your member-owned cooperative is a not-for-profit business. When we make more money than we need to keep the lights on safely, affordably and reliably, we return it to our members (that's you!) in the form of capital credits. Quite simply, this means that

after our expenses are paid, our net income or profit goes back into our community instead of going into a shareholder's pocket. That's the cooperative business model, and it's a way of life here at the co-op.

Since we are member-owned, we have a vested interest in making sure our community is prosperous. We do this by investing in economic development, programs that benefit our youth and community service projects.

I hope that you see the Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative not just as your electric utility provider but as a local business that brings pride and prosperity to our community. We love being a part of the fabric of this community, and we will continue fighting for our members and rural America each and every day! 

Bedford REC's office will be closed on Friday, Nov. 10, in observance of Veterans Day and Thursday, Nov. 23, and Friday, Nov. 24, for Thanksgiving



OUTAGE REPORTING

In case of an outage...

- 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.

**To report an outage call:
(814) 623-7568**

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.

Are you wasting your money on DIRT?



Dirty air filters cause a heating and cooling system to work harder and break down faster. That's because unfiltered dust and grime works into critical parts, creating friction that causes unnecessary wear and, eventually, failure.

How does a dirty air filter cost you?

- Reduces air flow in the home, leading to up to 15 percent higher operating costs
- Leads to costly duct cleaning or replacement
- Lowers system efficiency

To avoid these expenses, change filters monthly when your heating and cooling system's in regular use. Discuss cleaning the unit and ductwork with your heating and cooling service professional.

Learn more ways to save at www.energysavers.gov.

Source: High Performance HVAC, U.S. Department of Energy