

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



Cooperative's 79th annual meeting

By Brooks Shoemaker

THE COOPERATIVE'S 79th annual meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 11, 2018, at the Alum Bank Community Fire Hall, which is located in Pleasantville (at 6738 King St. Clair Road). Please make note of the new location. 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.

The music will be provided by award-winning composer and entertainer Zupe, who is from Windber, Pa. A Vegas-style showman, his one-man show consists of singing and playing the piano (sometimes the trumpet) to music he has pre-recorded. It provides the illusion of an entire band on stage. His original music has been heard on "Dateline NBC," "America's Funniest Videos," "The Middle" and "General Hospital."

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. However, one subsequently withdrew. The following pages contain the profiles of the 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 11. 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 38-year veteran Jim Clark, our consumer services manager. Although we always hate to lose valuable, experienced employees, we are excited for them as they begin a new chapter in their lives.

Jim joined the cooperative in February 1980, after working with many of our members at a local veterinary office. Initially, he was our energy conservationist. Throughout the years, as the co-op evolved, he became the consumer services manager. In Jim's early days, we were struggling with the fallout of the 1970s energy crunch

(continues on page 14d)

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 11, 2018, at Alum Bank Hall, Alum Bank, Pa.



DISTRICT 2: RONALD W. WILKINS

Ronald W. Wilkins represents District 2 on the Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative Board of Directors. He currently holds the post of board secretary.

Wilkins is married and has a son, daughter and five grandchildren. He is a graduate of Bedford High School and the Institute of Computer Management in Pittsburgh. He spent six years in the Army National Guard. He retired from the Roaring Spring Blank Book Company after 28 years as its information systems manager. Ron has been in partnership with his brother for the past 45 years as a school bus contractor for the Bedford Area School District.

Wilkins is a member of the Bedford Bible Church, where he is a deacon, Sunday School teacher and treasurer. He is also a member of a bluegrass gospel group, "Country Praise." He enjoys family time, hunting, antique tractors and tinkering around the family farm.

Since Wilkins was appointed two years ago to fill a vacancy, he's enjoyed his time serving as a director and looks forward, if elected, to putting his knowledge and experience to work for the good of all.



DISTRICT 4: DONALD E. HOENSTINE

Donald E. Hoenstine represents District 4 on the Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative Board of Directors, a position he has held since 2003. He currently holds the post of board vice president/PREA director.

A 1967 graduate of Claysburg Kimmel High School, Hoenstine and his wife, Sandra, reside at 207 Baughnan Lane in Imler. They have two daughters, Julie and Faith.

Hoenstine retired from Conrail as a car repairman in 2000, and served in the U.S. Army from 1969-71. He attends Claysburg Bible Church, where he has served on its board of trustees and as assistant treasurer.

In his spare time, Hoenstine enjoys gardening and spending time with his three grandchildren, Sadie, Grey, and Harper.

Candidate's Comments: *"I thank the cooperative members for giving me the opportunity to serve them and would consider it a privilege to continue serving as director."*



DISTRICT 8: WILLIAM "HOWARD" ATKINSON

William "Howard" Atkinson represents District 8 on the Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative Board of Directors, a position he has held since 2003. He currently holds the office of board assistant treasurer.

A graduate of Triadelphia High School in Wheeling, W.Va., Atkinson received a bachelor's degree in agriculture from West Virginia University. He served with the U.S. Navy in China from 1945-46 and retired as a fieldman for Atlantic Dairy Cooperative (Land O' Lakes) in 1992.

Atkinson is a member of the Trinity Lutheran Church, Bedford; a 50-year member of the AF&AM Ohio Lodge No. 1 and the Scottish Rite Lodge, Wheeling, W.Va.; 50-year member of B.P.O. Elks Lodge 28; a member of American Legion Post 1 in Wheeling, VFW Post 2088, Everett, and the Tri-State Sanitarians Association; past president of the Tri-State Dairy Tech Society, Pittsburgh; and Awards Committee chairman with the Pennsylvania Fieldman's Association. In his free time, he enjoys golfing.

Atkinson and his wife, Linda, reside at 10671 Clear Ridge Road, Everett. The couple has five children and 11 grandchildren.

Candidate's Comments: *"As a director, I will promote continuation of good service at a reasonable cost."*

Breezewood Fire Company raises money with turkeys

By Linda Williams

THE BREEZEWOOD Fire Company has been buying equipment with money from turkey dinners for more years than most of the volunteers can remember.

“It is into several generations,” says Donna Bryant, who, along with her dad, Veryl Peck, oversees the events, held nine times annually.

Unlike volunteer fire companies with a borough tax base, Breezewood and other rural companies must rely on fundraisers to support the local fire company.

During January’s fundraiser, the Breezewood Fire Company served 560 dinners.

“We sold out,” says Donna. “Our January dinner usually averages 425 to 450, but this year we set a new record.”

While they hate to turn people away, Donna says they can’t make money with leftover food, so occasionally they do run out of food before everyone is served.



AFTER DINNER: Bill Swartzwelder is the dishwasher, who helps clean up after dinner.

Organizers had thought January might not be such a great turnout as many people in the area were sick. However, it turned out that sick residents sent their well family members in for takeout dinners.

“(The number of takeout dinners) does keep increasing,” says Donna. “It depends when the Steelers are playing and if there is a chance the dinner will interfere with kickoff.”

She explains the turkey dinner is an



“all-you-can-eat meal” served family-style. One takeout meal will often feed two people because the volunteers who fill the boxes are generous. The cost per meal is \$11, which includes beverage and dessert with no tax or tip.

The menu, which doesn’t vary, includes: turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans cooked with ham, noodles, cole slaw and cake. Veryl, a former head cook at Family House Restaurant, is in charge of the cole slaw and noodles. He is often asked for his cole slaw recipe and he declares there are no secret ingre-

WORKING TOGETHER: Chad Ginter, Dan Bryant and Joe Payne are an assembly line at the turkey dinner.

dients. He does admit to having the cabbage grated very fine and always uses a heavy mayonnaise, never a salad dressing. Otherwise, it’s just vinegar, salt, pepper and sugar.

Many declare the noodles are so



GETTING READY: Rick Wilt and Michael Deremer get ready to serve the filling.

good they must be homemade, but Veryl uses only store-bought noodles and is not even particular about what brand he uses. He simply cooks them in turkey broth and parsley.

Stuffing is homemade, created from
(continues on page 14d)



RAISING MONEY: Donna Bryant collects money at the door. All funds are used to support the fire company.

Breezewood Fire Company

(continued from page 14c)

leftover bread from a local sub shop. Potatoes are not peeled, but the instant variety is whipped into soft mounds loaded with butter. All of the cakes, moist and yummy, are baked by Donna.



A DISH OF NOODLES: Jason Bryant dishes out noodles to Charles Swartzwelder, a fireman for 60 years.

She does share a few secrets. When purchasing cake mixes, she buys all kinds and mixes them together. For instance, one chocolate cake may be made from a mixture of chocolate, chocolate fudge, German chocolate, triple chocolate, etc. She freezes the cakes and ices them while they are still frozen.

Money for the meal is collected at the door and folks are asked to take a



POTATOES, ANYONE?: Chris Callihan mashes potatoes, which are made with lots of butter.

seat and given a number. When their number is called, a table is ready. The longest anyone waits is 15 minutes.

About 25 volunteers from both the fire company and the firemen's auxiliary turn out to cook, with work starting the Wednesday before the Sunday dinner.

With his background experience in restaurants, Veryl oversees the shopping, which is done primarily by Charles Swartzwelder, who will celebrate 60 years of service to the fire company this year.

Upcoming dinners are scheduled for March 11 and April 8. In May, a cruise-in and chicken barbeque will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the present fire hall. The 75th anniversary of the fire company will be next year. Dinners continue in the fall with the exception of December.

Donna says the fire company gets occasional grants which she submits. Otherwise, all of their funding comes from the volunteers' hard work.

The Breezewood Fire Company is an active unit, with 20 fire calls in January. There are 52 members, with 40 being active. Toby Colledge is the chief. The auxiliary has an additional 25 members.

All proceeds from the turkey dinners go directly to the fire company. 🌀

From the General Manager

(continued from page 14a)

and from Three Mile Island's historic meltdown — just as our Susquehanna nuclear facility was preparing to go on-line. Resulting regulations caused our costs — and rates — to skyrocket. They were challenging times for everyone, most of all the members. Jim also witnessed the evolution of our billing department — from handwritten records and ledgers, to computer punch cards, dumb terminals, personal computers, and now mobile computing. His 38 years have seen innovations no one could have imagined in 1980. Through it all, he has been a steady, dedicated influence. His thirst for learning and knowledge ensured that if he didn't know, he most definitely would figure it out! Jim left an indelible mark on the cooperative and we wish him many years of health and happiness, while enjoying life's new adventures!

Energy efficiency tip of the month

In spring and summer months, set your ceiling fans to turn in the counterclockwise direction. This will create a cool breeze. Remember: ceiling fans cool people, not rooms. Turn them off when you leave the room. 🌀

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.