

Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

Bedford REC

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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.

Brian I. Hoover

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



Interested in a seat on the Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative Board of Directors?

By Brooks Shoemaker

AS A MEMBER of the Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative, you have the opportunity to actively participate in the cooperative's operation by representing not only your district, but also your friends and neighbors on the board of directors. Being an electric cooperative director is an interesting and challenging experience. The position requires individuals with a vision and the willingness to work with others in guiding a complex, multimillion dollar operation.

The next Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting will be held April 10, 2019. At that meeting, cooperative members will elect directors from: District 3 (West St. Clair, Pavia and Lincoln townships, and Pleasantville Borough, Bedford County); District 7 (Colerain, Snake Spring, and South Woodbury townships, Bedford County); and District 9 (East Providence Township, Bedford County and Brush Creek Township, Fulton County). If you reside in any of these districts, you may be eligible for nomination to run for a seat on the board.

In accordance with our bylaws, the election process begins with the appointment of a Nominating Committee. This committee is made up of one cooperative member from each of the nine districts. It is the committee's responsibility to nominate not less than one, but not more than two qualified members as director nominees to be made from each district in which a director's term of office is ending. No member of the board, employee or close relative shall serve on the committee. The names of cooperative members appointed to the 2019 Nominating Committee and the qualifications necessary to become a director are enclosed with your September electric bill, which you received in early October. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a director, please contact any member of the committee. You can also contact the cooperative office at 814-624-3808, and we will see that your name is provided to the committee.

Annual meeting

The next Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting of the members will be held on April 10, 2019. During the meeting, members will cast ballots to elect three of their fellow members to the cooperative's board of directors.

The following, taken from the Bedford REC bylaws, is printed for your information in compliance with the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and federal Rural Utilities Services Bulletin 1790-1.

Article III, Section 3 Nominations

It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to appoint, no later than August 31 of each year, a committee on nomi-

nations consisting one (1) member from each District of the Cooperative.

Said committee shall meet for the purpose of making nominations at least ninety (90) days prior to the annual meeting. Five (5) or more members of the nominating committee shall constitute a quorum for making the nominations. It shall be the duty of this committee to nominate not less than one (1), but not more than two (2) qualified members as director nominees to be made from each District in which a director's term of office is ending. No member of the Board, employee, or close relative (as defined

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Campbell enjoys working with large animals

By Linda Williams

GROWING UP, Dr. Michele Campbell spent every spare minute on her uncle's Holstein farm. Her family lived in town, but she knew agriculture would be her life.

"I just loved those big cows," remembers this Schellsburg veterinarian, owner of CreekSide Veterinary Services.

After high school, she graduated from Penn State and continued on to veterinarian school in Wisconsin, where she trained mainly on large or meat animals.

Today, Campbell is saddened to see the diminishing dairy industry.

"Dairy farms are just disappearing," she says. "Age has taken its toll, but it's mainly milk prices that are causing them to quit in droves."

In her 17 years locally, she has seen only two start-up dairy farms.

With her doctorate in hand, Campbell went to work at White Oak in Somerset where she was "low man" on the office totem pole. As such, she was assigned to care for goats.

"I quickly learned to love them," she says.

Today, she has her own herd of about 40 crossbred Boer goats.

After Campbell started her own

practice in Bedford County, Bill and Ada Myers of Bedford Valley spurred her interest in goats and sheep. She also admired the work the couple put into 4-H clubs, and found she enjoyed helping young people, too. Today, she is into the second generation of assisting 4-H'ers with their animals.

"Showing animals does wonders for young people," says Campbell. "It teaches them to be responsible and to have pride in what they do. They learn to present themselves and how to speak in public."

Campbell's daughter, Megan, is interested in agriculture and loves



BEATING HEART: Dr. Michele Campbell of Schellsburg listens to a goat's heartbeat in her office. Assisting is Louise Kaufman.

farm animals but is not interested in becoming a veterinarian herself. Her son, Mark, also likes agriculture, but he prefers crops and machinery. Both of her children showed goats, lambs, and hogs at various fairs and events as members of the Farming Around and Allegheny Foothills 4-H clubs.

Campbell married into the Anderson family, who raised pigs, which increased her knowledge and expertise with swine. She soon found herself specializing only in meat animals.

She has a particularly sad story about two baby goats born by C-section.

"We were so proud we saved those goats," she remembers.

Baby goats are incredibly small. Lambs are also small, but much bigger than goats. The two baby goats were attacked by a farm cat. One was killed and the other had its tail bitten off. Named "Die Hard," it lived for a number of years.

One of her favorite positive memo-

ries involves a lamb that appeared to be very sick. The owners thought it had a bad heart and wanted it to be euthanized.

"I said it had pneumonia and treated it," remembers the veterinarian. "It not only lived, it went on to become grand champion of the Pennsylvania Farm Show."

In her years as a veterinarian, she has seen animals kept in all kinds of conditions from very bad to extremely good.

"It makes my job so much easier when people take care and keep things clean," she says.

Just as no two places are the same, no two days are the same, and that is what makes Campbell love her job. She does very little advertising, and her business has grown mostly by word of mouth. She does buy animals at the fair each year to help the kids. One of her favorite fair exhibitors this past year was Emily Valentine, who

had the grand champion carcass lamb.

"Funny thing is, Emily had never eaten lamb," says Campbell. "I invited Emily and her mother for dinner and cooked that carcass, and they loved it. I really think of that girl as my second daughter."

CreekSide Services send animals all over the country for showing and feed. Among the destinations was the Ohio State Fair and the World Pork Expo.

At present, she has just one employee, Louise Kaufman, who works both as a vet tech in the field and a secretary in the office.

"It's hard to say which I like the most," Kaufman says. "I grew up on a dairy farm, so I really do love farm animals." 🌟



FAIR SUPPORTER: Dr. Michele Campbell displays one of the many banners she has achieved by bidding on animals at the Bedford Fair. This award was for purchasing the grand champion carcass lamb raised by Emily Valentine.

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.

From the General Manager

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by Article III, Section 2) shall serve on such committee.

The committee shall prepare and post at the principal office of the Cooperative, by January 20 of each year, a list of nominations for directors. Any fifteen (15) or more members residing in one District, by January 15, may make other nominations for their District by a petition in writing under their signatures. The Board Secretary shall cause to be posted the same at the same place as the list of nominations made by the committee is posted. The Board Secretary shall cause to be mailed to each member by March 31, a statement of the number of directors to be elected and showing separately the nominations by District made by the committee on nominations and the nominations made by petition, if any. Nothing herein contained shall prevent additional nominations to be made from the floor at the meeting of the members. The chairman at such meeting, after all nominations so made have been duly announced, shall call for additional nominations from the floor and shall ascertain and announce, after any nominations made from the floor, the particular District from or with respect to which any additional candidates have been nominated. Notwithstanding the provisions contained in this Section, failure to comply with any of such provisions shall not affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken by the Board of Directors after the election of directors

Article III, Section 4 Credentials and Election Committee

The Board of Directors shall, at least twenty (20) days before (or by February 28, for the Annual Meeting) any meeting of the members at which election of directors shall occur, appoint a Credentials and Election Committee. The committee shall consist of an uneven number of members of the Cooperative who are not existing Cooperative employees, agents, officers, directors or known candidates for director election, and who are not close relatives (as defined

in Article III, Section 2) or members of the same household of existing Cooperative employees, agents, officers, directors or known candidates for director election. In appointing the committee, the Board shall have regard for the equitable representation of the several areas served by the Cooperative and shall not appoint more than one (1) committee member from a District. The committee shall meet and elect its own chairman and secretary prior to the member meeting. It shall be the responsibility of the committee to:

1. Establish or approve the manner of conducting member registration and to decide all questions regarding registration of members;
2. Count all ballots cast for the election of directors or other voting by count;
3. Rule upon the effect of any ballot or vote irregularly or indecisively cast;
4. Rule upon all other questions which may arise relating to member voting and regularity of the election of directors including the qualifications of director nominees nominated by petition or from the floor; and,
5. Pass upon any protest or objection filed with regard to the election of directors or conduct affecting the results of any election.

In the exercise of its duties, the committee shall have available to it the advice of legal counsel provided by the Cooperative.

In the event a protest or objection is to be filed concerning any election or voting matter, such protest or objection must be in writing and filed with the chairman of the committee not later than three (3) business days following the date of meeting adjournment. The chairman shall reconvene the committee for a hearing not later than ten (10) business days following the filing of such protest or objection. The committee shall hear such evidence as may be presented by the protestor(s), the objector(s), who may be heard in person, by counsel, or both, and any opposing evidence, and the committee, by majority vote of the committee members present and voting, shall decide the matter

within a reasonable time thereafter, but not more than thirty (30) days following close of the hearing. The committee may affirm the initial results of the election, in whole or in part, or the committee may change the initial results of the election, but only upon recount of ballots and only in conformity with law, or the committee may set aside the results of the election and call for a new election, but only for proper and lawful cause shown. The committee's decisions shall be final and binding. The committee shall not act unless at least a quorum is present. A quorum shall be a majority of committee members.

Article III, Section 5 Elections

At each annual meeting directors shall be elected by secret ballot by and from the members to succeed those directors whose terms of office are ending. Their respective terms of office shall be for a period of three (3) years, or until their successors shall have been elected and shall have qualified. Each member of the cooperative present and registered to vote at the meeting shall be entitled to vote for one candidate from each District in which a director's term of office is ending. The candidate from each District receiving the highest number of votes cast at this meeting shall be considered elected as a director to represent his or her District. In the event of a tie vote, the tie shall be resolved by a drawing of lot between or among the candidates in the tie. The drawing of lot shall be conducted under the supervision of the Credentials and Election Committee. Cumulative voting shall be allowed during the election of directors. ☀

