

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.

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



See you at the annual meeting

By Brooks Shoemaker

MOST of us lead busy lives. We find ourselves multitasking, constantly checking phones and email to keep up with the demands of modern life. Thanks to technology, we can accomplish many tasks electronically and remotely to be more efficient. And with so many pressing obligations, we like to protect our “spare” time. Invitations to attend in-person meetings and gatherings are weighed carefully as we decide whether or not our time and effort to attend is beneficial. The answer to the question, “What’s in it for me?” must be compelling. You may think attending Bedford Rural Electric’s annual meeting would be easy to lump into the “no benefit to me” category. However, I’d ask you to think again.

We exist to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to our members (that’s you!). Equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of all members and to serve the long-term interests of our local communities. In 1939, we were founded to fulfill a vital need in this community that would not have otherwise been met. Concerned local leaders came together to build this co-op and bring electricity to folks who had none.

At that time, members of the community understood we were different because they likely knew someone who helped to create the co-op. Unfortunately, the circumstances surrounding our founding and the void we filled are being forgotten. Over time, some folks in the community may have come to think of us as simply another electric

company. But we are not. We are a co-op that is constantly evolving to meet the needs of the communities we serve, and we are able to do this because of members like you.

Since our founding in 1939, we have sought feedback and engagement from you and that of the larger community to guide our long-term decisions. This is why we hold an annual meeting each year — to engage with you and obtain your feedback. This is where you can help.

At the annual meeting, co-op leaders discuss priorities, challenges, financial health and priorities for the coming years. Most importantly, it is the time to vote for new board members who will represent you — the members of the co-op. Our directors are local members, just like you.

We are one of the few local organizations that is uniquely positioned to bring together all members of the community. The health of the co-op and the well-being of the community are closely intertwined.

Perhaps you may feel that you have nothing to add to the discussion, so there is no need to attend the annual meeting. However, every month when you pay your bill, it helps ensure better service and reliability for the whole community. Your dollars are reinvested locally into improvements that impact the reliability of our system and affordability of the electricity we sell. We value your perspective, and we want to hear from you. This kind of interaction

(continues on page 14d)

MCS, an up and growing industrial plant in Alum Bank

By Linda Williams

THE INDUSTRIAL corner of the little town of Alum Bank provides employment for a growing number of skilled workers in Bedford County.

Creative Pultrusions, started by the late Bob Sweet in 1973, got the ball rolling when it opened. The company, which makes fiberglass reinforced plastics, is still operating. Mission Critical Solutions, LLC (MCS), founded by Bob McGowan in 2008, is located next door to Creative Pultrusions. MCS, which now employs nearly 40 area residents, was the dream of McGowan, a one-time pharmaceutical executive and a mechanical engineer. It was just a bit more than a decade ago that McGowan purchased the 50,000-square-foot facility next door to Creative Pultrusions that was vacated in 1991 by Starrett Tool.

Locally, a number of skilled welders, the victims of downsizing by such powerhouse companies as JLG, Hedstrom, Cannondale Bicycles and ESCO, were without jobs. These companies said time and cost efficiencies led them to leave Bedford and Somerset counties.



For McGowan, it was a labor force windfall as his company transformed MCS into a trusted supplier of fabricated and machined steel parts for the transportation, utilities, defense, and construction industries. The company, which currently manufactures more than 1,200 rail parts, is honored to

MCS BUILDING: Mission Critical Solutions, LLC employs nearly 40 people at its facility in Alum Bank.

supply the U.S. military with a variety of fixtures and training munitions that support the nation's armed forces.

"MCS has grown exponentially in a little over a decade," McGowan says. "We are driven by a desire to deliver quality products on a timely basis, using the skills and dedication of local talent. Our team is invested in growing Mission Critical Solutions into an innovative national resource for fabricated and machined products."

The company specializes in precast concrete and driven steel pile foundations. The precast foundations are cast in reusable forms using high, early-strength concrete at a manufacturing facility. They cut the time of installation to a minimum and are invaluable when repairing and rebuilding after a severe storm or hurricane.



SHOOTING SPARKS: A welder learns the skills of the trade at a special adult training class at MCS.

McGowan emphasizes they have all necessary certifications, which meets all of the requirements of the Association of American Railroads (AAR) Quality Assurance Program. MCS is pursuing additional quality certifications, both through the AAR and the American Institute of Steel Construction, which would permit the company to fabricate on behalf of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, as well as other state and municipal agencies both within and outside of Pennsylvania. They have the latest state-of-the-art tools, equipment and processes to meet today's ever-changing technical challenges.

In just a little over 10 years, MCS has grown to employ nearly 40 people. Many industries require skilled welders, and MCS has been able to provide a state-funded adult welding course to its employees.

It's a growing industry that is always on the lookout for willing and capable employees.

McGowan says they have earned business from many customers by "picking up the ball when an original supplier begins delivering substandard products. MCS always aims to exceed the overall demands of their clients



AT WORK: An MCS employee works on a brake press.

from the perspective of quality, delivery and professionalism. We may be small, but we think big with respect to the standards on a daily basis."

McGowan takes pride in knowing his efforts are contributing to the local Bedford County economy. He loves the idea that this once-empty building

is now home to a growing professional staff and multiple shifts of skilled craftsmen.

Bette Slayton, president of the Bedford County Development Association, says McGowan and his team are true entrepreneurs, committed to high quality products and service. 🌟

YOUR POWER OUTAGE PANTRY

Set these items aside for extended outages only, and your storm prep will be a breeze!

- BEANS
- CANNED FRUIT
- CANNED TUNA
- CANNED VEGETABLES
- CEREAL
- DRIED FRUITS
- DRIED MEATS/JERKY
- GRAHAM CRACKERS
- PASTA
- RICE
- SPAM
- OATMEAL



From the General Manager

(continued from page 14a)

helps us make better informed decisions as we plan for the future.

While we provide state-of-the-art electronic options for bill-paying and communication, there are times when there is no substitute for in-person engagement. When members and the local community come together for a common purpose, we improve the quality of life for everyone in our area. While times have changed, our mission and our outlook have not. We view our role as a catalyst for development in our community. Working together, we can accomplish great things, now and in the future.

If you've never attended our annual meeting, or if it's been a while, please stop by. Our co-op family looks forward to visiting with you. We'll have food, fun and door prizes, so mark your calendar for the annual meeting on April 10, 2019, at the Alum Bank Community Fire Hall. Registration starts at 12:30 p.m. and the meeting begins at 1:30 p.m. We hope to see you there.

Energy efficiency tip of the month

Turn off kitchen, bath and other exhaust fans within 20 minutes after you're done cooking or bathing. When replacing exhaust fans, consider installing high-efficiency, low-noise models. ☀



Food drive winner

Congratulations to the winners of this year's drawing for members who contributed to the Bedford REC Food Drive. Wayne and Barbara Carson of New Paris will receive a \$25 credit on their electric bill.

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative will be awarding four scholarships of \$1,000 each to seniors whose parents' or guardians' primary residence is served by Bedford Rural Electric.

For an application, go to our website at 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 March 1, 2019.

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

EMERGENCY POWER NEEDS

As a service to our members, Bedford Rural Electric needs to be aware of situations where special needs exist. Please provide the following details: (Please print clearly)

Account: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cellphone: _____

Email Address: _____

Special Needs: **Medical**

Farming/Livestock

Other _____

Each year, our goal is to provide service with no outages. Unfortunately, that is not a realistic expectation. Outages do occur and during severe storms, service restoration may take several days or longer. Therefore, we strongly recommend our members with special needs install standby backup generation equipment. Please contact our office for more information on this type of equipment.

OUTAGE REPORTING

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.

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.