

Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

Bedford REC

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814-623-5101

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Website: www.bedfordrec.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President & PREA Director

Donald Hoenstine
Kimmel and King Twps.

Vice President & Allegheny Director
Vacant

Colerain, Snake Spring and South Woodbury 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 cooperative's board of directors?

By Brooks Shoemaker

AS A MEMBER of the Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative, you can actively participate in the cooperative's operation by representing, not only your district, but 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 Annual Meeting will be held April 8, 2020. At that meeting, cooperative members will elect directors from: District 1 (Allegheny Township and New Baltimore Borough, Somerset County, and Juniata Township, Bedford County,) District 5 (East St. Clair Township, Bedford County), and District 6 (Bedford and Cumberland Valley townships, Bedford 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 2020 Nominating Committee and the qualifications necessary to become a director are enclosed with your September electric bill, which you receive in early October. If becoming a director interests you, 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 April 8, 2020. During the annual meeting, members will cast ballots to elect three of their fellow members to the Bedford REC 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 20-19:

Article III, Section 3:

Nominations. (a) It shall be the duty

of the Board of Directors to appoint, no later than August 31 of each year, a committee on nominations 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 Dis-

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Miller saves old buildings from collapse

By Linda Williams

HOW OFTEN have you heard that a house or barn had foundation problems and had to be torn down? That seems like such a waste if everything above the concrete foundation is in good shape.

Bill Miller of Gunitite Solutions, 586 Business Route 220, says it's usually not necessary to raze a building that is OK except for its foundation, as he and his crew can fix anything made of concrete.

"It doesn't matter if it is a bridge, a basement or even a pool, we can save it," he says.

Miller's secret is using gunitite, a building material (a mixture of cement, sand and water) that is sprayed over preformed areas such as walls or floors. Gunitite is mixed on-site in a special machine and applied through hoses.

Miller found his gunitite-mixing machine in a junk yard.

"It actually had a tree growing out of it," he says with a laugh. "I bought it for a good price, and then I had to find all the parts and pieces to get it going. By the time I was finished, I had about



AT WORK: Larry Garlock and Mike Fetter are working on a project at the *Village News*.



MILLER AT WORK: Bill Miller works with the gunitite-mixing machine he rescued from a junk yard and rebuilt himself.



\$10,000 in a machine worth \$150,000."

Miller's two faithful helpers are Mike Fetter and Larry Garlock.

"Couldn't do it without them," he says.

Gunitite Solutions' most recent rehabilitation was the *Village News* building located on Juliana Street in Bedford. Built in the 1700s, the building was crumbling at its foundation.

A SPECIAL MACHINE: Bill Miller, owner of Gunitite Solutions, shows off his gunitite-mixing machine.

Miller, Fetter and Garlock went to work reinforcing the foundation and load-bearing walls.

Before starting his own business about 10 years ago, Miller, a member of the bricklayers union out of Pittsburgh, spent years traveling the world



UNCOVERING HISTORY: While salvaging the past, the crew sometimes comes upon interesting history. This is a sign from the former Rohms Grocery that the crew found buried in the basement of the *Village News* building.

working on projects as there are very few people who know how to operate a gunite machine.

“I worked in Hawaii, Guam, just about anywhere,” he says. “I missed my girls growing up,” he says.

He had sometimes thought about going out on his own, but it was finding the gunite machine in the junk yard a decade ago that gave him the final shove he needed to go out on his own.

Gunite is made from three parts sand to one part Portland cement, which is extremely strong. Gunite will maintain structural quality, especially when used with reinforcing wire and rebar, which come in all sizes and thicknesses depending on the project.

In Bedford, Miller has worked on the Hebrews building, the old Ford garage, and now the *Village News*. He has also worked on numerous barns in the Bedford Valley area.

“We have done bridges and my least favorite, swimming pools; they are difficult, but we can do them,” he says.

He even repaired erosion on an artificial island in the middle of Indian Lake.

“I just like to think we are giving a future to the past,” Miller says. “If it’s concrete and crumbling, we can fix it.”

Miller and his wife, Julie, have two grown daughters. 🌞

Arc Fault Circuit Interrupter (AFCI) Receptacles

Why is it needed?

NFPA reported 47,700 home fires involved some type of electrical failure or malfunction in 2011. Those fires resulted in 418 deaths, 1,570 injuries, and \$1.4 billion in direct property damage. However, the CPSC estimates more than 50% of electrical fires that occur every year could be prevented by AFCIs.

418
DEATHS

1,570
INJURIES

\$1.4 BILLION
PROPERTY DAMAGE

BRANCH CIRCUIT WIRING

APPLIANCES

CORDS

How does it work?

Interrupts power when an arc-fault is detected in the circuit downstream from where the receptacle is installed, including within items plugged into it. Provides protection from arc-faults beyond branch circuit wiring extending to appliances and cords plugged into the receptacle. Also provides protection for series arc-faults upstream from where the receptacle is installed.

What is an arc fault?

An arc fault is a dangerous electrical problem caused by damaged, overheated, or stressed electrical wiring or devices. Arc faults can occur when older wires become frayed or cracked, when a nail or screw damages a wire behind a wall, or when outlets or circuits are compromised.

Parallel Arc: Arc between the hot and neutral conductor or between the hot and ground conductor.

Series Arc: Arc along the same conductor or at connections.

Where is it required by the National Electrical Code® (NEC)?

NEC The 2014 NEC expanded Arc Fault Circuit Interrupter Protection (Section 210.12 and 406.4(D)(4)) to include most circuits. The use of AFCI receptacles are now an acceptable form of protection when in compliance with some restrictions as specified in the NEC. The 2014 NEC allows 6 different installation methods to provide AFCI protection in new construction and specific replacements.

Things to consider about AFCI receptacles:

↓

parallel arcs

series arcs

↑

parallel arcs

series arcs

Protects all downstream wire and appliances from both parallel and series arcs, and also protects from series arcs upstream in the wiring between the source of the circuit and the first outlet on the circuit, called the “home run”.

Provides localized **TEST** and **RESET** ability.

ESFi States and localities may differ in the version of the NEC applied to their jurisdiction. Consult an electrician to determine if your AFCI plans comply with applicable codes. To learn more about AFCI protection and the NEC, visit www.esfi.org

1500 North 17th Street | Suite 900 | Arlington, VA | 22209 | Phone: 703.841.3229 | Fax: 703.841.3329 | info@esfi.org

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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district in which a director's term of office is ending. No member of the Board, employee, or close relative (as defined 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. 