

Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

Bedford REC

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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



Cooperative's 80th annual meeting

By Brooks Shoemaker

THE COOPERATIVE'S 80th annual meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 10, 2019, at the Alum Bank Community Fire Hall in Pleasantville (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 complimentary gift. Be sure to visit the display area, which will be devoted to new trends in the electric business.

Local Christian-country music favorite John Topper will provide the entertainment. Topper is well known as a retired teacher and coach, and he continues to provide sports commentary on local radio. He is perhaps best known for his deep, distinctive voice that has been entertaining crowds since the 1970s at fairs, churches, nursing homes and rodeos. His music features positive, uplifting Christian lyrics with a country flair.

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. 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 10. 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!

Nuclear power is co-op power

Electricity powers our daily lives. As long as the lights are on, we don't give it much thought. We rarely think about where our electricity comes from.

In Pennsylvania, nuclear power is co-op power. Since 1977, Pennsylvania's electric cooperatives have been partners in the ownership of the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station (Susquehanna), a nuclear facility in Berwick, Pa. For decades, this cooperative investment in nuclear power has been a driving force in providing our homes and businesses with safe, reliable and affordable electric energy. The plant supplies approximately 60 percent of our energy needs. It is one of the primary reasons our members enjoy much lower rates than the customers of neighboring investor-owned utilities.

But cooperative members aren't the

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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 10, 2019, at Alum Bank Community Fire Hall, Alum Bank, Pa.



DISTRICT 3: DALE SPRIGG II

Dale Sprigg II, director nominee for District 3, is a self-employed heating, cooling and refrigeration contractor. A graduate of Bedford Area High School, he earned his associate degree in HVAC-R from Triangle Tech. Sprigg has earned the Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) status through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. He served in the U.S. Army.

He and his wife, Krista, reside at 129 Davis Lane, Alum Bank. They have two children: Emily and Ethan. He attends the Ryot Church of the Nazarene, where he serves as board secretary. In his spare time, he enjoys hunting, camping, backpacking and kayaking.

Candidate's Comments: *"I would like to help the cooperative to continue providing stable and reasonably priced electric service for its members in this ever-changing industry."*



DISTRICT 7: C. ROBERT KOONTZ

C. Robert Koontz currently represents District 7 and serves as president of the Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative Board of Directors. He also represents the cooperative on the board of Allegheny Electric Cooperative — Bedford REC's wholesale power supplier. He has completed all of the training and course work required to achieve Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) status from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Koontz retired from First National Bank, Bedford office, at the end of 2000 and from Blackburn Johnson Real Estate as an active agent in 2006. A graduate of Bedford High School, he also attended Cathermans Business School in Cumberland, Md. Presently, he serves as treasurer of the Colerain/Rainsburg Recreation Council.

He and his wife, Carolyn, reside at 247 Koontzville Road, Bedford. The couple has four children: Rob, Kevin, Deron, and Dana, and 10 grandchildren. In his spare moments, Koontz enjoys spending time with family and friends, and sports activities.

Candidate's Comments: *"I've enjoyed the challenges of being a director. I feel my background in finance has helped us structure loans properly. If re-elected, I'll continue to work to ensure reliable service at the lowest cost possible. As a director of the cooperative, I am always available to my fellow members to help in any way possible concerning questions or problems."*



DISTRICT 7: SARAH ANN GARCIA

Sarah Ann Garcia currently resides on Lutzville Road in District 7 along with her husband, Marcelino, and daughter, Eleanor. She is a 23-year veteran of the U.S. Army and currently is a nurse assistant and EMT with Home Instead Senior Care.

Along with countless hours of training in the military, Garcia has completed three years of college, becoming a CNA in December 2018. While serving, she was awarded numerous decorations, medals and badges. Her hobbies include: hiking, working out, bicycling, gardening, traveling with family, playing games and baking with her daughter. She is member of the Missionary Alliance Church and is currently serving on the Farmland Preservation board.

Candidate's Comments: *"Expanding my horizons into the civilian sector and serving for a greater good. Desire to help the community gain a better understanding of cooperatives. I would like to work as a team to foster the needs of the community."*



DISTRICT 9: EARL W. GARLAND

Earl "Wally" Garland currently represents District 9 and serves as assistant secretary of the Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative Board of Directors. He retired as manager of Battery Warehouse in 2006 and previously was employed at Eastern Express P.I.E. Trucking.

Garland and his wife, Virginia, reside at 106 Ramsey Road, Breezewood. Together, they have four children: Brenda, Sherry, Todd, and Troy, and 10 grandchildren. He attends Mountain Chapel Church and is a member of the Everett Masonic Lodge 524, Bedford Royal Arch Chapter 255, Harrisburg Consistory, and the National Rifle Association. In his spare time, he enjoys hunting and the outdoors.

Candidate's Comments: *"To continue to represent the members of Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative."*

HOW THE ELECTRIC CO-OP WORKS



1. Member-owners elect board directors.

2. Board defines expectations for the co-op's general manager (GM/CEO) and provides policies & strategic goals.



3. GM/CEO interprets the board's expectations to create a plan.



8. Board reflects on policies and updates them as needed.



Member-owners provide input & feedback to board, GM & staff.



4. GM/CEO delegates responsibilities to staff who help carry out the plan.



7. GM/CEO shares results with the board.

6. GM/CEO collects data from staff about their efforts.



5. Staff develop and oversee programs to accomplish their tasks.

From the General Manager

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only ones benefitting from nuclear power. According to a report by the General Assembly's bipartisan Nuclear Energy Caucus, without the state's nuclear plants, Pennsylvanians would pay close to \$800 million more annually for electricity. The plants annually contribute \$2 billion to the state's economy, pay \$69 million in net tax revenues and employ 16,000 Pennsylvanians.

Nuclear power also provides 93 percent of the Commonwealth's carbon-free energy, helping Pennsylvanians avoid billions in health and environmental costs. No other generation resource comes close to having this kind of impact.

However, the future of Pennsylvania's nuclear plants is a matter of serious concern. Recently, two plants — Beaver Valley and Three Mile Island — have announced premature closures. If action to correct current market dynamics isn't taken, the closures would have devastating, long-term economic and environmental consequences. Once a nuclear plant closes, it is closed forever.

Fortunately, our Susquehanna plant is not in danger of closing. However, if this troubling trend continues, it will result in higher energy prices and higher environmental costs for us all — something that will hit our rural communities particularly hard.

To avoid this fate, Pennsylvania needs a market design that recognizes nuclear power's positive contributions. Electric cooperatives are working with legislative leaders on a bipartisan effort to secure the future of nuclear power in Pennsylvania. These lawmakers are introducing legislation to equitably compensate nuclear power for its zero-carbon emissions and grid dependability.

Rural electric cooperatives understand the benefits of nuclear power, and we can help to educate others on its importance. Please take a moment to visit PARuralAction.org and send an email to your local legislators urging them to support efforts to ensure nuclear power remains viable in Pennsylvania. After all, nuclear power is co-op power. ☀

Be Prepared Before the Storm

Here are some basic items you should store in your home in case of emergency:

- 🔦 **Water:** Three day supply, one gallon per person per day
- 🔦 **Food:** Three day supply, non-perishable, high-energy
- 🔦 **Clothing, bedding, and sanitation supplies**
- 🔦 **Tools:** Can opener, plates, utensils, flashlight, batteries, cash, bleach, hand sanitizer
- 🔦 **First aid supplies, medicine**
- 🔦 **Important documents**



OFFICE CLOSING

Bedford REC's office will be closing at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 10, 2019 for our annual meeting.

The office will also be closed on April 19, 2019, for Good Friday.

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.