

# 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 & PREA Director

Donald Hoenstine  
Kimmel and King Twps.

### Vice President & Allegheny Director

Ronald W. Wilkins  
Napier and Harrison Twps.,  
New Paris, Manns Choice and  
Schellsburg Boroughs

### Secretary

Paul L. Rummel Jr.  
Bedford and Cumberland Valley Twps.

### 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

Dale Sprigg II  
West St. Clair, Pavia, and Lincoln Twps.,  
Pleasantville Borough

### Brian I. Hoover

Monroe and West Providence Twps.,  
Everett Borough

### John A. Oldham

East St. Clair Twp., Bedford County  
William F. "Bill" Popovich Jr.  
Colerain, Snake Spring and  
South Woodbury Twps.

### Attorney

James R. Cascio

### Office Hours

Monday through Friday  
7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

## From the General Manager



# Koontz passes; Popovich joins board of directors

By Brooks Shoemaker

LONGTIME board member C. Robert "Bob" Koontz unexpectedly passed away in late summer 2019. His death ended a 33-year tenure on the board of directors. It was the second-longest stint in the cooperative's history. A faithful leader, Bob's quiet, humble and conservative brand of guidance was respected by his fellow cooperative members since 1986. He will be deeply missed by everyone associated with the cooperative.

Pursuant to the bylaws, the remaining board members were obligated to name a successor to complete Mr. Koontz's term. At the November 2019 board meeting, the directors appointed William F. "Bill" Popovich Jr. to represent District 7, which comprises Colerain, Snake Spring and South Woodbury townships. His term ends in April 2022.

Popovich graduated from Penn State University in 1982. He and his wife, Annette, have two adult children. A former general manager of the Bedford Farm Bureau, for the past 21 years he has owned and operated Bedford Pallets. He is the president of Egolf Park Associates and serves on several other boards. He enjoys hunting and fishing.

On behalf of the board of directors and employees of Bedford Rural Electric, welcome to the cooperative family!

## You get the credit

Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative is not like other utilities. As a cooperative member, you are not just a customer. Instead, you are a member and an

owner of the cooperative. We operate the cooperative on a not-for-profit basis, and one benefit of that membership involves the allocation of net income or margins at the end of each year as patronage capital credits. They are proportionally allocated (based on your kilowatt-hour use for the particular year) to all members who received service during the year.

Once capital credits are allocated, they are held by the cooperative as equity and used as a resource to rebuild aging infrastructure, increase capacity, maintain reliability, and to operate the cooperative. This helps keep your rates low and your service reliable. Those monies are then returned or retired (paid out) at the board of directors' discretion at some point in the future. A capital credits retirement is based on a number of factors, most importantly, the cooperative's overall financial condition.

In December, the co-op returned \$1.2 million in capital credits to current and former members. Some received a credit on their bill, while others who have moved off our system received a capital credits check. This is the sixth consecutive year that the retirement has exceeded \$1 million. We have returned capital credits annually for the past 39 years, totaling over \$21.1 million. Returning capital credits to members is a practice unique to the cooperative form of business and represents one of the seven cooperative principles — members' economic participation. The board of directors and

*(continues on page 16d)*

## Bollman Charter continues into the fourth generation

By Linda Williams

DRIVE past the Bollman Charter Service on 359 Upper Snake Spring Road and you might see a whole array of motor coaches. Or, you might see only a couple depending on the day and what traveling is taking place.

Bollman Charter Service, also known just as Bollmans, grew from the school bus operation of Stanley and Elda Bollman that began in 1948. The county was growing, but being rural, needed a better mode of transportation. Stanley and Elda bought a motor coach and applied for the proper permits to operate it. The business has grown significantly in the decades since, but it is still a family business.

One of the early times that called for traveling occurred while Stanley served as a county commissioner. The commissioners were tossing around the idea of building a historic village and decided to take a busload of interested persons to a similar location in New Jersey. It turned out to be a cold, snowy day in mid-winter, but Stanley geared up the bus and several local businesspeople and politicians got on

board.

Stanley could not only drive, he often had to do his own maintenance. On that particular day, driving was not pleasant, and to make matters worse, the bus did not start at the New Jersey location when the group was ready to return. Never one to worry, Stanley got a screwdriver and went to work. The group made it back to Bedford safely, and Old Bedford Village was eventually built.

Since then, Bollmans has grown to include tours almost anywhere you can drive a vehicle. In the early days, Stanley and Elda traveled west by car, finding locations of interest, good motels, and restaurants. The 24-day western trip they laid out is still mostly followed today.

By 1978, the tour bus company had expanded into a full-service travel agency providing bus, train and plane transportation. That part of the busi-



**A LOOK BACK:** Stanley and Elda Bollman are shown during the early days of the business.

ness is now overseen by Cathie White.

In 1985, Bollmans saw an opportunity and opened an office on South George Street in Cumberland, Maryland, when a local bus company went out of business. Carol Robertson was named manager of that location and remains there today.

Bollmans also has a connection in Chambersburg who often arranges bus trips for groups. The Bollmans van picks up there and later meets up with the bus.

Elda and Stanley Bollman's daughter and son-in-law, Marge and Joe Stultz, took an interest in the travel business during the early years. A party line was even installed on Marge's home phone, allowing her to handle reservations when her mother could not be in the office.

Stanley died in 1996 and Elda died in 2001. Marge continued her involvement even after the passing of her husband, Joe, in 1997, until her death in 2007. As the business grew, Marge's daughter, Sheri Greenawalt, became involved, and Sheri's two sons, Todd and Troy, grew up in the busing business. No one could have been prouder of these two boys than their grandma. Todd and Troy, who started in the business by cleaning buses, both became licensed to drive the buses, and they and their grandmother did many trips together. Now, Todd's son, Jacob,



**ON THE ROAD AGAIN:** This group of happy travelers is on the way to Mackinac Island, Michigan.



GO WEST: A Bollmans bus travels out west.

loves the buses and willingly helps with cleaning or any other task.

The business continues to expand with trips being offered throughout the west, to Florida, Alaska, New England, Michigan, Canada and



FIVE OF US: Bollmans is still a family run business.

other destinations. LaDonna Snyder takes the reservations and purchases advance tickets. Marina Link, Stanley and Elda's granddaughter, takes care of human resources.

Day trips have proven popular, especially mystery trips, which are headed up by Bob Mock. On these trips, the destination is known only by the staff. These trips fill up very quickly as it appears a lot of people want to go somewhere, but they don't know where! But no matter where the participants are heading, the trip starts

with a word of prayer.

Bollmans buses are also used for local events such as Fall Foliage, and they also pick up and deliver groups to the Omni Bedford Springs and provide transportation for schools and colleges.

To find out what trips are planned for 2020, call 623-2181 or check out their website at [Bollmancharter.com](http://Bollmancharter.com). Technology has been a boon to the business by allowing contacts with restaurants and destinations while traveling via cellphone. Some marketing is done on the internet and they hope to do more in the future. They are also on Facebook.

Today, the staff includes 13 full-time and 25 part-time employees, which include people who plan the trips, drivers, cleaners, and those who make the reservations.

Todd's wife, Tonya, works in the office, and Troy and his wife, Michelle, do trips together with Troy driving and Michelle acting as hostess. Tonya oversees the bus drivers and picks up all the loose ends. There is a full-time mechanic, Ron Plummer, who has been with the company since 1978. Troy serves as president of the company, Todd is vice president, and Sheri is secretary.

Todd says there are two groups they could never do without: one is their



FAMILY BUSINESS: Troy and Michelle Greenawalt were instrumental almost from the beginning.

faithful employees who have been with them many years and the other is the members of the public who choose Bollmans as their method of transportation.

The fleet of buses includes 14 55-passenger buses, one 38-passenger bus, one 29-passenger bus, and one 13-seat Mercedes Sprinter Van. 🌞

## NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative will be awarding four scholarships of \$1,000 each to non-traditional students whose primary residence is served by Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative.

For an application, go to our website at [www.bedfordrec.com](http://www.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, 2020.*

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

## From the General Manager

(continued from page 16a)  
employees take pride in providing you with the most affordable, reliable and safe electric service possible.

## Rate change

For just the second time since January 2009, we are increasing our rates. The change takes effect on Jan. 1, 2020, and it will be reflected on the bill you receive in early February. The Base Charge is the primary component of our rates that will change. For residential and seasonal members, it will increase \$3 per month. For the majority of our members, the Base Charge will increase from \$26 to \$29 (residential members with three-phase service will increase from \$37 to \$42). We have also rebalanced the other components of our rates, but in a revenue-neutral fashion. For the average residential member who uses 1,000 kilowatt-hours (kWh) per month, the bill will increase from \$119.60 to \$122.60, a 2.5% increase. Our Small General Service and General Commercial Service rates have also been rebalanced, with Base Charge increases and corresponding kilowatt-hour decreases.

At Bedford Rural Electric, the people who receive electricity are not just customers; they are members of our cooperative. Members enjoy certain rights that customers with investor-owned utilities don't have. For instance, you can choose to run for a seat on our board of directors or you can serve on one of our committees. Since each member has a vote in the annual election for the board candidates, the board is composed of people who live and work in the areas that we serve.

However, many people don't understand the various ways their membership in a cooperative affects their rates. Our rates are based on two main components — the actual cost of the wholesale power that we buy (generation), and the cost for us to get that power to you (distribution). Our power supplier, Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc., sets our wholesale power rates. Since we have a seat on their board of direc-

tors, we ensure that Allegheny works hard to keep rates low, while guaranteeing a stable supply of electricity.

The distribution component is the cost for us to get power to you. It includes all other operational costs, such as poles, wires, and substations, maintenance of trucks and buildings, employee costs, and costs associated with keeping and maintaining our records.

One of the biggest advantages of being served by a cooperative is that we work only for you; there are no stockholders expecting a big quarterly dividend. We are a not-for-profit enterprise, which means we're working only to provide you with economical, reliable service. Our rates are simply set to provide enough money to pay our operating expenses, make debt service payments and provide an emergency reserve. We also collect some money, which is figured into your rates, that is used for capital improvements. It helps finance many of the expensive capital improvement projects we undertake each year to ensure that our system is not only properly maintained but delivering service reliably. Any profit (or margins) at the end of each year is allocated to each customer account as patronage capital. Patronage capital, or capital credits as they are often called, represents your investment in the cooperative and its assets.

## Energy efficiency tip of the month

Members often use electric space heaters to heat a single room or supplement the heat in a room. Did you know that a 1,500-watt heater, running continuously, costs about 17.64 cents per hour to operate? That's \$1.41 for an eight-hour period and \$4.23 for a 24-hour period. One running continuously (24 hours a day for 30 days) would add \$127 to your monthly 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 [www.bedfordrec.com](http://www.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, 2020.*

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

## 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.*