

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



Cooperative's 81st annual meeting

By Brooks Shoemaker

THE COOPERATIVE'S 81st annual meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 8, 2020, at the Crossroads Bible Church, located north of the turnpike interchange in Cessna (5564 Business 220, Bedford). Please note that we are returning to Crossroads this year after several years at another venue. 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 entertainers Sherrie Dodson and Rob Rhodes are providing the entertainment. Both are involved in the music ministry at the Grace Bible Church in Hollidaysburg. They play a blend of contemporary, country and Christian music.

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, an article and a billing insert all aimed at attracting interested candidates, only the three incumbent members were interested in being on the ballot. The following pages contain the profiles of the 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 8. 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!

Census 2020

Why is there a census taken every 10 years? Because the census provides critical data that lawmakers, business owners, teachers, and many others use to provide daily services, products, and support for all of us in our community. The 2020 census will mark the 24th time the country has counted its population since 1790. Participating in the census is required by law.

It is important that we help the U.S. Census Bureau count everyone in Bedford, Fulton, and Somerset counties by providing basic information about all adults, children, and babies living at your address. Results from the 2020 census will be used to:

- ▶ Direct billions of dollars in federal funds to local communities for schools, roads and other public

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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 8, 2020, at Crossroads Bible Church, Bedford, Pa.



DISTRICT 1: REUBEN R. LAFFERTY

Reuben R. Lafferty currently represents District 1 and serves as the treasurer on the Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative Board of Directors. Lafferty is a graduate of Hyndman High School, and served six years in the United States Marine Corps and 17 years in the United States Army Reserves. He is retired from the Bedford Farm Bureau, where he was a deliveryman/truck driver.

He and his wife, Barbara, reside at 130 Minnesota Road in Manns Choice. They have four children: Ruby, Donnie, Shannen and David. Lafferty is a member of the Bedford Masonic Blue Lodge No. 320 F&AM, the Harrisburg Consistory, the Bedford County Detachment Marine Corps League and the Fleet Reserve Association. He enjoys hunting, fishing and metal detecting in his spare time.

Candidate's Comment: *"As director of District 1, I will continue to work to ensure reliable service to the members of the cooperative."*



DISTRICT 5: JOHN A. OLDHAM

John A. Oldham was appointed to the Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative Board of Directors at the June 2016 meeting to complete the unexpired term of Owen Miller. Oldham retired from New Enterprise Stone and Lime after 20 years of service and was also a township supervisor for 24 years.

He attends the Chestnut Ridge Independent Fellowship Church and resides on Adams Run Road with his wife, Dorothy. They are the proud parents of six children: Karen, Bonnie, Cindy, Daniel, Susie and Bobbi Jo.

Oldham previously served on the board from 1981 to 1984.

Candidate's Comment: *"I am eager to serve my community. As a 59-year member of the cooperative, I also want to help keep rates low and affordable."*



DISTRICT 6: PAUL L. RUMMEL JR.

Paul Rummel Jr. was appointed to the board in January 2013 and currently represents District 6 on the Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative Board of Directors. Rummel serves as the secretary of the board. He is a 1982 graduate of Everett Christian Academy and spent four years in the United States Air Force.

For the last 18 years, he has worked at Shawnee Vinyl, where he is the general manager. He is a member of the ACTS Community Church, where he serves on the Leadership Council. He enjoys many activities outside of work and board duties, including metal detecting, wood carving, traveling, hunting, and fishing.

Rummel and his wife, Susan, reside at 1218 Country Ridge Road in Bedford. He has five children: Selena, Michaela, Nicholas, Chasidy and Justin.

Candidate's Comments: *"It's a privilege to serve the cooperative members alongside a team providing electricity to the community. My desire is for all the members to have reliable electricity at reasonable costs, and our team be able to perform their duties with the equipment they need for a safe work environment."*

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.



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

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

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



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



7. GM/CEO shares results with the board.



From the General Manager

(continued from page 12a)

- services,
- ▶ Help your community prepare to meet transportation and emergency readiness needs
- ▶ Determine the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives and,
- ▶ Draw congressional and state legislative districts.

The 2020 census marks the first time that the U.S. Census Bureau is using the internet to securely collect information. Responding online helps conserve natural resources, save taxpayer money and process data more efficiently. If you are unable to complete your 2020 census questionnaire online, you may also respond by phone, or a paper questionnaire will be sent for you to complete and mail back.

Responding is easy. You will receive an invitation in the mail sometime in mid-March. It will direct you to a website and provide you with a census identification code to use at that site. Then, simply log in and answer the questions. (You can also respond by phone or mail.)

During the 2020 census, the U.S. Census Bureau will never ask you for your Social Security number, money or donations, anything on behalf of a political party or about politics, or your bank or credit card account numbers. If someone claiming to be from the U.S. Census Bureau contacts you via email or phone and asks you for one of these things, it's a scam; DO NOT cooperate!

Remember, the census is designed to help all of us. It's especially important for rural America. Please respond completely and honestly. Your personal information is kept *confidential*. It cannot be used against you or shared with other federal agencies. The U.S. Census Bureau is bound by federal law to protect your information, and your data is used only for anonymous, statistical purposes.

Visit www.2020census.gov for more information and to "Shape your Future!" 🌞

Powering Up After an Outage

When the power goes out, we expect it to be restored within a few hours. But when a major storm or natural disaster causes widespread damage, extended outages may result. Our line crews work long, hard hours to restore service safely to the greatest number of consumers in the shortest time possible. Here's what's going on if you find yourself in the dark:

- 1. High-Voltage Transmission Lines:** Transmission towers and cables that supply power to transmission substations (and thousands of members) rarely fail. But when damaged, these facilities must be repaired before other parts of the system can operate.
- 2. Distribution Substation:** A substation can serve hundreds or thousands of consumers. When a major outage occurs, line crews inspect substations to determine if problems stem from transmission lines feeding into the substation, the substation itself or if problems exist further down the line.
- 3. Main Distribution Lines:** If the problem cannot be isolated at a distribution substation, distribution lines are checked. These lines carry power to large groups of consumers in communities or housing developments.
- 4. Tap Lines:** If local outages persist, supply lines (also known as tap lines) are inspected. These lines deliver power to transformers, either mounted on poles or placed on pads for underground service, outside businesses, schools and homes.
- 5. Individual Homes:** If your home remains without power, the service line between a transformer and your residence may need to be repaired. Always call to report an outage to help line crews isolate local issues.

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.