

Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives
serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

Bedford REC

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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
Juniata 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 82nd annual meeting

By Brooks Shoemaker

THE COOPERATIVE'S 82nd annual meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 14, 2021, at the Bedford County Fairgrounds (108 Telegraph Road, Bedford), located just west of downtown Bedford on Business Route 30, which is also West Pitt Street. The fairgrounds is adjacent to the Bedford exit from Interstate 99. This is not only a new venue, but an entirely new annual meeting concept because of the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions.

Finding a parking spot at the annual meeting or risking the health and welfare of your family will not be a concern, though. It will be a "drive-thru" meeting that begins at 10 a.m. and ends at 1:30 p.m. (please do not arrive before 10 a.m. to prevent traffic from backing up onto Route 30). At any point during those hours, while remaining in your car, members may enter at the main fairgrounds' entrance and follow the marked route. At stops along the way, members will register, pick up an annual report and a ballot to vote in the election of directors, enjoy free refreshments, pick up an attendance gift, and finally turn in their completed ballot. Social distancing will be respected at all times. Registered attendees will also be eligible to win door prizes. Lucky winners will be announced after the meeting.

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 consumer 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 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 profiles of the candidates vying for the three director seats. Each of them was selected by the Nominating Committee. This year, we did not receive any petitions from members requesting that they be added to the ballot. Also, due to the drive-thru meeting format, additional nominations will not be accepted during the meeting.

Mark your calendars now and plan to join us on April 14. 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!

Three electrifying kitchen appliances to save time *and* energy

It is no secret that smaller countertop appliances, like crock pots and
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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 14, 2021, at the Bedford County Fairgrounds, Bedford, Pa.



DISTRICT 2: RONALD W. WILKINS

Ronald W. Wilkins currently represents District 2 and serves as the vice president of the Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative Board of Directors. He is also the Allegheny Member Delegate/Allegheny Director and CCS Director. In addition, he is the PREA Alternate Member Delegate.

Ron retired as the I.S. Manager of Roaring Spring Blank Book in 2016. He is a graduate of Bedford High School and attended the Institute of Computer Management. He has been a cooperative member for 44 years.

Ron and his wife, Hilda, live in Manns Choice, Pa., and have two children, Daniel and Becky. He is a deacon, Sunday School teacher, assistant treasurer and song leader at the Bedford Bible Church. He is also the judge of elections for Harrison Township. He has been a school bus contractor for 48 years with the Bedford area schools, is a member of the bluegrass gospel group called Country Praise, and enjoys hunting, family time, and tinkering around the family farm. He spent six years as a member of the Pennsylvania National Guard.

Candidate's Comments: *I have enjoyed my time serving as a director and look forward, if elected, to continue to work for the good of the cooperative and its members.*



DISTRICT 4: DONALD E. HOENSTINE

Donald E. Hoenstine currently represents District 4 and serves as the president of the Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative Board of Directors. He is also the PREA Member Delegate and PREA Director. In addition, he is the Allegheny Alternate Member Delegate and CCS Alternate Director.

Don has been retired from Consolidated Rail Corp. since 2000, where he spent 25 years. He graduated from Claysburg-Kimmel High School and has been a cooperative member for 45 years.

Don and his wife, Sandy, have two daughters, Julie and Faith. He served in the United States Army from 1969-1971. Don is a member of the Claysburg Bible Church where he serves as a trustee and treasurer, as well as the Bible Camp director. He enjoys gardening and helping out with church functions.

Candidate's Comments: *Providing power today is different than years ago because of the many different ways that power is generated. As a board member, it's my responsibility to make decisions that are best for our members and co-op. I am committed to providing service to each and every member at the lowest possible cost.*



DISTRICT 4: GALEN L. MCDONALD II

Galen L. McDonald currently resides in Imler, Pa., and has been a member of the cooperative for 15 years. Galen was nominated by the committee to run for director in District 4 for the first time.

Galen has been a welder/fabricator for 26 years and is employed by McClanahan's Corporation in Hollidaysburg, Pa. In addition to his welding and fabricating duties, he helps run Green Slopes Farm, which is the family farm in Bedford County.

Galen graduated from Chestnut Ridge High School and has an American FFA degree. He has three children, Devin, Marlee, and Marissa. Galen is a member of the Weyant Methodist Church and the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Association. His hobbies include volunteering in and around the community, anything farm related, dirt track racing, and hunting.

Candidate's Comments: *My interest was sparked by my grandfather, Ned McDonald, who served on the Bedford REC board. I would like to help keep the best interests of Bedford REC members and employees at the forefront and help move the co-op forward.*



DISTRICT 8: BRIAN I. HOOVER

Brian I. Hoover calls Everett, Pa., home and currently represents District 8 as a Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative board member. Brian has been a cooperative member for over 24 years.

Brian retired from the Pennsylvania State Police after 25 years of service. For the past four years, he has been self-employed, working as a contract investigator. He is a graduate of Chambersburg High School and Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania, where he earned a degree in criminal justice.

Brian and his wife, Amy, have two children, Luke and Tyler. He is a member of the Bedford Bible Church where he serves as a deacon, is the Sunday School superintendent, and teaches adult Sunday School classes. In addition to church, family, and work, Brian also enjoys fly-fishing and road cycling.

Candidate's Comments: *In the time I have been a member and director, I've seen the cooperative model of business has been successful. I find providing governance at the co-op to be both challenging and rewarding. If I am elected to continue as a director, I will endeavor to pursue affordable, safe and reliable electricity for the members of Bedford REC.*

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

(continued from page 12a)

microwaves, use less energy than your oven. In addition to efficiency, smaller kitchen appliances can provide faster cooking times and less hassle with cleanup. If you are looking for convenient, energy-efficient cooking methods, here are three electrifying appliances for your kitchen:

1. Air fryers are becoming increasingly popular. Air fryers use convection to circulate hot air and cook the food. Since little to no oil is required, they produce healthier meals than a traditional fryer. Air fryers don't take up much counter space, and with everything cooked in the fryer, cleanup is a breeze. They are available in a variety of sizes, and prices range from \$40 to over \$200.
2. Electric griddles offer several benefits for any home chef (beyond bacon and eggs!). Griddles are convenient because you can cook everything at once, like a "one-pan" meal — from fajitas to sandwiches to French toast. They cook quickly, and do not use much electricity. Griddle prices and sizes vary, but they usually cost about \$30.
3. Pizza brings people together; you may need a pizza maker for your kitchen! It is a compact, inexpensive alternative to a costly brick oven. Pizza makers also use less energy than your traditional oven. Most pizza makers are multifunctional and can be used to cook flatbreads, frittatas, quesadillas and more. You can purchase a pizza maker for about \$30 to \$150.

There are many other handy appliance options for your kitchen. Just remember, when you are cooking a smaller meal, countertop appliances can save time, energy and money! ☀

OFFICE CLOSING
 Bedford REC's office will be closed on **April 2, 2021, for Good Friday.**

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.