

# 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](mailto:support@bedfordrec.com)  
Website: [www.bedfordrec.com](http://www.bedfordrec.com)

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### President & Allegheny Director

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

### Vice President & PREA Director

Donald E. Hoenstine  
Kimmel and King Twp.

### Secretary

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

### 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 R. Sprigg II  
West St. Clair, Pavia, and Lincoln Twp.,  
Pleasantville Borough

### Brian I. Hoover

Monroe and West Providence Twp.,  
Everett Borough

### Troy A. Mickle

East St. Clair Twp., Bedford County

### Travis L. Wigfield

Colerain, Snake Spring and  
South Woodbury Twp.

### Attorney

James R. Cascio

## OFFICE HOURS

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

## Interested in a Seat on the Cooperative's Board of Directors?



**BROOKS  
SHOEMAKER**

**HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED RUNNING** for a seat on our board of directors? As a member, you can actively participate in the cooperative's operation by representing your district on the board. Being an electric cooperative director is an interesting and challenging experience. The position requires individuals who have a vision and the willingness to work with others in guiding a complex, \$30 million operation.

The next Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting will be held April 10, 2024. At that meeting, cooperative members will elect directors from: District 2 (Napier and Harrison townships and Manns Choice and New Paris boroughs, Bedford County), District 4 (King

and Kimmel townships, Bedford County) and District 8 (West Providence and Monroe townships and Everett Borough, Bedford County). If you live 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, which is made up of one cooperative member from each of the nine districts. The committee will nominate qualified members to run for director in districts where a term is ending. No member of the board, cooperative employee or close relative shall serve on the committee. The names of cooperative members appointed to the 2024 Nominating Committee and the qualifications necessary to become a director were enclosed with the bill you received 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 provide your name to the committee.

## Annual meeting

As I mentioned, the next Bedford REC Annual Meeting will be held April 10, 2024. Members will cast ballots to elect three of their fellow members to the Bedford REC Board of Directors. All cooperative members will receive a ballot in the mail. Members may use that ballot to vote for one director candidate in each of the three districts, then return the ballot by mail. Alternatively, members may also vote in person at the annual meeting, as we have traditionally done. Regardless of how you choose to vote, we are no longer using cumulative voting. Each member is entitled to a single vote in each of the three districts.

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 Aug. 31 of each year, a committee on nominations consisting of one (1) member from each district of the cooperative.

The nominating 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 at least one (1) qualified member from each 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,

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# Forever Young

**GARY DIEHL**, MEMBER SERVICES MANAGER

**AT THE BEDFORD RURAL ELECTRIC** Cooperative office, conducting business with walk-in members is always a pleasure. Whether it is a member visiting for the first time or a “regular,” seeing people come through the doors always allows the staff opportunities to develop personal relationships with them. One such regular to grace us with her presence like clockwork each month is a young lady by the name of Vera Beegle.

After Vera takes care of business, which is typically paying her monthly bill, she cheerfully chats with the billing department staff and always departs saying, “I just love you girls.” And according to Bedford REC Office Assistant Christy Topper, who had a special bond with Vera growing up (and still does), she really means it.

Vera celebrated her 93rd birthday at the end of September, but don’t let her age fool you for a second. This gal could probably run circles around most of us, at least in terms of her daily activities. You might ask, “What keeps a 93-year-old woman busy?” Well, aside from kids, grandkids, great-grandkids, hobbies and normal day-to-day stuff, she’s got a business to run.

For nearly three decades now, the property that Vera and her husband, Jack, purchased to start a mobile home park has been one of her passions and a way to generate income. (Jack also worked for the Howard Johnson’s hotel/restaurant chain.)



**MAILBOX BRIDGE:** A covered-bridge walkway leads to the entrance of JA-VE Mobile Home Park in Bedford, which is owned by Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative member Vera Beegle, a regular visitor at our office.



**NICE BUG:** Vera Beegle, owner/manager of JA-VE Mobile Home Park in Bedford, poses next to her golf cart, “Buggy,” that she uses for patrolling the park.

The park, aptly named JA-VE — short for Jack and Vera, of course — is home to 10 families. While the business was a team effort, Vera has always been the quarterback, and JA-VE has always been her baby. And since Jack’s passing about 13 years ago, she has been in charge of everything.

Having a successful mobile home park is far more than just collecting lot rent each month. Any time a tenant has an issue — be it administrative or utility or grounds-related — Vera must fix the problem. And speaking of grounds, the park is kept neat partly because Vera still insists on mowing. Patrolling the park each evening on her golf cart — affectionately referred to as her buggy — is also part of the owner/manager’s responsibilities. Vera isn’t sure how much longer she will continue to manage the park’s daily activities, but she plans to hand the role over to her granddaughter when she decides to step down.

For now, her approach is eloquently stated: “Each day when I get up, I pray and then tell myself to keep pushing and get going. That’s how the job gets done.”

The first thing you might notice when you enter Vera’s house through the kitchen is her parakeet, Noah, who will tell you he is a “pretty bird.” Then, your eyes will quickly focus on a fantastic collection of plates on the wall. They’ve come from all across the United States and some foreign lands. Vera hasn’t been to all these places, but her friends and family know she is a collector, so they bring her plates from the destinations they visit. Vera estimates there are six



or seven dozen displayed, but she knows she has probably another 200 in boxes.

Perhaps more impressive is her doll collection. Vera estimates she has more than 300 dolls throughout the house. When asked to comment on her collections, she just chuckles and says, "After I'm gone, my family is going to have a heyday cleaning this place out."

Vera has always been a vibrant and active lady. She beat breast cancer in the late 1960s and, having persevered, certainly lives life to the fullest.

One thing she dearly misses is riding her motorcycle. It's been about 15 to 20 years since she stopped riding, but she put on the miles back in the day. She recalls taking long rides in the country through Black Valley and on the country roads outside of Breezewood. She remembers getting lost and just making sure she stayed on roads with double lines because she knew it would come out somewhere familiar. She was neighbors with Bedford REC employee Christy Topper, who she used to babysit. Vera recalls taking trips all over God's creation with Christy (or Christy's mother) on the back.

Like many motorcyclists, she has "dumped it" (lost control) a couple times, but avoided serious injury. In fact, the only injury from her motorcycle days involved an accident when she wasn't even on the bike. Vera tells the story of a beautiful January day when she decided to take a winter ride. Upon returning, she was actually pushing the machine up a ramp into a storage building. The ramp was still a little icy, and the motorcycle slipped and hit a piece of metal that ended up cutting Vera's leg. Jack, seeing an uncommon amount of blood, convinced Vera she should go to the hospital to get the wound checked. She drove herself and, when she arrived, she mentioned to the nurses she might need a couple stitches. It took 31 to patch her back up.

Vera is also very passionate about her faith and says going to church as a youngster was never optional. She regularly attends Point Fellowship Church in Schellsburg with her sister. She has been a member there for life and was the youth leader for more than 20 years.

Vera isn't sure what her secret to longevity is, but part of it may be genetic. Her brother, Don, is 97, and her sisters, Genevieve and Anna Jane, are 91 and 83, respectively. Part of it may be that she just lives life to the fullest each day and keeps a positive attitude.

Whatever it is, the cooperative surely hopes she continues to visit with her smiling face for many years to come. 🍷



**LIVE FREE:** Vera Beegle, the driver, and Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative Office Assistant Christy Topper sit on Vera's motorcycle in 1988.



**INTERNATIONAL COLLECTION:** Dozens of plates from across the United States and foreign lands sit on display on Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative member Vera Beegle's kitchen wall.

## 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, 814-623-7568, 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 & CEO

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by Jan. 20 of each year, a list of nominations for directors. Any fifteen (15) or more members residing in one district, by Jan. 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. 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 Feb. 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 in person at the annual meeting 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; 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 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 been 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. 🗳️

**BROOKS SHOEMAKER**  
GENERAL MANAGER & CEO