

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
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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

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Bedford and Cumberland Valley Twps.

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Allegheny Twp., New Baltimore Borough,
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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 annual meeting

By Brooks Shoemaker

THE COOPERATIVE'S 82nd annual meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 14, 2021, at the Bedford County Fairgrounds (108 Telegraph Road, Bedford). The fairgrounds are located just west of downtown Bedford on Business Route 30, which is also West Pitt Street, 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.

The "drive-thru" meeting begins at 10 a.m. and ends at 1:30 p.m. (please do not arrive before 10 a.m. We cannot have traffic backing up onto Route 30). You may arrive at any time during those hours and remain in your vehicle while you register, pick up an annual report and a ballot to vote in the election of directors, enjoy free refreshments, get an attendance gift, and finally turn in the 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.

Please make plans to join us. By now, you should have received the official notice of the meeting. To simplify registration, it is very important that you please tear off the bottom section of the notice and bring it with you to the meeting. Remember, every vote counts!

Thank a lineworker on April 12

If you were asked to associate an

image or a person with Bedford Rural Electric, I bet you would picture a lineworker. Among the most visible employees of the co-op, lineworkers work tirelessly to ensure our community receives uninterrupted power 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

"Lineworker" is listed as one of the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S. This is understandable because they work in and around energized power lines, in the worst possible conditions. Day or night, in summer's heat, humidity, and thunderstorms, or winter's sub-zero temperatures, high winds, snow, and ice storms, lineworkers often climb 40 or more feet in the air, carrying heavy equipment to ensure that our members can enjoy the comforts of home.

Being a lineworker is a tough, highly skilled profession. It takes years of specialized training, ongoing education, dedication, and equally important, a sense of service and commitment. These folks willingly leave the comfort of home to tackle a challenging job in the most difficult conditions. This dedication and sense of service to the community is truly what sets them apart. That is why we set aside the second Monday in April to celebrate and recognize the folks who work around the clock to keep the lights on.

While lineworkers might be our most visible employees, remember that there is also a team of highly skilled

(continues on page 14d)

Drive-thru fundraisers and other events

By Linda Williams

WHEN THE GOING gets tough, the tough get going, and that is what many charitable organizations have had to do during the pandemic. With social distancing, most of their food-oriented fundraisers came to a standstill.

Someone raised the possibility of drive-thru dinners and the idea was a hit with local churches and fire companies.

Imler Volunteer Fire Company Chief Joe Crissman says it's been a challenge, but they weren't going to let the virus stop their 15-year annual fish fry fundraiser. The fish dinners are held every Friday during the Lenten season. Dinners have plenty of tasty food with a choice of either baked or fried fish, macaroni and cheese, stewed tomatoes, cole slaw, baked potato or French fries, and a roll for \$13.

Vickie Barger, the fire company's secretary/treasurer, says there are 15



FIRST OF THE SEASON: Scott Mowry directs traffic at the Imler Fire Company's fish fry on Feb. 19. This first-of-the-season dinner was well attended despite the snowy weather.

to 20 cooks and servers at each dinner. The fire company has 20 active members and 30 volunteer associated

members who help with fundraising events.

"There is less cleanup with the drive-thrus," Barger says. "We don't have to clean the whole building, just the kitchen."

The system has not affected attendance as they have continually served 175 to 225 dinners throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Imler Fire Company was formed in the 1970s with Terry Mock as its first president. Prior to that, area residents were dependent on Alum Bank or Claysburg for fire assistance. Groundbreaking ceremonies for the facility were held on Sunday, July 5, 1970. Cost was \$50,000. There were 40 active and about 200 inactive members. The first fire truck was a 1947 Dodge purchased from the Claysburg Fire Company and a 1937 Studebaker they got from Lakemont. Claysburg firefighters provided training and Bedford firefighters gave boots, coats, and helmets.

Other upcoming fundraisers planned in addition to the fish dinners



KITCHEN WORKERS: Shawn Yorty, Gary Baker and Jason Mowry work in the kitchen during the Imler Fire Company's first fish fry of 2021.

are a horse race drawing, outdoor gun drawing, ox roast in August, and outdoor gun drawing, meat raffle, and turkey and ham bingo in November. A craft show is planned for Nov. 13. According to Crissman, Imler answered 17 calls during the past year.

Bedford REC will hold drive-thru annual meeting

Fundraisers are not the only functions relying on drive-in or drive-thru events during these unprecedented times. Last summer, there were drive-in movies at the fairgrounds and drive-thru light displays at Christmas.

Bedford Rural Electric is planning a drive-thru annual meeting for 2021.

“Last year was the first time we ever canceled the annual meeting, and we decided we didn’t want to do that again, but we wanted everyone to be safe,” says Gary Diehl, member services manager.

Bedford REC staff checked with other rural electric companies for information about how they had handled their annual meetings. Somerset REC reported they had a drive-thru event in 2020 and had better atten-



READY FOR DELIVERY: Sarah Bittner and Shunay Dennis check bags to make sure they are correct. Bags are then taken to the packers and are ready for delivery by the time the cars reach their destination.

dance than for a typical in-person event.

“One of the reasons,” Diehl says, “was because they had it in Somerset, and it was more centrally located than their previous spot at Seven Springs.

Because the meeting is planned specifically for the election of directors and the typical business meeting does not take place, the event is much shorter, allowing for busy people to attend.”

For their first drive-thru event, Bedford REC is using the fairgrounds versus the Alum Bank Fire Hall, which is closer to the center of their service territory.

Scheduled for Wednesday, April 14, drive-thru voting will take place from 10 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. Each Bedford REC member will receive a registration form in the mail. Those attending are asked to bring that form with them. Once registered to vote, members will be entered into a drawing for a door prize. Members will also receive gifts and refreshments while never leaving their car.

“You should be able to do everything in a short time,” Diehl says.

Multiple members can travel together.

Those on the ballot this year are: District 2, Ronald W. Wilkins; District 8, Brian J. Hoover; and District 4, Donald E. Hoenstine; and Galen L. McDonald II. 🗳️



SO MANY CHOICES: Deb Lehman fills bags at the fish fry. Customers have a choice of baked fish or fried fish and a baked potato or French fries. Those filling the bags have to add a car number so the correct food gets delivered.

From the General Manager

(continued from page 14a)

professionals working behind the scenes. Engineers provide ongoing expertise and guidance on the operations side of the co-op. Member service representatives are always standing by to take your calls and questions. Our information technology experts are continuously monitoring our system to help safeguard sensitive data. And these are just a few of the folks who work together to ensure we can deliver the service and reliability you expect and deserve. Without them, our lineworkers wouldn't be able to "bring the light" to our community.

On April 12, and any time you see a lineworker, I hope you'll join me in thanking them for their exceptional service. I also hope you'll remember that you have a dedicated team of professionals working behind the scenes at the co-op whose commitment to service runs just as deep.

Know what's below: Steps for safe digging

Finally, spring is just around the corner! We can't wait to get outside and enjoy the fresh air. Perhaps you're planning a new garden, a lawn makeover, a new patio, or even building a garage or a shed. Regardless of how big or small your plans are, remember to keep safety in mind for all projects — especially those that require digging near underground utility lines.


Most of us never think about the electric, gas, water and other utility lines buried below the ground. In fact, there may be lines on your property that you do not know about. Hitting one of these lines while digging will delay your project — trust us! Bedford Rural Electric reminds all members who are planning a digging project to call 811 at least three business days (and as many as 10) before you start. You may also submit a request online by visiting call811.com/811-In-Your-State. It's free.

All affected utilities will be notified of your intent to dig. It may take a few days to process your request. The affected utilities will mark the buried

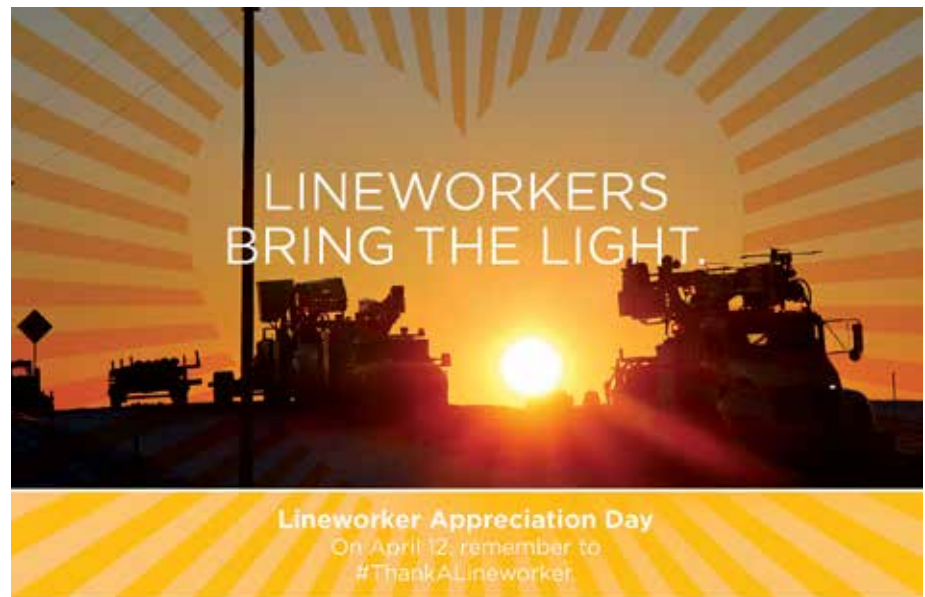
lines with paint or flags. Before you break ground, confirm that all the utilities have responded to your request. If you placed your request by phone, use the process explained by your 811 call center representative. If you submitted your request online, refer to your 811 center ticket to confirm everything.

By taking this important step before you break ground on your project, you can help protect not only yourself but our community. Disrupting an underground utility line can interrupt service, cause injuries and cost money to repair, so remember to call 811 first and know what's below.

Energy efficiency tip of the month

Some manufacturers set water heater thermostats at 140 degrees, but most households usually only require them to be set at 120 degrees. Consider lowering your water heater's temperature to save energy and slow mineral buildup in the heater and pipes. 

OFFICE CLOSING
Bedford REC's office will be closed on Wednesday, April 14th, for our annual meeting



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.