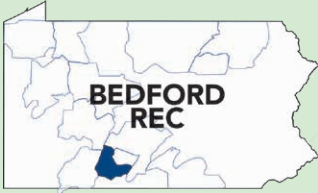


# Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative

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 Twps.,  
New Paris, Manns Choice and  
Schellsburg Boroughs

### Vice President & PREA Director

Donald E. Hoenstine  
Kimmel and King Twps.

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

### Brian I. Hoover

Monroe and West Providence Twps.,  
Everett Borough

### Troy A. Mickle

East St. Clair Twp., Bedford County

### Travis L. Wigfield

Colerain, Snake Spring and  
South Woodbury Twps.

### Attorney

James R. Cascio

## OFFICE HOURS

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

## Cooperative's 86th Annual Meeting



**BROOKS SHOEMAKER**

**THE COOPERATIVE'S 86TH ANNUAL MEETING** will be held Wednesday, April 9, at the Bedford County Fairgrounds, 729 W. Pitt St., just west of downtown Bedford on Business Route 30. The fairgrounds are next to the Bedford Exit of Interstate 99. Once again, by popular request, we are hosting a "drive-thru" meeting.

Finding a parking spot will not be a concern at this event, which begins at 10 a.m. and ends at 1:30 p.m. (**Note:** Please do not arrive before 10 a.m. to avoid traffic backing up on to Route 30.) At any point during those hours, while remaining in your car, members will enter the main entrance of the fairgrounds and follow the marked route. At stops along the way, members will register, pick up an annual report and receive a ballot to vote in the election of directors (if you haven't already voted by mail). Members may also enjoy free refreshments, pick up an attendance gift and turn in their completed ballot if voting at the meeting. Registered attendees will also be eligible to win door prizes. Lucky winners will be announced after the meeting.

We want to make voting as convenient as possible for our members, so we offer a variety of ways for you to participate. Around March 15, you will receive a packet in the mail. It will contain the official notice of the meeting, your registration card for the meeting and a mail-in ballot. Once the packet is received, it is up to you to decide if you want to vote by using the mail-in ballot or bringing your registration card to the meeting and voting in person. *Members cannot do both.* If you choose to vote by mail, your ballot must be received by our election vendor **before April 5**, so please allow sufficient time for postal delivery. Also, if you vote by mail, we still encourage you to attend the meeting.

Each year, the annual meeting is a 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 has an equal voice in choosing their member-representatives on the board of directors. What better way to map the future of the organization than by helping to decide who sits on our nine-member board?

Our directors are community-minded individuals with a range of backgrounds and skills. We rely on them to help us make informed decisions on long-term priorities and investments. All nine directors live in the co-op's service area, and we consider them the eyes and ears of the community because they each provide unique perspectives on local issues.

Directors are elected for three-year terms, with three of the nine seats up for election each year. Five members were interested in being on this year's ballot. The following pages contain profiles of the candidates vying for the three director seats. Each was selected by the Nominating Committee. This year, we did not receive any petitions from members asking to be added to the ballot, and no additional nominations will be accepted at the annual meeting.

Mark your calendars now and plan to join us April 9. If you cannot join us, please remember to cast your vote by mail. To simplify registration at the meeting, please tear off the registration card you'll be receiving in the mail this month

*Continued on page 14D*

# 2025 DIRECTOR NOMINEES

The following cooperative members have been nominated for the three seats up for election this year on the Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) Board of Directors. Elections will be held at the Bedford REC Annual Meeting, April 9, at the Bedford County Fairgrounds.

## DISTRICT 3: Dale R. Sprigg II



**DALE R. SPRIGG II**

**Dale R. Sprigg II** currently represents District 3 and serves as assistant treasurer of the Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) Board of Directors. He is a self-employed heating, cooling and refrigeration contractor.

A graduate of Bedford High School, Dale earned his associate degree in HVAC-R from Triangle Tech and served in the U.S. Army for four years as a helicopter pilot. Dale has attended specialized director training, earning his Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate, Board Leadership certificate, and Director Gold credential.

He and his wife, Krista, live in Alum Bank. They have two

children, Emily and Ethan, and two grandchildren, Bentley and Barrett. Dale attends the Ryot Church of the Nazarene, where he serves on the board.

In his spare time, he enjoys hunting, camping and anything outdoor related.

**Candidate's Comments:** *"I would like to help the cooperative to continue providing stable and reasonably priced electric service for its members in this ever-changing industry. Over the past three terms as a director, I've obtained industry certifications and attended numerous educational classes. Using that information, continuing to educate our membership on existing energy, plus sharing what I've learned concerning new forms of energy and its impact upon the co-op are my key initiatives."*

## DISTRICT 3: Galen L. McDonald



**GALEN L. MCDONALD**

**Galen L. McDonald** lives in Imler, where he owns and operates Green Slopes Farm. In addition to running the farm and driving trucks for more than 50 years, Galen also works for Bedford Reinforced Plastics. He has been a member of the cooperative for more than 50 years.

A 1969 graduate of Chestnut Ridge High School, he was married for 49 ½ years to the late Sonja Feathers McDonald. He has four children: Angelique Walason, Melissa Campbell, Alicia

McDonald and Galen Lee McDonald II.

Galen is a member of the Pennsylvania Guernsey Breeders Association. Some of his activities include helping 4-H and FFA students show animals at county and state competitions. In addition to helping students, Galen also enjoys showing his family and farm's prize-winning Guernseys at county, state, and national shows. Galen is also a member of the Weyant Church.

**Candidate's Comments:** *"I would like to join the board to work for the betterment of the co-op, which results in positives for Bedford REC members."*

## DISTRICT 7: Travis Wigfield



**TRAVIS WIGFIELD**

**Travis Wigfield** currently represents District 7 on the Bedford REC Board of Directors. He lives in Colerain Township with his wife, Anahi. They have two children, Dulcia and Caleb. Travis has been a member of Bedford REC for 25 years.

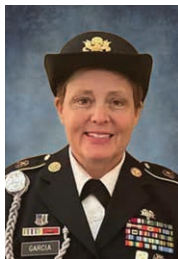
Travis has worked in various business sectors, including warehousing and customer service at Kelly-Springfield Tire Company and in the IT departments

of IBM, Rite Aid, M&T Bank, HUD, and Freddie Mac. Currently, he is a senior applications developer at 1<sup>st</sup> Choice Connect/Everett Cash Mutual. He is a graduate of Bedford High School and has a bachelor's degree in computer science from Frostburg State University.

His hobbies include hunting, being outdoors, camping, and spending time with family and friends.

**Candidate's Comments:** *"I will work to assist the cooperative to deliver reliable and affordable service to its members."*

## DISTRICT 7: Sarah Ann Garcia



**SARAH ANN GARCIA**

**Sarah Ann Garcia** was born in Bedford to the late Eleanor Koontz and Joe Allen Baker. A Bedford High School graduate, she studied medical assistance at Mount Aloysius College and also attended Excelsior College, where she is two credits shy of obtaining her liberal arts degree. She is a licensed EMT and a Certified Nursing Assistant.

Sarah retired from the U.S. Army with honor and distinction after 24 years as a combat medic. She was deployed on several combat tours, demonstrating exceptional leadership and dedication. In 2023, she was among 22 female veterans recognized by Gov. Josh Shapiro in celebration of Women’s History Month.

Sarah is married to Marcelino (also retired Army), and they have one daughter. Sarah is an active member of the Bedford American Legion and a lifetime member of the Schellsburg VFW. She also was a member of the Bedford Honor Guard; has organized local outreach programs and blood drives; is an active board member of the United Church of Christ; is a member of White Sulphur Springs; and serves on the board of directors for Bedford County Conservation and the Juniata Woolen Mills.

Her hobbies include walking, biking and gardening. As an active member of the American Volkssport Association (a national non-competitive sports organization with German roots), she organized and led a local club that sponsored community walks. She is currently working with senior clients, bringing happiness to their lives by creating a safe living environment for them.

**Candidate’s Comments:** *“I would like to serve on the Bedford REC Board to instill my leadership values and respect for community. I believe teamwork helps bring everyone together and cooperative understanding produces positive outcomes for all.”*

## DISTRICT 9: Earl “Wally” Garland



**EARL “WALLY” GARLAND**

**Earl “Wally” Garland** currently represents District 9 and serves as assistant secretary of the Bedford REC Board of Directors. He retired as manager of Battery Warehouse in 2006 and previously was employed at Eastern Express P.I.E. Trucking.

Earl and his wife, Virginia, live in Breezewood. Together, they have four children — Brenda, Sherry, Todd, and Troy — and 10 grandchildren. Earl attends Mountain Chapel Church and is a member of the Everett Masonic Lodge 524, Bedford Royal Arch Chapter 255, Harrisburg Consistory, and the National Rifle Association. In his spare time, he enjoys hunting and the outdoors.

**Candidate’s Comments:** *“I am eager to continue to represent the members of Bedford REC.”*

## A Storm is Always Ready

**ARE YOU?**



When Mother Nature threatens a severe storm, be ready by having an emergency kit on hand.

## YOUR KIT SHOULD INCLUDE:



|                        |             |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Bottles of water       | Flashlights |
| Nonperishable food     | Batteries   |
| Portable phone charger | Can opener  |



|                    |               |
|--------------------|---------------|
| First-aid supplies | Pain reliever |
| Hand sanitizer     | Warm clothing |
| Prescriptions      | Blankets      |



|                        |               |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Battery-operated radio | Money         |
| Toys, books and games  | Baby supplies |
| Important documents    | Pet supplies  |

Once your kit is assembled, check it a few times a year to make sure batteries are fresh and that no one has borrowed a necessary item.

Learn more at: [SafeElectricity.org](https://www.SafeElectricity.org)

**FROM THE  
GENERAL MANAGER & CEO**  
*Continued from page 14A*

and bring it with you to the meeting.  
Remember: **every** vote counts!

### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

March is an ideal time to service your home cooling system, ensuring it runs efficiently when the heat of summer arrives. Routine maintenance, like cleaning or replacing filters, checking refrigerant levels, and inspecting parts, can improve your system's energy efficiency and lower your energy bills. By addressing potential issues early, you can avoid costly emergency repairs and extend the lifespan of your unit. Scheduling service in the spring may help you beat the peak-season rush and gain faster access to qualified technicians. A well-maintained cooling system can save energy and keep your home comfortable all summer long. 🐞

**BROOKS SHOEMAKER**  
GENERAL MANAGER & CEO

## 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.*

# FREE & EASY ways to save energy

(Spoiler Alert: Your clothes and dishes won't know the difference)

Major home appliances account for approximately 16% of an average home's energy consumption.

**16%**



1. Run full loads of laundry instead of several smaller ones.
2. Use cold water to wash your clothes.

3. Keep your refrigerator at 35° to 38°F and your freezer at 0°F.
4. Regularly defrost manual-defrost freezers and refrigerators.



5. Skip the heat-dry setting on your dishwasher.
6. Fully load your dishwasher before washing.

7. When buying new appliances, consider Energy Star versions.
8. Unplug appliances you're not using.



Time to replace that old appliance? Replacing older versions with energy-efficient models can save the average household more than \$500 per year.

Sources: National Resources Defense Council,  
U.S. Energy Information Administration

**Safe  
Electricity.org®**