

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 Twp.

Vice President & Allegheny Director

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

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

Brian I. Hoover

Monroe and West Providence Twp.,
Everett Borough

John A. Oldham

East St. Clair Twp., Bedford County
William F. "Bill" Popovich Jr.
Colerain, Snake Spring and
South Woodbury Twp.

Attorney

James R. Cascio

Office Hours

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

From the General Manager



It's a matter of (co-op!) principles

By Brooks Shoemaker

DID YOU know that all cooperatives adhere to the same set of seven principles that reflect our core values of honesty, transparency, equity, inclusiveness and service to the greater community good? As 2021 winds down, this is the perfect time to reflect on these principles that have stood the test of time and that also provide a framework for the future. Let's take a look at these principles.

Voluntary and open membership

Just like all co-ops, Bedford Rural Electric was created out of necessity — to meet a need that would have been otherwise unmet in our community. So in 1939, a group of neighbors banded together and organized our electric co-op so everyone in our community could benefit. For a modest membership fee, any farmer could get electricity brought to his farm. Neighbors came together to tackle a problem that they all had but couldn't solve alone. They worked together for the benefit of the whole community, and the newly established electric lines helped to power economic opportunity in our community.

While this history is slowly forgotten, key parts of that heritage remain, including the focus on our mission and serving the greater good. In this, we include everyone to improve the quality of life and economic opportunity for the entire community. Membership is open to everyone in our service territory,

regardless of race, religion, age, disability, gender identity, language, political perspective or socioeconomic status.

Democratic member control

We are locally governed. Each member gets a voice and a vote in how the co-op is run, and each voice and vote are equal. Our leadership team and employees live right here in the community. The members of our board of directors, who help set long-term priorities for the co-op, also live locally on co-op lines. These board members have been elected by neighbors just like you. We know our members have a valuable perspective, and that's why we are continually seeking your input and encourage you to weigh in on important co-op issues and participate in co-op elections.

Members' economic participation

Our mission is always to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to our members. But as a co-op, we are also motivated by service to the community, rather than profits. Members allocate surpluses for co-op programs, initiatives, capital investments and other activities approved by the membership. It's not just about dollars — it's about opportunity for all and being fair when engaging with our members. The cooperative way is a values-based business model.

(continues on page 14d)

William Roy Mock: veteran, historian, writer

By Linda Williams

THE TALL MAN with the white beard, often dressed in period costume and seen at every historical and veteran event in the area, is none other than William Roy Mock.

He might be in the honor guard, at the Bedford County Historical Society or with the Bedford County Vietnam Veterans Association. In addition to his many activities, he is also a writer.

Mock's books include: "The Last Station: Underground Railroad of Quaker Corner," which shares accounts of the Underground Railroad in St. Clair Township and throughout Bedford County; "A Final Salute: Gloves On/Safety Off," a history of the Fort Bedford Honor Guard; and "American Patriot: Peter Mock Sr. in Honorable Remembrance," which traces his ancestor's involvement in the Revolutionary War. More recently, Mock published "The Association: Bonds of Loyalty," a history of the county's Vietnam Veterans Association.

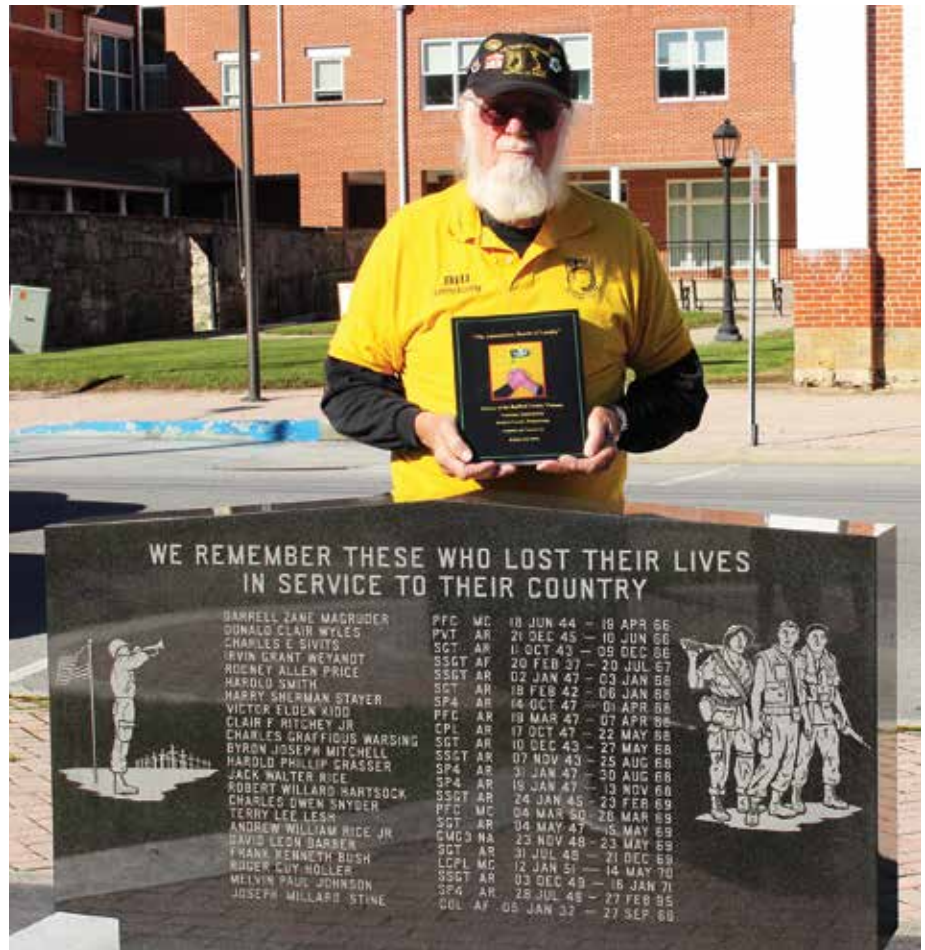
Not one to let his typing keys remain idle, he continues to work on yet another book, "Our Family Farm: A Cherished Legacy," which includes historical information from the farm's origin in 1794 to the present.

While the Bedford County Vietnam Veterans Association is a countywide organization, the membership is held together by a common bond between all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces.

"It is impossible to know how many Vietnam veterans there are in Bedford County at any given time," Mock wrote in his book. "At present, there are more than 100 members."

The book contains many personal memories of local Vietnam veterans, and each story is entirely unique.

When "The Wall That Heals," a traveling replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., came to Bedford County in the summer of 2020, visitors could look for the names of the 22 service members from Bedford County who



PAYING TRIBUTE: Author and veteran William Roy Mock poses with his book, "The Association: Bonds of Loyalty," at the Vietnam monument across from the Bedford County Courthouse. The memorial lists the names of the 22 Bedford County service members who died during the war.

lost their lives in the war. They are: David Leon Barber, Frank Kenneth Bush, Harold Phillip Grasser, Victor Elden Kidd, Robert Willard Hartsock, Roger Guy Holler, Melvin Paul Johnson, Terry Lee Lesh, Darrell Zane Magruder, Bryon Joseph Mitchell, Rodney Allen Price, Andrew William Rice Jr., Jack Walter Rice, Clair F. Ritchey Jr., Charles E. Sivits, Harold Smith, Charles Owen Snyder, Harry Sherman Stayer, Joseph Millard Stine, Charles Graffious Warsing, Irvin Grant Weyand and Donald Clair Wyles.

Their names are also listed on the Vietnam monument across from the Bedford County Courthouse.

Following high school graduation, Mock enlisted and served in the U.S.

Air Force during the Vietnam War. He was a medical service specialist, initially stationed at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio. Mock was assigned to a surgical ward and later put in charge of the surgical clinic at the base hospital. He underwent training for flight status in 1968 and was assigned to the 57th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron.

As a flight crew medic, he averaged 40 missions per month in and out of Vietnam and was awarded permanent Aircrew Member Wings. Mock later received numerous other awards and certificates along with an honorable discharge.

He says the county's Vietnam veterans are deeply bonded.



A LONG HISTORY: William Roy Mock speaks at an event earlier this year in celebration of Bedford County's 250th anniversary.

"From my perspective, based upon experience, that is exactly how it is throughout our great and exceptional country," Mock adds. "The words of this historian cannot express the pride and honor that I have experienced being a member of the association and being in the presence of such great American heroes."

When he is not with the veterans, Mock can often be found at the Bedford County Historical Society. He

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: William Roy Mock prepares a float for a parade this year commemorating Bedford County's 250th anniversary. Always in the middle of the activity, he is adjusting the flag.

serves on the board of trustees and was instrumental in having a reproduction of the 138th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Regiment flag made. As commander of Gettysburg Camp No. 112, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Mock had the honor of carrying the flag with the Gettysburg Blues Civil War Honor Guard at the 100th anniversary and rededication of the Pennsylvania Monument in Andersonville, Georgia, on Dec. 7, 2005.

For many years on Remembrance Day, an annual event in Gettysburg that honors Civil War soldiers and civilians, Mock and other members of the Gettysburg Blues led the November parade through town.

He has also spent countless hours researching family genealogy and history. In 2006, as a result of his efforts, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission erected a historical marker in western Bedford County to recognize the role of his ancestors and others in the Underground Railroad.

In addition to his involvement in

the Bedford County Vietnam Veterans Association, he also is active in the following organizations: Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 364; Fort Bedford Honor Guard; Pleasantville Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 9219; Bedford American Legion, Post 113; Sons of Veterans Reserve; National Rifle Association; and Sons of the American Revolution, Frontier Patriots Chapter.

Mock considers his many roles as a reflection of a personal debt and his "time and service" to be a great tribute to his military brothers and sisters and their families.

His book about local Vietnam veterans, "The Association: Bonds of Loyalty," is \$28, plus tax and shipping. To buy a copy, email Mock at wrm138@hotmail.com or visit the Bedford County Historical Society. 🌞

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 during after-hours outages when the office is not fully staffed. Please be patient and try again in a few minutes.

From the General Manager*(continued from page 14a)***Autonomy and independence**

The fourth principal, autonomy and independence, means that the co-op is solely directed and guided by the members we serve, reflecting the values and needs of our local community.

Education and training

The fifth principle, education and training, focuses on enhancing the knowledge of co-op employees and board members. By investing in our employees and board members, our co-op is making a commitment to the future of the co-op and the high quality of service our members expect and deserve. It's a win-win situation.

Cooperation among cooperatives

Cooperation among cooperatives is the sixth principle. Cooperatives work together to address bigger challenges. We put this principle in action after major storms and disasters that cause widespread power outages. When this happens, we call on nearby co-ops to come to our aid and assist with restoration efforts, and we, of course, extend the same help to them when they need us. I can't think of a better example of cooperation among cooperatives.

Concern for community

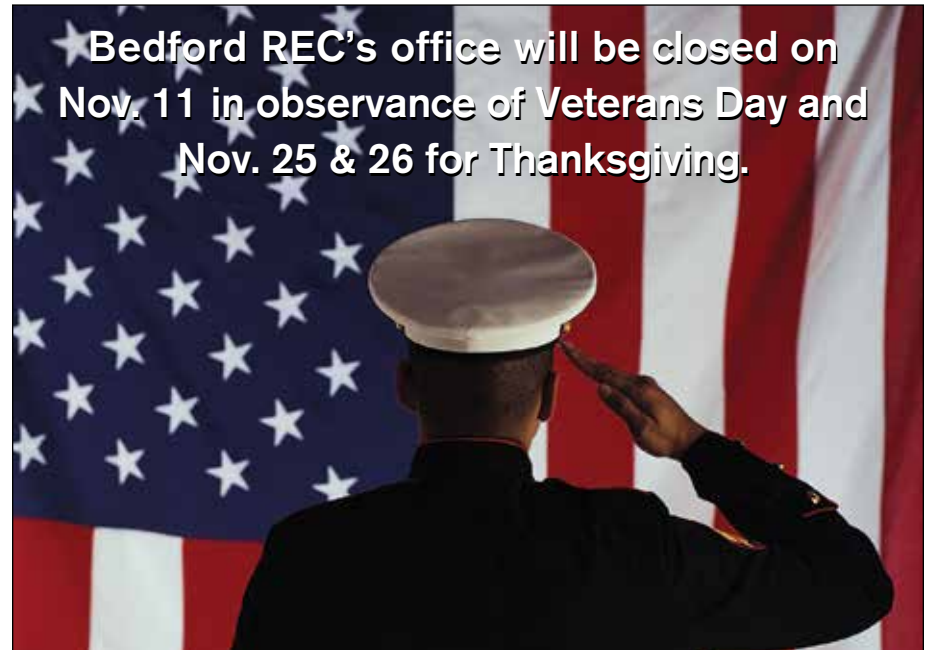
The seventh principle, concern for community, is essential to who we are as cooperatives. We serve our community by not only being an essential service, but also by helping to power our local economy. Whether through economic development, volunteerism or donations to local causes, we invest in this community because it's our home, too.

I think you'll find that most cooperatives bring people together to make good, commonsense decisions that benefit the entire community. We hope you feel that way about us. We are your electric cooperative, and we are *people you can count on!*

Energy efficiency tip of the month

Fall is the perfect time to prep your home for the upcoming winter chill. One of the best ways you can save energy and stay comfortable is to caulk and

weatherstrip areas that typically need sealing. Start by sealing around windows and doors. Seal plumbing, ducting, and areas where electrical wiring comes through walls, floors, and ceilings for additional energy savings. ☀



Bedford REC's office will be closed on Nov. 11 in observance of Veterans Day and Nov. 25 & 26 for Thanksgiving.

DONATIONS FOR LOCAL FOOD BANKS

Bedford Rural Electric directors and employees are asking the members to join in and make donation to the area food banks. Those wishing to donate items should bring them to the Bedford Rural Electric office on Lincoln Highway between now and Dec. 10, 2021.



Items needed include: canned goods, paper products, soap and other hygiene-related items, food products such as noodles, cake mixes, spaghetti, or boxed foods of any kind. The items will be donated to local food banks throughout the county.

Your help and kindness will be appreciated during this holiday season.

Anyone making a donation will have their name entered for a \$50 gift certificate toward their electric bill.