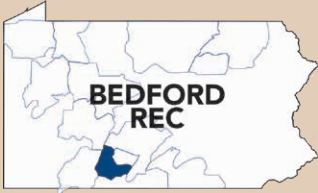


Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative

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

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Napier and Harrison Twps.,
New Paris, Manns Choice and
Schellsburg Boroughs

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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.

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 consumer-member of Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative (REC), 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 with vision and the willingness to work with others in guiding a complex, \$30 million operation.

The next Bedford REC Annual Meeting will be held April 9, 2025, where cooperative members will elect directors from: District 3 (West St. Clair, Pavia, and Lincoln townships, and Pleasantville Borough, Bedford County),

District 7 (Colerain, Snake Spring, and South Woodbury townships, Bedford County), and District 9 (East Providence and Brush Creek townships, 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. When a director's term of office is ending, the committee will nominate qualified members from that district as director nominees. No member of the board, employee or close relative shall serve on the committee. The names of cooperative members appointed to the 2025 Nominating Committee and the qualifications necessary to become a director were enclosed with your September electric bill, which you received this month. 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

During the annual meeting, members will cast ballots to elect three 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 candidate in each of the three districts up for election, 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, every member is entitled to cast 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 member from each district of the cooperative.

The nominating committee shall meet for the purpose of making nominations at least 90 days prior to the annual meeting. Five 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 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, by Jan. 20 of each year, a list of nominations for directors. Any 15 or more members residing

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Ready, Aim, Fire

GARY DIEHL, MEMBER SERVICES MANAGER

IN PROFESSIONAL, COLLEGE, AND HIGH school sports, fans and talking heads alike kick around the word “dynasty” pretty loosely. By definition, a sports dynasty is a team or family who dominates their sport or league for an extended length of time.

Sometimes it’s fun to have friendly banter with individuals as to whether your favorite team or one you competed on or against is truly that dominant. However, in the end, it’s usually still up for debate. In the case of the Everett High School Rifle Team, however, there is no denying its dominance: Seven consecutive, undefeated teams translates into 101 straight victories — and counting.

Coltin Rice was a member of the inaugural team in 2011 and also competed for a couple years on the West Virginia University club team, which won a national championship his freshman year. Coltin now coaches the Everett team and says it did not achieve its elite status overnight. In fact,

he says of the first team from nearly a decade and a half ago: “We were just a bunch of kids who liked to hunt and shoot guns.”

The coach takes a humble approach to his duties and subsequent successes. But consider this: The team, in its history, has never had a losing season. Sure, some of that can be attributed to raw talent, but it’s also a product of great coaching, dedicated instructors, and a good bunch of kids who are eager to learn and improve.

Serious stuff

Everett’s home matches, practices and most all things associated with the team take place at the Everett Sportsman’s Club, a longtime member of Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative (REC). In fact, the club is home to the Everett Sportsman’s Junior Rifle Club (ESJRC), a program that instructs youth in firearm safety and four-position precision smallbore rifle shooting.

While the high school team is a co-ed varsity and junior varsity sport, comprised of students from grades 9 to 12 from Everett and Bedford high schools, the ESJRC is open to any youth in grades 6 to 12. The two, however, are closely connected; all Everett Rifle Team members must also be a member of the ESJRC, which has an 80-member limit, filled on a first-come, first-served basis. The club also is blessed to have some dedicated and talented volunteer instructors. Along with Coltin, the staff consists of Lynn Whetstone, Ken and Cindy Ritchey, George and Julie Kuhne, Wade and Misty Williams, Jim Tegeler, Megan Lynn, and Jason Mickle — more than half of whom are members of Bedford REC.

Shortly into my discussion with Coltin, it became abundantly clear the rifle club is far more than some kids bringing their grandfather’s single-shot .22-caliber gun to the range to do some good old-fashioned plinking.

Nope, this is serious stuff, and the equipment these competitors use is more sophisticated and expensive than most would imagine. Their rifles are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to equipment, which includes specialized jackets and pants, stabilizer slings, gloves, and eye and hearing protection.

And then there’s the ammunition. In a high school match, there are usually 10 shooters, of which the five highest scores count toward match results. For the most part, it is a winter sport. But imagine 80 youngsters practicing several days a week, nearly year-round, and it’s clear the team and club expends a lot of ammo. The club makes equipment available for the competitors, but like any other activity, the more you do it and the better you become, the more you want your own gear. Whether the



SHARPSHOOTERS: Members of the Everett High School Rifle Team practice shooting with smallbore rifles from the prone position.

club provides it or a team member uses their own, gear becomes very costly. The club and team are, for the most part, self-funded through various fundraisers, grants, and donations (which can be made to the Everett Rifle Club Association, a not-for-profit organization) — except for the transportation to and from away matches.

Safety first

One thought that may come to mind is safety. In all the years the club and high school teams have been around, there has not been a single accident or incident. A lot of the credit goes to a mandatory two-day safety class new members must pass to participate. This is different from the hunter's safety course that many may be familiar with.

The Everett team competes in the Allegheny Mountain Rifle Conference, and league rules dictate all athletes must successfully pass the NRA basic rifle safety course before any live fire at an in-season practice or match. Also, at least one coach from each team must be an NRA certified rifle instructor, and a range safety officer must be at each to ensure all range and safe-gun-handling rules are being followed. Kudos to the instructors and students for maintaining a safe environment.

Within the conference, there are 17 teams — nine from the west division and eight from the east. At league-sanctioned matches, three positions — prone (or lying down), standing and kneeling — are used for all regular season varsity matches. Athletes compete with smallbore .22-caliber rifles and shoot 50 feet from their targets for indoor competitions.

Each of the three positions a shooter progresses through during a match has a time limit to shoot a target. The prone, standing, and kneeling positions allow 10, 20, and 15 minutes, respectively, to shoot an unlimited number of sighter shots into the middle of the target and then 10 record shots along the outside. A maximum of 10 shooters per team may participate in any match. Then, the scores of the top five are combined to determine the team score.

Until recently, coaches and scorers had to analyze and score targets by hand to determine the outcome. However, the club has been in the process of purchasing an electronic scoring system, which should be a game-changer. One thing the club needed to begin using the new system was internet access, which required an antenna that was at least 40 feet high. Bedford REC donated the pole and labor to the club to make this a reality.

Success speaks for itself

The successes past and current teams and club members have had are far too numerous to mention individually. From college scholarships to Distinguished Expert badges, from the high school team's dominance over the last decade to medals won at high school state competitions, and



RIFLE CLUB: Members of the Everett Sportsman's Junior Rifle Club, a group open to students in grades 6 to 12, pause for a photo.



WELL-EQUIPPED: Members of the Everett High School Rifle Team, comprised of students in grades 9 to 12 from Everett and Bedford high schools, use specialized equipment to stay safe and improve precision. The team holds more than 100 consecutive victories in the Allegheny Mountain Rifle Conference.

from team conference championships to club members competing in events all over the country, it is obvious the Everett team and ESJRC are doing things the right way.

If you would like to learn more, visit the Everett High School Rifle Team's Facebook page or search online to find tons of information and articles about the groups.

However, the best way to summarize the groups' goals would be to take a look at the Allegheny Mountain Conference Mission Statement: *The vision of the Allegheny Mountain Rifle Conference is to provide a safe and structured environment within which we can introduce student athletes of varying abilities to a sport they can enjoy for the rest of their lives. Our goal is to empower them with the attitude, knowledge, and skills necessary to compete successfully and take advantage of any future college rifle scholarship opportunities that may be available to them.* 🎯

**FROM THE
GENERAL MANAGER & CEO**

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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 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 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 business days following the date of meeting adjournment. The chairman shall reconvene the committee for a hearing not later than 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 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 years, or until their successors shall have been elected and shall have 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

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.