

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 E. 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

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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.

How to Land a Seat on the 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 with vision and a willingness to work with others in guiding a complex, \$30 million operation.

The next Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) Annual Meeting will be held April 8, 2026. At that meeting, cooperative members will elect directors from District 1 (Allegheny Township and New Baltimore Borough, Somerset County, and Juniata Township, Bedford County);

District 5 (East Saint Clair Township, Bedford County); and District 6 (Bedford and Cumberland Valley townships, Bedford County). If you live in any of these districts, you may be eligible 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. From each district in which a director's term of office is ending, the committee nominates qualified members for the position. No member of the board, employee or close relative can serve on the committee.

The names of cooperative members appointed to the 2026 Nominating Committee and the qualifications necessary to become a director are enclosed with your September electric bill, which you'll receive this month. If becoming a director interests you, contact a member of the committee. You can also contact the cooperative office at 814-624-3808, and we will make sure your name is provided to the committee.

During the next annual meeting, members will cast ballots to elect three of their fellow members to the Bedford REC Board of Directors. Cooperative members will receive a ballot in the mail before the meeting. Members can use the ballot to vote for one candidate in each of the three districts electing directors. Members can then return the ballot by mail.

Alternatively, members may also vote in person at the annual meeting. Regardless of how you choose to vote, every member is entitled to cast their 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 August 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, by January 20 of each year, a list of nominations for directors. Any fifteen (15) or more members residing in one District, by January 15, may make other nominations for their

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A COLORFUL MANE CHARACTER: Susie Parker, right, and some of her students pose with a horse they painted during a recent summer camp at Wishful Stars Stables. The Osterburg business is owned and operated by Parker and her husband, Chad, who are members of Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative.

At Wishful Stars Stables, They're Not Just Horsing Around

GARY DIEHL, MEMBER SERVICES MANAGER

THE BEST PART ABOUT CHATTING with the subjects of *Penn Lines* articles is getting to know our members and seeing parts of our service territory where we've never ventured. You might think a person who grew up in Bedford County and works at the co-op each day would have seen about every inch of the place, but there are plenty of hidden gems.

Enter Chad and Susie Parker, Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) members who have a spread with endless pretty views that's barely off the beaten path in Osterburg; however, the home is just a stone's throw from Interstate 99 and old Route 220 past St. Clairsville. Who knew?

In addition to the beautiful house Chad designed and built, there's an equally impressive horse barn on the property where Susie runs Wishful Stars Stables. The business offers riding lessons as well as three-day summer camps, where youngsters learn anything and everything equine-related.

Currently, 16 horses live there, 14 of which Chad and Susie own. The Parkers have a great amount of experience when it comes to these awesome animals — Chad has been around horses since he was 7 years old, and Susie had her first riding lesson at the age of 9.

A positive experience

Susie typically gives riding lessons year-round, weather permitting, and she sometimes receives help from Brittany Shirley, a family friend who travels all the way from Clearfield. Susie's clients include youngsters ranging in age from 4 to 18 and visiting from as far away as Milesburg and Huntingdon.

Lessons are given on evenings and weekends and they can run up to two hours.

"We always end on a good note," Susie says. "[That's] even if we have to repeat something — because we want to have a positive experience to end the session."

Susie began giving lessons about four years ago. Before that, she worked at a preschool in Blair County, which helped prepare her for the Wishful Stars endeavor.

"Some people who give riding lessons are strict, but Susie is more like a cheerleader," Chad says. "She takes a whole different angle."

When Susie begins working with a client, she starts with the basics, including how to brush the animal and how to tack up. Students also learn about the importance of proper footwear and helmets, which are mandatory at Wishful Stars. From there, students move on to leading the horse and then eventually learn how to ride.

Susie limits her lessons to three or four students because instructing too many at once would hinder her ability to keep everyone safe, she says. She also wants to be sure each student receives the attention they deserve.

Camps at Wishful Stars run three days during June and July, and she prefers to keep the number of campers at six per camp. Attendees spend their days learning how to care for horses, different aspects of riding and how to clean the stalls. Susie stresses to students that a lot of hard work goes into owning and caring for such large animals. She notes that if someone is truly interested in getting a horse, it involves a lot more than hopping on and taking rides.

On lunch breaks, campers usually swim in the Parkers' pool or work on crafts. At each camp, the kids literally get to paint a horse, too, as they use washable fingerpaint to "decorate" one of the horses in the Parkers' stable. It's up to the kids if they want to leave a handprint or create a design on the horse — or even do both. It's one of the camp's unique offerings and students look forward to participating.

Horses and their personalities

Chad and Susie explain that horses are complex animals, and each has its own personality. The animals can be temperamental and may need interaction from the rider, both verbal and physical, to keep them focused on the task at hand, especially while trail riding. As we walked around the stalls and outside the barn to meet some of the horses, it became clear to me, a novice unfamiliar with such animals, that they actually do have their own character and disposition.

In addition to running the camp and giving lessons, Susie is a competitive barrel racer. It's a hobby that means so much to her that she constructed a ring for barrel racing on their property. She'll sometimes even give youngsters a lesson in the sport.

As if the Parkers aren't busy enough, Chad owns and operates A.B.A. Service, an excavation business that offers 24-hour emergency sewer and water line repair, concrete work, demolition, land clearing and site preparation. The company has worked with Bedford REC many times over the years.

When asked about how Wishful Stars Stables and A.B.A. Services manage to stay so busy, Chad and Susie say they don't advertise and that most of their business comes from word of mouth. So, if you're interested in learning more about the Parkers, make sure you talk to someone who has taken advantage of their expertise. You can also find their contact information, some great photos, and information about lessons and camps on their Facebook page, facebook.com/Wishful-Stars-Stables. 📷

IN THE ZONE: Susie Parker, owner of Wishful Stars Stables in Osterburg, rounds a barrel during one of her barrel-racing competitions.



SHOWING LOVE: Campers share a tender moment with one of Chad and Susie Parker's horses.



FOALING AROUND WITH CRAFTS: Campers at Wishful Stars Stables show off one of the crafts they completed while a curious onlooker checks things out.



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 February 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 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 lots 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 814-623-5101 during office hours.

Please have the account holder's name, phone number, physical address or account number available. 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 call 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.