

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
814-623-5101

Email: support@bedfordrec.com

Website: www.bedfordrec.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President & PREA Director

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Kimmel and King Twps.

Vice President & Allegheny Director

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Attorney

James R. Cascio

Office Hours

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

From the General Manager



Annual meeting coming up in April

By Brooks Shoemaker

BEDFORD Rural Electric Cooperative's Annual Meeting is scheduled for April 13. Once again, because of COVID-19 and the widespread omicron surge, we have decided to hold a drive-thru meeting similar to the 2021 event. It will be held at the Bedford County Fairgrounds.

There are some exciting changes beginning with the 2022 annual meeting. For the first time in our history, members may participate in our election without attending the meeting. Yes, we are offering mail-in voting! All members who are in good standing will receive a packet in the mail around March 15. It will explain the process, provide information on the candidates, and include a ballot that you may complete and return in the postage-paid envelope.

Conversely, you may choose to vote at the meeting like we have traditionally done. However, you may not vote BOTH ways. Regardless, we encourage everyone to attend the meeting.

We're also eliminating cumulative voting. You will no longer be able to give more than one vote (and as many as three) to a particular candidate. As always, we will be electing directors in three districts. Under the new system, you will be able to give a single vote to a single candidate in each of those districts.

Finally, because of the mail-in voting changes, we will no longer solicit director nominations from the floor at the annual meeting. Given the fact that voters may vote by mail and not attend

the meeting, it is no longer feasible to continue this practice.

The annual meeting is one of the characteristics that distinguishes our co-op from investor-owned utilities. Try going to one of their annual meetings and casting your vote — you can't, not today and not in the future! Bedford Rural Electric sends you a special VIP invitation to our annual meeting. If you can't accept the invite, you can still vote from the comfort of home. Look for more details right here in the *March Penn Lines*.

Are portable space heaters efficient?

Small space heaters are meant to do exactly as their name says: Heat a small space. Unfortunately, many people try to use portable space heaters to heat their entire home, which can make your energy bills skyrocket.

If you're using a space heater to compensate for problems in your home, like inadequate insulation, drafty windows and exterior doors, or an inefficient heating system, space heaters are not a practical, cost-effective solution. Your best bet is to improve the overall efficiency of your home. Things like caulking and weather stripping around windows and exterior doors are low-cost, easy ways to save energy. Adding additional insulation is a bigger project, but it may be worthwhile, too. Taking these proactive, energy-saving measures rather than relying on space heaters for supplemental warmth can reduce your heating and cooling bills

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Bedford Rural Electric patrons make marriage work

By Linda Williams

REMEMBER the old song, “Love and Marriage”? We used to think they went together like a horse and carriage. Unfortunately, 60% of marriages in the United States end in divorce today.

In honor of the 40% that make it and Valentine’s Day, we are featuring three Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative couples with long and happy marriages that have survived for six decades or more. They are Ned and Lee Frear, Anthony and Renate Goad, and Clyde and Velma Morris.

Realizing there are more good marriages out there, we will repeat this feature with different folks later in the year, including a Schellsburg couple who will be celebrating their 70th anniversary. So stay tuned, and if you qualify and would like to be featured, please contact Linda Williams at loysburg40@yahoo.com.

Ned and Lee Frear

Lee was a student at Huntingdon



Ned and Lee Frear

High School, and Ned was at the Hill Prep School in Huntingdon when a mutual friend introduced them. After dating for a couple of years, they were married on Flag Day, June 14, 1958.

Ned was an officer on a destroyer escort in Key West, Florida, where they made their first home. It was not easy for a new bride being in a different place with her husband at sea, so those first years were probably the hardest. Both of their daughters, Kathy and Betsy, were born there. The family later moved back to Bedford, and their son, Chris, was born. They now have six grandsons and two great-grandsons, one of whom joined the family in January.

Ned and Lee think more marriages would succeed if couples had respect for one another and would be able to say, “I’m sorry,” if necessary. Their advice: Don’t point

fingers at each other. Instead, lay out the problems and seek solutions. As a wife, Lee says she always tried to have a peaceful, warm place for Ned to come home to.

Children, the pair says, learn from their parents and know if they are not happy. They need security, loving and giving. “We don’t hold a grudge,” the Frears say.

And, most important, they have dates. The couple goes out, or they may put on music or watch a video and just enjoy each other’s company.

“Faith, love, and respect are the keys,” the Frears agree.

Anthony and Renate Goad

The Goads will be married 59 years on July 1 and have an interesting tale



Anthony and Renate Goad

to tell. They live on Business Route 220 in the house they built in the early days of their marriage.

Renate is from Stuttgart, Germany, and Tony was a GI in the military police when they met. A mutual friend arranged their first three dates, and Renate stood him up on all three. Finally, curious as to who would keep coming back for more, she went on a date and decided Tony was actually a pretty nice guy.

Several dates later, she thought he just might be the “forever” one. She usually told her dates her name was Susie, but Tony learned both her real name and her address. When the military police stopped in front of her house, it had the whole neighborhood, especially her mother, wondering what was going on. Renate confessed to dating a GI, and her mother invited him to dinner. The family liked him, but figured he would soon be going back to the states.

A year and half later, he proposed. Tony and Renate were married in two ceremonies. The first was a civil ceremony in a German courthouse by a judge, and the second was at the Fifth General Hospital by a U.S. pastor. Tony had mono and was released from the hospital the day of his wedding.

Renate grew up in a large German city, but the couple moved to the tiny borough of Manns Choice. She says she was dreadfully homesick, but her wonderful in-laws and Tony’s sister, who she loves to the moon and back, helped. Being homesick subsided after the birth of Steve, her oldest son.

That first Christmas was hard, and she still tears up at the first note of “Silent Night.” The pair have gone back to Germany many times, usually every two years. Renate says once she has seen her family, she is ready to come home, while Tony would stay for a long while.

“Like all marriages, we have had our ups and downs,” she says, “but I attribute the success to working together as a team.”

Renate thinks divorce is too easy in today’s society. The Goads have three grandchildren.



Clyde and Velma Morris

Clyde and Velma Morris

Clyde and Velma Morris, now residents of Spring House at Home-wood, take the prize for longevity. They will be married 68 years on April 4.

They met in January 1953, when Clyde had just returned home from Korea. His sister invited him to go square dancing, and Velma was there with some friends. They met only briefly, but Clyde was smitten. He says she was the prettiest girl there so he tracked her down and asked for a date.

The Morrises were married the next year. Velma and Clyde both say, “it is absolutely necessary for BOTH partners to be totally committed to make it a successful marriage. Always

be willing to share and forgive and thank God every day for the blessings [you] share.”

Clyde and Velma have the same interests and like the same types of entertainment, so they have always done everything together.

They think too many marriages fail because the partners have not learned how to deal with the realities of life together in bad as well as good times. The decline of moral values has greatly attributed, too, they say.

The couple have three children: Kirt Morris of Everett and Lana Timmins and Jill Payne, both of Pittsburgh. They also have four grandchildren and one great-grandchild. ❁

NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) will be awarding at least four scholarships of \$1,000 each to non-traditional students whose primary residence is served by Bedford REC.

For an application, go to our website at bedfordrec.com and click on **scholarship information**. Applications are also available at the office.

All applications and required information must be received no later than March 1, 2022.

**Mail application to:
Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative
P. O. Box 335
Bedford, PA 15522**

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) will be awarding at least four scholarships of \$1,000 each to seniors whose parents' or guardians' primary residence is served by Bedford REC.

For an application, go to our website at bedfordrec.com and click on **scholarship information**. Applications are also available at the office.

All applications and required information must be received no later than March 1, 2022.

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From the General Manager

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for years to come.

Perhaps your home is energy efficient, but you want a specific room to be a bit warmer. A space heater may work. Try to only use them in small spaces that you're occupying. If possible, close off other rooms to contain the warmth provided by the space heater. Always make sure the heater is properly sized for the space.

A word about safety: The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates more than 25,000 residential fires are associated with the use of space heaters every year, resulting in more than 300 deaths. If you must use a space heater, purchase a newer model that includes the most current safety features and make sure it carries the Underwriters Laboratory (UL) label. Choose a heater controlled by a thermostat to avoid energy waste and overheating and place it on a level surface away from foot traffic. Do not plug a space heater into an extension cord or power strip. It could overheat, resulting in a fire. Also, try to limit or, ideally, eliminate any other devices that are plugged into the same circuit as your heater. Always keep children and pets away from space heaters.

Remember, the simplest, most cost-effective solution to staying warm is to add extra layers of clothing. A heavy

sweatshirt or flannel shirt makes a big difference. Also, UL-approved electric blankets are a good option.

We know it's cold out there, but remember in addition to safety concerns, space heaters can greatly increase your energy bills if used improperly. If you're looking for alternative ways to save energy and increase comfort in your home, contact us. We're here to help you manage your energy use.

Energy efficiency tip of the month

About 30% of a home's heating energy is lost through inefficient windows. Caulk and weatherstrip windows to seal air leaks. When running your home heating system, lock all operable windows to ensure the tightest seal possible. ❄️



Food drive winner

Congratulations to the winners of this year's drawing for members who contributed to the Bedford REC Food Drive. Manfred and Erika Barth of Schellsburg received a \$50 credit on their electric bill.

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.