


Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

Bedford REC
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John J. Dirienzo Jr.
Attorney

OFFICE HOURS

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

GUEST COLUMN

Youth Tour



LAST JUNE, I was given an amazing opportunity to attend the 2008 Rural Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. Selected as Everett Area High School's representative, I joined Liza Mearkle from Bedford High School and Brett Braley from Chestnut Ridge High School as ambassadors from Bedford REC.

We arrived in D.C. along with 1,500 students from all corners of the United States. During the week, we were educated about the history of electric cooperatives, and we discussed current issues facing the electric world. The tour opened with a ceremony introducing the state representatives. Then, David Landis portrayed Sen. George W. Norris, and told us about the history of electricity. We learned about the struggles of getting electricity to

rural areas, and how it was accomplished. Later, Mike Schlappi, an inspirational speaker, gave us the message, "Just because you can't stand up, doesn't mean you can't stand out." Mike is a four-time Paralympic medalist and two-time world champion in wheelchair basketball.

We had a busy schedule touring Washington, D.C., and making many new friends. My personal favorite sites were the FDR Memorial and the Holocaust Museum. We also saw the Jefferson, Lincoln, Iwo Jima, World War I

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Ariel Watters represents Pennsylvania on the NRECA 2009 Youth Leadership Council.



Ariel Watters sings "The Star-Spangled Banner" for the crowd of 14,000 attendees at the NRECA Annual Meeting in New Orleans. She closed the ceremony by singing "America the Beautiful," and received a standing ovation from the crowd.



Ariel Watters and her YLC friend, Lauren Byrd (Tennessee), pose during the boat cruise in New Orleans. Students had the opportunity to tour various sites in New Orleans including the 9th Ward, the area hardest hit by Hurricane Katrina.

and World War II memorials. We went on a boat cruise, saw the play “Sheer Madness,” and visited the Arlington Cemetery and Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Seeing these places in person brought classroom history lessons to life. It was humbling to see how many Americans gave their life for us to have today’s freedoms.

Because I was selected as the 2008 Outstanding Youth Tour Student from Pennsylvania, I became a member of the 2008 National Rural Electric Youth Leadership Council. We were nicknamed the “Red Shirts.” Along with this privilege came yet another trip to Washington, D.C., for several days of leadership training in July, and then a trip to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Annual Meeting in February.

The NRECA Annual Meeting was held in New Orleans. This was an

absolutely amazing trip! Along with the 42 other YLC students, we assisted those attending the conference by working in the information booths, ushering and working in the Congressional Action Center. I chose to spend most of my time in the Congressional Action Center sending emails to congressmen to promote “Our Energy, Our Future.” (By the way, have you signed your online letter yet? If not, go to www.ourenergy.coop).



2009 Youth Leadership Council Red Shirts.



Ariel Watters works in the Congressional Action Center sending emails to congressmen to promote the “Our Energy, Our Future” campaign (www.ourenergy.coop).

Students participating in “Red Shirts” were able to do some fun activities while in New Orleans, including watching Mardi Gras parades, going on a haunted tour of Bourbon Street, shopping at the mall and much more.

We also got a chance to visit the 9th Ward, the area hardest hit by Hurricane Katrina.

Through Youth Tour, YLC and the NRECA meeting, I have made many memories and friends that I will never forget. I learned so much from these trips, not just about electricity, but about myself and life lessons in general. I would definitely consider these experiences a highlight in my high school career. They were truly wonderful trips, and I met so many inspiring people! Not everyone can say they have a friend from every state! I will be making even more friends when I return to Washington, D.C., for the 2009 Youth Tour to assist as a chaperone.

Thank you so much, Bedford REC, Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association and NRECA, for sending me on these once-in-a-lifetime trips. I thank you with the utmost gratitude from the bottom of my heart! ☀

— Ariel Watters

Bedford REC sends four to annual Youth Tour

FOUR AREA YOUNG PEOPLE will have an opportunity to see the nation's capital in a different perspective when they join hundreds of others attending the annual Rural Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. The four students representing Bedford REC were selected from each of the school districts served by the cooperative.

The Youth Tour students will be traveling to Washington, D.C., for a tour of the city, complete with educational opportunities, entertainment opportunities and a chance to meet hundreds of other students, who like themselves, are served by an electric cooperative.

Students Lauren Nave from Bedford, Adrian Calhoun from Chestnut Ridge and Casey Northcraft from Everett will be joined by Steven White from Claysburg-Kimmel.

Sixteen-year-old Nave, the daughter of Duke Nave of Bedford, will represent the Bedford Area School District. With an active interest in athletics, Lauren is in her third year of cheerleading, receiving the All Star Award. She has participated in softball for two years and placed in districts in her first year of track and field, competed in TSA and served as her freshman class treasurer. Lauren carries a 3.5 grade point average and plans to major in psychology or English with a goal of becoming a psychologist or high school teacher.

Northcraft, the 17-year old daughter of Mary Buterbaugh of Brezewood, will represent the Everett Area School District. She has maintained a busy schedule of activities including three years in basketball, volleyball, Everett Athletic

Association and student council. She has served as co-captain of the basketball team and treasurer of the student council, and also was a contestant in the Bedford Fall Foliage Queen Contest.

She received the Distinguished Honor Roll Award for three years, has been a member of the Spanish Honor Society for two years, was listed in Who's Who among American High School Students, and has been a member of the FBLA for three years, winning placement in both regional and state FBLA competitions. Northcraft also has been a member of the Envirothon Team for two years, placing third in Bedford County competition. She carries a 4.0 grade point average and plans to enter the field of chemical engineering.

Calhoun, the 16-year-old son of H. Doyle Calhoun of New Paris, will represent the Chestnut Ridge School District. With a 3.36 grade point average and a desire to major in mass communications and journalism and become a sportscaster, he has already spread his wings by preaching a sermon in his church with 200 persons in attendance. He has been active in his church for 16 years,



Adrian Calhoun

served as a camp counselor for four years and enjoys hunting, camping and weight lifting. Calhoun has participated in the football program for two years, earning a varsity letter, Youth Leadership program for one year, sang in District Chorus and held the leading role in the school musical.

This year, Claysburg-Kimmel School District will be represented by Steven White, the son of Debra and James White Jr. of Claysburg. A music aficionado, White has played trumpet in the school band for eight years, county and jazz bands for four years, district and regional bands for two years, and participated in county chorus for one year. He has served in the kitchen for



Steven White

his church's Kid's Club for two years and works part time at Claysburg Pizza. With a special interest in animal science and a grade point average of 88.32, he plans to put ability and interest together in the study of veterinary medicine.

Sponsoring these young people to this annual event is just one of the ways Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative shows its support to our area's young people. ☀



OFFICE CLOSING
Bedford REC's
office will be
closed on Friday,
July 3, 2009, in
observance of
Independence
Day.

Pay your bill online with E-Bill

Pay your bill each month by E-Bill! With the use of secure, state-of-the-art technology, it is a safe and convenient way to receive your bill. As a cooperative member, you now have the ability to view and pay your bill online!

As an E-Bill user, you will be notified every month by email that your bill is available to be viewed and paid. A link will be provided to take you directly to our website where you can log in and view your billing history, look at several different graphs to analyze your consumption, and ultimately select your method of payment using electronic check or VISA, MasterCard or Discover credit card. As an added convenience, meter readings can also be submitted through the E-Bill site, as a final step in the payment process or in a separate transaction.

With the ability to view your bill online in a printer-friendly version, E-Bill eliminates paper waste and the added cost of printing and mailing your bill. It's a fast and simple way to manage your electric bill and best of all, it's free!

Please note that E-Bill is an electronic bill presentation and payment program. As a registered E-bill user, you will no longer receive a paper bill.

Emergency Power Needs

As a service to our members, Bedford Rural Electric needs to be aware of situations where special needs exist. Please provide the following details:

(Please print clearly)

Account: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Email Address: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Special Needs: Medical Farming/Livestock

Other _____

Each year, our goal is to provide service with no outages. Unfortunately, that is not a realistic expectation. Outages do occur, and especially during severe storms, service restoration may take several days or longer. Therefore, we strongly recommend that our members with special needs install standby backup generation equipment. Please contact our office for more information on this type of equipment.

TROUBLE CALL SCHEDULE

In case of trouble ...

- First Check your fuses or circuit breakers.
- Second Check with your neighbors, if convenient, to see if they have been affected by the power failure.
- Third **Call 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 person receiving 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.

Alternate numbers ...

Gary Lafferty	Week of June 1	842-9925
Scott Shook	Week of June 8	623-2395
John Karns	Week of June 15	623-2630
Troy Mock	Week of June 22	276-9759
Greg Miller.....	Week of June 29.....	839-0037
Al Hileman	Week of July 6.....	766-9971

In case you cannot reach any of the above ... Call:

Jim Wood	Bedford.....	623-6121
James Clark	Everett	652-9791
Mark Rowan	Bedford.....	623-7890

During widespread power outages, many members are calling to report power failures, so you may receive a busy signal. Please be patient and try again in a few minutes.