

Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

Bedford REC

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Website: www.bedfordrec.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President & PREA Director

Donald Hoenstine
Kimmel and King Twps.

Vice President & Allegheny Director

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

Secretary

Paul L. Rummel Jr.
Bedford and Cumberland Valley Twps.

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 Twps.,
Pleasantville Borough

Brian I. Hoover

Monroe and West Providence Twps.,
Everett Borough
John A. Oldham

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

Attorney

James R. Cascio

Office Hours

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

From the General Manager



Cooperative's 83rd annual meeting

By Brooks Shoemaker

THE COOPERATIVE'S 83rd annual meeting will be held Wednesday, April 13, at the Bedford County Fairgrounds (108 Telegraph Road, Bedford), which is just west of downtown Bedford on Business Route 30, which is also West Pitt Street. The fairgrounds are adjacent to the Bedford exit from Interstate 99. We are hosting a "drive-thru" meeting for the second consecutive year because of planning issues revolving around COVID-19.

Finding a parking spot will not be a concern at the drive-thru event. The meeting begins at 10 a.m. and ends at 1:30 p.m. (please do not arrive before 10; we want to avoid traffic backing up onto Route 30). During those hours and while remaining in your car, members will enter the main fairgrounds' entrance and follow the marked route. At stops along the way, members will register, pick up an annual report and receive a ballot to vote in the election of directors (if you haven't already voted by mail). Members will also enjoy free refreshments, receive an attendance gift and finally turn in their completed ballot, if voting at the meeting. Registered attendees will also be eligible to win door prizes. Lucky winners will be announced after the meeting.

As I announced last month in these pages, we are introducing mail-in voting for the first time. Around March 15, you will receive a packet in the mail that contains the official notice of the annual meeting, your registration

card for the meeting and a mail-in ballot. Once the packet is received, it is up to you to decide if you want to vote using the mail-in ballot or bring your registration card to the meeting and vote in person. Naturally, you can't vote both ways. If you choose to vote by mail, your ballot must be received by our election vendor BEFORE April 11, so please allow sufficient time for postal delivery. Also, even if you choose to vote by mail, we still encourage you to attend the meeting.

We have recently revised our bylaws to accommodate mail-in voting. As a result, we will no longer accept nominations for director from the floor at future annual meetings. The mail-in voting option necessitated this change. The board also felt it was appropriate because directors must meet certain eligibility standards to qualify them to hold the position. It has become increasingly time consuming to properly vouch for a candidate's eligibility while the meeting is in session and the members are waiting to cast their vote.

Cumulative voting has also been eliminated. No longer will you be able to give two or three votes to a particular candidate. Beginning this year, each member will be entitled to one vote in each of the three districts that are electing directors. As a result, we will no longer vote using numbers ("1," "2" or "3"). Instead, you will cast your vote in each of the three districts by *darkening* the square (■) next to the candidate you have chosen. *(continues on page 14d)*

Director Nominees

The following are profiles of cooperative members nominated for the three seats up for election this year on the Bedford REC Board of Directors. Elections will be held at the Bedford REC Annual Meeting, April 13, 2022, at the Bedford County Fairgrounds, Bedford, Pa.



DISTRICT 3: DALE R. SPRIGG II

Dale R. Sprigg II currently represents District 3 and serves as assistant treasurer of the Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative Board of Directors. He is a self-employed heating, cooling and refrigeration contractor. A graduate of Bedford High School, he earned his associate degree in HVAC-R from Triangle Tech. Dale is a Credentialed Cooperative Director. He served in the U.S. Army.

He and his wife, Krista, live in Alum Bank and have two children, Emily and Ethan, and a grandson, Bentley. Dale attends the Ryot Church of the Nazarene, where he serves on the board.

In his spare time, he enjoys hunting, camping, backpacking and kayaking.

Candidate's Comments: *I would like to help the cooperative to continue providing stable and reasonably priced electric service for its members in this ever-changing industry.*



DISTRICT 7: TRAVIS WIGFIELD

Travis Wigfield lives in Bedford and has been a member of the cooperative for 22 years. Travis was nominated by the committee to run for director in District 7 for the first time.

A computer programmer for 24 years, Travis is employed by 1st Choice Connect/Everett Cash Mutual in Bedford County.

Travis graduated from Bedford High School and has a bachelor's degree in computer science from Frostburg State University. He has two children, Dulcia and Caleb. He is a National Rifle Association life member and past president of the Bedford County Adult Football League. His hobbies include hunting, playing sports, attending children's sporting events and working on cars.

Candidate's Comments: *I view this as an opportunity to serve the community and assist members with their concerns while helping Bedford REC achieve its organizational mission.*



DISTRICT 7: R. DOUGLAS "DOUG" EVANS JR.

R. Douglas "Doug" Evans Jr. lives in District 7 with his wife, Lindsay. The couple have been members of the cooperative for 42-plus years. The committee nominated Doug, and this is his first time running for the board.

Doug graduated from George School in Bucks County and went on to earn his mechanical engineering degree from Grove City College. He spent two years in the Army (artillery) in the early 1970s. Doug was employed 17 years at Kennametal in Bedford and then 29 years at New Pig Corporation before retiring in 2019.

Doug has two children, Brandon and Morgan. He is also a member of the Bedford Presbyterian Church, where he serves as the Session, Finance and Property chair, Personnel chair, and Investment Committee chair. In his leisure time, Doug likes to rebuild jukeboxes, pinball machines and slot machines. He also does some project management consulting.

Candidate's Comments: *I have some spare time, and I think some of my years of experience in management and engineering can be applied within Bedford REC.*



DISTRICT 9: EARL W. GARLAND

Earl "Wally" Garland currently represents District 9 and serves as assistant secretary of the Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative Board of Directors. He retired as manager of Battery Warehouse in 2006, and previously was employed at Eastern Express P.I.E. Trucking.

He and his wife, Virginia, live in Breezewood and have four children, Brenda, Sherry, Todd, and Troy, and 10 grandchildren. Earl attends Mountain Chapel Church and is a member of the Everett Masonic Lodge 524, Bedford Royal Arch Chapter 255, Harrisburg Consistory, and the National Rifle Association. In his spare time, he enjoys hunting and the outdoors.

Candidate's Comments: *To continue to represent the members of Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative.*

HOW THE ELECTRIC CO-OP WORKS



1. Member-owners elect board directors.

2. Board defines expectations for the co-op's general manager (GM/CEO) and provides policies & strategic goals.



3. GM/CEO interprets the board's expectations to create a plan.



8. Board reflects on policies and updates them as needed.



Member-owners provide input & feedback to board, GM & staff.



4. GM/CEO delegates responsibilities to staff who help carry out the plan.



7. GM/CEO shares results with the board.

6. GM/CEO collects data from staff about their efforts.



5. Staff develop and oversee programs to accomplish their tasks.

From the General Manager

(continued from page 14a)

Numbers, check marks and other symbols will not be accepted.

Each year, the annual meeting is the defining moment for all cooperatives across the United States. Why? Because it presents the opportunity for voting members to democratically control the future of their cooperative. Each member, young or old, large or small consumer of electricity, has an equal voice by voting for their member-representatives, the board of directors. What better way of mapping the future of the organization than by helping to decide who sits on the nine-member board of directors?

Directors are elected for three-year terms, with three of the nine seats up for election each year. Despite the Nominating Committee's efforts, a *Penn Lines* article and a billing insert — all aimed at attracting interested candidates — only four members were interested in being on the ballot. This month, we've included profiles of the candidates vying for the three director seats. Each of them was selected by the Nominating Committee. This year, we did not receive any petitions from members requesting that they be added to the ballot. Also, as I stated earlier, additional nominations will no longer be accepted during the meeting.

Mark your calendar now and plan to join us on April 13. If you cannot join us, please remember to cast your vote by mail. To simplify registration at the meeting, please tear off the registration card and bring it with you to the meeting. Remember, every vote counts!

Energy efficiency tip of the month

When streaming content, use the smallest device that makes sense for the number of people watching. Avoid streaming on game consoles, which use 10 times more power than streaming through a tablet or laptop. Streaming content with electronic equipment that has earned the Energy Star® rating will use 25% to 30% less energy than standard equipment. ❁

Powering Up After an Outage

When the power goes out, we expect it to be restored within a few hours. But when a major storm or natural disaster causes widespread damage, extended outages may result. Our line crews work long, hard hours to restore service safely to the greatest number of consumers in the shortest time possible. Here's what's going on if you find yourself in the dark:



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.