

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., Bedford County

Vice President & Allegheny Director

Ronald W. Wilkins

Napier and Harrison Twp.,
New Paris, Manns Choice and
Schellsburg Boroughs, Bedford County

Secretary

Paul L. Rummel Jr.

Bedford and Cumberland Valley Twp.,
Bedford County

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 R. Sprigg II

West St. Clair, Pavia, and Lincoln Twp.,
Pleasantville Borough, Bedford County

Brian I. Hoover

Monroe and West Providence Twp.,
Everett Borough, Bedford County

Troy A. Mickle

East St. Clair Twp., Bedford County

Travis L. Wigfield

Colerain, Snake Spring and
South Woodbury Twp., Bedford County

Attorney

Lois Witt Caton

OFFICE HOURS

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

Mark Your Calendar For Bedford REC's 87th Annual Meeting



BROOKS SHOEMAKER

BEDFORD RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE (REC)'s 87th Annual Meeting will be held Wednesday, April 8, at our new office at Bedford County Business Park I, 6 Enterprise Lane, Bedford. Once again, by popular request, we are hosting a drive-thru meeting.

Finding a parking spot will not be a concern at the event. The meeting begins at 10 a.m. and ends at 1:30 p.m. At any point during those hours, members in their cars can enter our parking lot and follow a marked route.

At stops along the way, they will register, pick up an annual report, and receive a ballot to vote in the directors' elections — if they haven't already voted by mail. Members will also enjoy free refreshments, pick up an attendance gift, and turn in their completed ballot, if they vote at the meeting.

Registered attendees will also be eligible to win door prizes, with winners being announced after the meeting.

We want to make voting as convenient as possible for our members, so we offer a variety of ways to participate. Soon, 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.

After you receive the packet, you can decide if you want to vote by using the mail-in ballot or bringing your registration card to the meeting and voting in person. If you vote by mail, your ballot must be received by our election vendor **BEFORE April 6**, so please allow at least a week for postal delivery. Also, if you vote by mail, we still encourage you to attend the meeting.

Each year, the annual meeting is a defining moment for cooperatives across the nation because it presents the opportunity for voting members to democratically control the future of their cooperative. Each member has an equal voice when voting for the board of directors. What better way to map out the future of the organization than by helping decide who sits on the nine-member board?

Our board of directors features community-minded individuals with different skill sets. We rely on them to help us make informed decisions on long-term priorities and investments. All nine directors live in the co-op's service area, and we consider them the eyes and ears of the community because they provide their unique perspective on various local issues.

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 aimed at attracting candidates, only four members were interested in being on the ballot.

The following pages contain profiles of the candidates vying for the three director seats. Each candidate was selected by the Nominating Committee. This year, we did not receive any petitions from members requesting to be added to the ballot. No additional nominations are accepted during the meeting.

Mark your calendars now and plan to join us April 8. 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!

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2026 DIRECTOR NOMINEES

The following cooperative members have been nominated for the three seats up for election this year on the Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) Board of Directors. Elections will be held at the Bedford REC Annual Meeting on April 8. The 2026 meeting will be held at our new headquarters at 6 Enterprise Lane in Bedford.

DISTRICT 1: Reuben Lafferty



**REUBEN
LAFFERTY**

Reuben Lafferty currently represents District 1 and serves as the board's treasurer. He is entering his 25th year on the board and has been a cooperative member for more than 55 years. Reuben is a graduate of Hyndman High School and a veteran of both the U.S. Marine Corps and Army Reserves, with 23 years of combined service.

Reuben is retired from the Bedford Farm Bureau, where he drove a delivery truck for more

than 30 years. He lives in Manns Choice and has two children, David and Shannen. He is a member of the Fleet Reserve Association, Bedford County Detachment Marine Corps League, the Wills Mountain VFW and the American Legion. Reuben enjoys hunting, fishing and metal detecting.

Candidate's Comments: *"If re-elected as director of District 1, I will work to ensure reliable service to the members of the cooperative ... I really enjoy serving on the board and especially meeting and interacting with the members."*

DISTRICT 5: Troy Mickle



**TROY
MICKLE**

Troy Mickle currently represents District 5 and is a Credentialed Cooperative Director, a certification he earned through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

He and his wife, Susan, live in Bedford County's East St. Clair Township, where Troy serves as a township supervisor. The couple has two sons, Kaleb and Zackery. Kaleb and his wife, Beth, have a son, Oliver.

Troy has been a member of the cooperative for 32 years and is a 1990 graduate of Warwick High School.

Troy is very active in the community. He is president

of the Bedford County Township Officials Association; a board member on the East St. Clair Municipal Authority; and secretary of the Bedford County Sanitary Corp. Troy is also a 4-H leader in Lovely Valley, a Bedford County Junior Fair Board adviser, and helps coach the Chestnut Ridge rifle team. He attends Connect Church and in his spare time likes woodworking, camping and hunting.

Candidate's Comments: *"I'm interested in continuing the service the REC provides, and as we enter into alternative energy sources, I want to help see the benefit of those energy sources. If re-elected to the board, my hope is to continue to provide value to the REC member and hopefully continue with reasonable changes that benefit not only the REC as a company, but also its members."*

DISTRICT 5: Jason Cornelius



**JASON
CORNELIUS**

Jason Cornelius and his wife, Carrie, reside in New Paris and have been members of Bedford REC for three years.

Jason is a graduate of Chestnut Ridge High School and has spent the last 17 years in various roles in the maintenance and engineering field, most recently at New Pig Corporation. He is also a veteran of the U.S. Air Force, spending time between Vandenberg Air Force Base (AFB) and

Malmstrom AFB. Jason has four children: Carter (currently serving in the U.S. Air Force), Taylor, Parker and Peyton. In his spare time, Jason enjoys riding motorcycles, drone photography, hunting and fishing.

Jason was nominated by the committee to run for director in District 5 for the first time.

Candidate's Comments: *"Being active in my community has always been a personal goal of mine. I would like to help the co-op members maintain reliable service and affordable rates when everything is on the rise."*

DISTRICT 6: Paul Rummel Jr.



PAUL RUMMEL JR.

Paul Rummel Jr. currently represents District 6 and is the board's secretary. He has been a cooperative member for 21 years. A graduate of Everett Christian Academy and a four-year veteran of the U.S. Air Force, Paul is a manager at Shawnee Vinyl, where he has worked for 24 years.

Paul and his wife, Susan, have three children: Selena Rummel, Michaela McAlpine and Nicholas Rummel. A member of ACTS Community Church, he serves on the Church Leadership Board. He is also a member of the Bedford County Amateur Radio Society. Paul enjoys hunting, fishing, woodworking, metal detecting, astronomy and camping.

Candidate's Comments: *"I hope to remain part of a great team at Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative and help provide reliable electric power to the members. I feel my years of business and management experience along with 12 years of serving as a director will continue to help with the governance and oversight of the co-op. I look forward to being able to continue serving if re-elected."*

OFFICE CLOSING EARLY

April 3 - Good Friday

April 8 - Bedford REC Annual Meeting

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative will award four \$1,500 scholarships to seniors whose parents' or guardians' primary residence is served by the cooperative.

For an application, go to bedfordrec.com and click on "Scholarship Information" under the "Member Services" tab. Applications are also available at the office, 6 Enterprise Lane, Bedford.

All applications and required information must be postmarked by April 15.

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

NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative will award four \$1,500 scholarships to non-traditional students whose primary residence is served by the cooperative.

For an application, go to bedfordrec.com and click on "Scholarship Information" under the "Member Services" tab. Applications are also available at the office, 6 Enterprise Lane, Bedford.

All applications and required information must be postmarked by April 15.

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

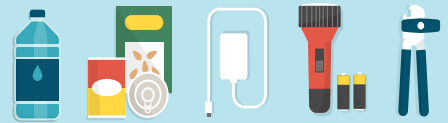
A Storm is Always Ready

ARE YOU?



When Mother Nature threatens a severe storm, be ready by having an emergency kit on hand.

YOUR KIT SHOULD INCLUDE:



Bottles of water

Nonperishable food

Portable phone charger

Flashlights

Batteries

Can opener



First-aid supplies

Hand sanitizer

Prescriptions

Pain reliever

Warm clothing

Blankets



Battery-operated radio

Toys, books and games

Important documents

Money

Baby supplies

Pet supplies

Once your kit is assembled, check it a few times a year to make sure batteries are fresh and that no one has borrowed a necessary item.

Learn more at:





**Bedford Rural Electric
Cooperative, Inc.**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

IF YOU EXPERIENCE AN OUTAGE OR LOSS OF POWER

- ▶ Check your main breaker, other circuit breakers, or fuses first.
- ▶ If possible, check with your neighbors to see if they have power.
- ▶ To report an outage, call the cooperative office at 814-623-5101 and press 1 when prompted. The after-hours emergency outage number is 814-623-7568.
- ▶ **Be Patient:** During storms, call volumes may be high. Many other members are most likely trying to call us, and we may not be able to answer every call immediately.
- ▶ When communicating with one of our on-call linemen or cooperative employees, be as detailed as possible. Be prepared to let us know account names, physical locations, and/or addresses.

Never touch a downed power line.

Do not use our web support email or Facebook page to report an outage because they are not monitored 24/7.

FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER & CEO

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Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

March is an ideal time to service your home cooling system and ensure it runs efficiently when the heat of summer arrives. Routine maintenance, such as cleaning or replacing filters, checking refrigerant levels, and inspecting parts, can improve your system's energy efficiency and lower your energy bills. By addressing potential issues early, you can avoid costly emergency repairs and extend the lifespan of your unit. Scheduling service in the spring helps you beat the peak-season rush, which gives you faster access to qualified technicians. A well-maintained cooling system can save energy and keep your home comfortable all summer long. 🌱

BROOKS SHOEMAKER
GENERAL MANAGER & CEO

WHAT DOES A LINeworker DO?

On any given day or night, in all kinds of weather conditions, lineworkers install and maintain overhead and underground electrical systems.

We entrust our lineworkers with your safety, so they hold a very important job. We also rely on their expertise to power our world.

SAFETY COMES FIRST

Lineworkers must commit to safety above all else for the benefit of those they serve (you!), fellow crew members and themselves. They spend thousands of hours in safety trainings each year and must learn and apply numerous safety regulations.

THEY ARE SPECIALLY TRAINED TO:

- Climb poles to service power lines in areas inaccessible by trucks.
- Stand in an elevated bucket to assess and repair overhead lines.
- Install poles, overhead lines and other equipment.
- Work on both energized and deenergized lines.
- Install and service underground lines.



 **Safe
Electricity.org**