

# 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**

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



# Interested in a seat on the cooperative's board of directors?

By Brooks Shoemaker

AS A MEMBER of the Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative, you can actively participate in the cooperative's operation by representing not only your district, but also your friends and neighbors on the board of directors. Being an electric cooperative director is an interesting and challenging experience. The position requires individuals with a vision and the willingness to work with others in guiding a complex, multimillion-dollar operation.

The next Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting will be held April 13, 2022. At that meeting, cooperative members will elect directors from District 3 (West St. Clair, Pavia, and Lincoln townships, and Pleasantville Borough in Bedford County); District 7 (Colerain, Snake Spring, and South Woodbury townships in Bedford County); and District 9 (East Providence and Brush Creek townships in Bedford County). If you live in any of these districts, you may be eligible for nomination 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. It is the committee's responsibility to nominate qualified members as director nominees for each district where a board member's term of office is ending. No member of the board, employee or close relative shall serve on the committee. The names of cooperative members appointed to the 2022 Nominating Committee and the qualifications necessary to become a director are enclosed with your September electric bill, which you received in early October. If becoming a director interests you, please contact any member of the committee. You can also contact the cooperative office at 814-624-3808, and we will see that your name is provided to the committee.

### Annual meeting

The next Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) Annual Meeting of the members will be held April 13, 2022. During the meeting, members will cast ballots to elect three of their fellow members to the Bedford REC Board of Directors. For the first time in 2022, all cooperative members will receive a ballot in the mail. Members may use that ballot to vote for one candidate in each of the three districts electing directors and then return the ballot by mail. Alternatively, members may vote in person at the annual meet-

ing, as we have traditionally done. Regardless of how you choose to vote, we are no longer using cumulative voting. Each member is entitled to a single 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,  
*(continues on page 16d)*

# Sunnybrook Acres couple take over diner in 2020

By Linda Williams

STACY (Blackburn) and Jesse Decker took over ownership of the Route 220 Diner on Jan. 1, 2020. The couple, who live in the Sunnybrook Acres area, had no idea of the rough patch that was directly ahead of them.

New business owners never have it easy, but they don't all get hit with the backlash of COVID-19.

Jesse's dad, Butch Decker, started the diner in what the couple believes was a remodeled doughnut shop. Butch had restaurants all over the country, and while he stops by to help, he's looking forward to retirement.

Stacy began working at the diner on the day it opened and says she loves the restaurant business. She especially likes smaller establishments because she's able to get to know the clientele.

"Some of our customers come in almost every day," she says, adding one gentleman eats there three times a day and has his own special plate.

"I used to get upset with grumpy patrons," Jesse admits. "Then, one day it occurred to me that many of them are older and maybe they aren't feeling well."

Several times, regular patrons have



**A LABOR OF LOVE:** Stacy and Jesse Decker, owners of the Route 220 Diner, sit at one of the restaurant's tables. Entertainment from another era is the theme for the decorations.

died suddenly, and Stacy says, "We served them their last meal."

Jesse remembers one lady, who he finally asked why she was always in a

bad mood. He found out she lived by herself and just needed a friend.

"We have gotten along well ever since," he says.

In addition to the regulars, the couple serve meals to turnpike travelers, including families.

The diner is small, so when COVID-19 hit and the rules kept changing, the restaurant business became a bigger challenge than it already was.

"The state said we could have 25% of our business," Jesse says. "In here, that is only a few tables, so we added an outside addition that people really seem to like."

It was around Christmas when state officials tried to shut down the diner for the second time, but Jesse refused.

"Our help needed the money to have Christmas for their children," he says. "We got sued, but eventually the lawsuit got dropped."

The diner was among 45 restaurants



**THE FAMILY BUSINESS:** Stacy and Jesse Decker stand outside their restaurant, the Route 220 Diner.



RESPONDING TO COVID-19: Customers appreciate the diner's new outside dining area.



HELP WANTED: The sign says the diner is "open 7 days," but that has become impossible now that help is difficult to find.

in the state that refused to shut down.

"We appreciate our help, and we were not going to let them down near the holidays or any time," Stacy says. "Our waitresses do well because our regulars are generous."

As restaurants began to open again, the Deckers ran into a new problem: getting supplies.

"For a time, we couldn't get beef," Jesse says, "so we got innovative with chicken and pork chops or whatever we could get."

"And relish," Stacy chimes in. "We couldn't get relish or ketchup from our suppliers, so I had to buy it at the supermarket."

The latest problem has been finding help.

"Every day, either Stacy or I step in to do whatever job needs to be done," Jesse says. "If a cook calls in sick, we cook. If it's a waitress, we wait tables. If the place needs cleaned, we do it. We change the decorations from time to time. We do the purchasing, book-keeping and just about everything else."

They have been working through the problems one at a time and appreciate their many customers, who say they have been praying for them.

On a brighter note, baked goods at

the diner have always been a big hit, and those are baked by an outside baker, Joy May Clark.

"Her turnovers get rave reviews," Stacy says.

Jesse has cooked all of his life and learned most of the tricks of the trade from his dad. Jesse often uses his father's recipes but will embellish them with his own touches.

Ask Stacy and Jesse how many hours they work per week, and Jesse quips "all of them." Stacy says it is probably 60-plus.

Currently, the couple has 22 employees on the payroll, but they could use more. Until that happens, the Deckers have opted to close on Tuesdays.

"Our sign says, 'open 7 days,' but we just had to get a break," Stacy says.

When the couple isn't busy with the diner business, they like to spend time at their home near Will's Mountain in Bedford Valley. This summer, Jesse added a pool to the property, which is a great way to relax at the end of the day. They have a pavilion near the pool, which Jesse also built and adorned with a cross.

"I just wanted to celebrate Easter all year-round," he says. 🌞

## 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.*

**From the General Manager**

*(continued from page 16a)*

no later than August 31 of each year, a committee on nominations consisting of one (1) member from each District of the Cooperative.

Said 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 not less than one (1), but not more than two (2) qualified members as director nominees to be made 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 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 lot shall be conducted under the supervision of the Credentials and Election Committee. 