

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
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Email: support@bedfordrec.com
Website: www.bedfordrec.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President & Allegheny Director

C. Robert Koontz
Colerain, Snake Spring and South Woodbury Twps.

Vice President & PREA Director

Owen L. Miller
East St. Clair Twp.

Secretary

Donald Hoenstine
Kimmel and King Twps.

Treasurer

Reuben R. Lafferty
Juanita Twp., Bedford County, and Allegheny Twp., Somerset County, New Baltimore Boro

Assistant Secretary

Earl W. Garland
East Providence Twp., Bedford County, and Brush Creek Twp., Fulton County

Assistant Treasurer

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

William Howard Atkinson
Monroe and West Providence Twps., Everett Boro
Ned H. McDonald
West St. Clair, Pavia, and Lincoln Twps.
Ronald W. Wilkins
Napier and Harrison Twps.

Attorney

John J. Dirienzo Jr.

Office Hours

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

From the General Manager



Cooperative's 77th annual meeting

By Brooks Shoemaker

THE cooperative's 77th annual meeting will be held Wednesday, April 13, 2016, at the Crossroads Bible Church, which is located 2.5 miles north of the Bedford Turnpike Interchange on Business Route 220 near Cessna. Registration starts at 12:30 p.m., and the meeting begins at 1:30 p.m.

During the registration hour, attendees may take advantage of free blood pressure screening. Light refreshments will be served, and every registered member will receive a gift. Be sure to visit the display area, which will be devoted to new trends in the electric business.

Local Christian-country music favorite John Topper will provide the entertainment. Topper is well known as a retired teacher and coach who continues to provide sports commentary on local radio. But, he is perhaps best known for his deep, distinctive voice that has been entertaining crowds since the 1970s at fairs, churches, nursing homes and rodeos. His music features positive, uplifting Christian lyrics with a country flair.


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 user 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 best 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. Their profiles are featured on Page 14b. This year, we did not receive any petitions from members requesting that they be added to the ballot. However, as always, additional nominations may be made from the floor during the meeting.

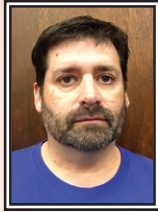
Mark your calendars now and plan to join us on April 13. The official notice of the meeting will be mailed to you in late March. To simplify registration, please tear off the bottom section of the notice and bring it with you to the meeting. Remember, **every** vote counts!

Interesting tidbits

- ▶ According to the U.S. Energy Information Agency, in 30 years, average household energy consumption has declined by approximately 21 percent from 114 million Btu per household per year in 1980 to 89.6 million Btu per household per year in 2010.
- ▶ Approximately 30 percent of energy used in buildings is used inefficiently or unnecessarily. 

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, set for April 13, 2016, at Crossroads Bible Church, Bedford, Pa.



DISTRICT 3: DALE SPRIGG II

Dale Sprigg II, director nominee for District 3, is a self-employed heating, cooling and refrigeration contractor. A graduate of Bedford Area High School, he earned his associate degree in HVAC-R from Triangle Tech. He also served in the U.S. Army.

He and his wife, Krista, reside at 129 Davis Lane, Alum Bank. They have two children — Emily and Ethan. He attends the Ryot Church of the Nazarene, and serves as the board secretary.

In his spare time, he enjoys hunting, camping and back packing.

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



DISTRICT 7: C. ROBERT KOONTZ

C. Robert Koontz currently represents District 7 and serves as president of the Bedford Rural Electric Cooperative Board of Directors. He also represents the cooperative on the board of Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc., Bedford REC's wholesale power supplier. He has completed all of the training and course work required to achieve Credentialed Cooperative Director status from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Koontz retired from First National Bank, Bedford office, in 2000 and from Blackburn Johnson Real Estate as an active agent in 2006. A graduate of Bedford High School, he also attended Cathermans Business School in Cumberland, Md. Presently, he serves as treasurer of the Colerain/Rainsburg Recreation Council.

He and his wife, Carolyn, reside at 247 Koontzville Road, Bedford. The couple has four children — Rob, Kevin, Deron, and Dana — and 10 grandchildren. In his spare moments, Koontz enjoys spending time with family and friends, sports activities, and teaching on Sunday mornings at the Chalybeate Springs Ministry.

Candidate's Comments: *I've enjoyed the challenges of being a director. I feel my background in finance has helped us structure loans properly. If re-elected, I'll continue to work to ensure reliable service at the lowest cost possible. As a director of the cooperative, I am always available to my fellow members to help in any way possible concerning questions or problems.*



DISTRICT 7: MITCHELL STAILY

Mitchell Staily, a director nominee in District 7, retired from the Maryland State Police in 2015 as a sergeant. He was also the owner of Raystown Auto Parts in Saxton before selling the business to become a state trooper. He is currently working for BC Stone as a sales representative.

Staily is a graduate of Everett Area High School and Allegany College of Maryland with a business technology degree. He also has 42 credits at Catonsville Community College in criminal justice.

Staily resides at 171 Starfield Road, Everett. He has a son, Corey, who is 23. Staily is a board member of Bedford County State Police Camp Cadet and also serves as a squad leader. He was a former volunteer football and wrestling coach at Everett High School and a former member of the Jaycees' Saxton chapter. He was recently inducted into the American Legion Honor Guard. His hobbies include golfing, motorcycling riding, hunting, traveling, and attending Penn State football games.

Candidate's Comments: *Recently retired, I want to volunteer more of my time helping others. I want to make sure Bedford Rural Electric is on top of its cybersecurity. I want to keep its members in service at all times and to protect the physical assets of Bedford Rural Electric in the event of a domestic terror attack on our power grid.*



DISTRICT 9: EARL "WALLY" 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.

Garland and his wife, Virginia, reside at 106 Ramsey Road, Breezewood. They have four children — Brenda, Sherry, Todd and Troy — and 10 grandchildren. Garland 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.*

Cuppett Covered Bridge good as new

By Linda Williams

IN February 1881, three New Paris residents signed a docket to build a covered bridge below Steck's Mill near New Paris where the road from Schellsburg to Pleasantville crossed Dunnings Creek in Napier Township. The docket was signed by G. W. Williams, William Egolf and Cornelius Whetstone.

The road is no longer there, so the initial reason for the bridge's existence disappeared along with it sometime in the 1950s. The structure of the bridge, completed in 1882, remained and is now a part of the original farm owned by Charles Cuppett.

Charles' son, Cecil, who lives on the farm, became concerned because the bridge, while picturesque, was falling into disrepair.

"I was afraid it was just going to

tumble into the stream," he says.

At least twice in Cecil's lifetime, the bridge was set on fire by pranksters. Many of the boards were falling off, ceiling timbers were rotting, and the foundation was crumbling.

Taking his problem to Imler II Construction, Cecil sought the expertise of Randy and Trey Imler and David Dodd. They began renovating the bridge in 2015.

"They're New Paris boys," Cecil says. "They were eager to help. I agreed to provide the funding and oversee the project, and they did the labor. It was pretty much a work of love."

The fires meant new floor boards were needed, but because vehicles cannot drive across the bridge, it does not have to have boards running lengthwise

of the structure. Cecil does not mind if pedestrians cross the bridge to enjoy the view or look down into the stream.

The men also installed a couple of braces under the roof. Since there never were boards going the entire way to the top, it has remained that way. Cecil also decided to leave it unpainted, as that is the way he remembers it from years ago. Stone pillars holding the bridge in place were put back into their original condition.

"The guys knew what they were doing and we engineered as we went along," Cecil says.

During the summer, the men replaced the worn-out boards with treated lumber and by fall, the bridge was nearly back to its original condition.

(continues on page 14d)



A NEW, OLD BRIDGE: Cecil Cuppett stands at the Cuppett Covered Bridge in New Paris. Cuppett oversaw and financed the reconstruction of the picturesque 1880s bridge in 2015.

Heating and Cooling Tips:



Right Size, Right System

Choosing the right heating and cooling system for your home is a matter of asking the right questions, getting the right contractor, and installing the right size. Here are some tips:

Right Questions

- What's the weather like in my region?
- How many people live at my house?
- What type of energy efficiency upgrades have I made to tightly seal my house?

Right Contractor

- Only a NATE (North American Technician Excellence)-certified contractor should install your heating and cooling system.
- Your contractor should use computer software to calculate the size of system your home needs.

Right Size

- Systems that are too large are:
 - more expensive to install
 - break down more often
 - operate inefficiently.
- Central air conditioners and heat pumps that are too large don't run long enough to dehumidify the air, which can spur mold growth and leave inhabitants feeling clammy.

Need more information?
Visit TogetherWeSave.com.


Sources: EnergySavers.gov,
Cooperative Research Network

Cuppett Covered Bridge

(continued from page 14c)

Total project cost was \$14,100, a bit more than estimated, but still within reason. Cecil says he expects the renovated bridge will last well beyond his lifetime and maybe even the lifetime of his three daughters, Cozette, Katie, and Kimberly.

Katie Cuppett Bringuier, who lives in California, is so proud of the New Paris Cuppett history that she has developed a website at www.Cuppethistory.org. It begins with John Cuppy, then Daniel Cuppett, Isaac Alexander Cuppett, William Washington Cuppett, John Albert Cuppett, the Cuppett Brothers (the six sons of John Albert), Phoebe Elizabeth Cuppett and Cecil Cuppett III (children of the youngest of the Cuppett Brothers), and the eighth generation, the Cuppett sisters (Katie and her sisters, Cozette Cuppett and Kimberly Cuppett).

She also has a website on New Paris history and invites contributions at www.Newparishistory.org. 

OFFICE CLOSING

Bedford REC's office will be closed on Friday, March 25, 2016, in observance of Good Friday.

The office will also be closing at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 13, 2016, for our annual meeting.

TROUBLE CALL SCHEDULE

In case of trouble...

- 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 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 ...

- Greg Miller..... 839-0037 (Week of February 29)
- Al Hileman..... 766-9971 (Week of March 7)
- Jim Seymour..... 839-2848 (Week of March 14)
- Dennis Tursich 623-0922 (Week of March 21)
- Scott Shook..... 623-2395 (Week of March 28)

In case you cannot reach any of the above, call:

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

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.