

Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Valley News

March | April 2008

Volume 65 | Issue 2



◀ **DON'T MISS IT!**

Joe Bonson & Coffee Run

*will perform country favorites
at this year's annual meeting*

www.valleyrec.com

New projects on the horizon

AT THE START of 2008, your board members and staff conducted a strategic planning session that focused on key goals that will carry us into the next decade. I think it's important to share some of those goals, so you are aware of a few of the exciting new projects that are on the horizon.

The two primary areas that were addressed in the meeting were financial planning and technology integration.

In the area of financial planning, one of our key determinations – after lengthy analyses and comparisons – was that the cooperative will seek to maintain member equity within the 40-45 percent range. In a nutshell, this should ensure that capital credits are returned to consumers in a timely manner while enough collateral is left over to preserve borrowing power.

In the area of technology integration, there are several projects in the works that should greatly improve the way we do business.

We have already begun the process of evaluating our current coordinated load management system. Our ultimate goal is not only to upgrade the equipment we have so we can take advantage of the latest innovations in demand-side management, but also to encourage more participation in the program. Demand response is an important and viable resource to use in controlling electric rates because it reduces the need for new generating capacity, improves system efficiency and reduces costly demand charges. A cutting-edge coordinated load management system will help us better manage electric load during peak periods of use.

More efficient meter reading is also one of our top priorities. You will soon be able to key in meter readings by phone and later via our public Web site. Our long-range plan is to integrate a complete automated meter reading (AMR) system that will eliminate the need to report readings. Of course, the objective with AMR is to balance the benefits with the costs involved.

An additional large-scale plan for the co-op includes further developing our Web



Edward A. Dezich
President & Chief Executive Officer

We still believe that living in a rural community doesn't mean you have to expect inferior or outdated products and services.

site to include the integration of on-line energy audits, online bill payment options and access to account history information. The challenge with this project is adding these new Web site features without alienating consumers with dial-up Internet connections.

As you see these projects accomplished one by one in the not-too-distant future, let it be a testament to your cooperative's commitment to giving you the best that the energy industry has to offer. After all, we still believe that living in a rural community doesn't mean you have to expect inferior or outdated products and services. As we've done for nearly 70 years, we're willing to prove that.

Cooperatively yours,

Edward A. Dezich
President & CEO

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Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

On the cover ...

Joe Bonson & Coffee Run travels throughout Pennsylvania performing traditional country music. The Coffee Run core group consists of Joe Bonson, his wife, Wendy, and Darren Kaufmann. Completing the band's roster are four other band members playing various instruments, including guitars, drums, fiddles, bass, dobro, mandolin and piano.

Joe Bonson's sound harkens to the country honky-tonk style pioneered by Lefty Frizzell and Merle Haggard.

The band's most recent album, *Love Train*, has received rave reviews, claiming "fans of traditional-based country will love Joe Bonson & Coffee Run."

Valley REC members can enjoy the music of Joe Bonson & Coffee Run at the 2008 Annual Meeting April 18 at 7 p.m. at Mount Union Area High School.

Co-op members nominate board candidates for ...

Districts 1, 3, 5

BELOW: Co-op members from portions of Blair and Bedford counties fill their plates at the District 1 Nominating Meeting.

DURING THE MONTH of February, 386 co-op consumers gathered to choose board candidates for Valley Rural Electric Districts 1, 3 and 5.

Since 1975, Valley has been holding open nominating meetings where co-op members can select candidates for the board of directors rather than relying on a nominating committee appointed by the board.

In 1989, those open meetings started to include meals, offered to all participating consumers.

Each year, Valley REC holds nominating meetings in three of its nine director districts. Next year, members will nominate board candidates for Districts 2, 4 and 6.

For more information on the candidates nominated this year, see Pages 4 and 5.



ABOVE: Valley REC Executive Secretary Kim Kane records the name of the nominee for District 5.



RIGHT: Co-op President & CEO Ed Dezech speaks on energy issues and the future of the cooperative during the District 3 Nominating Meeting and dinner.

Feb. 5 - Marklesburg Fire Hall is the site where 158 people attend the District 3 Nominating Meeting and turkey dinner. Leroy Corbin chairs the event and Kevin States is nominated for director.

2008



Feb. 4 - Eighty-three co-op consumers in District 1 gather at Morrisons Cove Memorial Park in Martinsburg for a nominating meeting and stuffed chicken dinner. Dottie Hershberger chairs the event and Phil Pheasant and Mervin Brumbaugh are nominated.



Feb. 7 - The co-op hosts 145 consumers at Shavers Creek Community Building in Mooresville for the District 5 Nominating Meeting and swiss steak dinner. Charles Schilling chairs the event and Robert Holmes is nominated for the board.

2008 Candidates

for the Valley REC Board of Directors

▼ District 1

Bedford County: Bloomfield Township

Blair County: Blair, Huston, North Woodbury, Taylor and Woodbury townships



Phillip (Phil) Pheasant

RR 1, Box 502 Martinsburg, PA 16662-9610

Phil Pheasant spent 34 years as a dairy farmer, milking 70 cows and raising 70 young cattle. He grew corn, alfalfa and soy beans on his 190 acres, renting an additional 160 acres.

Over the next 12 years, Phil held various positions. He drove a school bus for Smith Busing of Roaring Spring. He operated equipment for New Enterprise Stone and Lime Co. and PennDOT. And he drove tour buses for several companies, traveling throughout the U.S. and Canada. Since October 2006, he has been providing transportation for local Mennonite families.

A 1956 graduate of Morrisons Cove High School, Phil is a member of the Curryville Church of the Brethren, where he has served as a

deacon and board member. He is a former member of the Martinsburg Vol. Fire Co., the Blair County Farmers Association and Interstate Milk Producers cooperative (now Land O' Lakes). He served three years in the U.S. Air Force, honorably discharged as an airman second class.

Phil and his late wife, Gladys, were married 30 years. He and his second wife, Elizabeth, have been married 17 years. Phil has three children and four stepchildren, 17 grandchildren (one of whom is deceased) and 10 great-grandchildren.

Phil has been a member of Valley REC since 1991. He is 69 years old. His name will be listed first on the ballot for District 1.



Mervin G. Brumbaugh

RR 1, Box 28 Williamsburg, PA 16693-9660

Mervin Brumbaugh has served on the Valley REC board of directors since 1972. He has held the office of vice chairman of the board two times for a total of five years.

The owner of a 190-acre farm, Merv rents out 100 acres and farms 40.

He raises 20 head of beef cattle and 600-700 laying hens, delivering eggs to 40 customers. In addition, he has operated a cattle-hauling business for the past 15 years.

A 1954 graduate of Williamsburg High School, Merv is a member of the Heritage Baptist Church in Martinsburg. He serves as a director of the Williamsburg Farm Show

Association and is a former member of the Williamsburg Young Farmers Association. Since 1995, the Brumbaugh property has been the site of a hymn sing, open to the public during the last weekend in July.

Merv and his wife Betty are the parents of seven children. They also have seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. The Brumbaughs have been married 53 years.

Merv is 71 years old. He has been a member of the cooperative for nearly 52 years, and his father was a charter member.

Merv's name will appear second on the ballot for District 1.

IN FEBRUARY, Valley REC held nominating meetings in co-op Districts 1, 3 and 5. The members featured on these pages were nominated for positions on the board of directors. Their names will be placed on a ballot and all members attending the annual meeting – set for April 18 at 7 p.m. at Mount Union Area High School – can vote for the candidates of their choice. One direc-

tor will be elected for each of the three districts; those elected will represent the entire co-op membership for a three-year term.

Entertainment for this year's meeting will be provided by country band Joe Bonson & Coffee Run.

Children may also attend the meeting. They will enjoy Disney movies, refreshments and a dairy promotion presentation.

All registered members in attendance will receive a \$10 credit on their electric bills and a compact fluorescent light bulb. In addition, they will be eligible to win one of two \$250 co-op gift certificates. Please plan to attend!

▼ District 3

Bedford County: Liberty Township

Huntingdon County: Carbon, Hopewell, Lincoln, Penn, Todd and Walker townships



Kevin R. States

RR 1, Box 137A Hesston, PA 16647-9206

A 46-year-old native of Hesston, Huntingdon County, Kevin States works on his family's 200-acre dairy farm with 100 milking cows and another 100 head of young stock.

The operation utilizes the services of Land O' Lakes cooperative in addition to Valley Rural Electric.

Kevin is a 1979 graduate of Huntingdon Area High School. He is a member of the National Holstein Association and the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau.

He was formerly involved with the Huntingdon County 4-H dairy and beef clubs, and was a member of the Rural

Electric Youth Tour delegation in 1978.

The States farm has received electric service from Valley REC since 1952; Kevin has been a member of the cooperative since 1982.

He has served on the co-op's board of directors since 1999, and has held the office of secretary for the past six years.

Kevin and his wife Sarah were married in 1996. Kevin has one son, one daughter, one stepson and one grandson.

In his free time, he follows NASCAR racing.

Kevin is running unopposed on the ballot for District 3.

▼ District 5

Centre County: Harris Township

Huntingdon County: Barree, Jackson, Logan, Miller, Morris, Oneida, Porter, Spruce Creek, Warriors Mark and West townships



Robert (Bob) Holmes

4684 Cold Springs Road Huntingdon, PA 16652-3142

Bob Holmes was principal at Huntingdon Area High School for 19 years, and was assistant principal for five years prior. From 1997 through 1999, he served as acting superintendent for the Southern Huntingdon and Huntingdon Area School Districts.

A graduate of Turtle Creek High School, Bob obtained bachelor's and master's degrees in education from Bucknell University. He also earned 40 graduate credits in educational administration at Penn State. During his tenure in the U.S. Army Reserves, Bob attained the rank of captain.

Bob is an active member of the Christian

and Missionary Alliance Church in Huntingdon. He is a past president of the Huntingdon County chapter of the Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees. Bob is 72 years old. He and his wife Barbara have been married 50 years. They have four children and seven grandchildren.

Bob has been a Valley member since 1969. He has served on the co-op board for four terms, and held the office of secretary for one year. He has represented Valley REC on the board of Allegheny Electric Cooperative for the past six years, and currently serves as secretary. Bob is running unopposed on the ballot for District 5.