

Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



One of 14 electric cooperatives serving Pennsylvania and New Jersey

VALLEY RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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1-800-432-0680
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

James Stauffer
Chairman
Allegheny Director

Leroy Barnes
Vice Chairman
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Cindy Bigelow
Secretary

Randall Huntsman
Treasurer

Gregory Henry
Linda McMath
Kenneth Soder
Kevin States
Joanne Whitsel

Corporate Office Hours
Monday - Thursday
7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Huntingdon/Martinsburg/Shade Gap

Office Hours
Monday - Thursday
7 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Outages & Emergencies
1-800-432-0680

Spring into the Annual Meeting




EACH YEAR AS APRIL APPROACHES, many things pop into my mind: the first day of trout season, blooming flowers, April showers, longer days and the Valley Rural Electric Cooperative (REC) Annual Meeting. Our annual meeting is usually scheduled for the first Friday in April. This year, however, it would have fallen on Good Friday, so we pushed it back one week to April 14. There are many steps that go on behind the scenes to get us to our annual meeting each year, and I would like to walk you through what your cooperative does.

Your cooperative is made up of nine districts, each of which has a representative elected by you to make up our board of directors. Every year, three districts are up for election, and those elected serve a three-year term. This year, Districts 1, 3 and 5 are up for election, so we held nominating meetings in each of those districts in February. If you live in one of those districts, you received an invitation to attend your district meeting and nominate a candidate(s) to represent you and your district on the ballot. At least one person must be nominated to serve as a candidate. Those district candidates are then placed on the ballot at the annual meeting, where the membership votes on the nominees. This year, only one candidate was nominated at each district meeting so those three individuals will be running unopposed for a three-year term on the board. Information about the nominees appears on page 18D.

Another important piece of our annual meeting is providing you with the previous year's financials and overall state of the cooperative. To have this information ready, we schedule our audit in January, and the review and approval are performed at our February board meeting. It is a tight schedule, but the staff makes sure everything gets completed on time.

Before COVID-19, we held our annual meeting at a local high school with approximately 400 members attending each year. Because of the ban on gatherings during the pandemic, we were forced to come up with a different method that allowed social distancing, but still enabled us to provide the necessary information to our members. The drive-thru concept was created and, honestly, we didn't know what to expect. In 2021, to our surprise, our first ever drive-thru annual meeting was held at the Huntingdon County Fairgrounds, and we had more than 1,000 members pass through our tents. Because of the great attendance, we sent out surveys to see if this was something the members wanted us to continue or if they wanted us to go back to the school meetings. Over 99% of the responses received liked the drive-thru meeting and wanted to continue with it. In 2022, we had almost 1,500 members pass through the event, and we are eager to see what 2023 brings.

Going through these procedures is what makes being a part of a cooperative special. We are democratically controlled by you, our members, and every member, no matter their electric use, gets an equal vote. We don't have shareholders who expect to make dividends on their investment; we have members who are looking out for their friends and neighbors. Cooperatives are not profit driven. If a profit is made, it is turned around and allocated right back to the members who used the electricity. That is the cooperative way, and I am proud to say I am a member of Valley REC.

As always, if you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to contact me anytime. I also hope to see you passing through the Huntingdon County Fairgrounds on Friday, April 14, between 4 and 7 p.m., to exercise your right as a cooperative member. The bill credit, annual report and prize giveaways are pretty nice, too! Take care, and God bless. 

RICH BAUER
PRESIDENT & CEO

Valley REC's 2023 Benefit Golf Outing to Aid Area Families

VALLEY RURAL ELECTRIC Cooperative's (REC) 2023 Benefit Golf Outing will support three families impacted by serious health challenges. In its 12th year, the annual event brings together golfers, sponsors and other donors in a show of community support for local residents facing cancer, other diseases, or serious injury.

Valley REC's Health and Wellness Committee organizes the golf outing, and it has evolved into an all-hands-on-deck event. The cooperative's corporate office and three district offices close on golf outing day, and all employees lend a hand on the course for the culmination of an employee-driven fundraising effort for local families.

We couldn't do it without you, our sponsors, donors and golfers. The generous support of a wide range of businesses and individuals helps our beneficiaries meet the financial challenges associated with serious illnesses and accidents and lets them know the community cares.

Together, we've raised nearly \$280,000 since the first tournament.

This year's tournament will be held Thursday, June 22, at the Huntingdon Country Club and will feature a morning and afternoon flight of golfers in a shotgun-start best-ball scramble. This year's tournament benefits 11-year-old Bentley Fulkroad of Mifflin, who is being treated for a severe heart condition; Samantha Wilson of Hesston, who was diagnosed with breast cancer; and Stephanie Anders of Alexandria, who is battling Berger's disease.

Severe diseases can leave friends and family of those diagnosed feeling powerless. Organizers of Valley REC's benefit see the event as a chance for the



THE WINNER'S CIRCLE: The 2022 Benefit Golf Outing morning winning team members are, from left, Scott Ulrich, Pat Goodman, Lantz Thompson and Luke Thompson.

community to show support and lessen the financial hardships associated with treatment and travel.

"Valley's golf tournament is truly a team effort by the co-op's employees and our sponsors, golfers and donors," Valley REC President & CEO Rich Bauer says. "Our recipient families have faced some dark days, and we want our event to be a bright spot in their journey."

Bentley Fulkroad

Bentley is the son of Erica and Jared, who live in Mifflin.

Bentley was born with a severe heart condition known as tricuspid valve dysplasia, a congenital heart disease that can't be cured.

He has had five open-heart surgeries since birth and was officially listed for a heart transplant on Nov. 25, 2020. On May 9, 2021, he received the greatest gift, a new heart. His surgery lasted 14 hours, and doctors had to leave his chest open for four days.

His body began rejecting the new heart, and he must continually travel back and forth to Philadelphia for

treatments. Bentley takes 20 syringes of medicine daily, which include two immunosuppressants he will have to take the rest of his life. There is still a long road ahead for Bentley, but folks are praying that he soon gets to enjoy the feeling of a normal, whole heart.



A NEW HEART: Bentley Fulkroad, 11, was born with a congenital heart disease that can't be cured. He was listed for a heart transplant on Nov. 25, 2020, and received his heart on May 9, 2021.



CANCER DIAGNOSIS: Samantha Wilson was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2021, when she was 20 weeks pregnant. She began weekly chemotherapy treatments. Samantha and her husband, Luke, delivered a healthy baby boy five weeks prematurely in July 2021.

Samantha Wilson

Samantha Wilson lives in Hesston with her husband, Luke, and their 2-year-old son.

Samantha was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2021, when she was 20 weeks pregnant. She began taking weekly chemotherapy treatments and delivered a healthy baby boy five weeks prematurely in July 2021.

She has blood pressure issues related to a genetic condition known as SDHD gene mutation. Samantha has had an adrenalectomy, a liver

resection, multiple lymph node resections, a double mastectomy, and lymph node removal as well as daily chest wall radiation treatments, a brain tumor removal, and gamma knife radiation to her head.

Samantha graduated from Penn State University and is a registered nurse.

Stephanie Anders

Stephanie Anders graduated from Juniata Valley High School and went on to earn her license as a practical nurse. She now works in the health care industry. She also served as manager of the Alexandria American Legion.

Stephanie was diagnosed with IgA nephropathy, also known as Berger's disease, which caused Stage 5 kidney disease and cardiomyopathy. She

must wear an external defibrillator continuously and receive dialysis seven days a week until she receives a kidney transplant. Currently, her heart is not strong enough to undergo major surgery. Stephanie continues to work full time as a licensed practical nurse at Penn Highlands Hospital.

Previous golf tournaments have benefited a young girl with a brain tumor; a boy with a rare hereditary disorder; a cooperative lineman; two high school classmates battling cancer; an adult who sustained serious injuries in a car accident; infants and toddlers with congenital conditions; a high school senior with a life-altering digestive disorder; a young man who was paralyzed in a swimming accident; and others.



WAITING FOR A TRANSPLANT: Stephanie Anders, left, was diagnosed with IgA nephropathy, also known as Berger's disease, which caused Stage 5 kidney disease and cardiomyopathy. She must wear a defibrillator and receive dialysis until she receives a kidney transplant.

The tournament registration fee is \$100 per player, which includes 18 holes of golf, cart, breakfast, lunch, dinner and various prizes. For more information on registering a team, being a sponsor, or donating an item for the silent auction, call 1-800-432-0680 or visit valleyrec.com and click on the golf outing button.

Together, we can make a huge difference in the lives of these wonderful people. 🙏

2023 ANNUAL MEETING

Drive-Thru Event
Huntingdon County Fairgrounds
4-7 p.m. Friday, April 14, 2023
Elections: District 1, 3 & 5

Valley REC's 2023 Annual Meeting will again follow a drive-thru format. Members can arrive at the fairgrounds any time between 4 and 7 p.m. Participants will receive a ballot, an annual report, a \$25 bill credit and a door prize.

\$25 OFF YOUR ELECTRIC BILL

2023 Valley REC Board Candidates

The candidates listed on this page will have their names on the ballot at the April 14 annual meeting. Nominating meetings for Districts 1, 3 and 5 were held in February with the following candidates chosen to run for the board of directors:

DISTRICT 1



RANDY HUNTSMAN
194 Fair Valley Road
Martinsburg, PA 16662

Randy Huntsman, 63, works as an

animal nutritionist with Renaissance Nutrition in Roaring Spring. He is also employed as a crops manager by Kulp Family Dairy, LLC in Martinsburg and as the bookkeeper for Hilecrest Farm, LLC in Sinking Valley.

A 1977 Central High School graduate, Randy and his family operated a dairy farm, Fair Valley Farms, for more than 30 years. He also served on the North Woodbury Township Board of Supervisors for 24 years, many of those as board chairman.

Randy has a wealth of co-op experience. He is or has been a member of the following cooperatives: Land O'Lakes, Pennsylvania Farm Bureau, Select Sire Power, Ag Choice Farm Credit and Bedford Farm Bureau.

He has also served on various boards of directors, including those for the Blair County Farm Bureau, Blair County Holstein Club, Blair County DHIA and the Professional Dairy Managers of Pennsylvania.

Randy and his wife, Karen, are members of Martinsburg Grace Brethren Church, where they both serve as deacons, and Randy as an elder.

In his free time, Randy enjoys hunting, spending time with his family and touring the country on a Harley. He and Karen have two sons, a daughter, four granddaughters and two grandsons.

Randy has been a Valley Rural Elec-

tric Cooperative (REC) member since 2007 and has served on the board since July 2016. Randy has earned his Director Gold credential from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) for completing the required continuing education credits. Randy is running unopposed on the ballot for District 1.

DISTRICT 3



KEVIN STATES
13631 Raystown Road
Hesston, PA 16647

A 61-year-old native of Hesston, Huntingdon County, Kevin States works

on his family's 200-acre farm, rents another 200 acres of cropland and feeds 80 head of young stock. The operation uses the services of the Bedford Farm Bureau Cooperative and Valley REC.

Kevin, a 1979 graduate of Huntingdon Area High School, is a past member of the National Holstein Association and a member of the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau. When he was younger, he was involved in the Huntingdon County 4-H Dairy and Beef Clubs and was a member of the Rural Electric Youth Tour delegation in 1978.

The family's farm has received electric service from Valley REC since 1952, and 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 positions of vice chairman and secretary. He has previously attained his Director Gold credential from NRECA, which is the highest level of training for an electric co-op director.

Kevin has one son, one daughter, three grandsons and four granddaughters. In his free time, he follows NASCAR racing and enjoys going to local dirt track races. Kevin is running unopposed on the ballot for District 3.

DISTRICT 5



KEN SODER
5867 Eberle Road
Petersburg, PA 16669

Ken Soder has worked for Patton Township since July 1999. He started as

the township zoning officer and is currently the public works director.

Ken and his wife, Kathy, started the K Bar K Farm in 1997 in the Bald Eagle Valley area with 14 Dorset ewes purchased from a lady getting out of the sheep business. They moved to West Township in Huntingdon County in 2002 to accommodate their growing sheep flock.

Ken is a 1979 graduate of State College High School. He obtained his bachelor's degree in agricultural mechanization from Penn State's College of Agricultural Engineering in 1989.

He has been married to Kathy since 1991, and the couple have a son, Nathan, who is studying criminology at Penn State.

Ken is an active member of the Petersburg Bethel Presbyterian Church, where he has served as an elder and is currently a trustee.

Ken has been a Valley REC member since 2002. In his spare time, Ken is a Shavers Creek 4-H leader involved with sport fishing and woodworking.

Ken is running unopposed on the ballot for District 5. 🗳️