

704 East Main Street
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WCTA

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TONE**

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Winnebago Cooperative Telecom Association

Vol. 61, No. 9

September 2015

**IT'S TIME FOR THE
WCTA Annual Meeting**

It's September and that means Annual Meeting time here at WCTA. The Cooperative will be holding its 65th Annual Meeting on Thursday, September 24th, at the Lake Mills High School gym beginning at 6:30 p.m.

President Mark R. Johnson and Manager Mark Thoma will bring you up to speed on what your Cooperative has been doing this past year. It's also a chance for you to learn more about local and national telecommunications issues and see what the future holds.

Drawings will be held for the Mail Ballot Prize and two Grand Attendance Prizes. Each winner

will receive a 43" flat screen television. Cookies and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

The ballot, prize card, and attendance card will be sent in a separate envelope.

Please sign your attendance card and bring it to the meeting.

WCTA is YOUR Cooperative. Come to the meeting and find out what your Cooperative has been doing this past year and vote for your Directors. Please mark your calendar for September 24th. We hope to see you there!

For Your Enjoyment

This year's entertainment will feature two different groups from the Forest City Community School Music Department. There will two separate performances, one from the Pep Band and one from the Chorus. Come join us on the 24th and listen to the great sounds of the FCCS Music Department!



Be sure to VOTE!

***Watch for the ballots and prize cards
which will be mailed to you next week.***

Directors' Report

Our thanks go out to all the WCTA members for another great year!

At WCTA our mission is to provide our members innovative products, exceptional value, and first-class customer service through positive and dedicated employees, while sharing our success with our members and the communities we serve.

The seven-member Board is elected from the membership to set policy and govern the Cooperative.

Dividend Payment: Earlier this year the Board approved a \$500,000 dividend payout. The amount represents 5.3% of the remaining allocated dividends set aside for the years 1997-2000. Approximately 7200 checks were mailed in June.

Construction Update: Last year, WCTA contractors focused on the Lake Mills urban exchange. Weather issues prevented them from completely finishing the project in 2014, so they returned in early 2015 to complete the remaining areas. Conversions to the new fiber plant in these areas should begin later this year or early next year.

For 2015, the WCTA Board approved projects for the urban areas of Fertile, Hanlontown, Joice, and Leland. Smaller projects were also approved for Forest City,



L to R: President Mark R. Johnson, Larry Foley, Vice-President Stephen Thorland, Jerry Ouverson; Secretary/Treasurer Mike Stensrud, Curt Helland, and Dale Meinders.

Northwood, and Manly. The weather this year has been much more cooperative and the construction phase of most of those projects should be wrapped up by now. Conversions to the new fiber plant in these areas should begin later this year or early next year.

A Big Thanks: The Board would also like to thank each and every WCTA employee for their efforts over the past year. The telecommunications industry is an ever-growing and ever-changing industry and it takes a dedicated group of employees to keep things running smoothly.

WCTA Employees

WCTA Employees are committed to providing the best service possible to our members. Our employees live and work in the communities we serve. They volunteer for fire and ambulance departments, city councils, school and civic organizations. Each one of our employees delivers quality customer care and we appreciate their service.

Arends, Ron
Arneson, David
Bailey, Alison
Belica, Kris
Boysen, Ross
Caylor, Clay
Chodur, Deb
Ducommun, Chad
Eaton, Chris
Hagen, Jay
Hanna, John
Henderson, Melanie
Holtan, Jason "Kirby"
Johnson, Aaron
Johnson, Greg
Joynt, Ryan
Kesler, Ryan
Klebsch, Bob
Kloster, Chad
Kroger, John
Lucas, Jason

Installer/Repairman
CAD Operator
Customer Service
Installer/Repairman
Installer/Repairman
Installer/Repairman
Customer Service
Cable Locator
Service Coordinator
Installer/Repairman
Construction Foreman
Customer Service
Installer/Repairman
Computer Specialist
Installer/Repairman
Operations Assistant
Network Administrator
Plant Administrator
Construction
Regulatory/CABS Administrator
Installer/Repairman

Miller, Randy
Pederson, Jeff
Peterson, Katie
Pins, Marty
Piper, Mike
Renneker, Rob
Rentz, Josh
Ringham, Jayne
Ritter, Julie
Savoy, Steve
Schissel, Eileen
Scholbrock, LuAnn
Sletten, Neal
Smith, Jamie
Taft, David
Tenold, Katelyn
Theisen, Austin
Thoma, Mark
Thompson, Scott
Thoreson, Eric
Walz, Gene

COE
Business Solutions
Customer Service
Controller
Installer/Repairman
Operations Manager
Assistant Network Administrator
Customer Service Supervisor
Customer Service
Senior Network Administrator
Administrative Assistant
Marketing Specialist
System Engineer
COE
Business Development
Assistant Accountant
Installer/Repairman
General Manager
Construction
Accountant
COE & Combo



General Manager's Report

by Mark Thoma

It's hard to believe another year has flown by. The Directors' Report updated you on a couple of important topics so I encourage you to read that section. I've got a few additional items to cover so read on for a quick review of what's been happening at WCTA.

iWireless Upgrades: Earlier this year, WCTA built a new iWireless tower approximately 2 miles north of Forest City on Hwy. 69. The new 300' tower was put into service in January and will help improve voice coverage in the area.

Later this year, WCTA and iWireless plan to roll out LTE service. LTE, or Long Term Evolution, represents the latest in wireless technology. With LTE service, iWireless customers will enjoy improved data speed and quality.

iWireless has plans to launch LTE in a number of metropolitan areas throughout the state. WCTA will be launching LTE on 6 of our towers: Buffalo Center, Northwood (both the in-town and casino areas), Hanlontown, and both Forest City locations.

And one final note about iWireless. If you haven't already, be sure to stop by the new iWireless store in Mason City. The store, which opened in June, is located in the Indianhead Square Shopping Center



by Wal-Mart and Buffalo Wild Wings. They carry the full line of iWireless phones and accessories.

Digital TV & WatchTVEverywhere: WCTA's Digital TV service continues to be popular with members. Of course it has all your favorite channels. But, it also offers two very popular services: DVR and WatchTVEverywhere.

The DVR service is great at making sure you never miss your favorite show. You can create a one-time recording for that special event or create a series recording to make sure you never miss an episode of your favorite show. You can also pause and rewind live TV shows so you can replay that funny moment or watch the game winning touchdown again.

WatchTVEverywhere is quickly gaining in popularity. The service allows you to access content on devices such as laptops, tablets, and smartphones. Currently, there are more than 35 providers available with more being added regularly. The content can vary by provider with some offering live feeds that mirror the traditional channel and others offering exclusive content online. And the best part? It's free with WCTA's Expanded Basic Digital TV package! For more details check out the Video section of WCTA's website.

New Website: Speaking of websites, we're working on a new one. We are going through the design phase right now to make sure everything looks and feels perfect. Our goal is to give the site a more modern look while making it easier to get at the information you want. We hope to launch the new site later this year.

And while we are still talking about websites, I'll put out a friendly reminder that you can get access to your WCTA account online. Why would you want to do that, you ask? Well, it's a great option for those who want to set-up or change their automatic payment options and those who simply want to make a one-time payment to their account. To access your account look for the 'Pay Your WCTA Bill' link on the left side of the homepage. If you haven't already registered, you can do so by answering a few simple questions (you will need the most recent copy of your WCTA invoice).

In closing, I invite each of you to attend the Annual Meeting on September 24th. It's a great way to keep up with what's going on with your Cooperative and to meet all the people that make it work so smoothly. It's also a great way for us to meet you. After all, if it weren't for our members, there wouldn't be a WCTA.

Annual Report

2014 Annual Meeting Minutes

The annual meeting of the Winnebago Cooperative Telecom Association was held at the High School Gym in Lake Mills, Iowa, on the 25th day of September, 2014, at 6:30 p.m., pursuant to previous action of the Board of Directors fixing said place and time for holding the annual meeting and pursuant to notice.

The invocation was given by Director Mike Stensrud, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The meeting was called to order by President Mark R. Johnson who presided during the meeting. Mike Stensrud, Secretary/Treasurer, acted as Secretary during the meeting and kept the minutes thereof.

The roll was called by the Secretary who reported that the members present in person, a list of which is kept on file at the WCTA business office, had been checked and were present in person.

There being a total membership of 7170 members and said members present in person being more than the 143 in number, the President declared a quorum for the lawful transaction of any business to come before the meeting.

President Johnson asked if anyone had an attendance ballot to cast. Ballots were collected at the registration table and turned in to the counting committee. Inspectors of Election names were announced as follows: Bill Georgia, Ronald Moen, Roger Solomonson, Bonnie Kuns, Diane Miller, and Ted Thompson.

The vote for the election of directors was then had by ballot and the ballots were delivered, those voting by mail and by those present at the meeting, to the inspectors who proceeded to count them.

The Secretary also reported the persons who voted by mail, a list of which is kept on file at the WCTA business office.

A motion was duly made and seconded to waive the reading of the Notice of Annual Meeting. Motion carried.

A motion was duly made and seconded to waive the reading of the September 26, 2013, annual meeting of members' minutes. Motion carried.

A motion was duly made and seconded to approve the minutes of the September 26, 2013, annual meeting of members as presented. Motion carried.

The financial report of the previous year was then presented and read by the Secretary/Treasurer, Mike Stensrud.

A motion was duly made and seconded to accept the December 31, 2013, financial report. Motion carried.

President Johnson introduced the Board of Directors and Attorney to meeting attendees.

Arlyn Midgaard of the Nominating Committee then presented and read the Nominating Committee minutes.

The Cooperative's General Manager, Mark Thoma, presented his annual report to the members.

The President then stated that the next order of business would be the election of two (2) directors to hold office for a term of three (3) years, or until their successors shall have been elected and shall have been qualified and the President called attention to the report of the Nominating Committee, which had been made and directed that the same be kept on file at the WCTA business office.

The Certificate of Inspectors of Election was presented and read by Roger Solomonson, a member of the Inspectors of Election, certifying that the following members, having received the highest number of votes cast, have been duly elected directors of the Cooperative to hold office for the term specified or until their successors shall have been elected and qualified.

Three year term:

Curt Helland

Jerry Ouverson

The President thereupon declared the following members duly elected directors of the Cooperative, to hold office for the term specified or until their successors shall have been elected and qualified.

Three year term:

Curt Helland

Jerry Ouverson

A member asked a question regarding financial line items that was addressed by the President and the Manager.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, upon motion duly made and seconded and carried, the meeting was adjourned.

Chairman: Mark R. Johnson

Secretary: Mike Stensrud



Annual Meeting Program

**Thursday Night - September 24th
Lake Mills High School Gym
6:30 P.M.**

Call to Order

Roll Call.....Mark R. Johnson

*Opening of Business Meeting &
Announcement of Quorum*

Secretary-Treasurer's ReportMike Stensrud

Nominating Committee Report

Election of Directors

Manager's Report.....Mark Thoma

Old and New Business

Adjournment

Entertainment

Prize Drawings

PRIZE DRAWINGS

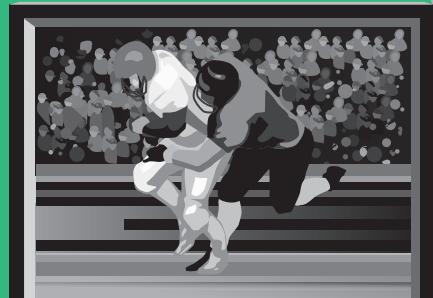
**2 GRAND
ATTENDANCE
PRIZES**



43" TV'S



**MAIL
BALLOT PRIZE**



43" TV

Look for your ATTENDANCE CARD

in the ballot mailing
which will be sent soon.

**Bring the Attendance Card
to the Annual Meeting!**

**Members Registering
Before 6:30 P.M.
and**

**Staying for the Meeting
Receive:**

- ✓ One \$20 Meat Certificate**
- ✓ Attendance Gift**

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