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Winnebago Cooperative Telecom Association

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September 2016

IT'S TIME FOR THE WCTA Annual Meeting

It's September. The kids are back in school. Harvest time is near. And so is the WCTA annual meeting. The Cooperative will be holding its 66th Annual Meeting on Thursday, September 22nd, at the Lake Mills High School gym beginning at 6:30 p.m.

During the meeting, members will hear reports from President Mark R. Johnson and Manager Mark Thoma that 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.

A total of three 40" HDTVs will be given away at the meeting. One for the mail ballot prize and two Grand Attendance Prizes. Cookies and refreshments will be served following the meeting.

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

When completing your information, please note the following:

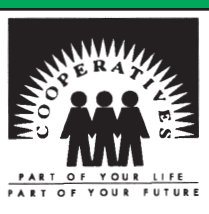
- The Mail Ballot and Mail Ballot Prize Card must be returned together, in the designated envelope.
- The Attendance card should not be returned with the Mail Ballot. It should be brought to the meeting.

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 22nd. We hope to see you there!

For Your Enjoyment

This year's entertainment will feature Peter Bloedel and his Perpetual Vaudeville show. Peter describes his performances as a fantastic blend of physical coordination, mystery, comedy, psychology and downright magic trickery that will dazzle the eyes with astonishing feats of balance and juggling. He also baffles the mind with mystifying demonstrations of mind reading, magic, and mentalism.

We hope you'll join us for Peter's entertaining performance after the annual meeting.



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 5.6% of the remaining allocated dividends set aside for the years 1997-2000. Approximately 8000 checks were issued in June.

Bancroft and Lakota coming soon to WCTA: Earlier this year, WCTA agreed to purchase the exchanges of Bancroft and Lakota from Consolidated Communications Holdings, Inc. As of this writing, the transaction is still working its way through various state and federal agencies for approvals. Once final approval is obtained, Consolidated's customers in those exchanges will become members of WCTA.

We look forward to serving the customers of Bancroft and Lakota.

Construction Updates: Last year, WCTA completed fiber construction projects in the urban areas of Fertile, Hanlontown, Joice, and Leland; along with several smaller projects in Forest City, Manly, and Northwood. Those areas have since been converted to the new fiber facilities.

For 2016, the Board approved a fiber construction project for the remaining urban areas of Forest City. In total, more than 1500 locations will be buried to this summer. Conversions to the new fiber plant will follow either later this year or 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	Technician	Lucas, Jason	Business Systems Specialist
Arneson, David	CAD Operator	Miller, Randy	Network Operations Technician
Belica, Kris	Technician	Obermeyer, Heidi	Customer Service Representative
Boysen, Ross	Technician	Pederson, Jeff	Business Solutions
Caylor, Clay	Technician	Peterson, Katie	Customer Service Representative
Chodur, Deb	Customer Service Representative	Pins, Marty	Controller
Ducommun, Chad	Construction	Piper, Mike	Network Operations Technician
Eastvold, Tom	Technician	Renneker, Rob	Operations Manager
Eaton, Chris	Inventory/Purchasing Coordinator	Rentz, Josh	Network Operations Technician
Eisenbeisz, James	Technician	Ringham, Jayne	Customer Service Manager
Fritz, Evan	Marketing Coordinator	Ritter, Julie	Customer Service Representative
Hagen, Jay	Technician	Savoy, Steve	Network Administrator
Hanna, John	Construction Foreman	Schissel, Eileen	Administrative Assistant
Henderson, Melanie	Customer Service Representative	Sletten, Neal	Engineering Manager
Holtan, Jason "Kirby"	Technician	Smith, Jamie	Assistant Engineer
Johnson, Aaron	Office Network Administrator	Taft, David	Services Support Specialist
Johnson, Greg	Technician	Tenold, Katelyn	Accountant
Joynt, Ryan	Operations Assistant	Theisen, Austin	Technician
Kesler, Ryan	Network Operations Technician	Thoma, Mark	General Manager
Klebsch, Bob	Plant Administrator	Thompson, Scott	Construction
Kloster, Chad	Field Operations	Thoreson, Eric	Accountant
Kroger, John	Regulatory Manager	Walz, Gene	Network Operations Technician



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.

Bancroft and Lakota: As the Board mentioned in their report, WCTA is purchasing the exchanges of Bancroft and Lakota from Consolidated Communications Holdings, Inc. As of this writing the sale is still working its way through various state and federal agencies; but it is possible that the sale could be approved by the time you read this. I want to take this opportunity to welcome all of the customers in Bancroft and Lakota to WCTA. I am sure you will enjoy the outstanding service we provide.

iWireless Upgrades: Earlier this year, WCTA upgraded all 17 of its iWireless towers to LTE. iWireless has also launched LTE in a number of metropolitan areas through-out the state and will continue to expand its LTE footprint going forward.

LTE, or Long Term Evolution, represents the latest in wireless technology. With LTE service, iWireless customers will enjoy improved data speed and quality.

And one final note about iWireless. If you haven't already, be sure to stop by one of our locations and check out the latest in phones and accessories. In Mason City, visit the iWireless store located in the Indianhead Square Shopping Center by Wal-Mart and Buffalo Wild Wings. In Forest City, stop by Craft Communications in downtown Forest City. And in Lake Mills, stop by the WCTA business office.

WCTA Broadband gets even better: It seems it was just yesterday that we rolled out our 'super-fast' 15Mbps broadband plan. At the time, that was 3 times faster than the plan it replaced. But we didn't stop there. Late last year we upgraded our speeds again. The 15Mbps plan has now been upgraded to 100Mbps.

Everyone served via fiber was automatically upgraded to the faster speed. And if you haven't upgraded from an older plan, call us today to see what you have been missing. The 100Mbps plan is great for general web surfing and streaming media; and perfect for busy families with lots of gadgets.

New Website: The new WCTA website is here. The site launched earlier this year and features a much more modern and user-friendly design. Our last site was designed and created before smartphones and tablets were prevalent. The new site is much more friendly to those devices.

You'll also find it's now easier to do things like pay your bill online, learn about WCTA's services, and even search the web using the Google search tool at the top of the page. We encourage you to take a look at www.wctatel.net.

In closing, I invite each of you to attend the Annual Meeting on September 22nd. 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

2015 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 24th day of September, 2015, 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 General Manager, Mark Thoma, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The meeting was called to order by President Mark R. Johnson who presided during the meeting. Stephen Thorland, Vice-President, acted as Secretary during the meeting and kept the minutes thereof.

There being a total membership of 7344 members and said members present in person being more than the 147 in number (a list of which is kept on file at the WCTA business office), 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 committee names were announced as follows: Ron Moen, Diane Miller, Ted Thompson, Charles Hendrickson, Becky Martinson, and Sandy Skatter.

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 (a list of which is kept on file at the WCTA business office) to the inspectors who proceeded to count them.

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 25, 2014, annual meeting of members' minutes. Motion carried.

A motion was duly made and seconded to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2014, annual meeting of members as presented. Motion carried.

The financial report of the previous year was then presented and read by the Vice-President Stephen Thorland.

A motion was duly made and seconded to accept the December 31, 2014, financial report. Motion carried.

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

Jackie Villela of the Nominating Committee then presented and read the Nominating Committee report.

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

The President then called on the Inspectors of Election committee for the Director's election results.

The Certificate of Inspectors of Election report was presented and read by Ron Moen, 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:	Larry Foley
	Mike Stensrud
	Stephen Thorland

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

Acting Secretary: Stephen Thorland



Annual Meeting Program

**Thursday Night - September 22nd
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 Report..... Mike Stensrud

Nominating Committee Report

Election of Directors

Manager's ReportMark Thoma

Old and New Business

Adjournment

Entertainment

Prize Drawings

Look for your ATTENDANCE CARD

**in the ballot mailing
which will be sent soon.**

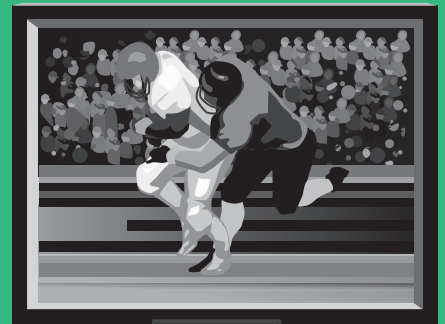
***Bring the Attendance Card
to the Annual Meeting!***

**Members Registering
Before 6:30 P.M.
and
Staying for the Meeting
Receive:**

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

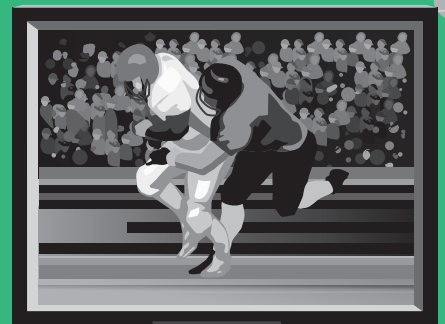
PRIZE DRAWINGS

**2 GRAND
ATTENDANCE
PRIZES**



40" TV'S

**MAIL
BALLOT PRIZE**



40" TV