



# 2020 Annual Meeting

## 70th Annual Meeting to be held on Thurs, Sept 24th

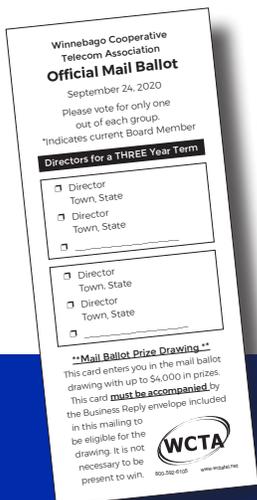
Calling all members - it's time for WCTA's 70th Annual Meeting! This is an opportunity for you to find out what your Cooperative has been doing this past year. It's also a chance for you to learn more about the telecommunications industry and what the future holds.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this year's meeting is being held 'virtually' on Thursday, September 24th. You may join online and watch the video or call in. President Mark R. Johnson and CEO Mark Thoma will bring you up to date on local and national telecommunications topics. See our website for more information.

Since we won't have attendance gifts this year, we've extended our mail ballot prize drawings. See back page for details. Be sure to vote for directors and amended Articles of Incorporation.

WCTA is YOUR Cooperative. Attend the meeting, online or by phone, and see what's occurred this past year. Please mark your calendar for September 24th. It will be a historic meeting and we hope you can join us!

**Watch for the ballots and prize cards which will be mailed to you next week. Must be received in our office by Tuesday, September 22.**



### CEO's Report

#### Fiber conversions nearing completion Fiber Internet showing its value

Thank you to President Mark Johnson and the board for their efforts on your behalf during this past year. I encourage you to read the Directors' article, which contains important topics for you to know. I'll cover additional current and forward looking topics here.



Mark Thoma  
CEO

Fiber conversion update: Last year I shared with you that 100% of the construction was done, and we still had the final step of conversions to be completed. This past year, we finished Conger, Emmons, Scarville, Twin Lakes, parts of Northwood, and then moved on to Rake, Woden, Crystal Lake, and the remaining portion of Northwood. I'm happy to report that we only have 125 conversions to finish, and then the Fiber project will be complete.

Additionally, we pushed education and tools for members to protect themselves from cyber

... continued on p2

# Be Sure to VOTE!

Winnebago Cooperative Telecom Association

704 East Main Street Lake Mills, Iowa

www.wctatel.net 800-592-6105 wcta@wctatel.net

## CEO's Report . . . continued from p1

security threats and online fraud attempts. While vigilance continues to be required, we are happy with the response from customers and the progress that has been made by all. Remember to never give out information to anyone who calls or emails you.

During this last year we began to include Premium WiFi with Internet service. Our great fiber Internet has outstanding WiFi! If you want to know more, be sure to contact us.

I didn't want to lead with the impact of the pandemic on WCTA and its members, but that is not to say it didn't have an impact on conversions and other areas of the coop. Even if you or a loved one was not ill, Covid-19 disrupted lives, and pushed many to work or attend school from home. We knew the strength and reliability of our fiber network was outstanding and we were able to prove it by meeting your communication needs during the pandemic. And while you had great connectivity, we have all

heard stories of customers in other areas of the state without satisfactory Internet access. We are proud of how our staff and the network handled all that was asked of them.

That is not to say that there was not stress and strain on WCTA staff members or you, our members, because we know that there was. The pandemic itself, as well as the isolation and the lost events have taken a toll on us all. Yet, we know, regardless of what the future holds, WCTA and our members will work together, serve one another and find our way through the challenges.

Finally, I want to thank our WCTA staff members, who work diligently every day, and often on nights and weekends, in order to fulfill our commitment to you. I'd also like to thank the board for your commitment to members and your guidance. Finally, thank you to members for trusting us to serve you, and for your encouragement and excitement this year.

## WCTA Employees

*WCTA employees are committed to providing the best service possible to you. They live and work in the communities we serve. They volunteer for fire & 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	Mueller, Laura	Account Representative
Arneson, David	CAD Operator	Neiber, Nick	Technician
Belica, Kris	Technician	Nitcher, Dylan	Technician
Boysen, Ross	Technician	Obermeyer, Heidi	Account Representative
Buhmann, Heather	Account Representative	Pederson, Jeff	Business Solutions
Caylor, Clay	Technician	Peterson, Katie	Account Representative
Chodur, Deb	Account Representative	Pins, Marty	Controller
Davis, Paul	Network Manager	Piper, Mike	Network Operations Technician
Ducommun, Chad	Operations Assistant	Reichert, Brenda	Residential Solutions
Eastvold, Tom	Technician	Renneker, Rob	Operations Manager
Eaton, Chris	Inventory/Purchasing Coordinator	Rentz, Josh	Network Operations Technician
Hagen, Sarah	Accountant	Ringham, Jayne	Customer Service Manager
Henderson, Melanie	Account Representative	Savoy, Steve	Network Administrator
Holtan, Jason "Kirby"	Technician	Sletten, Neal	Engineering Manager
Johnson, Aaron	Office Network Administrator	Tegland, Travis	Technician
Johnson, Greg	Technician	Theisen, Austin	Technician
Joynt, Ryan	Operations Assistant	Thoma, Mark	Chief Executive Officer
Kesler, Ryan	Network Operations Technician	Thompson, Angie	Project Coordinator
Klebsch, Bob	Plant Administrator	Thompson, Scott	Construction
Kloster, Chad	Field Operations	Thoreson, Eric	Accountant
Kroger, John	Regulatory Manager	Van Ryswyk, Dawson	Construction Technician
Lackore, Darcy	Account Representative	Walz, Gene	Network Operations Technician
Lucas, Jason	Business Systems Specialist	Wright, Randy	Technician
Miller, Randy	Network Operations Technician		

# Directors' Report



**Mark R. Johnson**  
President



**Steve Thorland**  
Vice President



**Mike Stensrud**  
Secretary/Treasurer



**Larry Foley**  
Director



**Curt Helland**  
Director



**Dale Meinders**  
Director



**Shanan Redinger**  
Director

## Another successful year; Ouverson retires and Redinger is appointed

Thank you to all WCTA members and staff for another successful year. Serving our members is the reason we exist, and our employees make it happen. Our role, as the board, is to set policy and govern the cooperative to serve the membership.

Our mission is to provide our members innovative products, exceptional value and first-class customer service through positive and dedicated employees, while investing back into the communities where our members live to allow all to thrive.

**Dividend Payment:** Earlier this year the board approved a \$2,000,000 dividend payout. The amount represents 100% of the remaining allocated dividends set aside for 1997 and 23% of 2005. The board decided to send the 8,000 dividend checks 45 days early to assist members at this challenging time.

**Construction Updates:** In 2020, we built the first half of urban Manly, and will complete the remaining half in 2021. Additionally, we extended the fiber network into Ledyard. As the construction wraps up, and

staff complete conversions, we will continue to be watchful for new opportunities that may benefit members.

We would like to congratulate Jerry Ouverson on his April retirement from the board. Jerry served cooperative members for 23 years. He did a great job as a member of the board helping to guide the cooperative over the years. Jerry has seen a lot of change in regulation and technology during his time on the board, and he did an excellent job of staying plugged in so he could learn and adapt to serve the coop.



**Jerry Ouverson**  
Years Served  
1997-2020

We'd also like to welcome Shanan Redinger, who was appointed to the Board of Directors at the April board meeting of the cooperative. She assumes Jerry's term and her first board meeting was in May.

Thank you for the trust you put in the coop, the board and staff. We never take it for granted.

# Incredible. Ultra-fast. Reliable.



# You can count on us!

# Internet.



# 2019 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 26th day of September, 2019, 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 Secretary/Treasurer 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.

There being a total membership of 8,442 members and said members present in person being more than the 169 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 there were any attendance ballots to turn in, and those ballots were collected. The ballots of those voting by mail were counted earlier in the day by the Inspectors of Election. All ballots turned in at the meeting were then delivered to the inspectors who proceeded to count them. President Johnson announced the Inspectors of Election committee members: Diane Miller, Sandy Skatter, Wayne Van Veldhuizen, Don Knudtson, Bonnie Rodberg, and Mardene Lien.

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 20, 2018, annual meeting of members' minutes. Motion carried.

A motion was duly made and seconded to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2018, annual meeting of members as presented. Motion carried.

The financial report of the previous year was then presented and read by the CEO Mark Thoma.

A motion was duly made and seconded to accept the December 31, 2018, financial report. Motion carried.

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

Kenneth Hansen, chairman for the Nominating Committee, then presented and read the Nominating Committee report.

The Cooperative's CEO, 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 Don Knudtson, 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:                      Mark R. Johnson  
   Dale Meinders

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

# Meeting Agenda

Thursday, September 24th - 6:30pm

Virtual

Call to Order

Roll Call, Mark R. Johnson

Opening of Business Meeting  
& Announcement of Quorum

Financial Report, Mark Thoma

Articles of Incorporation Amendments

Nominating Committee Report

Election of Directors

CEO's Report, Mark Thoma

Old & New Business

Adjournment

Prize Drawings

# Watch your mailbox . . .

Your **BALLOTS** will be mailed soon - Return them to the WCTA office before

**Tuesday,  
September 22**

The yellow return envelope is your prize card



# Prize Drawings . . .

We will be giving away:

- 1 4 Insignia 50" 4K TVs
- 2 2 Roomba Robot Vacuums
- 3 2 Echo Show 8 HD Smart Display with Alexa
- 4 2 64Gb Apple iPad Air Tablets
- 5 1 Home Security Pack  
Includes Wyze Cam & 2 Smart Plugs

Members who return their voting ballots in the yellow return envelope by Sept 22 are eligible for prize drawings.



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