



BUSYLINE

McDonough Telephone Cooperative • Colchester, Illinois

Volume 32, Number 11 • November 2006 • www.mdtc.net

Board of Directors Elects Officers

At its September meeting, the McDonough Telephone board of directors held elections for officers for the 2006-2007 business year. All of the incumbents retained their positions.



Jim Torrance
President



Roger Barclay
Vice-President



Steve Hunt
Treasurer



Rose Marie Lynn
Secretary

Jim Torrance, representing the Good Hope exchange, was re-elected to the office of president. He had previously served three terms as vice-chairman. Torrance has been a board member for 20 years. He operates a livestock and grain farm northeast of Good Hope.

Roger Barclay, director from the Industry exchange, was re-elected to fill the vice-president slot. He has served on the board for 20 years. Barclay is involved in a family livestock and grain operation.

The office of treasurer was filled by incumbent **R. Stephen Hunt**, a representative of the Colchester exchange. Hunt, a 29-year board veteran, is an enrolled agent with the IRS and is associated with March, McMillan and DeJoode, P.C.

Rose Marie Lynn, serving her twelfth year on the board as the representative of the Bardolph and Adair exchanges, retained the position of secretary. Lynn assists in the family farm operation as well as running Dough Delights, a Christmas ornament business.

Tick, Tick, Tick – Deadline Near!

The deadline for entries in the 2007 Directory Cover Coloring Contest is almost here. Kids – get those drawings to us before November 3 for your chance to win the \$100 first place prize. Second place is \$75, and third place is \$50.

Use crayons, markers, paint or any other non-smearing media to draw a picture of “How McDonough Telephone Helps My Family.” Entries must be on a

plain white sheet of 8 ½” X 11” paper. Each participant may submit up to three entries. The contest is open to students from kindergarten through 4th grade whose parents or legal guardians are McDonough Telephone members.

Wouldn't you like to see your talent displayed on the cover of our next directory? Time is short – start drawing today!

UPN + WB = CW

Earlier this year, struggling TV networks UPN and WB announced that they would merge into a single new youth-oriented broadcast channel to premiere in Sept. 2006. The new channel is named CW - for “CBS” and “Warner,” the parent companies of UPN and WB. The local CW affiliate is KGCW located on channel 13 (formerly the slot for Warner's KGWB).

CW airs the most popular shows from both of its parent networks. These include shows such as “Everybody Hates Chris,” “Gilmore Girls,” “Friday Night Smackdown,” “America's Next Top Model” and “Veronica Mars.”

UPN programming previously aired on channel 5. This has become the home of My 59-WAOE TV 59 from Peoria. The channel will continue to air IHSA sports, Big Ten football and basketball, St. Louis Cardinal baseball and, a new addition, Chicago Bulls basketball. Every evening Monday through Friday, a half hour of local news, weather and sports are presented on My 59 by its partner station, NBC affiliate WEEK TV 25. For programming, visit www.my59.tv.

We're Coming To YOU!

**McDonough Telephone
Lunchtime Exchange**

Midwest Oil

135 S. Chestnut • Good Hope
Wed., Nov. 15 • 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Serving hamburgers & hot dogs!
Join us for lunch!



McDonough Telephone Cooperative

Colchester: 309-776-3211 or 888-640-4334
Lomax: 217-449-3211

IRS Releases Tax Credit Information

In 1898, the federal government levied an excise tax on all toll calls to help subsidize the Spanish-American War. Last May, the U.S. Treasury Department announced that it would stop collecting the tax on the long distance portion of our phone bills after July 31, 2006. Credit was also to be issued for any excise tax paid on long distance calls for the last three years. The IRS has arrived at a simplified method for taxpayers to claim a refund.

Standard credits for the telephone excise tax won't be very large. The maximum credit for individuals is \$60. Filers taking one personal exemption on their 2006

returns will get \$30. The credit rises by \$10 for each additional exemption until it reaches \$60. The amount will go on line 71 of the 2006 1040. Folks who don't make enough to file a return can file Form 1040EZ-T to get a refund of the credit.

Businesses and tax-exempt organizations are stuck with filing for the actual phone tax paid. They will need to have their bills for the period from February 28, 2003 through August 1, 2006 to seek a refund of the tax. To ease the burden on firms and non-profits, the IRS is still considering the development of an estimation method to figure the tax paid.

An Important Message About Illinois Relay

People who are deaf, hard-of-hearing or speech disabled and use a teletypewriter (TTY) to communicate with hearing people who use a standard telephone can take advantage of an easy-to-use service offered by Illinois local exchange telephone companies like McDonough Telephone. The service is called Illinois Relay which is administered by the Illinois Telecommunications Access Corporation (ITAC) and is available seven days a week, 24 hours a day. Illinois Relay's trained operators type the hearing caller's spoken words to the TTY caller and speak the typed words of the TTY caller to the hearing person. There is no charge for the use of Illinois Relay. Calls are billed at regular telephone company rates. ITAC also distributes TTYs

at no charge to qualified Illinois residents. For more information or to apply for Illinois Relay service, call the ITAC at 1-800-841-6167.

To place a call using Illinois Relay, dial 711. Or, use one of these 10-digit numbers:

- 1-800-526-0844 TTY Users
- 1-800-526-0857 Voice Users
- 1-800-501-0864 TTY Spanish
- 1-800-501-0865 Voice Spanish
- 1-877-526-1130 VCO Users
- 1-877-526-6670 Telebraille Users
- 1-877-526-6680 ASCII Users
- 1-877-526-6690 Speech to Speech

For quickest response in an emergency, dial 911 directly rather than using the relay service to complete the emergency call.

Everyone Loves a Parade

McDonough Telephone was in parade mode again at the Lomax Country Day celebration on September 23. Decked out in our bright t-shirts and stocked with plenty of candy, young and old alike had a wonderful time!



Business Office to Close for Holidays

McDonough Telephone business office will be closed on Friday, November 10, in commemoration of Veterans Day and on Thursday, November 23, for Thanksgiving Day. On these dates, emergency repair calls will be handled in the normal holiday routine according to cooperative policy. Dial 611 from any of our exchanges to report a service problem. From outside of our service area or from a cell phone, dial 309/776-3214. Other requests or questions regarding billing issues may be left on our voice mail.

Directory Additions

Lisa Arnold	456-3859
Alan Balsler	746-6198
Phillip Butler	449-3492
Lance Carlile	776-4168
Dan Fross	254-3653
C. Grim	776-5269
John Hill	755-4452
William Hurt	776-4131
Ashley Jones	774-4136
Lamoine Valley Farms LLC	776-3064
Kevin & Heather Markham	652-3505
Poppenhager, Steve & Carla	254-3381
Gregg Walters	776-4229

Lomax Office Schedule NOVEMBER 2006

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9		11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22		24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Days Open in Red • Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Nov. 15 - Bills Due • Nov. 27 - Disconnect