



BUSYLINE

McDonough Telephone Cooperative • Colchester, Illinois

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Service award recipients were honored at the MDTC family Christmas party. Pictured (left to right) are Jerry Payne, Dennis Huffman, Steve Hunt, Lanny Carson, Lisa Helton, Jay Griswold, Lonnie Allaman, Pam Downey and Don Rings. Not available for the picture were Brandon Smith, Keith Donaldson, Mike Grafton, Jay Harrison and Les Fowler.

Recognized for Service

Nine McDonough Telephone employees and five members of the board of directors achieved notable service anniversaries in 2007. Their combined terms of service totaled an impressive 225 years.

At the cooperative's Christmas dinner in December, CO Technician Brandon Smith received an award for five years of service. Area Technicians Lonnie Allaman and Keith Donaldson, CO Technician Mike Grafton, Controller Jay Griswold

and Engineer Jay Harrison were recognized for 10 years of service. Lanny Carson, board member representing dist. 10 – Colchester, and Dennis Huffman, dist. 5 – Lomax, received 15 year service awards. Administrative Assistant Pam Downey, board member Jerry Payne, dist. 8 – Swan Creek, and board member Don Rings, dist. 6 – Colusa, were presented with 20 year commendations. Steve Hunt, dist. 10 – Colchester, was honored for 30 years of service.

FRS Scholarship Application Deadline

The Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) is currently seeking applications for its 2008 college scholarship program. Thirty scholarships in the amount of \$2,500 each will be awarded to rural high school seniors across the country.

McDonough Telephone partners with FRS in making the scholarship program available to high school students in our area, with the FRS awarding \$2,000 and McDonough Telephone adding another \$500 if one of our sponsored students is selected as a scholarship winner. To be sponsored by McDonough Telephone, a student must be the child of, or under

the guardianship of, a McDonough Telephone Cooperative member.

Applications and guidelines have been mailed to guidance counselors at all area schools. They can also be downloaded from the FRS website at www.frs.org. Please read the requirements carefully to see if you qualify. Completed applications must be postmarked to the FRS office by March 1, 2008. Prior to mailing to the FRS the applications must be brought to our office to be signed by manager Bill Buchanan. Please allow adequate time for us to complete the certification. Contact Karen Proulx at 776-3211 or 1-888-640-4334.

MEG Shares Holiday Cheer

Last month we talked about the LMEG holiday food drive and promised to report on which class at the West Prairie Middle School collected the most items of non-perishable food. The sixth grade class members were the winners and received a free pizza party for their efforts.

Eight pizzas disappeared before our very eyes. While the students were appreciative of receiving their favorite food for lunch, we in turn were grateful for their help in restocking the food pantry at the First Christian Church in Colchester.

The food collected in our office, at the area banks and businesses who allowed us to set up collection bins and by the middle school students covered 10-eight foot tables at the church. It took five people three hours to sort and put away the items.

We wish to extend our appreciation to all community members who helped make the holidays a little happier for some of our more needy neighbors.



McDonough Telephone Cooperative

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

One More Word About CPNI

Thanks to all of you who have updated your accounts to help us comply with the new Federal Communications Commission rules regarding access to Customer Proprietary Network Information (CPNI). Those of you who have set up passwords and authorized spouses, other family members or caretakers to make changes to your account will find it easier to receive account information.

Depending on the information you're seeking, you may be asked for verification on the phone and even to show a photo ID at the counter. Please understand that we are simply enforcing the rules that the FCC feels will best protect your privacy.

If you have not yet returned the document to add another authorized person or persons to your account or have not set up a password, please contact our office for a new form.

In Brief

- Effective with the January 1, 2008 bill, the Federal Universal Service Charge (FUSC) decreased from 11% to 10.2% of the Federal Access charge. This resulted in a decrease from \$.72 to \$.66 for residential customers and from \$1.01 to \$.94 for multiline business customers. The federal universal fund program is designed to help keep local telephone service rates affordable for all customers, in all areas of the United States.

- If you disconnect your DSL service temporarily while you travel or relocate to a summer or winter home, MTC now offers a short-term "email only" service. For a flat fee of \$10, MTC will keep your

email account active so that you can continue to send and receive emails from any location with Internet access. The "email only" account will be kept active for a maximum of six months.

• Need some info fast? Try these speedy look-up sites:

- **Area Codes**
www.mmiworld.com/codelist.htm
- **Zip Codes**
zip4.usps.com/zip4
- **Distance between US cities**
www.symsys.com
- **Foreign currency converter**
www.xe.com/ucc

Use *67 to Block Caller ID

McDonough Telephone wishes to remind its members that their telephone numbers will be identified to called parties with Caller ID capabilities. You may protect your privacy and block your number from being transmitted by dialing *67 on a call-by-call basis. This service is free to all of our subscribers. All telephone numbers, whether published or non-published, will be delivered to a called party unless *67 is dialed prior to making each and every call.

Running out of room for all of your stuff?

SELL IT ON MTC-TV!

Classified Ad\$5.00/week

Classified Ad w/picture\$7.50/week

Birthday, Anniversary & Congratulation Messages\$5.00/3 days

Feb. Anniversaries

40 Years:

Russell (Jake) Phillips, Tennessee
Donald L Porter, Blandinsville

30 Years:

Steve Clover, Lomax
Tim Shields, Blandinsville

20 Years:

T M Yard, Colchester
V M Zern, Niota
Coy & Beverly Abernathy, Macomb
Mike J McFadden, Adair


Directory Additions

Cargill, Lonne	325-7187
Hare, Amy	774-4251
Humes, Cindy	776-4023
Hynek, Mitchell & Carrie	254-3682
Ide, Kristi	449-3766
James, Anthony	776-3771
Kitchen, Dean	652-3430
Mason, Dwight & Sandra	257-2368
Melvin, Max	652-3338
Myers, Tammy	769-5543
Rusher, Molly	776-3019
Whitlock, Leslie	456-3966

Office Closed for Presidents' Day

On Monday, February 18, the cooperative will be closed in honor of Presidents' Day. Emergency repair calls will be handled in the normal holiday routine. Members should call 611 in the event of telephone, video or DSL service problems. If you are placing the call from a location outside of the McDonough Telephone service area or from a cellular phone, call 1-309-776-3214. Other requests or questions may be left on our voice mail.

Lomax Office Schedule FEBRUARY 2008

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17		19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	

Days Open in Red • Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Closed for lunch 11:30 a.m. - noon
Feb. 15 - Bills Due • Feb. 25 - Disconnect Day
Closed Feb. 18 - Presidents Day