



BUSYLINE

McDonough Telephone Cooperative • Colchester, Illinois

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50 Year Members Honored at Meeting

McDonough Telephone Cooperative members received news on the financial status of the co-op and honored some long term members at the 56th Annual Meeting 6.

Treasurer R. Stephen Hunt stated in his report that the cooperative ended the year with total assets of \$25,129,770.

Board President Jim Torrance reminded members of the three broad-range goals the board set for management and employees at the beginning of last year: member development and retention, enhanced technical support and non-traditional growth. Torrance discussed the ways in which the co-op is seeking to reach these goals.

In the area of member development and retention, Torrance brought up the two distributions of capital credits that have been made in the past year.

"This is the first time the co-op has made a fall and then a spring distribution of credits," he said. "We returned nearly a million and a half dollars to the members since this time last year."

Other member development and retention efforts have been the Morning Exchanges, Customer Appreciation cookouts and employee-led training programs for our members.

"If any group would like one of our employees to do a presentation, please let us know," Torrance offered.

The second goal, enhanced technical support, is being achieved by offering tech support 24 hours a day, seven days a week. In addition to having one of our technicians always on call, our answering service has been given additional training to improve the quality of its response.

"To offer convenience to members who work, we've extended out business office hours on Tuesdays from 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.," Torrance added.

In regards to non-traditional growth,

Torrance said that our newest undertaking is fiber to the home (FTTH). FTTH is a costly venture, but provides the means to bring broadband technologies to rural members who might not otherwise be able to have them.

By the end of the year, plans are in process to have an online retail site called techymart.com up and running. The site will offer telecommunication-related products.

General Manager Bill Buchanan introduced Michelle Torrance who explained the new plan to recognize significant anniversaries with the co-op. This year two memberships achieved 50 year anniversaries. Bruce Bricker of the Bardolph exchange was unable to attend the meeting. Doris and Jim Cook attended and were presented with a specially embroidered blanket, Visa gift card and a corsage for Doris. A brief video of an interview with the couple was also shown.

Buchanan opened his report with a quote from Yogi Berra who said, "If you don't know where you're going, you might wind up someplace else." He attributed the capability of the coop to steer the right course to the board.

"We present a lot of information to the board, they go through it and get us on the right road," he said.

Charts demonstrating the decline in phone lines coupled with an increase in subscriptions to broadband services were displayed. McDonough Telephone's income basis remains strong due to the steady increase in broadband revenues.

During the meeting, members re-elected Roger Barclay, District 3-Industry, Lyle Vail, District 4- Littleton, Jim Torrance, District 7- Good Hope and Lanny Carson- District 10, Colchester to the board of directors.

Members voted on an amendment to the Bylaws seeking to eliminate

Prizes Awarded at 56th Annual Meeting

- **Grand Prize - Super-Sized "Take Your Pick" Gift Certificate:** Dean Beck, Industry
- **Regular-Sized "Take Your Pick" Gift Certificate:** Nealy Wallick, Colchester
- **Polaroid 15" Widescreen LCD TV:** Carroll Hickenbottom, Blandinsville
- **Getaway Package at The Lodge, Bettendorf:** Virginia Thomas, Industry
- **Philips DVD/CD Player:** James Swanson, Sciota
- **VTECH Dual Handset Cordless Phone with one year free Caller ID Name & Number:** Norma McSparen, Lomax
- **VTECH Dual Handset Cordless Phone with one year free Caller ID Name & Number:** Richard Krohe, Industry
- **Eight - \$25 Service Credits:** Jerry Royer, Industry; Richard & Helen Clark, Colchester; Delores Hodges, Colchester; Sam Shields, Colchester; Stanley Welsh, Sciota; Raritan Fire Protection District; Northside Auto Body, Industry; and Jack Nelson, Colchester.
- **Five - MTC Communications - 100 Minutes Free Long Distance:** Nancy Hookum, Colchester; Alan Schreiber, Colchester; Elizabeth Foust, Colchester; JoElla Williams, Colchester; and Carla Farniok, Industry.
- **Youth Prizes - iPod Shuffles plus \$15 iTunes Cards:** Ethan Ruby, Industry and Jill Greuel, Colchester.



50 year members Doris and Jim Cook at the Henderson County Museum.



McDonough Telephone Cooperative
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Colchester Sesquicentennial Parade

Labor Day Weekend is always a time for celebration in Colchester, but this year it had special significance. Colchester has been commemorating its 150th birthday for most of the year with a Colchester museum, a fashion show featuring styles from throughout the years and with a theme to this year's Labor Day festivities focusing on the history of the town.

The parade committee encouraged old-style floats decorated with chicken wire and colored paper. McDonough Telephone's entry represented an earlier style of phone equipment. It was red to signify a "hot

line," and considering the 90+ temperatures, it fit in quite well!

Thanks to the employees and families who took the heat and helped us out.



Big Ten, WIUTV Added to Line-Up

Good news – the Big Ten Network has been added to the MTC-TV line-up as channel 48. Big Ten Network programming is designed to give fans ample opportunity to watch their favorite teams in action.

At least 35 live, exclusive football games are scheduled to be broadcast. Each school will play at least twice, and six games will be in prime time.

At least 105 live, exclusive regular-season basketball games as well as three Big Ten Tournament games are on the schedule. Sit back and enjoy up to six weeknight games and up to seven weekend games per week.

Women's Basketball will be broadcast in at least 55 live, exclusive regular-season games and in nine Big Ten Tournament games.

In addition to these regularly scheduled games, Big Ten Network will also feature:

- Big Ten championships and tournaments.
- 170 other Big Ten sporting events –

baseball, women's volleyball, soccer, swimming and diving, tennis and women's field hockey.

- Airing of archived sporting events including a Monday night classic game.
- Interviews with coaches
- 60 hours of themed programming from each school.

Another new offering on the MTC-TV line-up is WIUTV at channel 9. Television students at Western Illinois University prepare the programming for WIUTV. Students produce a live 30-minute news-cast Tuesday through Thursday, cover all local football, basketball, softball and baseball games and use student anchors, play-by-play and color announcers. Other special events, such as League of Women Voters Forums and the Miss Macomb Scholarship Pageant, are covered.

We're sure you'll find the Big Ten Network and WIUTV to be valuable additions to the MTC-TV channel line-up.

Send Us Your Photos!

The deadline for the 2008 Directory Cover Photo Contest is looming. After November 16 you'll lose the opportunity to have your photographic skills featured on our directory cover. You'll also miss the chance of winning a prize: 1st- \$100; 2nd- \$75; or 3rd-\$50. Here's what you need to do:

1. Submit up to two photos (either prints or high resolution digital files) of

a scene in the McDonough Telephone directory coverage area or of a human interest shot.

2. All entrants must be McDonough Telephone members or the children of members and reside within our service area.

3. Send all entries to: McDonough Telephone Cooperative; attn: Karen; PO Box 359; Colchester, IL 62326. Include name, phone # and a brief description.



Oct. Anniversaries

40 Years:

- Kenneth Joe Lawyer, Industry
- Kepple Trucking, Bardolph
- Gene Chipman, Good Hope
- Ronald Utter, Colchester
- Leo Dale Feikert, Blandinsville
- Lloyd Leroy Nelson, Blandinsville
- Al Cook Electric Motors, Adair

30 Years:

- Edith Dowell, Lomax
- Donald Ingles, Lomax
- Terry Ward, Colchester

20 Years:

- Susan Huber Bartlett, Tennessee
- Dean Bucher, Macomb
- Scott Hartney, Lomax
- Patrick St John, Colchester
- Randy & Kay Carlock, Colchester

Directory Additions

Anderson, T.	456-3682
Biswell, C.L.	456-3473
Clark, April & Robert	776-4137
Conley, Nikki	456-3588
Farquhar, Roger	449-3862
Farris, John & Marietta	652-3789
Frier, M.D.	776-3138
Green, Nathan & Christina	776-4725
Haynes, Sarah	456-3771
Hoskins, Stephanie	776-4575
Hughes, Lenny	653-2448
Lee, Daniel	325-7255
McGrew, Justin	774-4204
Plank, Derek	254-3625
Russell, Sharon	774-4192
Sullivan, Scott	254-3225
Willis, Terry & Jennifer	776-3918
Wilson, Brent	776-4575

Lomax Office Schedule OCTOBER 2007

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

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