



BUSYLINE

McDonough Telephone Cooperative • Colchester, Illinois

Volume 34, Number 10 • October 2008 • www.mdtc.net



Reelected board members (l to r): Steve Hunt, Colchester, Jerry Payne, Swan Creek, Don Rings, Colusa and Mitch Welsh, Blandinsville.

\$500,000 Distribution Announced at 57th Annual Meeting

Members attending the 57th McDonough Telephone Cooperative annual meeting received news on the financial status of the co-op and honored several 50-year members.

Treasurer R. Stephen Hunt stated in his report that the cooperative ended the year with total assets of \$24,499,265.

Board Chairman Jim Torrance reviewed the cooperative's accomplishments and activities of the past year. "This was a very active year for your cooperative," said Torrance.

In addition to receiving a capital credit distribution last November and a \$25 service credit at Christmas, members have also been invited to activities such as Morning and Lunchtime Exchanges and Customer Appreciation cookouts.

Youth programs include participation with Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives in the Youth to Washington Tour. This year, for the first time, the board voted to send a total of four students to Washington.

"Another student, Erica Lawver of Industry, was awarded a \$2,500 scholarship funded by the Foundation for Rural Services and McDonough Telephone."

Torrance discussed some new additions to our video service. "We are proud to

announce we have added Video on Demand to our TV offering," he said. "Soon, we will be adding HDTV as well. These products currently aren't available to all members due to technical limitations, but our technical group is working on solutions."

Torrance reported that the cooperative recently completed a fiber to the home (FTTH) build outside of Colchester giving the co-op the opportunity to deliver a large amount of bandwidth to our customers' homes which in turn will allow us to offer more services.

Torrance then delivered the well-received news that the board moved to pay out the last half of the capital credits from 1995. "This distribution will equal \$500,000," Torrance announced.

President Bill Buchanan introduced Les Fowler who in turn introduced Tim Stein of Colchester, Amelia Finch of Sciota, Chloe Li of Colchester and Brittany Pieper of Bushnell who represented McDonough Telephone on the annual Youth to Washington Tour. The students thanked members for the "experience of a lifetime" and encouraged continued support of this educational program.

Michelle Torrance then explained the cooperative's anniversary program and introduced the members celebrating a 50th

(Continued on page 2)

Prizes Awarded at Meeting

McDonough Telephone is pleased to announce the winners of the numerous prizes awarded at its 57th Annual Meeting of the Members. Tanner and Tyler Buchanan, sons of Mallore and Bill Buchanan, assisted in the drawing.

- **Grand Prize - Super-Sized "Take Your Pick" Gift Certificate:** Lisa Duffy, Tennessee
- **Regular-Sized "Take Your Pick" Gift Certificate:** Raritan Opera House, Raritan
- **Sylvania 19" Widescreen LCD TV:** James Cordell, Colchester

• **Garmin nuvi 250 Navigator:** Lois Schrodt, Colchester

• **Five - \$100 Service Credits courtesy of Tharp Brothers Contractor:** Herb & Melinda Schwieter, Sciota; Sheridan & Lu Miller, Colchester; Charles & Betty Connor, Good Hope; Richard & Irma John, Good Hope; and Chuck Butterfield, Colchester

• **Magnavox DVD/CD Player:** Paul Blackledge, Blandinsville

• **Two - VTECH Cordless Phones with one year free Caller ID Name & Number:** Chuck Bean, Colchester, and Gerald Dean, Macomb

• **Gift Certificate from Jones Sewing Supplies:** Lana Bryan, Good Hope

• **Eight - \$25 Service Credits:** Paul Wilmesmeier, Lomax; Richard & Helen Clark, Colchester; Richard Wayland, Colchester; Virgil Finch, Sciota; Harry Darst, Macomb; Martha Young, Good Hope; Larry Cheesman, Industry; and Beryl & Fern Sparrow, Lomax

• **Five - MTC Communications - 100 Minutes Free Long Distance:** Grandma Lula's Thrift Store, Tennessee; Mary Busanmas, Plymouth; Edward Lair, Industry; Harold & Jane Miller, Macomb; and Mary Frakes, Industry

• **Youth Prizes - 7" Widescreen Portable DVD Players:** Katie Lawson, Colchester, and Samuel Blackledge, Blandinsville

 **MDTC**
McDonough Telephone Cooperative

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

(Continued from page 1)

anniversary. This year's honorees were: Barbara Skien, Adair; Bernard Allen, Adair; Ruth & Herb Bozard, Industry; Jim and Sammy Blender, Raritan; and Gene and Barbara Lashbrook, Adair. A video was played of Bernard Allen reminiscing about the many changes in farming and in communications through the past 50 years.

Buchanan opened his report with a graph indicating a drop of approximately 100 phone lines since the beginning of the year. He attributed this decrease to people moving from the rural area and the trend of using cell phones and voice over internet protocols in place of landline phones.

"Our video and DSL take rates continue to increase, but the numbers are starting to level off," explained Buchanan. "This is understandable since regulatory issues require us to tie video and DSL to phone service. The declining phone numbers

affect the video and DSL numbers as well. The only way we can grow is horizontally."

Buchanan announced that the purchase of Infobahn Outfitters in Macomb earlier this year was part of the strategy of strengthening the co-op through horizontal growth. "The companies have integrated very well," said Buchanan.

Buchanan ended his presentation with an explanation of the Grow Illinois Alliance (GIA). The organization was formed to represent the interests and issues of small phone companies to a larger audience, both on the consumer level and on the government level.

During the meeting, members re-elected Donald Rings, District 6 - Colusa, Jerry Payne, District 8 - Swan Creek, Mitchell Welsh, District 9 - Blandinsville and R. Stephen Hunt - District 10, Colchester to the board of directors.

Send Us Your Photos!

The deadline for the 2009 Directory Cover Photo Contest is near. After November 21 you'll lose the opportunity to have your photographic skills on our directory cover. You'll also miss the chance of winning the \$100 First Place prize, \$75 Second Place prize, or \$50 Third Place prize. Here's what you need to do:

1. Submit up to two photos – either prints and negatives 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. No professional photographers, please.

3. The photograph(s) and negative(s) become the property of McDonough Telephone Cooperative.

4. Send all entries to: Karen Proulx, PR/Marketing; McDonough Telephone Cooperative; PO Box 359; Colchester, IL 62326. Please include your name, phone number and a little information about the photograph(s). Good luck!

Cooperatives by the Numbers

October is National Co-op Month, so it's a good time to take a look at the important role co-ops play in many aspects of American life.

- There are more than 21,000 U.S. cooperatives in a wide variety of industries, according to the best current estimate.

- Cooperatives have approximately 130 million members, more than a third of all Americans.

- Cooperatives employ more than 600,000 people, with aggregate payrolls of more than \$15.5 billion annually.

- Cooperatives generate annual revenues in excess of \$273 billion.

- The top 100 cooperatives had total revenues of more than \$150 billion in 2006.

- Some 260 telephone cooperatives provide services to 1.9 million people.

McDonough Telephone is proud to be a part of the co-op tradition of practicing ethical business principles, acting in the interest of our members and demonstrating support for our communities. Thank you for your continued patronage.



Have You Watched Your Free Movie?

When we rolled out Video on Demand a couple of months ago, all eligible MTC-TV subscribers received a free rental so they could see how convenient the service is. Many of you haven't used your free movie yet. Some of the movies opening in October are Leatherheads, Kit Kittredge: An American Girl, Sex and the City, Baby Mama and Journey to the Center of the Earth. So, find a flick you'd like to see and watch it on us!

We're Coming To YOU!

McDonough Telephone Morning Exchange

Main Street Café

109 W. Main St. • Industry, IL
Wed., October 22 • 7 to 9 a.m.

FREE Breakfast from 7-8 a.m.

We hope you'll join us!

Directory Additions

Billingsley, Joshua & Lisa	257-2520
Griffin, Leslie	755-4342
Harris, Gary	776-4513
Johnson, D.J.	254-3319
Reynolds, John & Robin	776-4715
Rigg, Crista	776-4084
Roberts, Kenneth D.	776-4336
Russell, Leona	746-6294
Shultz, Greg & Jaime	325-7166
Todd, Sara	449-3772
WCISEC – Stars	776-4327
WCISEC – Suns	776-3782
Western IL Iron & Metals Fax	776-4808

Lomax Office Schedule OCTOBER 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	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. to noon
Oct. 15 - Bills Due • Oct. 27 - Disconnect Day