



# BUSYLINE

McDonough Telephone Cooperative • Colchester, Illinois

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## Capital Credit Distribution Announced at Meeting

McDonough Telephone Cooperative members were updated on the financial condition of the co-op, and that they would be receiving capital credits during the 55th annual meeting at Macomb High School on Thursday, September 7.

Treasurer R. Stephen Hunt stated in his report that the cooperative ended the year with total assets of \$22,775,486.

“Despite all the turmoil within the industry, your board of directors and management continue to be very optimistic of the future of your cooperative,” said Hunt.

Board President Jim Torrance told members of the board’s three broad-range goals for management and employees: member development and retention, enhanced technical support and non-traditional growth.

Through education, expansion of service and new product development, Torrance said the cooperative remains strong with a well informed, growing membership base.

“We’re holding monthly coffees in the various exchanges where we’re available to visit face-to-face with our members,” said Torrance.

Torrance said that as the range of the cooperative’s services expands, the level of technical support must also expand. “We’ve trained our answering service to be better able to handle video and DSL problems. Our technical service department is currently working on a schedule to have technicians available after business hours,” he said.

In regards to non-traditional growth, Torrance said that several new avenues, some connected to telecommunications and some less obviously affiliated, are currently being researched. Torrance then announced that the cooperative will be mailing capital credits totaling \$489,000 to members who received service in 1993.

General Manager Bill Buchanan

reviewed the changes that are expected in the funding subsidies for rural telephone companies. Telcos such as McDonough Telephone receive the majority of their financial support from the Universal Service Fund. Revenue from this fund may soon be drastically cut or eliminated altogether.

“If the Universal Service Fund is eliminated,” said Buchanan, “the increase in the bills of rural telephone subscribers will be devastating.”

Buchanan displayed charts showing the gradual decline in the number of telephone lines served by McDonough Telephone as compared to the sharp increase in the number of broadband services – video and DSL – installed over the past year. This trend was accompanied by a marked increase in broadband revenues.

The long-term goals of the cooperative have had to adapt to reflect this change in focus. “Perspective is everything,” said Buchanan. “As the interests and needs of our members change, we have to change along with them.”

During the meeting, members re-elected Rose Marie Lynn, District 1-Adair and Bardolph, Larry Thompson, District 2, Raritan and Smithshire and Dennis Huffman, District 5-Lomax to the board of directors. No one was nominated to represent District 4 on the board and therefore the board seat will be left open.

Ryan Hagan of Colchester and Matt O’Hern of Vermont, who represented McDonough Telephone on the annual Youth to Washington Tour, thanked members for the opportunity and encouraged them to continue supporting this program.

The On Stage Band provided entertainment during registration and during the after-meeting social hour during which refreshments were served.

## Prizes Awarded

McDonough Telephone is pleased to announce the winners of the prizes awarded at its 55th Annual Meeting. Cordell Caldwell, son of Alan and Waynette Caldwell of rural Industry, assisted in the drawing of the names.



Scott Vogler (right) Grand Prize Winner & Jerry L. Nelson Second Prize Winner.

- **GRAND PRIZE – Super-Sized “Take Your Pick” Gift Certificate:** *Scott & Nancy Vogler*
- **Regular-Sized “Take Your Pick” Gift Certificate:** *Jerry L. Nelson*
- **Getaway Gift Card for Fun City:** *Richard Dixon*
- **Magnavox 14” Stereo Color Television:** *Colchester Fire Protection Dist.*
- **Panasonic DVD/CD Player:** *Gordon Melvin*
- **AT&T Caller ID Speakerphone with one year free Caller ID Name & Number:** *Ramona Teel*
- **AT&T Caller ID Cordless Phone with one year free Caller ID Name & Number:** *Phyllis Woods*
- **8 - \$25 Service Credits:** *Holly Garbo, Britten Gray, Jr., James & Linda Harnetiaux, Ronnie Nelson, Barbara Stein, Reva Mae Whitlock, United Methodist Church, and Nicholas D. Thompson*
- **5 - MTC Communications - 100 Minutes Free Long Distance:** *James Rosenboom, Eldon Neff, Stuart Mayhew, Rosetta Coons, and Bill Trotter*
- **Youth Prizes – iPod Shuffles plus \$15 iTunes Cards:** *Sarah Chenoweth and Dustin Sherbeyn*



McDonough Telephone Cooperative

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Lomax: 217-449-3211

# October is National Co-op Month

Co-op Month has been celebrated in October annually since 1930. The theme for 2006 is "Cooperatives: Owned by Our Members, Committed to Our Communities." Throughout the years, cooperatives have been a strong force in the economic strength of our country and in the economic development of our communities.

Cooperatives in America are as old as the nation itself. The first successful U.S. cooperative was organized in 1752 when Benjamin Franklin formed the Philadelphia Contributionship for the Insurance of Houses from Loss by Fire — the nation's oldest continuing cooperative.

Cooperatives follow seven internationally recognized principles as the basis for doing business:

- Voluntary and open membership
- Democratic member control
- Member economic participation

- Autonomy and independence
- Education, training and information-sharing
- Cooperation among cooperatives
- Concern for community

Currently, approximately 270 telephone cooperatives provide service to two million households. 29 cooperatives, including Land O'Lakes and ACE Hardware, have annual revenue in excess of \$1 billion. Over 120 million people — 4 in 10 Americans — receive one kind of service or another from a cooperative.

Cooperatives are motivated to serve their members, not outside investors. Doing that means we must also serve the communities in which our members live, work and play. McDonough Telephone is proud to be counted in the ranks of the many successful, responsible businesses operating on the cooperative model.

## McDonough Telephone Joins the Parade

Labor Day in Colchester is truly something to experience. The theme of this year's parade was "The Wonderful World of Children." We got into the spirit of things with our float entitled "Connecting Our Children to the World." A group of 12 adults and 15 kids rode on the float, threw candy, waved and, in general, had a lot of fun!



## OLN Becomes Versus

Effective Sept. 25, 2006, the Outdoor Life Network (OLN, channel 46) will become **VERSUS**. Programming will remain the same at the national cable home of the NHL, the Tour de France, the Professional Bull Riders and the America's Cup. The channel is also noted for its coverage of field sports such as fishing and hunting.

## We're Coming To YOU!

### McDonough Telephone Morning Exchange

Tink's Café

215 S. Main • Blandinsville  
Wed., Oct. 25th • 7 a.m. to 9 a.m.  
FREE Breakfast 7 a.m. to 8 a.m.!

## Directory Additions

Baker, Barbara J.	254-3249
Bassham, Willey	257-2219
Beghtol, Henry	776-5215
Bennett, Roy H.	653-2355
Bowers, James & Vikki	449-3364
Curley, Dean & Tessa	456-3565
English, Dana	769-5547
Estes, Benjamin & Angela	254-3371
Hale, Ray & Hope	456-3806
Howard, Pam	652-3711
Landes, Megan	254-3212
Miller, Derrek	257-2296
Ogden, Robert	776-4168
Pearce, Robert & Sandra	774-4266
Robinson, Shane	652-3349
Shanty, Robert & Pamela	776-3896
Swingle, Tim	449-3750
Taylor, Chad	776-3027
Thrapp, Jared	456-3802
Thurman, Shirley L.	456-3447
White, Tammy	776-4820
Williamson, Greg & Cheri	254-3461

## Lomax Office Schedule OCTOBER 2006

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.  
Oct. 16 - Bills Due • Oct. 25 - Disconnect

McDonough Telephone Cooperative requests the honor of your presence at our

## CUSTOMER APPRECIATION PARTY!

Date: Friday, October 6th

Time: 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Place: McDonough Telephone Parking Lot  
Rt. 136, Colchester

Join Us For Lunch! Check out our DSL & Video!  
Enter the drawing for a portable flat screen TV!

