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Teleconnections

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Webster-Calhoun
Cooperative Telephone Association

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Taking Steps In The Right Direction



Tuesday night, March 2nd, Webster-Calhoun Cooperative Telephone Association hosted the annual meeting of cooperative members.

Jeff Naig, of Kieslings Associates LLP, Discussed the strengths in the financial statement that are largely based on outside investments. In the past this has allowed the cooperative to cash flow many of the aspects of Fiber to the Home construction as well as dividend checks.

President Alan Jacobson, General Manager Daryl Carlson, and Office Manager Marcie Boerner spoke about the importance of the Fiber to the Home construction and how the tiny strand of fiber will allow Webster-Calhoun to provide multiple services to customers as the industry turns to broadband applications. The fiber provides a connection into your home. It can currently be used for voice and data (or Internet) usage. Webster-Calhoun is also working to provide IPTV Video over this fiber. All these applications use a fraction of the capacity that fiber optics can hold so there will be room for future product development as well.

There is a cost to these applications though. Voice and cable TV customers have seen rate increases due to regulatory changes and the rising cost of programmers.

Webster-Calhoun is taking a step above most communications companies by serving all members equally. Traditional copper wire has limitations when trying to get services out to rural members. With fiber, those that live in rural areas will be able to receive the same services as those in town.

It is also exciting to be nearing the end of construction as cutovers will begin in the Barnum, Clare, and Badger areas and the last of the fiber will be going into the ground in Vincent, Thor and Duncombe.

Thanks, Dale!



Webster-Calhoun appreciates the time and dedication of Dale Thompson, Badger, during his 21 years of service to the Webster-Calhoun Board of Directors.

IPTV Video Update

Webster-Calhoun is still working with new programmers to finalize a channel lineup for the new IPTV Video. A test signal is currently working in Gowrie and technicians continue to work with routers and software to correctly send that signal around our network to other Webster-Calhoun fiber communities.

Congratulations To Board Members Elected For Three Year Terms:

District 1

Steve Gustafson, Lanyon

District 2

Larry Winkelbauer, Somers

District 3

Lynn Schreiber, Badger



In keeping with the theme of the annual meeting of members doorprize gift basket winners included Irene VanPatten, 2-step ladder; Stella Hepp, 3-step ladder; Calvin Juergensen, 6 ft. ladder; Roger Brandes, garden stepping stone and flag; Darrell Reddick, pedicure and gift basket from Windy Goodwin (Xpressions Salon) in Gowrie; Doris Moeller, Little Stepper exercise machine and video; Leon Skoglund, footbath and Avon gift basket; Roberta Hall, Flip Flop quilt wall hanging made by Jenny Conrad of Gowrie; Sharon Axeness, Tom Tom navigation system.

What Happened? March 17th, 19th, and 23rd there were some intermittent problems with Internet and voice on our network ring which connects all 16 communities together.

Although each episode was resolved quickly, it was inadvertently caused by maintenance within the network. Webster-Calhoun is in a continuous state of updating and strives to provide the highest quality service. Normally these changes are not service affecting and was unexpected.



Wireless Internet?

A common question we get in the office at Webster-Calhoun is regarding wireless Internet. High Speed Internet is provided *hard wired* to your home or business; however, many people enjoy using a laptop, iPod, or other device to connect to the Internet without wires. This can be done with a separate piece of equipment called a wireless router. It takes the hard wired connection and makes a wireless network within your home or business.

Webster-Calhoun does have the option of installing a D-Link Wireless N150 Router for \$75 during Internet installation. They are also available to purchase from our office. Technicians have found this router to be very user friendly and efficient.

Routers come in many forms and can be wired or wireless. They are just as they sound--wireless has no wires whereas wired routers have cords that run from the router to each of the computers or devices you wish to work with.

Remember: If you have a wireless router make sure it has a password to protect you from unwanted users.

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