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Teleconnections

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Webster-Calhoun
Cooperative Telephone Association

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IUB Orders Reduction In Intrastate Access Tariff

Webster-Calhoun Cooperative Telephone Association works hard to create a solid and reliable telephone network. Interstate (traffic coming from or going outside the state) and intrastate (traffic within the state) tariffs regulate what rates are charged to Inter-exchange Carriers (long distance carriers) to use our network to carry long distance calls. "Long distance carriers don't own the network that a telephone call travels across. They need to compensate Webster-Calhoun for using our network" says WCCTA General Manager, Daryl Carlson.

According to the Iowa Telecommunications Association (ITA) on May 30th the Iowa Utilities Board issued an Order to remove the 1.5 cent TIC element and lower the local switching rate element to 2.4435 cents per minute to mirror the NECA interstate tariff rate. In other words, ITA is directed to file a tariff that cuts just under 3.5 cents per minute out of the intrastate rate. The IUB stated it will open up a rule making to determine whether to eliminate the 3 cent CCL. For the time being, however, the 3 cent CCL rate stays in the ITA tariff.

The Board did say that it was "sensitive to the potential revenue losses that some LEC's (local exchange carriers) may see as a result of the Board's decision in this proceeding." It noted the discussion of a possible state USF (Universal Service Fund) to replace some of the revenue lost, but said it could not determine if a reduced revenue level resulting from reduced intrastate access service rates would fail to adequately recover the costs of providing service, and so it could not take any steps to consider replacement of those revenues at this time.

According to Carlson, "**This is a direct loss of one-third of our Intrastate revenue.** Revenue that was coming into Iowa from out of state. We will have to recover that from somewhere."



**Good Luck To Area
FFA and 4-H
Members
During The
County Fairs!**



Happy Independence Day!

Gowrie Independence Day Celebration is July 1 – 4th
www.gowrie.org



Webster-Calhoun provided Cracker Jacks to fans at the recent Prairie Valley vs. Manson-Northwest Webster softball and baseball games! WCCTA provides a *triple play* of services including telephone, Internet, and wireless.



Webster-Calhoun Cooperative Telephone Association appreciates the service of those in the military. To show our gratitude and to help family members keep in touch with loved ones serving in active duty Webster-Calhoun is offering an **Active Duty Military Discount**. (This includes a credit applied to the account of the soldier's household and requires proof of active duty status.) For more information contact our office at 515-352-3151.

Webster-Calhoun Provides Industry Leadership

In June, during the **Fiber-to-the-Home Council** meeting held in Des Moines, several Iowa Telecommunications Association (ITA) Board Members including WCCTA General Manager, Daryl Carlson, participated on a panel that discussed how rural carriers are utilizing fiber networks to bring more bandwidth to rural customers. They also discussed customer expectations and financial considerations of fiber build outs.

Webster-Calhoun is almost halfway through the build out process for providing fiber to the home for all sixteen exchanges.

Nearly 140 attendees joined together on Monday, June 2nd for the third annual Iowa Telecommunications Association (ITA) **Rural Telecom Forum**, an event designed to highlight important discussions taking place on Universal Service Funding (USF).

Several panels and presenters filled the day with a wide range of discussion on USF reform, the future of our industry, USAC audits, and economic development. Marcie Boerner, WCCTA Office Manager, served on a panel along with Roxanne White of Evertek and Teleshia Delmar, USAC's Senior Manager of Internal Audits. Panelists discussed the reason for the audits and shared lessons their companies learned from the USAC audit process.

Webster-Calhoun has been involved in both rounds of national audits directed by the Federal Communications Commission by Universal Service Administration Company. On behalf of USAC, WCCTA collects approximately \$7,500 each month in FUSC (Federal Universal Service Charges). Due to our rural landscape WCCTA receives approximately \$75,000 per month from this fund.



SecureIT™
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Flooding Forces Businesses Out

Flooding in the Cedar Rapids, Iowa area shattered records in June and caused a mandatory evacuation of the downtown area. This historic flooding affected Security Coverage, the company that provides Webster-Calhoun's SecureIT Plus computer protection support. They were able to implement their natural disaster business continuity plan although limited technical support operations continued.

