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Teleconnections



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Webster-Calhoun
Cooperative Telephone Association

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Annual Meeting Notices Mailed

The Annual Meeting of Members will be held on Tuesday, March 15th at 7:00 p.m. at the Prairie Valley High School Gymnasium. The theme of the meeting will be "Things Are Poppin' At WCCTA."

As always, the recently mailed notice included an agenda for the meeting. Added this year is a proposed change to the Articles of Incorporation recommended by the Board of Directors. If adopted, it would reduce the number of directors to nine directors, along with putting the directors in three districts. A detailed explanation on this proposed change is included with the notice. It outlines how this change would take place over three years as well as the implementation of voting by mailed ballots.



EAS Reminder for Thor and Duncombe

Many years ago, WCCTA (then North Central) formed agreements with Qwest to allow Thor and Duncombe subscribers the ability to call Webster City and Humboldt subscribers as a local call. As technology has developed, the EAS agreement has stayed the same.

Thor residents can call Humboldt land line customers as a local call. Cellular number prefixes, although a Humboldt number, are still considered long distance.

Duncombe residents can call Webster City land line residents as a local call. Cellular number prefixes are long distance calls (with the exception of 835). The 835 prefix was originally in the agreement as a land line number. At some point this prefix was moved to a cellular prefix and thus was grandfathered into the agreement.

And remember, with any call, if you must dial 1+ area code you will be charged a long distance call.

WCCTA has been installing cabinets in rural areas to allow rural customers the same advantages as those within city limits. Unfortunately, vandalism has already started. This cabinet placed in the Barnum area (within the last few months) has already been shot at! This affects telephone, Internet, and 911 service to our rural subscribers.

If you see any suspicious activity around these cabinets, please contact the Sheriff's department!



Congratulations to the newly formed
Churdan Betterment Association!
Check out their web site at
www.churdan.com

ITA Day At The Capitol

On January 26th over 30 independent telephone companies from across the state of Iowa visited with legislators at the Capitol building in Des Moines. Sponsored by the Iowa Telecommunications Association (ITA), Webster-Calhoun Cooperative Telephone Association participated with a display and the attendance of several board members.

A few of the issues discussed included the ITA's 2005 Legislative Positions:

- Government Competition: Government should not be in the business of competing against private telecom providers.
- ICN: In order to strengthen the focus of the ICN to satisfy the ongoing and future needs of our K-12, community college, and public and private university students, we suggest a timely transition of the ICN network to the Department of Education.
- Machinery & Equipment Sales Tax: This exemption should be expanded to include telecommunications infrastructure equipment.
- Dual Party Relay: This assessment should be shared equally between long distance, local, and wireless carriers. If the state wishes to expand the program to more users, then the state should fund the program.
- New Technologies: All telecommunications carriers should pay appropriate fees to use the networks of all other providers regardless of the type of technology utilized to serve a customer.
- Deregulation: The Iowa Utility Board should maintain its authority to determine whether or not a company should be deregulated on an exchange by exchange basis.



Using the same theme as the upcoming Annual Meeting of Members, WCCTA hosted a display at the Capitol.



(L to R) Perry Black, Steve Gustafson, Rep. Helen Miller, Daryl Carlson, Larry Winkelbauer.



(L to R) Daryl Carlson, Sen. Daryl Beall, Larry Winkelbauer, Steve Gustafson, Alan Jacobson, and Rep. David Tjepkes.



Daryl Carlson with Rep. David Tjepkes.



Larry Winkelbauer with Rep. Donovan Olson



Daryl Carlson and Sen. Daryl Beall.