

Happy Easter

NEWSLETTER

Teleconnections

April 2021

THIS ISSUE:

Virtual Annual Meeting
Newsletter Contest
Election Results
Prize Winners

(543-8376)

With the uncertainty of COVID-19, we are more than happy to help assist you as much as possible over the phone and remotely during this time. We have the privilege and responsibility to provide an essential service our communities rely on and will continue to do so to the best of our ability and continue to move forward cautiously.

A Virtual Annual Meeting Held

Virtual. As in not physically existing but using computer software to appear to do so. On the evening of Tuesday, March 16th, the Annual Meeting looked a bit different. Members watched the meeting via Zoom while the WCCTA Board of Directors met in person. As seen through a video lens, the meeting looked familiar with the reading of minutes, financial report and status update for the cooperative. The election results were announced and door prizes awarded.

Jeff Naig, BKD LLC, reviewed the financial report and emphasized the continued strength of the balance sheet. "Last year was great. This year is nearly unbelievable. During a pandemic it is truly remarkable." Naig went on to report the fiber network itself is a very valuable asset.

Daryl Carlson, General Manager, added comments about the favorable financial report, "Great market recovery, regulatory settlements, return on other investments such as spectrum, make the net income look great. A portion of that is unrealized gain and not cash."

"We've known broadband is essential but it is abundantly clear with the pandemic as demand increased. Our network handled the curves in demand without issues and we again adjusted and increased speeds."

It was also made clear by those that spoke, although a virtual meeting was currently necessary the priority is to be in person in 2022!

(Continued on back.)



2021 VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS



Continued -

WCCTA Board President, Alan Jacobson, remarked on the local pandemic effects. "Words cannot express the great job our employees have done. They faced challenges at work and home yet adapted to make our company better."

Jacobson spoke positively about continuing to build toward the future and find more opportunities, "with a strong balance sheet we have leverage to do so. We can continue to invest in fiber without debt."

Marcie Boerner, Office Manager, spoke about how at the height of the pandemic so many people relied on the Internet for communications and experienced new technology and applications online including the virtual Annual Meeting. "Difficult situations help push innovation and it will be interesting to see what changes will continue to evolve such as remote work, telehealth and online learning."

The meeting wrapped up with a video from the Iowa Communications Alliance as WCCTA continues to advocate at the state and federal levels for community based broadband providers.



Door Prize Winners

Everyone that returned a ballot for the Board of Directors election was eligible for the drawing. How? Every ballot contained your membership number for validation. During the ballot counting random ballots were drawn for an overall winner, then two from each district. Congratulations to the winners:

Grand Prize 55" Samsung QLED UltraHD Smart TV winner is Eugene Frueh of Barnum!

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|------------|--|
| District 1 | Richard Learned, Gowrie
Chris & Kristin Behrens, Gowrie |
| District 2 | Nick Ulrich, rural Knierim
Fred Vote, Farnhamville |
| District 3 | Vernon Person, Badger
Chris & Bonnie Stok, Badger |



Congratulations to Eugene Frueh of Barnum! He stopped by the office to pick up the TV he won at the Annual Meeting of Members.

(352-3045)

Election Results

Congratulations to these re-elected board members:

- District 1 Jim Peterson
District 2 Alan Jacobson
District 3 Richard Allen

Newsletter Contest

Congratulations to Curtis Dencklau of Vincent! He found his phone number located in the newsletter last month! There are three located in this newsletter. Can you find them? Find YOUR phone number in this newsletter and contact our office to win a \$10.00 credit on your billing statement!