

Happy Easter

NEWSLETTER

# Teleconnections

April 2022

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## Annual Meeting of Members

Webster-Calhoun Cooperative Telephone Association held the Annual Meeting of Members on Tuesday evening, March 8<sup>th</sup> at the Southeast Valley High School Gymnasium.

BKD Partner, Jeff Naig, reviewed the financial statement based on the 2021 audit. He stepped members through the balance sheet describing the assets and liabilities of the cooperative indicating another financially positive year.

General Manager, Daryl Carlson, agreed that 2021 was an outstanding year financially for the cooperative and it was based on multiple factors: regulatory funding and market moves in the financial portfolio. "The regulatory funding, ACAM II, is fixed for ten years so as an industry we are already working toward what happens next," stated Carlson. Strategic wireless spectrum sales from the past continue to financially benefit the cooperative in many ways. When speaking about other investments a new partnership with Premier Communications based in Sioux Center formed Platinum Connect. This new company is currently constructing fiber in the city of Webster City. He briefly discussed the mapping process and funding awarded for WCCTA to expand into rural Fort Dodge and Platinum Connect to construct rural Webster City.

Board President, Alan Jacobson, reflected on the pandemic and how many people learned the value of communications and fast and reliable broadband. So much so, that state and federal level assistance continues to create opportunities for expansion and partnerships.



Continued –

“If we don’t look to grow, we won’t continue to be in business for long.” The outstanding financial situation of the cooperative including the investments enable the cooperative to expand without debt.

President Jacobson and Manager Carlson also recognized the staff and board members as well as Don Nelson, recently retired from WCCTA after 31 years.

Marcie Boerner, WCCTA COO, spoke a bit about the meeting’s golf theme, Driving Technology FOREward. The broadband industry can be a bit like Arnold Palmer described the game of golf: deceptively simple and endlessly complicated. Boerner went on to note changes that have and will impact members directly such as the current basketball bracket challenge, telephone directories, 10-digit dialing, and digital TV service.



## Door Prize Winners

- Raymond McFarland, Boxholm/Ogden 50” Samsung TV (Ballot Winner District 1)
- Neal Stanek, Moorland/Fort Dodge 50” Samsung TV (Ballot Winner District 2)
- Kurt Phillips, Duncombe 50” Samsung TV (Ballot Winner District 3)
- Deb Christopherson, Duncombe, 50” Samsung TV, In Person Winner
- Terry Willardson, Gowrie, iPad Basket
- Dennis “Bud” Johanson, Gowrie, Putting Green
- Cedric Marlow, Boxholm/Ogden, Chipping Net
- Larry Larson, Badger/Fort Dodge, Golf Gift Basket



## Board Election Results

- Results of the mail ballots for election of directors included:
- District 1, incumbent Steve Gustafson
- District 2, incumbent Kim Quade
- District 3, incumbent Harry Armstrong