

Annual Meeting of Members

NEWSLETTER

Teleconnections

March 2022

THIS ISSUE:

Annual Meeting
Wiring Maintenance
Pick-It March Mania
Video Streaming App
EBB change to ACP



WCCTA offices
will be closed
March 25th
from 8am-1pm
for staff training



Annual Meeting Planned

Our Annual Meeting of Members is scheduled to take place on March 8th at the Southeast Valley Gymnasium at 7pm.

Mail Ballots were sent out in February with more information about the plans for the Annual Meeting of Members.

Be sure to send in your mail ballots and allow plenty of time for the US Mail to deliver. Returning your mail-in ballot will qualify toward a 50" Smart TV in each of the 3 voting districts! A grand prize 50" Samsung Smart TV will also be given away at the in-person event.

Pick-It March Mania is Back

Webster-Calhoun is happy to announce Pick-It March Mania is back for 2022! Have fun with this college basketball contest for our local communities and enter to win prizes! Pre-register for the contest at <https://wccta.pickitchallenge.com>.

Selection Sunday is March 13th when you find out if your favorite teams will be included and picks will be available online that evening. Make your picks before March 17th before the first game begins!



Wiring Maintenance Fee to Change

What is it and why do I need it?

Wiring Maintenance is currently charged to at least one service on an account (typically phone service). This fee covers repairs to the wiring from the external NID (Network Interface Device) into your home and jacks. Although previously plain telephone wire was found throughout homes, many are now upgraded to a CAT5 Ethernet cable that can power multiple devices. It does not include customer owned equipment, problems caused by willful damage or wiring not done to industry standards.

Effective April 1st, the wiring maintenance fee will go up to \$1.00 from \$.50.

Video Streaming Apps

You may already be familiar with Netflix and Hulu but there are many new streaming video platforms being launched from programming giants. With the rising costs of traditional cable TV (ironically as a result of the same programming media giants) many consumers are looking for more economical ways to watch their favorite shows. Perhaps you're a fan of Prime Video, Apple TV+ or the new Peacock and Disney + apps.

WCDTV is still a popular choice because you can get a basic selection of each network all on one platform without switching inputs or utilizing the "smart" component of the TV. We've recently had several questions about getting new "channels" such as Paramount and Discovery +. Unfortunately, these are not truly channels available on traditional TV channel lineups. These streaming applications are only available for a fee direct from the programmer where you can watch them on your TV or mobile devices through an Internet connection. They offer more on-demand options where you might stream entire seasons of a favorite show. Many apps are also increasing in cost as they continue to pursue their own original content with new movies and series.

There are pros and cons for both traditional TV and video streaming. Some like the cost alternative. Don't forget, over-the-air programming is still free through a TV antenna. Some don't like the hassle of changing technologies.

EBB Changing to ACP

The Affordable Connectivity Program is an FCC program that helps connect families and households struggling to afford internet service. This was most recently called the EBB (Emergency Broadband Benefit) and will switch over to the ACP effective March 1st. The ACP benefit includes a \$30 per month discount for internet service.

You can find out more information, see if you qualify, and submit an application for the ACP here: [ACPBenefit.org](https://www.acpbenefit.org).