

Co-op Connection

Hamilton County Telephone Co-op

February 2020

Board of Director Announcement:

The Annual Meeting will be held in April at the Hamilton County Senior High School Gym in McLeansboro on Friday, April 3rd. This year Broughton 647, Dahlgren 736, and the Dale 773 exchanges will be up for Director Elections.

According to the HCTC By-laws, the nominating committees for Broughton (647), Dahlgren (736), and the Dale (773) exchanges have been selected by the Board of Directors. It is the responsibility of the nominating committee to select at least one certified nominee for Director to represent their exchange for a three year term.

The nominating committee for the 647 exchange consisting of Joe Kimmel, Donald Randolph and Jeremy Short met on December 14th. During this meeting the committee made the nomination for their exchange for nominee, Steven Douglass, to serve another three year term on the HCTC Board. The nominating committee for the 736 exchange consisting of Rodney Trotter, Mike Belangee and David Goins also met on December 14th. During this meeting the committee made the nomination for their exchange for nominee, Lemuel Gage, to serve another three year term on the HCTC Board. The nominating committee for the 773 exchange consisting of Greg Muehlenbein, Kent Darnell and Roger Knight met on December 10th. During this meeting the committee made the nomination for their exchange for nominee, Robert Abbott, to serve another three year term on the HCTC Board. The Co-op thanks the nominating committees for their time and service, making certain that we continue to have representation from these exchanges for the next three years.

Although the nominees as candidates are selected by these committees, the by-laws also allow for any other certified member of these exchanges the same right in running and serving a three year term as Director for their exchange. If you are interested, you can pick up a petition (required to be signed by 10% or 15 certified members, whichever is less, of your exchange) at the co-op from the General Manager, along with the specific details and requirements of serving as a Director.

You will have until March 15 to file your certified petition with the Co-op for your name to be placed on the ballot at the annual meeting. If you are not the nominee selected by the committee and would like your name printed in the annual meeting booklet, you will need to file your petition by February 15th due to the printing lead time requirements.

We look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting in April.

Calendar of Events:

- Feb 1 - Hamilton Co. Chamber of Commerce Dinner - 5:30 pm
- Feb 2 - Groundhog Day
- Feb 12 - Lincoln's Birthday
(Office Open)
- Feb 14 - Valentine's Day 
- Feb 17 - President's Day
(Office Open)
- Feb 22 - George Washington's B'day
(Office Open)
- Feb 29 - Groundhog Day

SAVE THE DATE!

This year's Annual Meeting will be held at the Hamilton County Sr. High School on Friday, April 3rd. We hope to see you all there!

What: HCTC Annual Meeting

When: April 3, 2020

Where: Hamilton County Sr. High - McLeansboro

More details to follow.

New Directory Listings:

Herschel & Kathy Phillips	773-4687
Joann Webber	736-2040

Welcome to Hamilton County Telephone Co-op!

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Illinois Winter Weather Facts:

The TOP 10 Cyber Security Tips:

More and more our internet subscribers are falling victim to malicious links, trojans and other viruses. We are more vulnerable than ever before. Here are some basic tips to remember when you are on the internet:

- 1) Think before clicking. Clicking without thinking can be dangerous. Malicious links can do damage in a number of ways, so make sure the link is from a trusted site or sender before clicking on it.
- 2) Devices. Try to limit yourself from using another person's device when possible. Never share your logins/passwords, and try to refrain from giving anyone remote access to your computer.
- 3) Be aware of your surroundings. Never leave sensitive or confidential information at your desk where others have access to them.
- 4) Digital footprint. Try to track your accounts to watch for suspicious activity. It's important to keep track of your individual footprint, including social media and delete accounts you are no longer using.
- 5) Stay current with your updates. Keeping up with software updates can be annoying, but it is less annoying than dealing with malware or viruses.
- 6) Secure connection. When you are entering private or sensitive information, it is always best practice to connect using private networks.
- 7) Mobile device security. Get in the habit of securing your internet activity through your mobile device too. Use strong passwords, don't automatically connect to public Wi-Fi, and download with caution.
- 8) Beware of social engineering. Hackers will use public information found online or through social media to convince you to give up more personal information to gain access to your devices or systems.
- 9) Back up your data. Back up, back up, back up.
- 10) No one is immune, not even you. Be proactive and don't let cyber attacks happen to you!

Kevin Pyle
Executive Vice President &
General Manager

Board of Directors:

647 Exchange
Steven Douglass

648 Exchange
Alan Monroe, Secretary

728 Exchange
Chris Sink, President

736 Exchange
Lemuel Gage, Vice-President

756 Exchange
Rob Kiefer, Treasurer

757 Exchange
Justin Woodrow

773 Exchange
Robert Abbott

College Scholarships Now Available:

College scholarship applications for Hamilton County Telephone Foundation are available online at:

<https://www.hamiltoncom.net/about-hamilton-county-communications/>
or you can request a copy from your high school guidance counselor.
Deadline to submit application is March 1, 2020. Please see application for requirements and eligibility.

This is another benefit of being a Co-op Member.

WIN \$15 OFF YOUR BILL!

Complete the following questionnaire, cut out this section and mail the completed form by February 10, 2020. Your name will be placed in a drawing for \$15 off your telephone bill with HCTC. There will be two winners in February.

1. What day will the 2020 Annual Meeting be held? _____
2. What three exchanges are up for re-election? _____
3. What is the deadline to file your certified petition to run for the director position? _____
4. What is the deadline for college scholarship applications? _____

Name: _____ Telephone #: _____

Congratulations to January's winners: Norman & Linda Rubenacker and Henry & Olivia Johnson, Jr.
They each received \$10 off their telephone bill.

Check out our website at www.hamiltoncom.net for more information about the Co-op.