

Co-op Connection

Hamilton County Telephone Co-op

January 2021

The Year Ahead

Hope you all had a Merry Christmas!!!

While 2020 is finally coming to an end, the challenges we faced were truly unprecedented. I think last year taught us lessons and presented hurdles never experienced. As a company our employees and directors worked diligently to meet the demands. As an essential business, our team performed well while adhering to the changes and restrictions placed upon us. We are always hopeful for the start of a new year. We do hope that 2021 is a better year for our members and customers. We pray that those we serve are blessed in health, finance, and they truly experience a Happy New Year!!! While we have yet to be able to schedule our annual meeting (usually held in April) we are hopeful that we will see you all this year. We will work to keep you informed as we look to meet again after the pandemic has subsided.

May God Bless,
Kevin Pyle



FUSC Percentage Changes:

The FCC released a public notice increasing the Federal Universal Service Contribution Factor (FUSC) for single line and multi line businesses from 27.1% to 31.8% for the first quarter of 2021. This will not affect residential line customers. We are required to bill customers this new rate beginning January 1, 2021. This is the charge that we all pay to help keep phone service affordable throughout the nation, especially in rural areas such as ours. This percentage fluctuates quarterly.

Calendar of Events:

Jan 1 - New Years Day - **Closed**

Jan 18 - MLK Day - **Open**



10 Tips for Setting New Year's Resolutions:

1. Be Realistic (*goal must be attainable*)
2. Plan ahead (*don't wait til New Year's Eve to think about your goal*)
3. Outline your plan (*how will you deal with temptation?*)
4. Make a "Pros" and "Cons" List (*a list will motivate and remind you*)
5. Talk About It (*share to hold accountable*)
6. Reward Yourself (*reward progress*)
7. Track your progress (*track small successes*)
8. Don't beat yourself up (*do your best*)
9. Stick to it (*experts say it takes 21 days for a new activity to become a habit and six months to become part of your personality!*)
10. Keep trying (*if you fail, start over again and keep trying!*)

Board of Director Announcement:

Even though we are unsure of what 2021 will hold for our Annual Meeting at this time, we are proceeding with hopes that it will be held in April at the Hamilton County Senior High School Gym in McLeansboro. This year the Belle Prairie (648) and Macedonia (728) exchanges will be up for Director Elections.

According to the HCTC By-laws, the nominating committees for the Belle Prairie (648) and Macedonia (728) 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 648 exchange consisting of Russell Allen, Dennis Frey, and Lesley Vaughn met on December 16th. During this meeting the committee made the nomination for their exchange for nominee, Alan Monroe, to serve another three year term on the HCTC Board. The nominating committee for the 728 exchange consisting of Donald Bain, Timothy Britton, and David Clark also met on December 16th. During this meeting the committee made the nomination for their exchange for nominee, Chris Sink, 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 2021.

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

WIN \$10 OFF YOUR BILL!

Complete the following questionnaire, cut out this section and mail the completed form by January 10, 2021. Your name will be placed in a drawing for \$10 off your telephone bill with HCTC. There will be two winners in January.

1. What two exchanges are up for Board re-election? _____
2. When is the deadline to file your certified petition to run for the Board? _____
3. What day will the office be closed in January? _____
4. Are you making a New Year's Resolution this year? (Circle One) YES NO

Name: _____ Telephone #: _____

Congratulations to December's winners: Donnie & Cheryl Millenbine, Steve & Sue Wilkerson, and Monty Ingram.
They each received \$15 off their telephone bill.

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