

Co-op Connection

Hamilton County Telephone Co-op

January 2023

The Year Ahead

Hope you all had a Merry Christmas!!!

As we say goodbye to 2022, I want to take a moment to thank each of you for your service with us.

As our landlines continue to decline and approximately 60% of our members still use DSL services over copper for their internet connection, we know that this is not good enough. Many of you ask, "when are we going to get fiber?" This has always been a difficult question to answer, because it takes a lot of money to construct a fiber network and it doesn't just happen overnight.

However, we have been tenacious in our search for solving this problem and we are happy to announce that persistence has finally paid off. Just recently, we were provided notice that our application submitted for Reconnect 3 was approved. This is a loan and grant combination designed to provide fiber throughout all areas of our Co-op not currently served by fiber, as well as, some portions of Hamilton County outside of our Co-op exchange boundaries. Reconnect 3 was the first funding available through USDA with the minimum 100/20 threshold, finally enabling us with a solution to upgrade the rest of our Co-op. The amount of this loan/grant is \$24,826,724, half loan and half grant. We are very excited about the opportunity to upgrade our entire network with fiber capabilities and bringing you this service. We have learned from the past couple of awards, that the paperwork side of the process does take awhile, but we hope to get started on construction by the end of 2023. We will share more news as it becomes available.

Our Annual Meeting will be held in April 2023. This year we will have three exchanges up for reelection. These exchanges are Broughton (647), Dahlgren (736), and Dale (773). If you live in one of these exchanges and are interested in serving as a director, please contact me for more information.

If you are still a telephone customer, you should have received our 2022 telephone directory. This year's directory is very similar to last year's book and it will be our last booklet printing going forward. If you need a copy of our directory, you are welcome to stop by the Co-op anytime to pick one up. This will also be available on our website.

We pray that those we serve are blessed in health, finance, and they truly experience a Happy New Year!!!

May God Bless,

Kevin Pyle, General Manager

Calendar of Events:

- Jan 1 - New Year's Day
- Jan 2 - New Year's Day Observed
Office is CLOSED
- Jan 16 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Office is OPEN



New Directory Listings:

Norman & Arleen Mast
618-756-2840

*WELCOME TO HAMILTON
COUNTY TELEPHONE CO-OP!*

Reviews Matter...



Please consider leaving us a review on Facebook or Google! Thank you!

Pay your bill by phone:

1-855-386-9912

Pay your bill online:

<https://hcc.smarthub.coop>

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Board of Director Announcement:

At this time, we are already underway planning for our 2023 Annual Meeting. It is our hope that we will hold the meeting in April at the Hamilton County Senior High School Gym in McLeansboro. This year the Broughton (647), Dahlgren (736), and Dale (773) exchanges will be up for Director Elections.

According to the HCTC By-laws, the nominating committees for the Broughton (647), Dahlgren (736), and 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 21st. 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 Mike Belangee, David Goins, and Rodney Trotter, met on December 13th. 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 Kent Darnell, Greg Muehlenbein, and Roger Knight met on December 12th. 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 15th 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 2023.

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, 2023. 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 three exchanges are up for Board re-election? _____
2. When is the deadline to file your certified petition to run for the Board? _____
3. What month is our Annual Meeting normally held? _____
4. What number can you call to pay your bill by telephone? _____

Name: _____ Telephone #: _____

Congratulations to December's winners: John P Morris, Richard Hodge, Douglas Wiggins, & Janice Wolfe.
They each received \$10 off their telephone bill.

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