



MARK TWAIN

## Mark Twain Announces New Fiber-to-the-Home!

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Fiber-to-the-home (FTTH) construction has started with upgrading our network with new electronics and fiber-optic cables. On March 20, 2017, we started burying new fiber-optic cables in Durham/Maywood and now we started burying new fiber-optic in the Leonard exchange. These two projects will take most of the year to complete. We will be spending over 46 million over the next 10 years to upgrade all 14 exchanges with new electronics and fiber-optic cables. Mark Twain is required to meet specific build-out schedules that are set by the FCC. Once we complete all 14 exchanges, Mark Twain will have buried over 1,300 miles of additional fiber-optic cables. That's like driving from Hurdland to Boston. Mark Twain has hired Sellenriek Construction Company to complete this project.

As the demand for bandwidth continues to grow, Mark Twain is meeting this need with FTTH. This technology allows Mark Twain to offer higher speeds and more bandwidth by using optical fiber, along with our copper infrastructure. The optical fiber is a hair-thin strand of glass which uses light instead of electricity to carry a signal. The fiber allows Mark Twain to carry much faster speeds over longer distances without signal degradation.

## Mark Twain's 63rd Annual Meeting Report

Mark Twain Rural Telephone Company's 63rd Annual Meeting was held on April 5th at the Knox County R1 High School with over 150 people in attendance.

Reports presented to the Members by President Joe Delaney and General Manager Jim Lyon indicated that the year 2016 was another successful year financially. During 2016, the cooperative paid out over \$213,000 to its' Members in capital credits.

At the end of 2016, we provided basic telecommunication services in 17 exchanges to 3,655 lines. We continue to establish ourselves as the dominant provider of data and Internet access services in Northeast Missouri. We also continue to expand our ability to provide high speed Internet services using both existing telephone cables to provide DSL services and by using wireless services where cables do not exist. At year end we were providing DSL services to 2,476 subscribers.

Mark Twain now transmits wireless services from 40 locations and provides service to or around the following communities: Kahoka, Edina, Canton, Kirksville, West Quincy, Queen City, Taylor, Monroe City, Hannibal, Palmyra, Glenwood, Shelbyville, Lancaster, Shelbina, Downing, Clarence, Gorin, Millard, Elmer, La Plata, Monticello, Lewistown, Lentner, La Grange, La Belle and Ewing. At the end of 2016, we had 1,774 wireless customers. This is an increase of 11.3% over year end 2015.

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## Mark Twain's 63rd Annual Meeting Report (continued from page 1)

We continued to invest in assets and technology to ensure we can meet your needs, both now and in the future. In 2016, we started plans to upgrade our fiber optics and associated electronics in all 17 towns and to upgrade our electronics in the 118 cabinets in the rural areas. We started in the central offices first and then moved to the cabinets located in the rural areas. The estimated cost for this project is over \$1.8 million. These upgrades will benefit both voice and data customers. Our ongoing plan is to restructure our Internet service during 2017 to offer faster Internet speeds to our customers.



The band Keota performs at the Annual Meeting.

General Manager Jim Lyon received a service award for 20 years of employment. Directors receiving service awards were: Randy James-5 years and Virgil Blaise-30 years. Incumbent directors Jim Pinson of Novelty, David Jones of Leonard and Virgil Blaise of Bethel were re-elected to the Board of Directors.

The entertainment was provided by the band Keota.

Over \$1,500 in prizes were given away after the meeting. Henry & Debbie Roush of the Knox City exchange won the Yeti cooler.



Debbie & Henry Roush were the winners of the Yeti cooler at the Annual Meeting.

The winners of the proxy prizes were: John & Mary Lynn Greenley of Knox City won a \$100 credit on their May 2017 bill and a Yeti tumbler. Winning a \$50 credit on their May 2017 bill and a Yeti tumbler were Tom & Janice Carter of Maywood. The following members/exchanges were winners of a \$20.00 credit on their May 2017 telephone bill and a Yeti tumbler: Mike Daugherty of Steffenville, John D. Parsons of Bethel, Jim Darnel of Brashear, Dwayne Sizemore of Hurdland, Brent & Barbara Bowdish of Philadelphia, Paul & Mickey M. Ayer of Wyaconda, Stanley Spencer of Newark, Loren & Gala Jessen of Novelty, Richard Mann of Leonard, Dennis & Peggy Briscoe of Williamstown, Kathleen & Les McKinney of Baring and Ken & Cindy Pamperin of Greentop.

**Mark your calendars for next year's meeting, April 4, 2018!**

