



MARK TWAIN

Mark Twain's 61st Annual Meeting Report

Inside This Issue:

61st Annual Meeting
Report

Rural Call Completion
Update

Mark Twain Rural Telephone Company's 60th Annual Meeting was held on April 1st at the Knox County R1 High School with over 275 people in attendance.

Reports presented to the Members by President Joe Delaney and General Manager Jim Lyon indicated that the year 2014 was another successful year financially. During 2014, the cooperative paid out over \$216,000 to its' Members in capital credits.

At the end of 2014, we provided basic telecommunication services in 17 exchanges to 3,829 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 2,344 subscribers.

Mark Twain now transmits wireless services from 38 locations and provide service to or around the following communities: Edina, Canton, Kirksville, West Quincy, Queen City, Taylor, Monroe City, Greentop, 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 2014, we had 1,399 wireless customers. This is an increase of 7.6% over year end 2013.

Mark Twain continues to invest in assets and technology to ensure that we can meet the needs of our subscribers, both now and in the future. In 2014, we continued to deploy fiber optics and associated electronics further into our network. Construction was completed on the burying of over 19 miles of fiber, primarily in the Durham and Newark exchanges.

Employees receiving service awards were: Lee Overstreet-25 years, Denise Bichsel-15 years and Daniel Moots and Jason Moots-10 years. Directors receiving service awards were: Joe Delaney and David Jones-10 years and Joe Moyer-5 years.

Incumbent directors Roy A. Hewitt of Greentop, Joe Delaney of Baring and Randy James of Brashear were re-elected to the Board of Directors.

The entertainment was provided by the Kirksville High School Jazz Band and the Marion County R-II Concert Band. Over \$1,500 in prizes were given away after the meeting. Shirley Fahy of the Durham exchange won the 32-inch HDTV.

...Continued on page 2

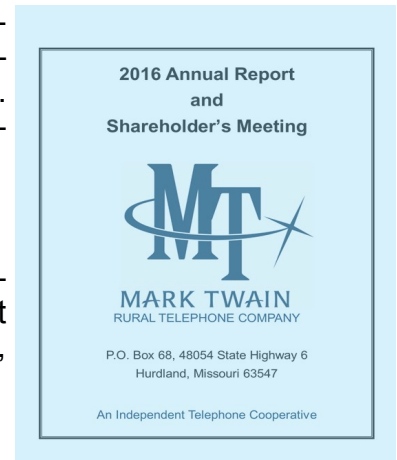
Annual Meeting Report . . . Continued from page 1

The winners of the proxy prizes were: Earl Dromey of Baring won a GPS Navigation System and Ronald and Mary Lou Taylor of Newark won a digital camera. The following members were winners of a \$20.00 credit on their May 2015 telephone bill:

Allan See of Knox City, Kevin Rodgers of Williamstown, Noel Lee McClanahan of Brashear, Ray & Lily Gosney of Durham, William Dobbs of Hurdland, Russell Lee Webster of Wyaconda, Jeff Otto of Novelty, Ken & Cindy Pamperin of Greentop, Kevin Ransom of Philadelphia, Larry Mason of Leon-

ard, Ray and Alicia Bacon of Bethel and Peggy S. Courtney of Steffenville.

Mark your calendars for next year's meeting, April 6, 2016!



Improving Rural Call Quality and Reliability Act

U.S. Senators Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) and Jon Tester (D-MT) introduced a bill to improve rural communications and address call completion challenges. Persistent phone call completion problems in rural communities across the country are creating major inconveniences for families, hurting businesses, and threatening public safety. A 2012 test call project found that nearly one in five calls placed to rural areas were delayed, of poor quality, or incomplete. The senators' legislation – the *Improving Rural Call Quality and Reliability Act* – would direct the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to establish basic quality standards for providers that transmit voice calls to help ensure businesses, families, and emergency responders can count on phone calls being completed.

“Chronic phone call completion problems cause headaches for families trying to stay connected, hurt small businesses trying to reach customers, and endanger citizens trying to make urgent calls,” Klobuchar said. “These challenges are a particularly big problem in rural communities in Minnesota and across the country, and we need to take action to address them. Our bill would set commonsense standards for providers to help ensure families, businesses, and emergency responders have access to the reliable phone service they need.”

“Folks in rural America rely on consistent and reliable phone service to run their businesses and stay in touch with their families,” Tester said. “This bill is an important step toward ensuring that rural Americans are able to connect with folks regardless of where they live.”

The *Improving Rural Call Quality and Reliability Act* would direct the FCC to establish basic quality standards for providers that transmit voice calls to help prevent the discriminatory delivery of calls to any and all areas of our country. The legislation also directs the FCC to require these providers to register with the agency. These reforms would ensure small businesses, families, and emergency responders in rural America can once again rely upon their telephone calls being completed. The legislation is supported by the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, the NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association, and the Western Telecommunications Alliance.

