

Dear Members,

As we come closer to another year end, I am amazed at how quickly the year has flown by. We have been upgrading fiber in Auxvasse, Mokane, Rhineland, and Big Spring. We have two construction crews working which makes it very busy for our plant department to keep up with the splicing and cutover work. We prefer to do that work ourselves because we know the quality and pride our people put into their work. We continue to cash flow these upgrades so we do not burden the regulated company with millions of dollars of debt.

Last week I attended a meeting in Jefferson City about state broadband deployment. One audience member asked if we buried it or hung it on poles and why? I explained telephone companies learned a long time ago to bury rather than hang cable on poles because it is immune from ice, wind, and extreme temperature change. We probably talk more about the concern of ice and wind damage, but temperature fluctuation is just as important when it comes to the reliability of the fiber optic cable. Buried in the ground provides insulation from extreme heat and cold. One manufacturer says "underground deployment is often at least ten times more reliable than aerial routes, especially where poor weather is common." Kingdom built what we believe is the first fiber optic cable placed in Missouri. Records indicate it was buried in the early 1980's. Granted, aerial deployment is faster if you have access to poles. But is faster better; it reminds me of the story of the Tortoise and the Hare, slow and steady wins the race!



On another topic, by now you have noticed that your bill look has changed and so has this newsletter. First the bill; the new look will allow Kingdom to communicate information on the front page of your bill. We can colorize this information so it draws your attention to it. The change is also more cost effective for the company. Before, our employees literally hand stuffed all the bills, which might take several people a day and a half or so to complete. Now our billing company will be printing, stuffing, and mailing the bills for us. This will allow our staff to spend more time taking care of your needs. Secondly, the newsletter; with the change of the bill, it also required that we modify the newsletter to allow for important content, but less fluff. I know people hate change, but hopefully you agree if it helps our bottom line, it also helps your capital credits grow too.

Planning for the 2019 Annual Meeting has already began. In this newsletter you will see that our Board has selected the nominating committee and the location of our next meeting. We will return to North Callaway School this year. The meeting will be Saturday, March 9, 2019, so mark your calendars. We hope to see you there. In the meantime, if you have any questions about services, please don't hesitate to give us a call.

High School Seniors: Apply Now for a \$2,500 FRS Scholarship

The Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) offers an annual college scholarship program to help further higher education among rural youth. The \$ 2,500 scholarships are available to students for their first year of college, university or vocational-technical school. The FRS program encourages the students to return to their rural hometowns after graduation, where they can help to build vital, healthy communities.

Each student is sponsored by an NTCA member company like Kingdom Telephone. The FRS funds \$2,000 of each scholarship and the sponsoring company awards the remaining \$500.

Seniors whose parents are Kingdom Telephone customers may apply by obtaining an application from their guidance counselor or download from the FRS website at frs.org. All applications must be signed by Kingdom Telephone and then sent directly to FRS and must be postmarked no later than March 1, 2019. Winners will be announced by May 1, 2019.

Relay Missouri Provides Free Phone Access for Hearing and Speech Impaired

Relay Missouri is a service that provides full telephone accessibility to people who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind and speech-disabled. It can be used to make telephone calls to family, friends, businesses or anyone who has a phone.

The service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and 365 days a year. It is accurate and transparent. The operator voices everything you type and types everything you say.

All Relay Missouri calls are strictly private. No records of any conversations are maintained.

Relay services are available at no charge. Equipment itself is available upon request to eligible parties. The services are funded by the State.

To learn more, visit relaymissouri.com or kingdomtelco.com/relay-missouri. To use the service, dial 7-1-1 or call the Relay Customer Service Hotline at 800-676-3777 to reach the type of relay needed.

Board Selects Nominating Committee; Announces Meeting Venue

Kingdom Telephone members elect three directors each year at the Annual Meeting, and the first step in this process is the selection of a committee to nominate the candidates who will run. This year, the nominating committee for the Board of Directors was appointed at a meeting of the board held on November 8, 2018.

- John Wm. Noltensmeyer, Rhineland, 236-4725
- Jerome Schaefer, Rhineland, 236-4366
- Mike Boulware, Hatton, 387-4454
- Darrell Benne, Hatton, 387-4649
- Carlos Cope, At-Large Northern, 387-4403
- Randy Smith, At-Large Northern, 387-4888

Our bylaws describe three methods of nomination:

1. Selection by the nominating committee. If you are interested in becoming a candidate for Board membership, contact a member of the nominating committee before January 8, 2019. The committee will meet on January 8 at 6:00 p.m. at the business office.
2. Nomination by petition. Petitions must be signed by fifteen or more shareholders and delivered to the business office by 5:00 p.m., January 28, 2019.
3. Nomination from the floor. You may nominate a candidate from the floor at the Annual Meeting.

Kingdom Welcomes New Team Members



Shannon Slater

Auxvasse, MO
Hired Nov. 5, 2018
Customer Service
Kingdom Telephone Co.



Tyler Phillips

Mexico, MO
Hired Oct. 4, 2018
Client Relations
Phynx Fiber Internet