

## Dear Members,

I am sure everyone will join me in saying goodbye to Winter! We are so happy it is over so we can get back to bringing more and more fiber to our members. In May we began another plow crew to speed up the process. This makes a total of three working very hard to get you the most up to date technology possible. The three crews will be working in the Big Spring, Williamsburg, Mokane, and Rhineland areas. If we have not reached you yet with fiber and you need more speed – please contact our office as new technology allows for more speed on copper. Our Annual Meeting was just held at the North Callaway High School on Saturday, March 9. It was expected to storm that day which I hope was the reason we had a smaller turn out. Who wants to get out in a severe thunderstorm, right? I want to thank those members who did venture out. We had a wonderful meal and gave away a lot of gifts. Our next Annual Meeting will be held at South Callaway High School in Mokane on Saturday, March 14, 2020. We are hoping to draw more families to our meeting by coming up with new ideas for gifts and games for children. We realize everyone's lives are so busy, and working one more thing into the schedule can be daunting. If you have ideas that you think would help to increase our attendance, please send those thoughts to: [customerservice@kingdomtelco.com](mailto:customerservice@kingdomtelco.com).



In April, Kingdom made our traditional annual trip to Washington DC to meet with our congressional representatives and their staff. The timing of the meeting was unfortunate as our leaders were not in DC, but it allowed some time with their staff to discuss happenings in our industry. Recent national news has been focused on rural broadband. One topic being the \$600 million dollars that has been earmarked for rural broadband through grant and loan opportunities. The second was the announcement from FCC Chairman Pai about the creation of a new \$20.4 billion 5G FAST fund, which hopes to extend high-speed broadband to up to four million homes and small businesses in rural America. In our visit to the hill, Industry leaders estimated it would take \$80 billion dollars to get broadband to every American, but I have no way to know whether that is a good estimate or not. But it does show that the \$600 million dollars is just a drop in the bucket. As for the 5G FAST fund, it sounds good, but the reality is 5G technology isn't designed for rural areas where there are only a few homes/businesses per square mile. The equipment has to be short distances apart, ranging in some cases from 100-1,000 feet. The sites still have to be fiber fed to tie it all together. Even in the cities, 5G cannot compare to the type of broadband service that Kingdom and companies like ours provide because it has a cap of how much data a customer can use per month. Our broadband service is unlimited, no data cap limits, and no slowing. Cellular companies can't allow unlimited because they have no control over the total amount of data they would need if they did. That is why they slow you way down on your "so called" unlimited cellular plans today. If you have experienced this concept, you know that it basically is so slow it doesn't work at all. I don't mean to criticize the much needed expansion of broadband, but in my opinion the only real way to future proof the expansion for decades to come is to build fiber. It is expensive but it lasts and as technology changes, the fiber will remain the highway while new electronics on the ends will be the driver. It is the cost of the fiber highway that is the most important piece of the problem. We have a fiber buried to the Fulton nuclear plant that has been in the ground since the early 1980's. It still works well and is expected to continue to work well for decades to come. We make the trip to DC every year to try to educate our government leaders with the experience we have in our industry. With Broadband being one of the hot topics; who better to help guide them than companies like Kingdom who have been providing broadband internet since its dawning.

I would like to close by wishing you a wonderful rest of Spring and upcoming Summer. We will be at as many events as we can find this season, we hope to see you at some of them!

## Low Income or Disabled?

### Stretch Your Communication Dollars with Lifeline

#### The Lifeline Program

Eligible low-income consumers can receive \$15.75 in reductions on their bill as a credit against monthly charges. If you are an eligible disabled customer, you can receive \$6.50 in reductions on your bill, also as a credit against monthly charges.

#### Eligibility

To qualify for Low-Income Lifeline in Missouri, you must participate in one of the following programs: MO HealthNet (f/k/a Medicaid), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA), Veterans Pension or Survivors Benefit Program or have household income at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

To qualify for the Disabled Lifeline in Missouri, you must participate in one of the following programs: Federal Social Security Disability Benefits, Veterans Administration Disability Benefits, State Blind Pension, and State Aid to Blind Persons or State Supplemental Disability Assistance.

#### The Benefits

Qualifying consumers will receive a discount on home phone service, which includes voice grade access to the public switched network, single-party service, access to emergency services, access to operator services, access to inter-exchange service, access to directory assistance, and voluntary total toll blocking, which prevents the placement of any long distance calls OR a service bundle of home phone service and broadband internet.

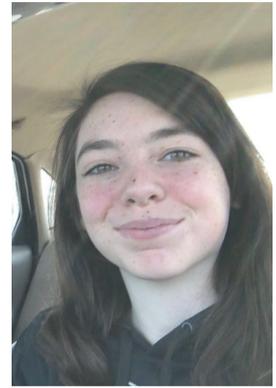
For further details, call to speak with a Customer Service Representative or visit our website at [kingdomtelco.com](http://kingdomtelco.com)

# Kingdom Sends Local Students On Tour of Washington, D.C.

A pair of Callaway County students will experience history in the making this summer on the Foundation of Rural Service (FRS) Youth Tour of Washington, D.C.

For over twenty years, Kingdom has joined the FRS in providing a forum for teens to interact with their peers from other rural communities as well as key legislative, regulatory and government figures. Visits to famous historical sites, including the Lincoln Memorial, the U.S. Capitol, Mount Vernon and Arlington National Cemetery, will round out the tour. This year Kingdom will sponsor Sierra Barker and Olivia Brown, both from North Callaway High School on the tour. Sierra and Olivia will join young people from across the United States who have been sponsored by their own rural telephone companies. We had only six applicants this year, so please encourage your teenagers to apply for this amazing trip next year.

The all expenses paid trip runs from June 1-5. Look for the students at the 2020 Annual Meeting as they share their experiences with us.



## Directory Photo Contest Winners



### **2019 KTC Directory Photo Contest First Place Winner**

Brandi Rodriguez  
"One Lone Tree"  
\$100 Cash Prize!

### **Congrats to all the finalists!**



**Second Place**  
Debbie Parr  
"Cabin"  
\$50 Cash Prize



**Third Place**  
Norma Schmidt  
"Waterfall"  
\$25 Cash Prize