

Dear members,

Summer is coming to an end already! As I write this, Covid-19 is still changing our world, making us seek out a new normal. It seems that everything we do or think about has to include it. Schools around the country are still making decisions of how to deal with Covid-19 to get kids back into the classrooms. Some cities are requiring everyone to wear mask when out in public and continue the social distancing. Our world has changed so much. As I told you in the last edition, Kingdom is considered an essential service and closing down business was not something we could do or wanted to do. Much of our staff did work remotely for a period of time. Additionally, we have kept our repairmen separated from each other for their protection as well. This may sound ridiculous to some, but think about all employees working together and what would happen if one person contracted Covid-19. We would have to shut down for 14 days of quarantine, so of course we have worked to keep everyone as safe as possible while maintaining business operations. The demand for Broadband services has been historical through this crisis. So many families having children at home and parents working from home has increased new service installs and our brave hard working employees have met the challenge. Installs in our Phynx division have more than doubled since before March.



Kingdom's application for a USDA Re-Connect Grant that - if awarded - will pay for 75% of the cost to bring much-needed fiber Internet to an area north of Auxvasse and around Mexico is still pending. We hope to know soon if we are successful, but we have found out that there is another applicant in part of the area we applied for so all we can do is wait for the outcome. In addition the other grant called the "Rural Digital Opportunity Fund" or RDOF has started its process. We filed our application in July waiting for the auction that will begin at the end of October. The FCC allocated a total of \$20.4 billion in the effort to connect rural America with badly needed broadband, but only \$16 billion will be in the first auction. The Auction is a reverse auction, where instead of the highest bidder winning, the lowest bidder will win the money for the areas they bid. There are remote areas in the auction where the chances are good that no one bids. Those areas are so extremely rural with so few of homes that it just doesn't make a strong business case to go after the funds even if you can do it with a cheaper technology like wireless services. This could increase dollars awarded in other areas since the goal is to reach the \$16 billion budget amount. These two grant opportunities are exciting for Kingdom and those rural Americans who can't get a reliable internet service today. If Covid-19 has shown our industry anything, it is that everyone needs a strong broadband connection.

So many community events were cancelled this year due to Covid-19 but the Callaway County 4-H Youth Group livestock auction proceeded. Kingdom joined many others at this event in mid-July. It was hot, but thank goodness the kids didn't have to deal with their animals in the heat. Rather than parade the animal around the arena, a picture of the 4-H'er and their entry was shown on a TV screen. I think it worked extremely well, so well we bought bacon from Morgan Slater, a beef from Joshua Selby and one from his sister, Jenny, chickens from Jenna Slater, rabbits from Carver Safranski, and a pig from Hayden Fansler. Everything but the bacon went home with the kids and we hope to enjoy that at a company-wide breakfast sometime in the near future. There were 64 entries, a very proud showing of hard working 4-H'ers. Montgomery County 4-H Youth Livestock auction was held online this year. Kingdom bid on 23 different lots during the auction and in the end bought a market hog from Kadyne Schmidt and two market sheep from Katie Boedges and Lorena Uthlaut. The next community event that is currently still planned will be the Tebbetts Picnic in late September.

I want to remind everyone that voting for the 2021 Annual Meeting will be done electronically. As mentioned last newsletter, this was not originally due to Covid-19 but the increasing trouble of getting a quorum. We hope to have the meeting as usual, with the only change being the voting, but depending on the status of the epidemic we may have to get creative. Boone County Electric Coop got creative with their meeting. In July their annual meeting was done by doing a drive through set up. Members drove through, got a pen, a ballot and a \$35 credit voucher handed to them. They marked their ballots and away they went, taking only a few minutes out of the day. As we get closer to time, more details will be sent out to each member on the process of electronic voting. Our next Annual Meeting is planned to be held at North Callaway High School in Kingdom City on Saturday, March 13, 2021.

I would like to close by wishing you a good rest of your summer and fall season ahead. I hope you and your families stay safe!

Callaway 4-H Youth Livestock Auction



Montgomery 4-H Youth Livestock Auction



Capital Credit Checks to be Issued This Month

For the twenty-eighth consecutive year, Kingdom Telephone will distribute capital credit checks to its member/owners. The payout formula for this year is 7% of the outstanding capital credits for 1987 and 7.59% of 2019. Capital credits are accumulated when you purchase our telephone and other telecommunication services.