

How time flies!

Dear Members,

Summer is coming to an end and we are already back to school. It seems like time really clicks by during the summer.

In order for our students to be able to efficiently do their homework projects, they need a reliable internet service. Kingdom's lowest fiber speed is 600 mbps which will ensure families have a big enough pipe to do homework, work from home, and stream all the entertainment a normal family has time to enjoy.

As a reminder, we have several hotspots around our territory:

1. Kingdom Telephone 211 S. Main, Auxvasse
2. North Callaway Middle School, Auxvasse
3. North Callaway High School
4. Pleasant Grove Church in Hatton
5. Kingdom's Mokane Central Office - 304 Fulton Ave., Mokane
6. Tebbetts Community Center inside and outside the building

A few exciting events this summer were the Callaway County, Audrain County and Montgomery County Youth Livestock Auctions. At the Callaway Auction, we bought a market swine from Hayden Fansler, rabbits from Levi Huffman, chickens from Sara Jenkins, and bacon from Hayden Birge. At the Audrain Auction we bought a goat from Nicholas Van Schyndel and rabbits from Gabrielle Martin, and at the Montgomery Auction, we bought hogs from Taylor Groteweil and Mason Bader. These events are always fun and supporting the kids is very important to Kingdom. We hope to see you at other upcoming events like the Mokane World's Fair and the Tebbetts Picnic.

Sarah Sims, our Public Relations Associate, has been very active this summer popping up in various areas and events. I hope you get a chance to meet her. We are very happy to have her on our team. She will continue to be out and about and will let you know where through Facebook, so stay tuned.

We are still waiting to get the Environmental release from USDA on the Reconnect 2 grant that we were awarded last year. In July, we were required to hire an Archeologist to address the Osage Nation Tribal concerns in the area. We hope this will be the final item before we get the release and authorization to proceed. Last quarter I shared that we applied for another grant through USDA called Reconnect 3. We hope to know whether or not we are successful sometime this summer. This application covers parts of Audrain and Montgomery Counties. There were over 300 applications asking for \$4.8 billion with only \$1.15 billion available to award. Our application is a solid application, I truly believe if we are not awarded it will only be because there was not enough money to go around.

Earlier this summer, I and eight to ten others from the broadband world were invited to participate in a focus group for the state broadband grant program. The state was working on the final guidelines for their grant process and wanted industry leaders to have an input. Although most of the guidelines were stipulated by rule or regulation as the money is federal money coming to the state, we were allowed to make a few suggestions to aid in the finalization of the program. The window for this grant program opened July 15 and ended August 29. Grants are a great way to expand our territory, but it takes time and a lot of work to put a grant application together. Because we don't know if the Reconnect 3 grant will be awarded, we were not able to apply to this program this year.

The FCC is requiring companies to comply with a rule referred to as Stir and Shake. This rule will require Kingdom to make switch upgrades in order to send a certification code with every call our members make outside of the local calling area. The reasoning is that if all carriers certify legitimate calls, then the spam or robo calls that we all get should stop as they should not be certified. I don't have a lot of faith in the rule. The bad players are sending these illegitimate calls today which is not allowed by rule, so what stops them from sending them with a fake code in the future.

The FCC is constantly applying more and more rules for companies to comply with. I understand the thinking, they want to catch the bad players who don't abide by the rules, but like everything else, it only causes more time and expense for companies like Kingdom that do business within the rules. For example, all internet providers file mapping data today on a form 477 which shows where we provide internet services and at what speed capabilities. Some carriers falsify their data which makes the FCC step in. So now we are filing new mapping data that will eventually replace the 477 data. The change is causing much more time and expense within the company, as this new system requires us to hire a Professional Engineer to certify the data. Unfortunately, I have been in this industry for over twenty years and I have been through multiple attempts at getting carriers to provide good data. This is just one more in a very long list of attempts. I sincerely hope it works, but I was born and raised in our show me state, so I will believe it when I see it!

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Renee Reeter
Chief Executive Officer

On another note, we are building a new warehouse across the street from our main office. We were lucky enough to sell another warehouse that was at the North end of town. This one will put all of our locations in close proximity of each other which makes it an easy jaunt for a forklift to move materials. In addition, the exchange for old and new, gave Kingdom a little profit in our coffers.

Not much more news to share so until next time: enjoy the remainder of your summer and keep your families safe and healthy!

Privacy Control/Do Not Disturb

Did you know you can take control of the calls coming into your home? Kingdom offers a service where you can do just that through your home phone or by a web portal.

The Privacy Control service selectively intercepts telemarketers, unknown callers and callers who have their number blocked from displaying on Caller ID. The Do Not Disturb service is great if you work late hours and want to avoid calls while you are trying to sleep. It will let you designate quiet times where callers will be blocked unless they have a 4 digit PIN to override.

More information can be found at kingdomtelco.com/telephone-features/

FRS WASHINGTON D.C. YOUTH TOUR MAKES MEMORIES THAT LAST A LIFETIME

Every year the Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) offers 100 rural students a unique opportunity to visit our nation's capitol on the FRS Youth Tour. This year Kingdom sponsored Aidan Heaney of Hermann High School, who joined his peers, on the tour from June 1-5. We generally sponsor two students each year, but sadly, this year, we only had one very deserving applicant. Aidan visited the FCC where he heard lectures on legislative and governmental processes and toured several historical sites, including Mt. Vernon and Arlington National Cemetery. Dinners, a dance, shopping, and bowling gave the kids plenty of opportunities to have fun and strike up friendships with each other. Applications for the next tour will be available in early Spring 2023 on our website and at high school guidance offices.

CAPITAL CREDITS TO BE ISSUED THIS MONTH

For the thirtieth consecutive year, Kingdom Telephone will distribute capital credits to its member/owners. The payout formula for this year is 15.26% of the outstanding capital credits for 1987 and 3.35% of 2021. Active members will see a bill credit if the amount is \$65 or less, otherwise members will receive a check.

Patronage is accumulated when you purchase our telephone, internet, and other telecommunication services.

Based on the Cooperatives' year end profits, the patronage is used to determine a member's share of capital credits for that calendar year.

Lifeline Assistance

LOW INCOME OR DISABLED? STRETCH YOUR COMMUNICATION DOLLARS WITH LIFELINE

The Lifeline Program

Eligible low-income and disabled consumers can receive up to \$24.00 in reductions on their bill as a credit against monthly charges. The disabled service program is only available for voice subscribers. The lifeline service program discount is based on both voice and broadband subscribers.

There is a federal lifeline discount available in the amount of \$9.25 for broadband only lines with a speed of 25 Mbps (down)/3 Mbps (up) or higher.

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 and 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