



# inter face

JUNE 10



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WCTA Directors Dave Kriens, Hazel Yliniemi, Bruce Kinnunen, Naomi Moyer and Dave Pulju.

## Kriens and Pulju Each Re-elected to Serve 3-Year Terms

The 60th annual meeting of the members was held at the Sebek High School Monday, May 10, 2010.

Key officers, the manager and the controller reported on the status of the cooperative and what the future holds. Dave Kriens of Menahga and Dave Pulju of Nimrod were each re-elected to serve an additional three-year term. Both incumbents ran unopposed, and there were no nominations from the floor. The candidates addressed the crowd at the meeting, each citing reasons to serve on the cooperative board, and expressing their appreciation to the members for allowing them to represent them at the board level. Because of the unopposed elections, President Kinnunen asked for a motion and a

second to cast unanimous ballots for each seat. There was a motion made, it was seconded and the members unanimously voted for the incumbents to serve an additional term.

Once the meeting was adjourned, door prizes were awarded. For the fourth year in a row, the cooperative gave a grand prize of one year of free local telephone service. This year's winner was Elon Helman.

Kai and Bridget Allen performed with the Scandinavian folk music band Skålmusic before and after the meeting. Many door prizes were made possible because of the generosity of our vendors and business partners. Thanks to all who helped make the meeting a success!

# Eight \$1,000 Scholarships Awarded

The WCTA Scholarship Committee recently reviewed 27 applications from area high school seniors. Eight students including Matthew Skoog, Crystal Haskin, Alex Brockpahler, Taylor Schwartz, Derek Pihlaja, Bridget Martini, Andrew Maninga, and Jamie Kern were awarded scholarships from WCTA. The scholarships were each valued at \$1,000.

Area high school seniors are invited every year in January and again in March to apply for the WCTA scholarship. The scholarship application must be completed online, and then printed out and signed by the student's counselor. This is the third year with the online format, and that has been really



Alex Brockpahler



Crystal Haskin



Jamie Kern



Andrew Maninga



Bridget Martini



Derek Pihlaja



Taylor Schwartz



Matthew Skoog

helpful with keeping the applicants consistent and anonymous. The applicants also are able to choose from three topics for consideration when writing their essay. The scholarship committee reviews applicants based on their essay and community involvement. The scholarship's purpose is to recognize students who have contributed to the quality of life in the communities they live in and to assist them in their educational pursuits.

Only students whose parents or legal guardians are cooperative members at the time of the application are eligible to apply. Children of West Central Telephone's employees or board members are not eligible.

***Congratulations to the scholarship winners and to the entire graduating class of 2010!***

## Dangers of Multitasking While Driving

When cars were first invented, drivers expected just one thing – to get from point A to point B. Today's drivers also have the ability to listen to music, talk on the phone, exchange text messages and e-mails, watch movies, and even surf the Internet. But what price do we pay for this convenience?

Thousands of people die in the United States each year in crashes caused by drivers who are distracted by texting and other activities, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation. Half a million more suffer injuries in distraction-related crashes. These statistics are a stark reminder of the dangers of multitasking while driving, and WCTA encourages our customers to keep your focus on driving when you get behind the wheel.

The risks of multitasking are especially high for teen drivers, who are already the most crash-prone drivers due to inexperience.

### CONSIDER THIS:

- Texting drivers are 23 times more dangerous than attentive drivers.
- Texting while driving is about six times more likely to result in an accident than driving while intoxicated.
- For every six seconds of drive time, a driver sending or receiving a text message spends nearly five of those seconds with his or her eyes off the road. This makes texting the most distracting of all cell phone tasks.
- 51 percent of teens say they text while driving.



- Teen drivers are four times more likely than adults to get into car crashes or near crash events directly related to talking on a cell phone or texting.
- Talking on a cell phone while driving can make a young driver's reaction time as slow as that of a 70-year-old.

There is no doubt that devices such as cell phones, smartphones, laptops, and netbooks can make our lives easier. For safety's sake, however, the issue for all of us to think about is the "when and where" of their use. Doesn't driving deserve our full concentration? Couldn't we wait a few minutes to make that phone call or send that text? Do the teens in our lives understand the potential dangers? Technology is wonderful, but only if used responsibly.