

# inter face

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 09

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## BE PREPARED

The winter season is fast approaching, and can bring some of the harshest weather conditions of the year with little warning—so it's important to prepare early.

- **At least one corded phone.** When the power goes out, cordless phones don't work.
- **Food and water.** Keep nonperishable items on hand, and enough water to last three days at a rate of about one gallon per person, per day.
- **Warming gear.** Blankets, sweaters, hats, gloves, and even boots will help you stay warm short-term.
- **Battery-operated items.** Keep radios and flashlights where you can find them easily.
- **Medications.** Have enough for several days.

## WCTA Hosts Senator Klobuchar

President-elect Barack Obama and Congress are busy developing a plan to lead the nation into sustainable economic recovery. US Senator, Amy Klobuchar, serves on a number of committees involved with this plan and is helping lay the groundwork by gathering ideas from Minnesota business leaders, economic development agencies, elected officials and workers with a focus on renewable energy projects.

West Central Telephone Association entered the residential renewable energy arena earlier this year with their newest service — Zenergy — and was very pleased to be included in Klobuchar's Main Street Tour.

"As an environmentally conscious company rooted in bringing cutting edge technology and economic development to the communities we serve, West Central strongly supports the green jobs initiative," said Tony Mayer, CEO of WCTA.

"West Central is honored to have shared our story with Senator Klobuchar and trust that her support will resonate not only through Minnesota, but across the nation as well."

Senator Klobuchar wanted to see for herself what WCTA has accomplished on the renewable energy forefront. During the 45-minute visit at WCTA headquarters on December 3rd, WCTA staff and board members shared the story of how the company became involved in renewable energy, and the opportunities they've discovered it can bring to the region.

"I'm impressed with the work West Central has done, and with their goals to bring green jobs to their communities," said Klobuchar. The Senator told Mayer that she would like for him to come to Washington, D.C. to address a congressional committee on the innovative work being done by WCTA in renewable energy.



Pictured left to right are Naomi Moyer, WCTA Board Vice President; Clint Kyllonen, WCTA's Master Electrician; Bruce Kinnunen, WCTA Board President; Senator Amy Klobuchar; Anthony Mayer, WCTA's General Manager/CEO; Geri Salmela, Marketing Manager and Pam Mahling, Corporate Resource Specialist.



**West Central**  
Telephone Association  
*We Connect You.™*

# MICROSOFT WORD: INTERMEDIATE CLASS

MONDAY, JANUARY 19, 2009

**TWO SESSIONS:** 9am–Noon  
or 1pm–4pm

**COST:** \$10 (must be pre-paid  
by Jan. 15th or your slot may  
be given to someone else)

**LOCATION:** Sebeka School  
Computer Lab

**TO REGISTER:** Call WCTA at  
837-5151

**LIMIT:** 10 per class

**INSTRUCTOR:** Cindy Benedett,  
Certified Microsoft Instructor

**IN THIS COURSE:** Students  
will learn some intermediate  
features of Microsoft Word.  
We will discover some of  
the lesser-known formatting  
features that are available  
to you. We will also work  
with mail merge to create  
form letters, labels, and  
envelopes that pull their data  
from a corresponding Excel  
or Access file. You will learn  
how to create and control  
section breaks, how to work

with templates, and create  
custom templates, also how  
to work with pictures and  
charts. Finally, we will record,  
edit and run Macros, in order  
to streamline some of those  
repetitious daily tasks we  
do. There will be time for a  
question and answer session  
at the end of the class.

**SUGGESTED PREREQUISITE:**  
Intro to Microsoft Word or 2+  
years experience with Word

Funded in part by a donation  
from WCTA.

## Call More and Spend Less with West Central Long Distance

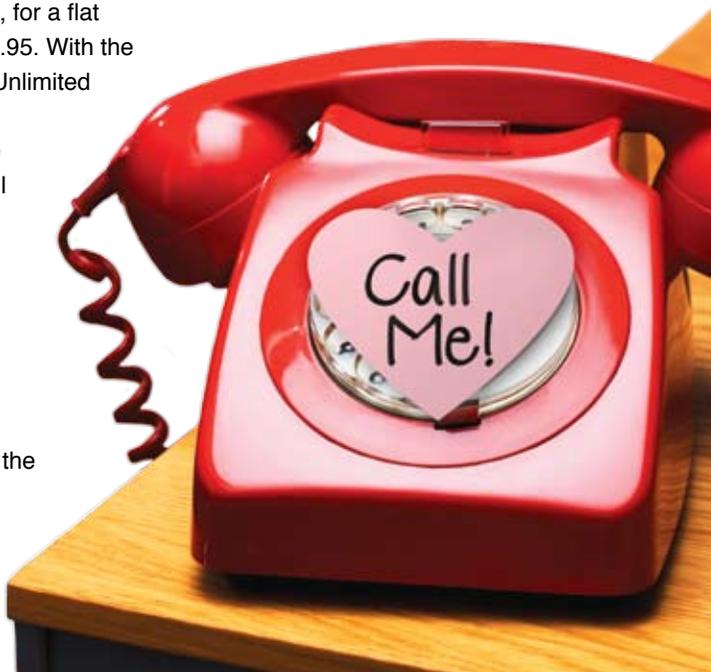
Do your out-of-town family and friends  
wish you would call them more often?  
West Central makes it easier to do  
just that. Our long distance plans offer  
a variety of affordable options so you  
can talk and talk without worrying  
about the cost.

Our West Central Connect Unlimited  
Plan gives you everything you need  
in long distance service, for a flat  
monthly rate of just \$29.95. With the  
West Central Connect Unlimited  
Plan, you don't have to  
deal with annoying time  
restrictions. Or wait until  
late at night to make  
long distance calls.  
You can just relax and  
keep those important  
conversations going.

If you'd like to pay for  
minutes used, we have the  
West Central Connect  
Plan for you for 13.9¢  
per minute with a  
99¢ monthly fee.  
Whichever way  
you go, you can

count on West Central for competitive  
prices, local customer service, and the  
convenience of one monthly statement  
from a single provider.

This Valentine's Day, call your loved  
ones and tell them how much they mean  
to you. But first, call us at 800-945-2163  
or 837-5151 and find out how much  
you can save.



### A SWEET GIFT THAT LASTS: HIGH SPEED INTERNET

This year for Valentine's Day,  
consider a gift you'll both love  
all year long — high speed  
Internet service from WCTA.  
Our high speed service speeds  
you through online activities  
at rates up to 150 times faster  
than a typical dial-up Internet  
connection.

You'll also enjoy the convenience  
of an "always on" connection  
that's ready when you are.  
Unlike with dial-up, there's  
no more dialing and no more  
waiting. Open your browser  
or e-mail program and you're  
instantly online. With WCTA's  
high speed Internet, you can  
talk on the phone and be online  
simultaneously.

To order the sweet gift of high  
speed Internet, call us at 800-  
945-2163 or 837-5151.



## COLOR CONTEST WINNERS

Seven lucky children placed first in their age division in the annual WCTA Holiday Coloring Contest. The winners include [Joelle Bounds](#), [Maria Salmen](#), [Tomi Paurus](#), [Foxy Samuelson](#), [Zoe Flath](#), [Moriah Nevala](#) and [Melissa Meek](#).

Thank you to all of the schools, parents and children who participated!

## WCTA OPENINGS: Nominations and Elections Committee

The Nominations and Election Committee is responsible for selecting a slate of candidates to run for directorship of the cooperative association. The selection of board members is an important function of any cooperative, but it doesn't end with selection. As a member of the Nominations and Election Committee, you will also be required to collect the ballots and verify the results at the annual meeting typically held in May of each year.

If you are interested in serving as a Nominations and Election Committee member, you must contact West Central Telephone at 837-5151 or toll free at 800-945-2163 before the January 19th regular board meeting.

If you have an interest in how your cooperative works, and would like to run for a position on the Board of Directors, the first step is reviewing the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws found in the front pages of the 2009 WCTA Telephone Directory. Article II of the Amended Bylaws deals entirely with meetings and Section 8 refers to the Nominations and Election Committee. The Board of Directors appoints the Nominations and Election committee and they in turn nominate candidates to run for the available board seats. This year Bruce Kinnunen, representing the Sebeka exchange area is up for re-election.

For more information, give our office a call.



## Calling the Do Not Call List

With telemarketing becoming more prevalent in recent years, more than 137 million consumers have opted to register with the national Do Not Call list.

If you're among them, you may have noticed that your registration only affected certain types of callers. In fact, you may have been getting even more calls during the political campaigns for the presidential election.

That's because the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), who administer the Do Not Call list, have limited jurisdiction. As a result, the following groups can still contact you:

- [Phone surveyors](#), when their sole purpose is to conduct a survey

- [Political groups](#)
- [Charitable organizations](#)
- [Companies with whom you have a business relationship](#) — this includes anyone from whom you've made purchases; they can call you for up to 18 months after your last purchase
- [Those who have received written permission from you](#)

For additional details or to register your phone numbers (including both home and cell phone numbers), visit [www.donotcall.gov](http://www.donotcall.gov). Most telemarketing calls should stop within 31 days.



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Aho, Wilho	837-5438
Anderson, Wade	538-6029
Broadbent, Mildred	564-4928
Brown, Rickki	564-4875
Engelen, Frank	564-5769
Fowler, Steve	837-5433
Grangruth, Rosalie	564-4873
Hudek, Jim	564-4749
Kangas, Bradley	564-4976
Kern, Rochelle	564-4915
Kicker, Samuel	564-4867
Kyllonen, Rodney	564-4885
Limanen, Jody	837-5441
Makela, Carrie	564-4811
Makela, Frank	564-4903
Martinez, Mariceli	538-6031
Miller, Tom	564-2266
Murdock, Dale	837-5465
Myers, Dick	564-7387
Mylykangas, Brad	538-6030
Neisess, Matt	837-5448
Nevala, Pat	564-4902
Nordling, Eric	564-4871
Noyola, Jim	564-8066
O'Brien, Nicholas	445-5237
Ohman, Charles	564-4956
Olsons' Custom Farm Services	445-5678
Rood, Kim	837-5446
Saukkola, Helen	564-4893
Shepersky, Juanita	472-3572
Skoog, Jason	564-4874
Slater, Marlene	445-5182
Suhl, Brenda	445-5118
Vargo, Jason & Angie	564-4864
Weaver, Robert	564-4844
Weichman, Flo	837-5454
Wilson, Venus	564-4934
Young, Cheryl Ann	564-0741

## FRS College Scholarship Program

West Central Telephone has teamed up with The Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) will offer the FRS Scholarship to our members' high school seniors. The FRS college scholarship program awards twenty-five scholarships in the amount of \$2,500 to winning applicants across the nation.

Applicants must:

- Be a graduating high school senior.
- Have at least a C grade point average (GPA). FRS scholarships will be awarded to deserving students whose academic credentials fall within an average to above-average range.
- Be accepted by an accredited two- or four-year college, university or vocational-technical school.
- Express an interest to return to a rural community following graduation.
- Be sponsored by a contributor to, or supporter of, the Foundation for Rural Service.

- Receive local telecommunications service from a current NTCA member (except for students sponsored by an associate member company) and be from a rural area.

Applications forms have been mailed to guidance counselors at all area high schools. The applications are easily reproduced and can also be downloaded from the FRS Website at [www.frs.org](http://www.frs.org).

Completed applications must be returned to our office by February 13, 2009, so that we may complete the Sponsor Certification and forward the applications to FRS. Please call Geri Salmela at 837-5151 or 800-945-2163 with questions. You may also e-mail your questions to [geris@wcta.net](mailto:geris@wcta.net).

We are proud to once again support the FRS in this worthy endeavor. It should be noted that this scholarship opportunity is in addition to the regular West Central Telephone Scholarship Program, which will be featured in the next newsletter.

## CPNI and You

West Central Telephone Association works hard to provide you with the best possible products and services. Our goal is to be the area's recognized telecommunications leader with a reputation for quality, service excellence and value.

As we develop and offer products and services, or improve your existing services, we may use information about your account, which is legally referred to as CPNI, unless you restrict our use in the manner described below.

Under Federal Law, you have the right to, and we have the duty to,

protect the confidentiality of your telecommunications service information. This information includes the type, technical arrangement, quantity, destination, and amount of use of telecommunications services and related billing for these services. Unless legally compelled to, we will not release CPNI to any outside company.

If you wish to restrict West Central Telephone Association's use of your information, please register your request by calling 218-837-5151 or 800-945-2163 within the next 35 days. We are proud of our long history of reliable, trustworthy service and we hope you appreciate the steps we take to protect your privacy.