



# inter free

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2018

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## Like to Join the Nominations & Election Committee?

As a member of West Central Telephone, you're eligible to serve on the Nominations & Election Committee, which appoints qualified candidates to run for directorship, collects ballots, and verifies election results at the annual meeting held in May. If you're interested, call us at 837-5151 by January 15, 2018.



## NEW YEAR NEW SPEED NEW FUN



If your household increased its internet usage in 2017—due to adding devices like Smart TVs, Google Home, or Amazon Echo and streaming more often—then we suggest you start 2018 with a higher speed. It'll put you on the fast track to having extra fun while watching movies, playing online games, etc. without the dreaded buffering!

West Central Telephone offers affordable internet plans with speeds ranging from 10 Mbps up to 1,000 Mbps (1 Gig)! If your family is on a 10 Mbps or 25 Mbps plan, you can boost your speed to the next tier for only \$10 per month!

## CALL 837-5151 TO GIVE YOUR INTERNET A SPEED BOOST



## Contest Winners Announced

**Leah Johnson of Menahga submitted this winning photo featured on the cover of the 2018 WCTA Directory.** Leah sent several photos for consideration, but the quirkiness of the “chickens congregating” made for an interesting cover! She won \$200.

**Six fabulous artists placed first in their age division in the annual WCTA Holiday Coloring Contest.** The winners were Evan Johnson, Walker Tupper, Kaia Schmitz, Emma Snyder, Theresa Lajeunesse, and Sylvia Hill.

## View What's New with West Central TV

Here's the latest on programming including channel additions, HD programming additions, and rebrands and drops:

- **NBCU** has decided to end distribution of **Chiller (channel 59)** January 1, 2018.
- **Viacom has decided to rebrand Spike TV (channel 41 SD and 277 HD)** as Paramount Network starting January 18, 2018. You'll still enjoy Spike TV favorites like Bar Rescue and Ink Master, but the channel will now include original scripted and non-scripted series.
- **NFL Network (channel 112 SD and 266 HD)** is now available anywhere on any device through watchTVEverywhere.com for free when you subscribe to Complete TV package which includes the network.
- **The Olympic Channel (channel 95 SD and 221 HD)** replaced Universal HD (channel 221). The Olympic Channel is the Home of Team USA and highlights American athletes and teams. It will also include live Olympic sporting events and more.
- **These SD channels were added:** 86 FidoTV, 87 TPT MN, 89 Smile, 90 Insp, and 94 Hope.
- **These HD channels were added:** 200 TPT MN, 201 PBS Kids, 203 TPT Life, 269 CBS Sports Network, 289 QVC, 290 HSN, and 291 Sportsman Channel.



**You'll find our Channel Guides at [www.wcta.net](http://www.wcta.net). If you have questions about these programming changes, call us at 837-5151.**



## Spider-Man: Homecoming

Premiering  
February 10 at 8pm  
**STARZ**

Peter Parker balances his life as an ordinary high school student in Queens with his superhero alter-ego Spider-Man, and finds himself on the trail of a new menace prowling the skies of New York City.

Spider-Man: Homecoming. STARZ® and related channels and service marks are the property of Starz Entertainment, LLC. Visit [starz.com](http://starz.com) for airdates/times.



# Check Out Our Scholarship Opportunities

As an investment in our youth, West Central Telephone is committed to the future of rural Minnesota. We're pleased to announce the following scholarship opportunities and invite all high school seniors to apply.

## FRS College Scholarship Program

The FRS College Scholarship Program awards 30 scholarships of \$2,000 each to winning applicants across the nation, with a \$500 match by the sponsoring telco (for a total of \$2,500 each). FRS Scholarship applications are due in the WCTA office by February 16, 2018.

Students may also be eligible for four Staurulakis Family Scholarships valued at \$5,000 each or two TMS Scholarships for \$1,500 each. Those majoring in math, science, engineering, or medicine are given preference for the Staurulakis Family Scholarships. One \$7,000 Everett Kneese Return to Rural America Scholarship and three \$500 Roger Alan Cox Scholarships will also be awarded.

For applications and guidelines, see your high school guidance counselor or download the application from <http://www.frs.org>.

## Minnesota Telecom Alliance Foundation Scholarships

The Minnesota Telecom Alliance Foundation is offering five \$2,000 scholarships to high school seniors who graduate in 2018. Scholarships are awarded after

the student demonstrates successful completion of the first year of college or technical school. The application deadline is February 23, 2018 and applications must be returned to WCTA for signature.

## WCTA Scholarship Program

High school seniors can also apply for one of eight scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each. The deadline for the WCTA Scholarship applications is April 6, 2018.

Our scholarship program has been established to encourage youth in our area to further their education after graduating from high school and is made possible through unclaimed capital credit checks. Because of our cooperative status, we are able to use these funds to benefit the scholarship program.

## 2nd Year or Beyond Scholarship

Current college students are urged to apply for a \$1,000 2nd Year or Beyond Scholarship. Students who graduated from high school, are from any one of the five WCTA telephone exchanges, and are currently attending 2nd year or beyond higher education are eligible. Past scholarship winners are also eligible. The application deadline is June 1, 2018.

**Links to all of these scholarships can be found at [www.wcta.net](http://www.wcta.net) under the Scholarships tab. If you have questions, please call Geri Salmela at 837-5151 or send an email to [geris@wcta.net](mailto:geris@wcta.net).**

## Welcome, New Members

Biberg Mark.....	445-7463
Garey Rebecca.....	445-5808
Green Julie .....	445-6204
Kendall Doug .....	445-0730
Roemmich Dawn .....	445-6846
Tucker Lindsey .....	445-8361
Batsch Danielle.....	472-9042
Finck Ryan .....	472-2729
Huff Levi .....	472-3495
Meech Reese & Melanie .....	472-8241
Olson Heidi.....	472-1350
Gray Brandon .....	538-6884
Johnson Gary .....	538-1131
Keezer Donald.....	538-5639
Yliniemi Peter.....	538-7089
Aho Megan.....	564-3931
Hamblin Cynthia .....	564-4309
Hawkins Angela.....	564-4822
Henderson Wayne .....	564-1361
Hoskins Leah.....	564-8367
Johnson Eva.....	564-6498
Keranen Daniel .....	564-2442
Kletschka Rex .....	564-8105
Niska Laura .....	564-1186
Phillips Danielle.....	564-7787
Porter Elmer .....	564-3048
Richardson Sidney.....	564-9076
Savela Jayson .....	564-6594
Squires Matthew .....	564-2109
Torma Jlayne .....	564-6537
Tysk James .....	564-1828
Bernstetter Bruce .....	629-1259
Bounds Chris .....	629-1850
Bounds Drywall .....	629-1039
Dahlvang Stacey.....	629-1283
Dailey Electric Llc.....	629-1646
Erickson Maxine .....	629-1376
Grieger Benjamin .....	629-1054
Hutson Jay .....	629-1201
Jacobs Suzanne.....	629-1873
Johnson Jason.....	629-1581
Koljonen Tammy .....	629-1729

*Continued on page 4*





## Welcome, New Members

*Continued from page 3*

Langer William .....	629-1924
Malone Dean .....	629-1024
Malone John .....	629-1658
Tigges Paul .....	629-1808
Uselman Chad .....	629-1398
Willis Mike Jr. ....	629-1921
Yungbauer Daniel .....	629-1499
Ament Stan .....	631-3206
Bartels Ronald .....	631-4308
Belch John .....	631-1925
Bernstetter Greg B .....	631-1408
Braith Steve .....	631-4261
Brockpahler Jane .....	631-1666
Cochran Raymond .....	631-7074
Davison Charles .....	631-9048
Erickson Steven .....	631-2639
Hegarty Jim .....	631-3362
Hoops Custom	
Sausage & Archery .....	631-1262
Johnson Steve .....	631-1589
Kelderman Darren .....	631-3835
Kern David .....	631-2109
Kern Duane .....	631-4350
Kern Jack .....	631-4758
Kern Janine .....	631-1152
Kern Margaret .....	631-2532
Kramer Mike .....	631-7041
Mccormick Patrick .....	631-7205
Mell James .....	631-2289
Olson Ross .....	631-2861
Richter Holly .....	631-4191
St Hubert Catholic Church .....	631-1771
Walz Ronald .....	631-4591
Yungbauer Jeffrey .....	631-2185
Cain Bruce .....	837-1835
Ebensteiner David .....	837-4127
Gibson Tiffany .....	837-2836
Lake Luanna .....	837-5726
Meech Benjamin .....	837-8403
Ratcliff Jennifer .....	837-6556
Riedel Jeffrey .....	837-3859
Siemsen Joseph .....	837-6646
Stras Dawn .....	837-8664
Tabaka Beth .....	837-2543
U-Haul	
Neighborhood Dealer .....	837-1022



## BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: Sister Stitches Embroidery, LLC

When sisters Andrea Yliniemi and Amanda Aho started their business in February 2017, they wanted to do something engaging and creative while having the convenience of staying home with their kids. Sister Stitches Embroidery, a custom embroidery service, is the result of that vision.

“We saw a need in the Wolf Lake area for an embroidery business after hearing many people say they were tired of having to go so far to get anything embroidered,” Andrea explained. She added, “We love being able to work in our pajamas and have the flexibility to make our own hours.” The demand for custom embroidery has been so consistent since Sister Stitches was founded that the sisters count it as their greatest success so far.

In just a few months, Sister Stitches Embroidery has gone from the dream of two sisters to a thriving, dynamic business that does beautiful work not only for individuals, but also for businesses, organizations, and schools. Andrea and Amanda can embroider on a wide variety of material including (but not limited to) hats, coats, t-shirts, sweatshirts, blankets, towels, bags, camp chairs, and Cubbies (stuffed animals). “We aren’t afraid to try something we have never done before,” said Andrea. New challenges are just part of the fun; as Andrea enthused, “Every day is a new adventure!”

Sister Stitches Embroidery, like many modern businesses, relies heavily on the internet for marketing and communication. With West Central Telephone’s broadband internet service, they can do just that. Andrea said, “West Central Telephone has the fast, reliable service we need for communicating with customers, ordering from our wholesalers, and connecting to our embroidery machine.”

For custom embroidery, contact Sister Stitches Embroidery at [sisterstitchesemb@gmail.com](mailto:sisterstitchesemb@gmail.com) or call Andrea at 218-252-5618 or Amanda at 218-841-2922.

**Call West Central Telephone at 218-837-5151 to learn about phone, internet, and other technology solutions for your business.**