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JUNE 2019



SmartHub is a Smart Tool

West Central Telephone offers SmartHub, our online account management system. The free SmartHub app lets you conveniently manage all aspects of your account from your mobile device:

- View and pay your bill with us
- Make account changes
- Report any service troubles
- Ask questions of our customer service team
- Connect with us on social media

Go to www.wcta.net and click on the SmartHub logo in the upper right hand corner to get started. To learn more about SmartHub, hover over the Payments tab at the top of the page and choose SmartHub FAQs. Or call 837-5151 for more details.

Incumbents Pulju and Weaver to Serve Three More Years



The 69th annual meeting was held May 13 at the Sebeka High School Auditorium. Board president Bruce Kinnunen talked about the lifestyle of our rural communities building off the #ruralscool movement. He demonstrated Restart TV and how to display the local weather with the Weather App.

Controller Jennifer Grewe presented the financial statements. CEO Chad Bullock discussed the cooperative's growth through expansion of our fiber optic network into neighboring rural areas. He also discussed the importance of relationships with state and federal legislators and strategic partnerships. Brent Christensen, the President of the Minnesota Telecom Alliance, gave his perspective of the state of our industry. He discussed regulatory reform, a new Emergency Response Vehicle and the status of the state's broadband deployment program. Kinnunen announced that \$351,792 in capital credits will be paid to members this year.

There were no nominations from the floor, so incumbents Dave Pulju and Robert Weaver will continue to represent the Nimrod and Menahga exchanges for three more years. The Bylaw Amendment passed as well.

Door prizes were awarded after the meeting. The grand prize of one year of phone service plus 25 Mbps unlimited Internet valued at \$723 went to Dennis Anderson. Dennis Hannu won a 50" TCL Smart TV and Ruth Anderson won an Amazon Fire HD tablet. Many other prizes were given out as well. Sebeka High School students provided the music before and after the meeting.





Be Prepared When Lightning Strikes

National Lightning Safety Awareness Week (the last week in June) was started in 2001 to call attention to this hazard and educate people on what to do to protect themselves. Since then, U.S. lightning fatalities have dropped from about 50 per year to about 30.

There is no safe place outside when thunderstorms are in the area. If you hear thunder, you are likely within striking distance of the storm. So remember this: "When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!" Too many people wait too long to get to a safe place when thunderstorms approach.

A lightning bolt can carry billions of watts of electricity. If a strike would occur near your home, its powerful surge could damage your electronics and potentially injure you. To reduce your risk, unplug your computers, televisions, modems and other electronics before bad weather hits. Also make sure your home has a corded landline phone that will continue to work even if the power goes out.

West Central Telephone wants you to stay safe this season. For information about landline phone service, call 837-5151.



Cierra Ahlf



Annika Aho



Molly Brownlow



Megan Hendrickson



Grace Hinojos



Amanda Lindquist



Garin Matson



Alyssa Peterson

\$1,000 Scholarships Awarded

We recently reviewed applications from area high school seniors. The committee awarded eight students \$1,000 scholarships each. Congratulations to Cierra Ahlf, Annika Aho, Molly Brownlow, Megan Hendrickson, Grace Hinojos, Amanda Lindquist, Garin Matson and Alyssa Peterson.

Go All Out With Your Outdoor Living Spaces

What do you need to equip your outdoor living spaces for truly enjoyable leisure time? It's more than comfortable chairs, a table, and a few pots of flowers. These days, you also need a fast and reliable internet connection. Your home's Wi-Fi network has to keep up with multiple users, multiple devices and multiple applications, and reach the backyard deck or front patio.

You need Manage MyWi-Fi service from West Central Telephone to improve the strength of your home's Wi-Fi network throughout your home and beyond. We'll make sure you have the right Wi-Fi equipment in the right place to get the coverage you want. Should troubles occur with your Wi-Fi, simply contact us for trouble resolution. Manage MyWi-Fi makes wireless easy!

Manage MyWi-Fi* includes all this for only \$6.95/month:

- Commercial-grade router
- Optimal router placement and professional configuration
- Cloud-based monitoring with free router software updates
- Firewall and security protection
- 24/7 tech support
- No-cost equipment replacement if needed



Our goal is to keep you connected to the internet everywhere you like to connect with family and friends — including your outdoor living spaces. **For complete details on Manage MyWi-Fi and to sign up, call 837-5151.**

**Additional charges apply for Wi-Fi range extenders.*