



inter face

JUNE 2012



A LOOK AT THE LONDON 2012 OLYMPIC GAMES



This summer will be sizzling with world-class competition at the London 2012 Olympic Games, July 27 through August 12. You'll see the best of the best in 26 sports including basketball, beach volleyball, cycling, diving, gymnastics, swimming, tennis, and weightlifting. Follow the action online via your West Central Internet connection.

The Olympic mascot for London 2012 is Wenlock. It's interesting to note the significance of Wenlock's unique design elements:

- Friendship bands represent the five colors of the Olympic rings.
- Headlight was inspired by the lights on London's black taxis.
- Face shape is based on the shape of the Olympic Stadium roof.
- Single eye represents a camera lens that captures everything.

Are you more artistic than athletic? Visit <https://mascot-games.london2012.com> to make your own mascot, choosing the body color, type of hat, clothing, and sports equipment. Then check out the creative mascots already submitted by others in the Gallery.



2012 Board of Directors, l to r: Hazel Yliniemi, Dave Pulju, Bruce Kinnunen, Naomi Moyer and Dave Kriens.

Kinnunen Re-elected

The 62nd annual meeting of the members was held at the Sebeka High School, Monday, May 14, 2012.

Key officers, the manager, and the controller reported on the status of the cooperative and what the future holds. A special video presentation by Shirley Bloomfield, CEO of the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association, that addressed the new FCC rules and their impact was shown during the meeting. The video will be made available on our website and our Facebook page, if you missed it.

Incumbent Bruce Kinnunen of Sebeka was re-elected to serve an additional three-year term. He ran unopposed, and with no nominations from the floor, a motion was made followed by a

second to cast unanimous ballots for each seat. The members unanimously voted for the incumbent to serve an additional term.

Once the meeting was adjourned, door prizes were awarded including a Kindle Fire that was won by Doris Burgau. The cooperative also gave a grand prize of one year of free local telephone service to Alice Kako.

Kai and Bridget Allen performed with the Scandinavian folk music band Skålmusik before and after the meeting. Subway of Menahga provided the meal. 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 19 applications from area high school seniors. Eight students including Alicia Ahlf, Paul Funk, Luke Graham, Thomas Houle, Alana McKeever, Jordanna Schluttner, Kory Stave, and Markus Tolkkinen were awarded scholarships from WCTA. The scholarships were each valued at \$1,000.

Area high school seniors are invited every year to apply for the WCTA scholarship. Applying for a scholarship is very easy to do. The student can complete the entire scholarship application online, print them, and have them signed by their guidance counselor. This is the fifth year with the online format, which has been really helpful with keeping the applicants consistent and anonymous. The applicants choose from three or four 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.



Alicia Ahlf



Paul Funk



Luke Graham



Thomas Houle



Alana McKeever



Jordanna Schluttner



Kory Stave



Markus Tolkkinen

We Need Your Help

Over the past year, we've been updating you on the FCC's USF Reform. Despite receiving an enormous amount of feedback from rural providers, the FCC continues to consider radical changes that could deprive millions of rural individuals and businesses of broadband access. Rural broadband providers, including WCTA, have responded by repeatedly putting forward alternative proposals that would ensure the FCC initiative was consistent with the law and would ultimately work for consumers. Yet, the FCC still is not listening.

You can help alert Washington lawmakers about the importance of ensuring that when the FCC changes the broadband rules, it is done right. **Here's how you can help:**

Visit www.saveruralbroadband.org and click on "Send the Letter" where you will be directed to a page that will allow you to send a letter to your two U.S. Senators, your U.S.

Representative, and the Obama administration that lets them know your concerns on this issue. The more letters we send, the more policymakers will know that their constituents are demanding action.

