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JUNE 2021

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Kinnunen Reelected; Amendments Pass

Due to the ongoing pandemic, the 71st annual meeting of the members took place May 10 at the Sebeka office with only the board, general manager, and members of the nomination and election committee present. Members participated virtually by viewing the pre-recorded reports and financial information on the website. Members also reviewed and approved the 2020 minutes either online or through the mail.

President Bruce Kinnunen ran uncontested and will continue to represent his seat on the board of directors for a term of three years. The amendments to the Articles and the Bylaws of the association were approved by members as well.

In other news, at the April 2021 board meeting, it was decided that over \$1.5 million dollars was allocated for the year 2020. Capital credits were retired this year in the amount of over \$725,000, which was comprised of \$100,000 of 2020 allocation, \$50,000 of the 2003 allocation and 100% of the remaining 2002 allocation. Checks were mailed at the end of May, or in some cases, the capital credit check amount was credited to members' accounts.

In other good news, here are the results of this year's prize drawing: The grand prize of one year of local service and internet went to Don and Jackie Fredericksen. The LG 55" 4K Ultra SmartTV went to Avis Paulsen. A portable waterproof Bluetooth speaker went to Larry and Linda Heikkinen and \$100 cash went to Brian Putikka. Jay and Jackie Perius, John Chambers, Vicki Makela, and Lorry Hautajarvi each won \$50 cash. Mary Runyan, Steve and Kay Jettmann, Mirja Maninga, and Anthony and Kelly Schotzko each won \$25 cash.



Bruce Kinnunen

For a full recap of the annual meeting, visit www.wcta.net and login to the Annual Meeting page using your Member ID and the password "meetings."



Joelle Bounds



Amanda Clasen



Mason Heino



Hannah Hinman

Eight \$1,000 Scholarships Awarded

We recently reviewed applications from area high school seniors. The committee awarded eight students \$1,000 scholarships each. Congratulations to Joelle Bounds, Amanda Clasen, Mason Heino, Hannah Hinman, Tess Jones, Tori Lee, Lydia Lillquist and Anna Meech.



Tess Jones



Tori Lee



Lydia Lillquist



Anna Meech

Local TV Networks Raise Rates

Every three years, cable TV providers must negotiate with local broadcasters (ABC, CBS, FOX, and NBC) for permission to retransmit their signals to customers. WCTA completed this process earlier this year. Each time we go through these negotiations, we are faced with huge rate increases in the retransmission consent fees, which is what we pay to carry their networks on our system.

Beginning with the July 1, 2021 billing, there will be a new line-item charge called Broadcast TV Surcharge included on your bill under Video services. If

you are in the Fargo networks area, the additional charge is \$4.75. This is a direct result of rate increases

from Fargo broadcasters. If you are in the Minneapolis networks area, the additional charge is \$3.03. This is a direct result of rate increases from Minneapolis broadcasters.

There will also be an increase from \$7 to \$8 for the Fargo A La Carte package and \$8.50 to \$9 for the Minneapolis A La Carte package.



WE WISH EVERY GRADUATE A BRIGHT FUTURE

Life is filled with milestones, and some of the biggest are graduations. They're cause for celebration not only for the graduates but also for all of the family members, friends, neighbors, teachers, and coaches who provided support and encouragement along the way.

As a community member, WCTA is proud to see the accomplishments of our area's students. We can all look forward to a bright future knowing these young people will apply their talents toward helping to make the world a better place.

CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!

