



From our General Manager: October is Cooperative Month

As a participating member of the Wisconsin Federation of Cooperatives, we would like to share some fun facts and benefits about cooperative membership.

COOPERATIVES ARE MEMBER-OWNED BUSINESSES. Cooperatives, part of the self-help tradition of America, are businesses organized by people to provide needed goods and services. Our Telephone Cooperative businesses:

- Are owned by the people who use their services;
- Provide an economic benefit for their members;
- Are democratic organizations, controlled by their members;
- Are autonomous and independent;
- Recognize the importance of education about cooperative business and organizational practices;
- Support cooperation among cooperatives, resulting in the growing importance of cooperatives in today's global economy; and
- Exhibit concern for their communities.

COOPERATIVES SERVE MANY NEEDS.

They provide just about any good or service, even marketing products and goods for their members. Here are a few fun facts about cooperatives.

- Throughout the United States, approximately 48,000 cooperatives serve 120

million citizens. Worldwide, there are an estimated 750,000 cooperatives that serve 730 million members.

- 270 telephone cooperatives provide service to 2 million households.
- Two in every five people in the U.S. belong to a cooperative.
- Cooperatives come in all sizes, from small buying clubs to businesses included in the Fortune 500. Many cooperatives are household names—Land O'Lakes, Ocean Spray, Sunkist, ACE Hardware, Nationwide Insurance, and the Associated Press.
- About 30 percent of farmers' products and farm supplies in the United States are marketed through more than 3,000 farmer-owned cooperatives.

COOPERATIVES HAVE A BIG IMPACT ON WISCONSIN'S ECONOMY.

According to the most recent study by the University of Wisconsin Center for Cooperatives, 2.7 million cooperative members in the Badger State depend on approximately 800 co-ops to market and supply agricultural products as well as to provide credit, electricity, telephone service, health care, housing, insurance, and many other products and services. Wisconsin co-ops annually record about \$5.6 billion in gross sales and they employ approximately 23,400 Wisconsin residents.

LONG TIME EMPLOYEES KIM ANDERSON AND TOM GREENE ARE CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF SERVICE AT OUR COOPERATIVES. Kim has been a Richland-Grant employee since January of 1976. Serving as Billing Coordinator, her many detailed responsibilities include working with our billing company to ensure timely processing of our monthly bills and installation of system updates. Tom has been a LaValle employee since April of 1976. Tom's position is Central Office Supervisor. He holds the enormous responsibility for operation and maintenance of the cooperative's new digital switching equipment. Thank you, Tom and Kim, for 30 years of service!



Tom Greene



Kim Anderson

At the Richland-Grant and LaValle Telephone Cooperatives we recognize that you have choices for your phone, television and Internet services. Thank you for being members of our cooperative. When you choose these services through the cooperative, you're supporting our communities' collective growth and innovation.

Dave Lull
Dave Lull

News you can VIEW!

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RGTC and LTC announce channel updates and changes on your Digital TV.

Digital Video Recorder ("TiVo®- like" service) is now available.

Watch all your favorite shows at your convenience!

Our cable systems are pleased to offer new DVR service to our customers. These set top boxes allow you to record, pause, rewind and playback live TV. Now you can watch your favorite shows at your convenience.

- Digitally record and save all your favorite shows and sporting events - even whole seasons. You get up to 40 hours of storage on the DVR unit.
- ~~Record multiple shows at the same time.~~
- Pause and rewind live TV.
- Use your remote to power the easy-to-use interface.
- Use the DVR for all channels on our digital TV service.

Please call the RGTC or LTC office for price and service availability in your area. Distance limitations may apply.

My Network TV now available on Channel 7. WKBT-DT, (currently UPN and becoming My Network TV) will be available on our cable systems. Some of the great

programming on this new broadcast network, My Network TV, includes Dr. Phil, The Simpson's, Geraldo, Jack Hanna's Animal Adventures and coming this fall, the new Primetime soap operas, "Desire" and "Fashion House". In addition, the station will have a new live newscast Monday-Friday at 9:00 PM. "My News At Nine", will be anchored by Martha Koloski and Corey Malles. WKBT-DT General Manager, Scott Chorski, says this newscast will be distinctly different from the NewsChannel 8's six and ten o'clock newscasts.

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BACK TO SCHOOL: Visit these useful educational Websites:

www.about.com

Covers more than 50,000 subjects

www.atlapedia.com

Atlas online with maps, key facts, statistics on countries of the world

www.mathgoodies.com

Free math help site

www.wisconsin.edu

Official website of University of Wisconsin

www.hyperhistory.com/online_n2/History_n2/a.html

Over 2000 files covering 3000 years of history

Cooperative Picnics a Big Success!

Richland-Grant and LaValle Telephone Cooperatives celebrated the cooperative spirit with summer, customer appreciation picnics. This year, at LaValle Telephone Cooperative, it was the Cooperative's 50th anniversary.

Both picnics provided a great time for members, employees, and directors to socialize with family and friends, catch up on community happenings, and win great prizes. Brats and

hotdogs with all the fixings were served. Root beer floats were enjoyed throughout the evening. LaValle served 477 people and Richland-Grant served 464 members. We thank all the directors and employees who helped with all the preparation and serving. Thank you to all the members who came.

Our prize drawings were lots of fun. At the LaValle picnic, the last drawing was a TV with a built in VCR that was won by

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WB and UPN becoming the CW Network on Channel 10

The CW Network will replace WB and appear on channel 10 of our cable systems. Earlier this year Warner Brothers and CBS announced that both WB and UPN networks would combine their resources to create a CW Network (C for CBS and W for Warner Brothers.) The launch of this new network will take place September 18th. CW will feature popular shows such as Gilmore Girls, Smallville, America's Next Top Model and Everybody Hates Chris.

Three Angels Broadcasting Network (3ABN) is coming to the RGTC and LTC cable systems.

This network appearing on channel 144 (145 in Spanish) is the "Mending Broken People Network," a 24-hour Christian television and radio network. 3ABN's

focus is to present programming which will reach people when they are hurting. 3ABN offers divorce recovery programs, drug and alcohol rehabilitation, cooking and health programs, stop smoking and weight loss, programs that deal with children and family issues, organic gardening, natural

home remedies, gospel music programs, as well as a variety of inspirational themes from the Bible for children and adults.

Update on 3-digit Dialing

Help is just three digits away, but several of those easy numbers have changed and will be changing again. Previously, numbers like 811, 611, and 511 were used exclusively by telephone companies as toll free numbers for their customers to call the business office and report troubles. Slowly, the Federal Communications Commission is taking back these numbers for other purposes.

Please note, that beginning October 1, 2006, 811 will be re-routed to ring Digger's Hotline instead of our offices. Digger's Hotline is the FREE locator service that everyone needs to call before doing any digging or excavation to make sure there are no telephone, gas, or electric cables buried on the site where they are working.

Other three-digit dialing numbers include:

- 211, used for Great Rivers 211, the 24hour/7day Information Referral and Crisis Hotline.
- 411, the Anywhere in America Directory Assistance.
- 611, the toll free number for calling your telephone office from any of our exchanges.
- 711, the access number for the Telecommunication Relay System used by the people who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind, or speech disabled.
- 911, the fire, police, and rescue emergency number.

So please remember, when calling our offices, use 611. When you need to reach Digger's Hotline, call 811.

Marilyn Hawkins, a LaValle exchange member. The Grand prize drawing was a Dell Computer that was won by Joan Thompson, a Cazenovia exchange member.

At the Richland-Grant picnic, Cody Pettit won the grand prize Dell computer, while Miss Hannah Smith was the proud winner of the bicycle.



Marilyn Hawkins



Joan Thompson



Cody Pettit



Hannah Smith



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HOLIDAY HOURS

Thanksgiving:
 Closed November 23-24

Christmas:
 Closed December 25-26

Closed New Year's Day

Update on Construction Projects

LaValle Telephone Building Update:

The LaValle building remodeling is underway. In the first phase of this project the front half of the building and business offices are being rebuilt. For the next couple of months customers are entering through a temporary door. In phase two we will reconstruct the back half of the building including some of our employee offices and conference rooms. During construction you can make your after-hours payments at State Bank of Cazenovia-LaValle station. We are hoping that the completed project will be ready by the end of December.

Richland-Grant Telephone Outdoor Projects:

At RGTC, we recently awarded a new cable plant project to Central Cable

Contractors in Waupun. This project consists of 16 miles of fiber and copper construction in the Blue River exchange area. The work is part of the cable rerouting needed in preparation for the

new State Highway 60 construction and County Trunk T projects. We anticipate that this project will be completed by the end of the 4th quarter.

GIVE US YOUR FEEDBACK

The Cooperatives wants to hear from you about our newsletter One Voice. Simply complete the questionnaire below and send it to us to be entered in a drawing for a \$50 gift card at a local gas station. The drawing will take place November 15. You must be a current RGTC or LTC customer to win. Please answer all questions to be entered into our drawing.

Which article was most interesting to you? _____

What topics would you like to see covered in the future? _____

Do you currently use one of our new packages? _____

Which one? _____

What additional services would you like to see offered by your cooperative? _____

Your Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____