

*Richland-Grant
Telephone Cooperative
Member Picnic*

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28TH
4PM to 8PM

*Log Cabin Park, Gays Mills –
State Hwy 131 by the Swimming Pool*

*LaValle Telephone
Cooperative Member Picnic*

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26
4 PM to 8 PM

LaValle Ballpark

2006 Scholarships Awarded

Each year our cooperatives award scholarships to deserving graduating seniors whose parents are current cooperative telephone customers. Scholarship applicants must be graduating high school seniors enrolled in either a two or four year college or university. The applicant typically expresses an interest in working in a rural community after graduation. For 2006, scholarships were awarded to the following students:

Awarded \$500 each by Richland-Grant Telephone Cooperative:

Cody Sorge
Riverdale High School

Julie Stoltz
Richland Center High School

Katherine Kuykendall
Richland Center High School

James Olson
North Crawford High School

Awarded \$500 each by LaValle Telephone Cooperative:

Ashley Marshall
Reedsburg High School

Orsan Kharbush
Reedsburg High School

Nikki Schyvinck
Reedsburg High School

Our scholarship funds are generated from forfeited capitol credits. Some members donate their capital credits to the fund. However, the majority of the fund comes from returned checks of previous cooperative members who cannot be found due to address changes.

Since 2000, the cooperatives are proud to have awarded over \$12,000.00 in scholarships to students attending both four year universities and technical colleges.



Nikki Schyvinck



Jodi Marshall

Two Graduates awarded \$1,500 Scholarships:

Nikki Schyvinck
Reedsburg High School

Jodi Marshall
Kickapoo High School

Nikki Schyvinck and Jodi Marshall were each awarded \$1,500 from the Wisconsin State Telecommunications Foundation.



**From our General Manager,
Dave Lull:**

Picnics, Digs and Taxes

PLEASE JOIN US: This summer each cooperative will be hosting a member appreciation picnic. These picnics will give our members and their families a chance to spend time together with the directors and staff of the cooperatives. We'll have prize drawings, food, soda and of course, probably a few ants. Please see the details on this page for the date, times, and location for each co-op's picnic. Mark your calendar and bring the whole family.

DIGGER'S HOTLINE UPDATE: This spring some of you made us aware that Diggers Hotline had extremely long hold times. We understand this was very frustrating. Management at Diggers Hotline explained that the long hold times stemmed from lack of proper staffing and a very heavy call load. They also indicated that staff has been added and they're training new personnel as rapidly as possible to address the problem.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE: Each year the cooperatives' outside plant construction crews start the season with a list of work accumulated over the winter. This year is no exception. In fact, the number of projects has been particularly large. Wet weather in May slowed our progress a bit, but a good June start has us back on track. Please be assured that the cooperatives' construction crews are working hard to catch up on the

GET IN ON THE FUN!

MEMBER APPRECIATION PICNICS

*Our cooperatives are hosting member appreciation picnics.
Join us for a cookout with food, root beer floats, prizes, games for kids.
Bring the whole family! Rain or shine.*

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underground projects. We'll be addressing the most "critical to service" jobs first, followed by general requests in the order that they were received.

EXCISE TAX ELIMINATED: It isn't very often the IRS sends out good news, but it's happened! The IRS recently decided that the cooperatives are no longer required to collect the 3% excise tax on long distance calls effective August 1, 2006. We are modifying our billing system to reflect the change in law. You will not receive any refunds from the Telephone Cooperatives; rather, you will apply for refunds directly from the IRS when you file your 2006 income tax

return next year. The IRS has said it will make more information available by July 31 on how taxpayers will apply for refunds, and you will be able to get details online, at www.irs.gov <<http://www.irs.gov>>.

Don't forget to join us for the picnic! Meanwhile enjoy the summer.

Dave Lull

The Internet: Your Instant and Ready Reference

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More Members are using the Internet for work, school and fun!

Use the Internet to learn, buy, sell and trade!

FEATURED WEB SITES:

www.AARP.com

While getting older is both a privilege and a challenge, the American Association of Retired People wants those of us over 50 to age gracefully. The AARP web site is full of highly organized and useful information from new government prescription drug programs to how to get the best deals for your summer travel. So get out of denial and - you'll be amazed at what you'll learn on this in-depth website.

MWT BULLETIN BOARD

www.mwt.net/cgi-bin/dcforum/dcboard.cgi

The MWT Bulletin board is one of the greatest reasons to choose Richland-Grant and LaValle Telephone Cooperatives for high-speed Internet service. Our MWT

bulletin board allows people from Southwestern Wisconsin the opportunity to buy, sell, and trade services conveniently with fellow members of the community. The board also offers many non-solicitation forums on topics of local and broad interest like, farming, gardening sports, local events, and pets! If you have not explored the MWT bulletin board, check it out today.

Explore these other great sites:

FUN:

www.allrecipes.com

Real recipes from real people

www.diynetwork.com

Step by step directions on many home projects

www.time.gov

The official U.S. time

NEWS/SPORTS:

www.madison.com/wsj

Wisconsin State Journal online

Is Your Account Information Updated?

It is becoming increasingly important to have current and inclusive customer account information. We cannot give out account information or change customer services for anyone except the person(s) listed on the account including roommates or spouses.

Please call our office to update your account information and verify the people in your household authorized to discuss/make changes to your account.

www.usatoday.com

News Headlines/stories

www.packers.com

Packers home page

WEATHER:

www.noaa.com

National oceanic and atmospheric administration - access to thousands of forecasts. No pop ups or advertising.



Employee Appreciation

Richland-Grant would like to express our appreciation for Steve Lund. Steve has delivered 27 years of service excellence as a RGTC employee. Steve recently retired due to illness. He began his career in 1977, installing underground cable with the construction crew. In 1980 he moved to the Installer/Repairman position in the Blue River, Boaz, and Sabin exchanges.

Diggers Hotline - Why Call?

Some members contact the cooperatives for telephone cable locating on their property. The Wisconsin State Statute 182.0175 requires a centralized One Call System for locating any type of transmission facility including telephone cable.

For this reason, we must refer you to Diggers Hotline.

- **IT'S FREE**

Calling Diggers Hotline three working days before you begin your project to have buried lines beneath your jobsite located is free. But if you damage a buried facility without a call to Diggers Hotline, you will be financially responsible for the damage, as well as a fine of up to \$2,000.

- **IT'S EASY**

Protect yourself from putting a shovel through a buried electric line or from damaging a gas pipeline by calling Diggers Hotline first.

- **IT'S THE LAW**

Wisconsin Statute 182.0175 requires all excavators – including homeowners and construction contractors to call the hotline.

Share Your Photos and Win One Month of FREE Local Phone Service

Do you have historic photos of our telephone cooperatives?

Share your photos and win! Submit your best historic photos of either Richland-Grant or LaValle Telephone and you will be entered to win one month free local service!

We're looking for all historic shots, especially photos from our early years, the 1950s through the 1970s. Your photos might include scenes of construction, someone using an antique phone, members gathered for telephone meetings, or just our guys in hard hats out in the field. We will copy your photos and return them to you.

Don't delay, bring your photos to either cooperative office by July 10th. Drawing for the contest will take place by August 1, 2006 and the free local phone service will be applied to the winner's next month's billing.



- **CALL (800) 242-8511**

Contact Diggers Hotline at least three working days (excluding Saturdays and Sundays) before starting the work, or file an Email-A-Locate online, www.diggershotline.com.

Extensive training on digital switching equipment in the early 1990's enabled Steve to assist in the maintenance of the cooperative's electronic equipment. He was promoted to Plant Manager in 1997. Steve and his wife, Pat, live in Blue River where they enjoy their three children and four grandchildren. We are sincerely grateful for Steve's dedication to the cooperative and our best thoughts and wishes go to Steve and his family.