

*LaValle
Annual Meeting:
March 26, 2006*

*Richland-Grant Annual
Meeting: March 18, 2006*

*We will be closed Friday
afternoon April 14th
in observance of
the Easter
Holiday.*

[continued from page 2]

The Broadband Deployment Act is also important to our cooperatives. According to Bill Oemichen, President and CEO of the Wisconsin Federation of Cooperatives, a lead partner in Develop Wisconsin, "Both of these bills seek to expand economic development opportunities throughout the state by ensuring widespread broadband availability for businesses, schools, and consumers."

"We support the Broadband Deployment Act, but we also firmly believe that to achieve widespread broadband access throughout the state, the Legislature must also pass the Develop Wisconsin Act," Oemichen said.

"This is simply a matter of fairness. Economic development and educational opportunities should not be placed in jeopardy because telecommunications companies don't want to make the investments and cooperatives aren't allowed to make them."

An important way for us to gain recognition in Madison is to demonstrate that this issue affects not just the cooperatives, but also the customers we serve. Please contact Dave Lull or Jamie Goldsmith, or visit our website at www.developwisconsin.com to join our list of supporters.

Cool Websites: Use your DSL connection to learn from these cool websites

Google Earth: www.earth.google.com

Google's Earth section is like a globe that sits inside your PC. You point and zoom to anyplace on the planet that you want to explore. Satellite images and local facts zoom into view. The site brings up local points of interest and facts. Zoom to a specific address to check out your own property, or an apartment or hotel. View driving directions and even fly along your route. Google Earth is free for personal use. No registration is required.

Blinkx and Blinkx.tv: www.blinkx.com

Blinkx uses a different kind of search technology. Blinkx automatically and intelligently links to relevant information anywhere and in any format: on the Web, in the news or on the desktop. Using Blinkx.tv (www.blinkxtv.com) you can search for TV news clips and other video bits from dozens of sources, including ABC News, BBC News, Fox News, ESPN and C-Span. Search for serious news to celebrity gossip and everything in between. Blinkx has its own way of indexing clips that makes it more effective than other video search engines for finding particular segments within a broadcast, and each video stream starts off at the point in the segment that's most relevant to your query.

Information sources for this article: Google.com, Blinkx.com and Time.com



one voice

Working Together
for 30 Years

MARCH 2006

Volume I • Issue 2

From our General Manager, Dave Lull:

It's Annual Meeting Time

It's also a time for celebration! Today in our world, where small businesses come and go, the LaValle and Richland-Grant Telephone Cooperatives are proudly celebrating over 50 years of service to our members. Specifically, during 2006, LaValle will commemorate its 50th anniversary and Richland-Grant its 55th.

Looking back over the years, it's amazing to see the transformation of our cooperatives and the telecommunications industry. When cooperatives were originally formed, telephone service was delivered using wire strung on poles. Typically, the best service a customer could get was a "party line," which could be shared with up to nine other customers. In order to make a call, you talked to the local operator, who asked you the party you wished to call, and then she rang that line for you. Party line service brings back fond memories, not only for the level of service that customers received, but in my opinion, for the warm sense of community it gave everyone.

During the 1960s and early 1970s underground copper cables became the "norm," bringing with them the capability for single party lines and new "dial switching." This great innovation allowed you to just pick up the phone, dial the number, and have that call completed, without ever worrying that your neighbor was listening. Of course,

then you couldn't listen in on the neighbor's call either!

The era of digital switching equipment began in the 1980s with wonderful things like call waiting, call forwarding, and most importantly, a highly reliable network. In the early 1990s our dependency on telecommunications grew even more. We maintained our facilities and developed our networks.

Then a revolutionary technology grabbed the country by storm: the Internet! The Internet began to dictate the way we viewed telecommunications. As industry participants and innovators, we planned for the future and for a greater reliance on this wonderful technology. Our opportunities and challenges were plentiful. We needed to continue delivering high quality traditional telephone services, plan for advanced services with added features, and expand access to the Internet.

Today, as the result of that planning, a large percentage of both cooperatives' members are within 10,000 feet of a fiber optic distribution terminal. Over half our members use our Internet service and a growing percentage of members are choosing our Digital TV service. We've grown and served the community with technology that our members demand and appreciate. Our

growth and innovation assures us even more exciting possibilities for the future. Thank you to all members for being a part of our heritage and supporting our future.

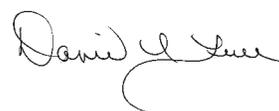
LaValle Telephone Cooperative Annual Meeting

The 50th Annual Meeting of the members is scheduled for March 25, 2006.

Unique this year, the meeting will be held at the Summit House, on Highway 58, north of LaValle, beginning at 10:00 AM. Also, this special year we will take a little extra time for some entertainment. Most importantly, this is your opportunity to see how the cooperative is doing and to elect directors for Districts 2, 5 and 7. Please see the enclosed Annual Meeting Notice for details. We hope that you will be able to attend.

Richland-Grant Annual Meeting

The 55th Annual Meeting of the members will be held on March 18th at the Blue River Community Building, 201 Clinton St., Blue River, at 10:30AM. This year there will be director elections for the Soldiers Grove and Sabin exchanges. Lunch will be served by the Blue River United Methodist Church. We hope that you will be able to attend.



Cooperatives' ask for your support in pending broadband legislation

Broadband Deployment Act and Develop Wisconsin Act impact our cooperatives and you, our members.

A rule change enacted in 2001 now prohibits telephone cooperatives in Wisconsin from investing their retained earnings in technologies outside telephone service. As technology advances, services such as high speed internet, digital cable, and wireless service are falling into the world of service provided by our cooperatives, and this rule limits our ability to participate in these innovations.

A new bill pending in the Wisconsin senate, The Develop Wisconsin Act (Senate Bill 111) if passed, would change this rule and provide us with greater flexibility for broadband investments. The Develop Wisconsin Act creates an avenue for Wisconsin businesses and consumers to gain access to technology, such as high speed Internet and broadband connections. Rather than relying on

taxpayer dollars to fund the expansion, it allows Wisconsin's local telephone cooperatives to use their own earnings to develop these new technologies for their communities.

Since 2001, the cooperatives have worked together to bring about a change in this ruling. We are asking you to

┌
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Bill 111, also known as the "Develop
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the cooperative to use your company
name, address, and your web site in our
list of supporters.
└

As a user of our advanced services, you have enjoyed the positive impact of the cooperatives' investment in these services, but our investments have also helped create jobs at the cooperatives and enticed some businesses to locate in our area. With the continuing innovation in the communications industry, more technologies will emerge to help businesses prosper and improve the quality of life here in Southwest Wisconsin.

Notably, in several Wisconsin communities, large telephone companies such as Century Tel, Verizon, and TDS have decided not to provide these services.

Richland-Grant and LaValle Telephone cooperatives want to continue to provide advanced services and have the freedom to choose how we fund our investments, as cooperatives do today in 49 other states. But current Wisconsin PSC rules prohibit us from taking the earnings from telephone operations and investing them in the infrastructure needed to service communities with the latest technology.

[continued on back page]

Simplify your life - Pay your bill by

Both Richland-Grant and LaValle Telephone Cooperative now accept credit cards. Paying is convenient and easy when you set up your telephone bill for credit card payment. Plus, if you use a credit card that offers reward programs such as points or miles, you can increase those reward opportunities each month.

There is no charge for paying by credit card and set up is simple. Our program allows you to make a one-time payment, or better yet, set up an automatic monthly credit card withdrawal.

Here's how it works: If you set up a continuous credit card payment, each month, we will automatically

More Members Chose a Phone, Internet and Digital TV package and SAVE!

For just about \$100 per month, our cooperative members can now receive digital TV, local telephone and high-speed Internet service. Our packages save members roughly \$33 over individually priced, a la carte, products – or combinations from other providers. This is good news for everyone. The cooperatives' GoldView and SilverView digital TV service now reaches most of our communities.

So why are members switching to digital TV and high-speed Internet?

- Our channel line up is customized for our community. Cable or satellite providers tend to repeat channels or have many foreign language channels that typically don't get watched.
- Our package programs are gimmick free. You see a monthly price without some low promotional offer followed by a big increase after a few months. That's honest and good service.
- Our 1MB high-speed Internet service is fast, convenient, always on and ready to use.

GOLDVIEW TOTAL SERVICE \$99.99

- Digital TV
- 92 channels including Madison and LaCrosse local stations
- 51 Music Channels
- Premium Channels just \$12.00 per month each: HBO, Showtime, Cinemax or STARZ!
- 1 MB DSL Internet*
- Local Telephone Service: Call Waiting; Caller ID with Name; and Voice Mail
- .08¢ per minute Anytime, Anywhere domestic Long Distance

SAVE OVER \$33.00 PER MONTH WITH THIS PACKAGE OVER INDIVIDUALLY PRICED PRODUCTS.

SILVERVIEW TOTAL SERVICE \$89.99

- Digital TV
- 60 channels including Madison and LaCrosse local stations
- 51 Music Channels
- Premium Channels just \$12.00 per month each: HBO, Showtime, Cinemax or STARZ!
- 1 MB DSL Internet*
- Local Telephone Service: Call Waiting; Caller ID with Name; and Voice Mail
- .09¢ per minute Anytime, Anywhere domestic Long Distance

SAVE OVER \$30.00 PER MONTH WITH THIS PACKAGE OVER INDIVIDUALLY PRICED PRODUCTS.

member feedback on our packages

- "You mean I get all that for '92.49!" (SilverView package)
- "We appreciate having the DSL packages with the digital TV because we really like having high-speed Internet now."
- "Thank you for the quick and reliable service you offer. You provide 'wow' service and it gives me comfort to know what a wonderful company we have in this community. It makes me more confident in my decision to choose RGTC as my Internet provider."

- It's convenient to receive one bill from the cooperative and make just one payment each month. Plus, patronage payments increase as members utilize more services.

You can leverage the power of our cooperatives by choosing one of our

combined local, high-speed Internet and Digital TV packages. You'll be pleasantly surprised and even entertained! Call the cooperative office today.

credit card

submit your current monthly charges to your credit card company. You'll continue to receive your paper bill at the normal time each month, showing all your charges. The bill will indicate the total amount charged to your credit card. That's all there is to it.

Turn your telephone bill into one less thing to worry about each month. Just visit or call our office for more information on this new offering and we'll set up your account today.