

WINTER 2007

Volume 2 • Issue 1

FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER:

Welcome to our winter issue of One Voice.

We're excited about 2007 and hope you will take the opportunity to read the updates on the various projects going on at our cooperatives.

ANNUAL MEETINGS: Every spring the cooperatives hold their annual meetings.

These meetings give the members the chance to review the financial report, be briefed on our cooperatives' planned and completed projects, and elect directors to represent the members.

In this article we've included the list of board members whose terms expire. At the time of this newsletter we do not yet know the candidates running for these board positions.

LaValle Telephone Cooperative Board Member
Terms Expiring:

Donald Douglas

Vincent Duren

Lester Woolever

Richland-Grant Telephone Cooperative Board
Member Terms Expiring:

Larry Jewell – Boaz

Greg Kinney – Blue River

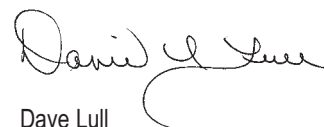
Mark Lester – Gays Mills

This year the Richland-Grant Annual Meeting will be held at the Blue River community center on Saturday, March 24th with the business meeting beginning at 10:30 AM. The Blue River United Methodist Church Ladies will be serving the lunch.

The LaValle Annual Meeting will be held at The Summit House on Thursday, March 29th with the business meeting beginning at 10:30 AM. Lunch will be served by The Summit House immediately following the meeting.

Thanks for your continued support for the cooperatives, I hope to see you at the annual meeting.

Sincerely,


Dave Lull

Outside Construction Projects – 2006 Recap

LaValle will concentrate on installation of the electronics on the fiber optic cable that was constructed in 2006. As the technicians complete an area, the office staff will send customers in that service area information on the advanced services.

At Richland-Grant, the construction of additional fiber optic cable was completed in late fall. The cooperative technicians began transferring customers to the new facilities in January. Those customers transferred to the new cable will be notified when the new advanced services are available.

LaValle completed outside plant additions in late summer including a small fiber optic cable project to homes in the Village of LaValle.

2007 PROJECTS

Richland-Grant will have outside plant cable construction of approximately 13 miles. Work will be done in the Boaz, Sabin, Soldiers Grove

and Gays Mills exchanges. This will be the final part of the fiber optic construction plan for delivery of broadband services.

LaValle Office Construction Almost Complete

The dust is finally settling at the LaValle office building after many months of construction. The project included a small addition to the front of the building, a whole new roof system and a complete remodeling and modernization of the inside of the building. In the spring we'll finish up by landscaping with trees and shrubs. Our building change makes a nice addition to the LaValle business area and is something that the cooperative members, directors and employees can be proud of.

You will not want to miss our open house this summer where members will have a chance to tour the facilities.

High School Seniors, Take Note!

Scholarships are available for 2007

Check out every available opportunity to help with the financial burden of your college education. Talk to your high school guidance counselor and ask whether you are eligible for any of the following scholarships.

LaValle & Richland-Grant Telephone Cooperatives sponsor two out-of-house scholarships and one of our own in-house.

First is the Foundation for Rural Service (FRS), which is a national program that awards \$2,000 scholarships to students within the 11 regions of the National Telephone Cooperative Association (NTCA). Please note that preference will be given to individuals expressing an interest in returning to a rural area to work following graduation. Applications are available in the guidance office or from LaValle or Richland-Grant Telephone Cooperatives.

Second is the Wisconsin State Telecommunications Foundation (WSTF) program, which awards twenty \$1,500 scholarships, chosen from approximately 300 applications received through local telephone companies in Wisconsin. You may obtain an application through your guidance office or from the telephone office.

There are various due dates for each of these scholarships. Please call the cooperative offices or your guidance counselor as soon as possible so you do not miss the due dates.

Finally, LaValle & Richland-Grant Telephone Cooperative offer scholarships derived from forfeited patronage capital credits of former members. Periodically, the cooperative completes a forfeiture procedure and funds are deposited to the Federated Youth Foundation (FYF). The FYF is a tax-exempt foundation established through the Wisconsin Federation of Cooperatives as a vehicle for receiving donations, contributions and gifts, including those resulting from unclaimed funds held by cooperatives, to be used for student loans, scholarships, and charitable purposes. Depending on the funds available in our FYF fund, the cooperatives may award up to 5 scholarships in varying amounts.

Recipients of the LaValle or Richland-Grant Telephone Cooperative scholarships are chosen from the total applications received for all three of the above stated scholarships.

Remember, all scholarships submitted must come from a student with a parent or guardian residing in a cooperative exchange areas. LTC exchanges include Cazenovia (983) and LaValle (985).

RGTC exchanges include Blue River (537), Boaz (536), Sabin (538), Soldiers Grove (624), and Gays Mills (735).

Remember to call the cooperative offices or your guidance counselor as soon as possible so you do not miss any due dates.

RGTC and LTC Websites Sporting a New Look

We are pleased to announce that both the LaValle and Richland-Grant Websites have been redesigned. We're excited about our new look. These sites provide detailed information on all of our available services. The popular MWT bulletin board is now available directly from our websites on the main menu. Also, the Richland-Grant web site provides electronic access to the latest directory, both yellow and white page

listings. This will be a highly convenient way to look up detailed business information right from your computer. We hope you will take the time to check out the online directory, and then give us your feedback. The LaValle directory will be added later this spring. LaValle's web address is www.ltc.coop. Richland-Grant's is www.rgtc.coop.

Internet Tidbits: Blogging 101

If you don't know what a blog is, don't feel alone. Simply, a blog is an online diary that has the following snazzy features:

- **You don't have to know any program to set up or use a blog.**

The technology behind blogs is simple and allows anyone to set up one. It's quick and easy.

- **It's easy for others to comment on your blog.** This feature means that blogs are inspiring unprecedented interactivity between writers and readers.

- **Blogging is considered to be quick and informal.** That means that they can cut through a lot of unnecessary steps and really reach people.

- **Blogs are easily linked to other blogs and sites, etc.** This means that lots of information can be shared quickly.

New Operations Manager

During the past few months the Richland-Grant and LaValle cooperatives have been searching for a qualified person to fill a new shared position. The person selected to be the Operations Manager will be in charge of all plant related day-to-day operations at both cooperatives along with special projects. Twenty-seven candidates applied for the position. After the interview sessions were completed, the committee of directors recommended John Bartz for the position.

John, employed by LaValle Telephone Cooperative for the past 12 years, began his career working on the construction crew where he buried cable and later moved to the position of central office technician.



On behalf of both cooperative staffs, we wish to welcome him to this new position and look forward to working with him. Congratulations, John!

You can set up your own personal blog for free by going to Web sites such as Blogger.com.

Calling Area Access Changes

Late in 2006, Richland-Grant and Charter Fiber Link completed an agreement that resolved the local calling problem into Charter customers in Richland Center from the Blue River, Boaz and Sabin exchanges. Prior to this agreement these calls had to be dialed as long distance.

Unfortunately, at this time, calls dialed from our exchanges to US Cellular customers are still a long distance call. We will continue the effort to resolve this problem via agreements with US Cellular. We will let you know when we achieve a final resolution.

New Telephone Bill Format

Your telephone bill has been given a new look. We've changed the appearance, added color and our logo. The bill is designed to give you more information in an easy to read format.

The return portion of the bill is now located at the bottom of the bill instead of the top. Also, the upper right corner on the first page shows you your new account number. You can ask about your service by this new account number or by the phone number. Finally, our most frequently asked question is "When is my payment due?" Your payment is due upon receipt. Please call our office with any additional questions about your bill.



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**COOPERATIVE
 ANNUAL MEETINGS:**

Richland-Grant Annual Meeting
 Blue River Community Center
 Saturday March 24
 10:30 AM

LaValle Annual Meeting
 The Summit House
 Thursday March 29
 10:30 AM

Choose a Package that's Right for You!

Member feedback on our packages

- *"We appreciate having the high-speed Internet 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 my local cooperative as my Internet provider."*

**GOLDVIEW
 TOTAL
 SERVICE**

- Digital TV
- 95 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 25%* PER MONTH WITH THIS PACKAGE OVER INDIVIDUALLY PRICED PRODUCTS.

**SILVERVIEW
 TOTAL
 SERVICE**

- Digital TV
- 63 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 25%* PER MONTH WITH THIS PACKAGE OVER INDIVIDUALLY PRICED PRODUCTS.

**Local phone service rates may vary. Please call for details. Government taxes and fees not included and will apply. Service not available in all areas. Long distance rates are for continental USA only. Promotions apply to first time installations only. Internet speeds may vary. Certain other restrictions apply.*