

TSTCI INFORMATION

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR TSTCI MEMBER COMPANIES

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www.tstci.org

Texans Helping Texans

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Texas Statewide Telephone Cooperative, Inc. is a statewide telecommunications non-profit organization representing the interests of Texas rural independent telephone systems. All member companies are regulated by the Public Utility Commission of Texas.

BIG BEND TELEPHONE COMPANY EMPLOYEES BOOST TSTCI PAC FUND!

The TSTCI Political Action Committee (PAC) fund received individual contributions from employees of Big Bend Telephone Company totaling **\$10,525**. The letter accompanying the contributions stated, "We trust these funds will help in the support of rural telephony networks like ours. Thank you for your hard work on our behalf."

TSTCI sincerely appreciates these investments to the PAC fund, which benefit all member companies. The TSTCI PAC is a nonpartisan political action committee created by TSTCI to support members of the Texas Legislature who support rural telephony. As we know, bad laws or regulations can hamper our industry's ability to provide its customers reliable, affordable telephone service in rural Texas. The candidates elected in 2008 will become the "decision makers" of the 2009 Legislative Session and these funds invested by our members will be distributed to candidates that agree with TSTCI's philosophy of the free enterprise system and ensuring the survival of proper communications in rural Texas. The TSTCI PAC must play a major role in the election process to insure TSTCI will be successful with our legislative agenda mandated by the membership.

TSTCI will soon announce the TSTCI Advocacy Program for 2008. All members are encouraged to become involved in the process and invest in TSTCI PAC for the future of our industry. To participate, please contact Martha Shepperd in our Dallas office at 972-243-8705 or e-mail Martha@tstci.org.

DELBERT WILSON APPOINTED GM OF HILL COUNTRY TELEPHONE COOP.



Hill Country Telephone Cooperative, Inc. is pleased to announce that Delbert Wilson has been appointed as its new General Manager. He succeeds Les Esquell who retired on September 30.

Delbert comes to HCTC with 29 years experience in the telecommunications industry and a strong belief in the cooperative philosophy. Testifying twice before Congress on behalf of the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association (NTCA), Delbert has been deeply involved in its Grass Roots Advocacy Program, working to protect the interest of rural telephone cooperatives and its members.

He currently serves as President of the Texas Statewide Telephone Cooperative, Inc. He is also Chairman of the Board of NTCA's Service Management Corporation which administers the benefits program for 560 rural telephone cooperatives and companies. He also serves on various committees that deal with both State and Federal telecommunication legislative and regulatory issues.

Delbert was quoted as saying, "I am excited to become a part of Hill Country Telephone Cooperative and look forward to serving its members."

RIVIERA TELEPHONE COMPANY CELEBRATES 70 YEARS!

On June 10, 1937 Riviera Telephone Exchange was purchased by Alton B. and Erma Colston from John J. May. For 70 years the Colstons have kept the Riviera Telephone Company in the family. The present board of directors consists of Bill Colston, Jr., President; Leslie Colston, Vice-President; Bill Colston, III, Vice-President; Judy Colston, Treasurer and Anne Colston, Secretary.

Riviera Telephone Company, Inc. kicked off the year of celebration in 2007 with a 70th Anniversary Directory that highlighted the first telephone book, published in November 1938, along with other pictures and history of the 70 years of service, then & now. The highlight of the celebration was September 22, 2007 when, after a year and a half of planning and months of cleaning up the warehouse and grounds, the Colstons and Riviera Telephone Company, Inc. hosted a 70th Anniversary and Customer Appreciation Celebration. All Riviera Telephone Company, Inc. customers and numerous friends in the industry were invited to attend. The celebration was held at the Riviera Telephone Company Warehouse Complex on Willow Street in Riviera, Texas. The night was kicked off with Bill Miller Bar-B-Q serving a wonderful meal of brisket, sausage and all the trimmings to approximately 1,000 people. Everyone was encouraged to sign the guest book and pick up numerous "freebies" including coolers, pens, pencils, knives and koozies. All customers' names were entered in a raffle for chances to win prizes - cordless phones, televisions, bar-b-que pits, lap top computers and much more. Winners were announced throughout the night as everyone was entertained with music by The Jim Byrom Band. Many danced to the wonderful sounds of the band and others pulled chairs around to listen and enjoy visiting with others from the community. A good time was had by all!

Riviera Telephone Company, Inc. would like to thank all of their customers for the many years of loyalty that they have shown. Riviera Telephone Company will continue to provide the best service they can at a reasonable price. In 2010 Riviera Telephone Company, Inc. will be 100 years old, perhaps a good reason for another celebration!



Riviera Telephone Company, Inc. Employees- Front row, left to right: Judy Colston, Treasurer and Office Manager; Briseida Mendoza, Assistant Office Manager; Anne Colston, Board Secretary; Sonia Galvan, Customer Service Representative; Julie Gonzalez, Customer Service Representative; and Sheila Buenrostro, Custodian. Back row, from left to right: Tammy Moore, Customer Service Representative; Leslie Colston, Vice President; Pete Guevara, Outside Plant Technician; Bill Colston Jr., President & General Manager; Bill Colston III, Vice President of Operations; Amador Caballero, Outside Plant Technician; Bobby Arguijo, Outside Plant Superintendent; and Arnie Jimenez, Outside Plant Technician. Not shown is Sonya De La Paz, Customer Service Representative, currently out on maternity leave.

TSTCI PROGRAM PLANNING COMMITTEE GEARING UP FOR 2008

The TSTCI Program Planning Committee will meet in early December to discuss the content for the 2008 conferences. If there's a particular topic you'd like to see covered during one of the meeting sessions next year, this is the best time to send in your ideas for consideration. Just e-mail your suggestions to tstci@tstci.org. We look forward to hearing from you!

2008 TSTCI Conferences

March 5-7	Plantmen's Conference	Omni Austin Hotel Downtown	Austin, TX
June 4-6	Spring Managers' Conference	Radisson Resort	So. Padre Island, TX
July 9-11	Bookkeepers/Accountants/ Commercial Conference	Westin Galleria	Dallas, Texas
August 6-7	Futures Retreat	Harvey's Resort	Lake Tahoe, NV
October 1-3	Annual Membership Meeting	Omni Mandalay	Irving, Texas

News from Associate Members

Martin Group Named Associate Member of the Year by Iowa Telecommunications Association

Martin Group, the nationwide leader of Software, Business Services, and Engineering for communications providers, today announced that the Iowa Telecommunications Association (ITA) has named Martin Group its Associate Member of the Year. The honor is presented to an Associate Member who has made a significant contribution to ITA and the communications industry. The award was accepted by Jim Odom, CEO of Martin Group, at ITA's Annual Convention, held November 4-6 in Des Moines, Iowa.

The award was presented by Dave Duncan, President of ITA. "Martin Group has been a key supporter of the ITA for over 25 years, and we appreciate all that Martin Group has done to serve this association and the entire independent telecommunications industry," says Duncan.

Upon receiving the award, Odom remarked, "We are honored to receive this award in recognition of our efforts in supporting ITA's mission to provide advocacy and education to its members. We are committed to providing superior next generation engineering, consulting services, and OSS/BSS software, to the independent communications industry for years to come."

About Martin Group

Martin Group is the nationwide leader of Software, Business Services, and Engineering that address operational and marketplace challenges faced by communications providers. Martin Group's advanced OSS/BSS software provides communications providers with the tools to manage revenue effectively and efficiently. Martin Group's Business Services help communications providers minimize exposure to capital, human and technological risks associated with in-house solutions. Martin Group's Engineering team has been assisting service providers plan and engineer their infrastructure for over 35 years with innovative solutions, practical designs, and expert implementations. Martin Group is headquartered in Mitchell, SD and has regional offices spanning across the US. For additional information, visit www.martin-group.com.

Happy Thanksgiving

The TSTCI Board of Directors and staff
wish each of you a happy and safe
Thanksgiving holiday!



Upcoming Events

November 2007

- 12-13 NTCA Legal Seminar – Scottsdale, Arizona
- 14-16 RICA Fall Conference – Jacksonville, Florida
- 22-23 Thanksgiving Holidays** (*TSTCI Offices Closed*)
- 27 FCC Commission Meeting

December 2007

- 3 PUC Open Meeting (Interest Rates)
- 7 PUC Open Meeting
- 19 PUC Open Meeting
- 24-28 Holidays** (*TSTCI Offices Closed*)
- 25 Christmas Day

January 2008

- 1 New Year's Day** (*TSTCI Offices Closed*)
- 8-11 NTCA Wireless Symposium – Phoenix, Arizona
- 10 PUC Open Meeting
- 12-16 OPASTCO Winter Convention – Phoenix, Arizona
- 24 PUC Open Meeting