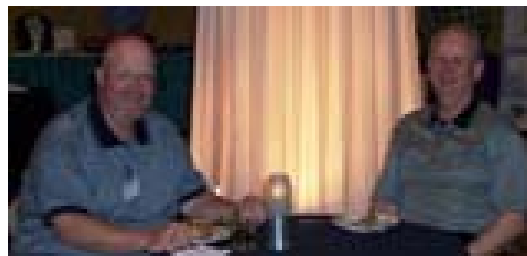


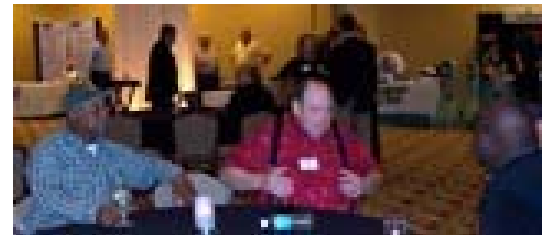
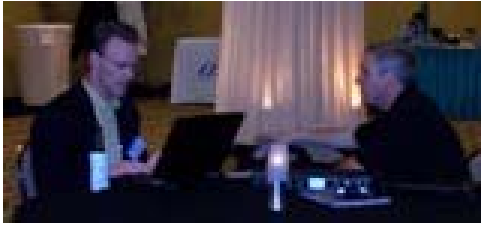
Texas Statewide Telephone Cooperative, Inc. is a statewide telecommunications non-profit organization representing the interests of Texas rural independent telephone systems. All member companies are regulated by the Public Utility Commission of Texas.

Highlights from the 2007 PLANTMEN'S CONFERENCE

This year's TSTCI Plantmen's Conference was held March 7 through 9 at the Renaissance Worthington Hotel in Fort Worth. Registrations for this year kept pace with the past and proved that this conference is a must attend for anyone wanting to keep up with the ever-changing technology of telecommunications.

The conference began on Wednesday evening with a reception and Tabletop Trade Show hosted by TSTCI. Attendees had the opportunity to enjoy good food and beverages while visiting with a large array of exhibitors displaying their products and sharing valuable information.





TSTCI would like to thank our generous sponsors:**BRONZE**

Central Texas Telephone Coop., Inc.
Coleman County Telephone Coop., Inc.

Dell Telephone Coop., Inc.

Embarq Logistics, Inc.

Energys, Inc.

Five Area Telephone Coop., Inc.

Graybar

MetaSwitch

MidAmerica Computer Corporation (MACC)

MP Nexlevel

Power & Telephone Supply Co., Inc.

Richards & Elder, L.L.P.

Santa Rosa Telephone Coop., Inc.

Taylor Telephone Coop., Inc.

GRAND PRIZE

Texas Communications Expo, Inc.

RAFFLE

CHR Solutions, Inc.

DOOR PRIZES

3M

Etex Telephone Coop., Inc.

Kenny Humpert

TSTCI

PLATINUM

Eastex Telephone Coop., Inc.

GOLD

CopperCom

Windstream Supply, Inc.

Siemens Communications, Inc.

SILVER

Etex Telephone Coop., Inc.

Insurance Network of Texas

DISCRETIONARY FUND

Eastex Telephone Coop, Inc. & Santa Rosa Telephone Coop, Inc.

TSTCI was pleased to have such a great group of exhibitors:

3M

ADC

Alcatel-Lucent

Allied Telesys, Inc.

Alloptic, Inc.

Calix

Charles Industries, Ltd.

Communications Sales Associates

Communications Supply Service Association

CopperCom

Corning Cable Systems

Embarq Logistics

Emerson Network Power

Energys, Inc.

Glow Networks, Inc.

Graybar

Henkels & McCoy

Hickman Advertising Specialties, Inc.

Innovative Systems

Insurance Network of Texas, Inc.

Martin Group, Inc.

MP Nexlevel

Occam Networks

Power & Telephone Supply Company, Inc.

RepCom International

TEEX Telecommunications Training

Tel-Quip, L.L.C.

Telecom America Services, Inc.

Tellabs

TelPlexus, Inc.

TelStrat

Texas Excavation Safety System, Inc.

Windstream Supply, Inc.

Zhone Technologies

Zone Telecom, Inc.



Beginning bright and early on Thursday, TSTCI President **Weldon R. Gray** welcomed everyone to the conference and started the day off by introducing the keynote speaker, Bryan Townsend.



Bryan Townsend motivated the crowd with his inspirational talk on "Making Good Things Happen." He used humorous stories and anecdotes to show how each of us has the ability to "make good things happen" instead of waiting for them. He talked of how everyone in the room can be instrumental in changing destiny by caring about each other and the work that we do everyday. There were chuckles from the crowd and much agreement on Bryan's heartfelt instructions on taking control - "making good things happen" – in all of our lives.



The first session of the day consisted of an overview of the latest regulatory trends by **Craig Cook**, Staff Director – Regulatory from John Staurulakis, Inc. Covering everything from regulatory landscapes to consumer trends, VoIP, WiMax, IPTV and the new broadband over power lines, this session left nothing related to regulatory to the imagination.



After a short break, the sessions continued with *IP Video and Cable – What are the Latest Issues* with speakers **Sam Harlan**, Director of Client and Video Services, CHR Solutions, Inc. and **Allen Hyer**, Network Engineer, W.T. Services, Inc. Sam began



the session with an overview of the variations of video and the many points companies should consider as they step into this market. Allen then followed with an IP video case study conducted by W. T. Services as they introduced this product into their personal marketplace.

The next session on Thursday came from **Craig Rapp** (right), Owner/Operator, Utilicom Safety and covered the important topic of safety issues and OSHA regulations. Craig explored the many OSHA regulations that plague the telecommunications industry, especially rural companies and offered easy solutions to making sure violations are avoided.



After lunch attendees returned to a session on *Network Monitoring/Emergency Restoration* by **Bill Rossback**, Network Operations Center Supervisor, Guadalupe Valley Telephone Cooperative. Bill gave a first-hand account of how his company tackled the issues of network monitoring, emergency backup and software language inconsistency and the need to be innovative and flexible. (Bill somehow managed to avoid our photographer.)

Provisioning and Maintaining a Robust Infrastructure for Quality Services from POTS to IPTV was the last full session of the day, presented by **Don McCarty**, President, McCarty Associates, Inc. Don proceeded to explain in great detail the numerous wiring difficulties technicians fight on a daily basis. His explanation of how to track current into homes and its ability to destabilize telephone signal was intricate and very informational. Technical expertise was definitely needed for this session.



Thursday afternoon concluded with three concurrent roundtable discussions. Topics for consideration by attendees included “Central Office” facilitated by **Brent Tennis**, C.O. Manager, Peoples Telephone Cooperative; “Installation and Repair” facilitated by **Don McCarty**; and “Construction Issues” facilitated by **Jeremy Seahorn**, Construction Supervisor, Etex Telephone Cooperative.

Friday morning’s first session, *Using Wireless Backhaul for Wireless Broadband Services* was a two part presentation by **Dan Vaters** (right), Senior Product Manager, Communications Supply Services Association and **Ben Brock** (left), Subsidiary Manager, Five Area Telephone Cooperative. Dan gave an extensive overview of the issues relative to using wireless backhaul and broadband services. Ben discussed the Five Area systems, wireless broadband systems and the backhaul technology, deployment and marketing techniques used to successfully implement the system.



Time Sheet Training – You Want Me to Do What? was presented by **Rose Blakely**, CPA, Curtis Blakely & Company, P.C. and covered topics ranging from general timekeeping regulations, capitalize vs. expense, regulated/non-regulated activities, plant accounts and filing Part 32. This session covered everything a good timekeeper needs to know.



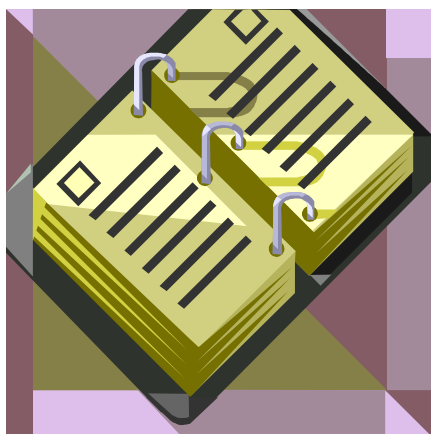
The final speaker of the conference was **Cammie Hughes**, TSTCI Director – Member Services who provided an update on the current legislative and regulatory issues before the Texas legislature.

The last official activity of the TSTCI Plantmen’s Conference was the drawing for the Grand Prize and the Raffle Prize. The Raffle Prize, a custom-made hunting knife by Hayden Myers, donated by CHR Solutions,

Inc., was won by **Rex Rae** of Coleman County Telephone Cooperative. The raffle raised \$340 for the PAC fund. The Grand Prize, a \$500 Bass Pro gift certificate, sponsored by Texas Communications Expo, Inc., was won by **Jason Flippen**, Central Texas Telephone Cooperative, Inc.



Congratulations to the winners!



Mark Your Calendar!

**TSTCI SPRING MANAGERS’ CONFERENCE
JUNE 6-8 AT THE RADISSON RESORT
SOUTH PADRE ISLAND TEXAS**

Registration information will be sent by e-mail in the near future.



CONFERENCE ON HOMELAND SECURITY, WIRETAPPING AND CALEA A MUST FOR TELECOM SERVICE PROVIDERS



TSTCI Associate Members Bennet & Bennet, PLLC and CHR Solutions, Inc. announced they are partnering to hold a conference on May 2-3 designed to help telecommunications carriers and ISP's understand and comply with escalating government security regulations concerning Homeland Security, the Communications Assistance Law Enforcement Act (CALEA), wiretapping, disaster recovery and more.

"It's crucial that carriers understand their obligations and potential for liability," said Dee Herman, principal at Bennet & Bennet. "With that understanding, they can better balance requirements to support national security and law enforcement with customer relations and privacy."

C. Roger Hutton, president of CHR Solutions Telecommunications & Infrastructure business group, said, "Communications providers face increased business pressures and regulatory requirements every day. This conference will provide the latest insights and roadmaps to develop compliant and competitive company strategies."

The 2007 Homeland Security and CALEA Conference will be held May 2-3, 2007 at the Gaylord Texan Resort and Convention Center in Dallas, Texas. For more information, visit www.bennetlaw.com.

Upcoming Events

April 2007

- 3-5 Texas Communications Expo EXPO 2007 – Belton, Texas
- 10-13 Rural Cellular Association Annual Convention – Las Vegas, Nevada
- 16-18 NTCA Legislative & Policy Conferences – Washington, DC
- 30-May 1 NTCA PRNet Marketing Conference – San Antonio, Texas

May 2007

- 28 Texas Legislature Adjourns
- 28 **Memorial Day Holiday** (*TSTCI Offices Closed*)
- 30-June 1 Rural Independent Competitive Alliance (RICA) Annual Conference – Las Vegas, Nevada

June 2007

- 6-8 **TSTCI Spring Managers' Conference – South Padre Island, Texas**