

TSTCI INFORMATION

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR TSTCI MEMBER COMPANIES

APRIL 2007

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.



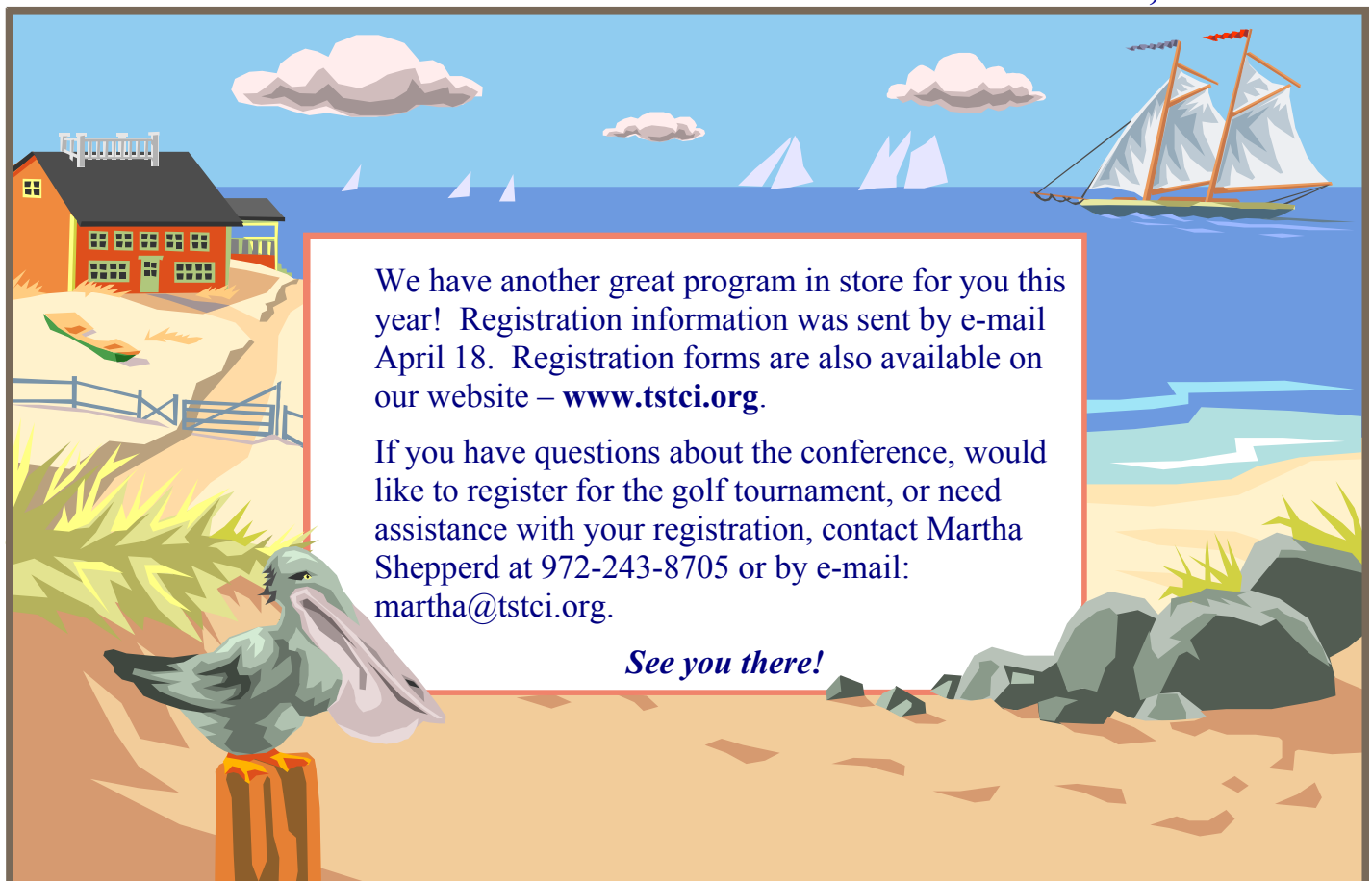
Texas Communications Expo, Inc.

(TCEI) has once again demonstrated their generosity and support of the telecommunications industry. Following this year's EXPO in Belton, TCEI donated \$8,000 to the TSTCI Discretionary Fund.

We wish to express our sincere appreciation and recognize TCEI for the never-ending benevolence and dedication to the rural telecommunications industry. As many of you know, profits from each year's EXPO are donated to telecommunications organizations that promote education and training within our industry.

On behalf of our members, many thanks to Texas Communications Expo, Inc. for their support!

2007 TSTCI SPRING MANAGERS' CONFERENCE! June 6-8 at the Radisson Resort – South Padre Island, Texas



We have another great program in store for you this year! Registration information was sent by e-mail April 18. Registration forms are also available on our website – www.tstci.org.

If you have questions about the conference, would like to register for the golf tournament, or need assistance with your registration, contact Martha Shepperd at 972-243-8705 or by e-mail: martha@tstci.org.

See you there!

WE'VE GOT LINES... *PHONE, INTERNET and FISHING*

“Impressive” is the first word that comes to mind when I think of the recent event held at Lake Fork, just a few miles down the road from us. By far, the Texas Toyota Bass Classic has been the largest event of its kind to visit our neck of the woods...and the transformation was indeed impressive.

When initially contacted regarding the upcoming event, we were a little skeptical at the projected numbers the tournament was expected to draw. However, as the work got underway and the buzz began to circulate throughout the area we began to realize this was something much larger than anything we'd seen before. We had a first-hand glimpse of the background work going into the tournament since we were working with the event coordinators to provide the telecommunication needs for the tournament itself. Beginning months ahead of the big weekend, we began installing high speed internet connections, landlines and wireless phone service to be used throughout the tournament. We remained onsite throughout the week, as the tournament dates approached, as well as keeping close vigil during the three day event to ensure there were no interruptions in service.



Leon, Josh & Bill at the Peoples Telephone Coop. Tent

Despite cold, rainy weather and undesirable weather forecasts during the first two opening days of the event, large numbers turned out to brave the wind and rain to enjoy the activities of the weekend. The interactive Kid Zone offered a fishing pond as one of many activities to engage the kids. Free concerts featuring Clay Walker, Tracy Lawrence, Kacey Musgraves and one of Peoples' own employees, Joe Wayne Reynolds drew large crowds on Saturday and Sunday.

Bringing 160 professional anglers and a \$1 million dollar purse together to the waters of Lake Fork was no easy feat, but the tournament crew pulled it off with an amazing transformation of the grassy field around the Sabine River Authority into a temporary city of white tents, temporary piers, a towering stage and, of course, Toyota trucks. Plans for next year's event are already underway and we've already begun discussing how we, too, can play a bigger part in 2008. With one year under our belt,



we can't wait to see the Toyota Texas Bass Classic back in our neighborhood. We're ready with phone lines and internet connections, and if necessary, I'm sure our guys can “suffer through” swapping a few fishing stories.



Many thanks to Lisa Webber at Peoples Telephone Coop., Inc. for sharing this article with us. Do you have news to share? We'd love to hear from you. Send your news to tstci@tstci.org.

TORNADO HITS TULIA – MID-PLAINS WAREHOUSE DAMAGED



On Saturday, April 21, a devastating tornado ripped through the small town of Tulia, Texas. The tornado destroyed homes and businesses along Highway 87 in a stretch of about 2 blocks wide and 15 blocks long.

The headquarters of Mid-Plains Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc., was slightly damaged; the warehouse was about half destroyed.

The great news is that our friends at Mid-Plains are all safe and sound and in Tulia, no serious injuries were reported.

Above: aerial view - Mid-Plains warehouse is in the bottom right of the photo. Below: photos of the Mid-Plains warehouse.



Best Wishes for a Happy Retirement

Etex Telephone Cooperative, Inc. has announced that **Nona Clark** will be retiring from her position as Administrative Assistant on May 2, 2007. Nona has been employed at Etex since January 1969, serving alongside four general managers, and has seen many changes in the industry during her 38 year tenure.

We also heard from Santa Rosa Telephone Cooperative, Inc., that **Robert D. Vincent** will be honored with a retirement breakfast and reception April 27 at the Santa Rosa Telephone Cooperative headquarters warehouse.

Please join us in extending our wishes for happy retirement to Nona Clark and Robert Vincent.



Seeking Cost Separations Director:

Established, growing consulting company is looking for a Cost Separations Director in their Dallas office. Responsibilities include managing staff of 5 professionals; managing work processes, work flow and client satisfaction; coordinating and/or preparing cost studies; analyzing rules & legislation to determine impact on clients and company services; and representing company at industry meetings/conferences. Requires bachelor's degree or equivalent in business-related field; 8 years experience in telecom accounting or finance; 3 years management experience; consulting experience preferred. Requires ability to communicate effectively & professionally both verbally and in writing; ability to present information to boards, industry groups, regulatory agencies and internal groups; excellent overall financial knowledge; excellent analytical and problem solving skills; expertise in Separations; solid understanding of FCC Parts 32/36/64/69; ability to utilize spreadsheets, databases and word processing software; proficiency with 10-key; good leadership & management skills. Qualified candidates send resumes to: resumes@CHR Solutions.com or fax to 972-241-6735. An Equal Opportunity Employer.

Be sure to mark your calendar for the

**TSTCI BOOKKEEPERS/ACCOUNTANTS/COMMERCIAL CONFERENCE!
OMNI AUSTIN HOTEL DOWNTOWN - AUSTIN, TEXAS
JULY 11-13**

Keep an eye on your e-mail - registration information will be on its way soon!

Upcoming Events

May 2007

- 2-3 Homeland Security Conference (*Bennet & Bennet, PLLC / CHR Solutions, Inc.*) – Dallas, Texas
- 18 C. Gaylen Ackley Memorial Golf Classic (*Industry Telephone Co.*) – San Felipe, Texas
- 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**
- 25 TTA Foundation Golf Tournament – Austin, TX

July 2007

- 4 Independence Day (*TSTCI Offices Closed*)**
- 11-13 TSTCI Bookkeepers/Accountants/Commercial Conference – Austin, Texas**