

See you at the

TSTCI ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

OCTOBER 3-5

EMBASSY SUITES OUTDOOR WORLD – DALLAS, TEXAS

Though the hotel cut-off date has passed, there's still time to register for the conference. For registration information, visit www.tstci.org or contact Martha Shepperd at 972-243-8705 or martha@tstci.org.

TSTCI COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

With the Annual Membership Meeting next week and the end of the year coming at us quickly, our TSTCI Committee members have been hard at work.

The **TSTCI Regulatory Committee** has been preparing the 2008 TSTCI regulatory budget, as well as keeping an eye on issues at the Public Utility Commission and the Federal Communications Commission.

The **TSTCI Accounting Committee** recently released the updated Telecommunications Tax Grid, which was provided to TSTCI member companies. A copy of the Telecommunications Tax Grid is also available in the member section (login required) of the TSTCI website. The committee is currently working on the membership dues budget for 2008.

The **TSTCI Legislative Committee** is working on the 2008 legislative budget, as well as working a plan to keep our state legislators informed of issues that are important to our rural telecommunications industry.

The TSTCI Board and staff truly appreciate those who volunteer their time for these committees. Many thanks to all of our hardworking committee members!

Would you like to be more active as a member of TSTCI? We appreciate committee volunteers!

Committee participation forms for 2008 will be sent shortly following the Annual Membership Meeting.



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO RIVIERA TELEPHONE COMPANY 70 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE!



2007 Co-op Month to Focus Again on Commitment to Community

The theme for Co-op Month in 2007 remains "Cooperatives: Owned by Our Members, Committed to Our Communities." Co-ops nationwide are encouraged to stress their community involvement, economic development activities, employment and other community contributions in their October celebrations.

Co-op Month, celebrated in October annually since 1930, is the time to tell others just how much your co-op is doing in your area.

The Co-op Month website (www.coopmonth.coop) can help you do that. The Co-op Month Tool Kit, created three years ago, includes a wealth of information and ideas for promoting community involvement. The case studies demonstrate the many ways cooperatives contribute to their communities every day. You can share information about what your cooperative is doing by submitting your materials to Community Commitment Gallery. A partial, searchable directory of thousands of co-ops is also available. If you don't see your co-op listed, the National Cooperative Month Planning Committee asks that you please add it.

Two new print ads this year feature the themes "A Year in the Life of Co-op America" and "Touching Lives". Both illustrate how widespread and surprisingly common cooperatives are in the everyday lives of Americans. Last year's ads and statement stuffer featuring the community commitment theme have been updated with current statistics showing co-ops' growing economic and social impact. As always, the ads and envelope stuffer are available in a variety of sizes and formats. The Economic Impact statement stuffer can be used in member mailings or given out with pay stubs throughout the year.

The 11-page report economic impact report compiled last year has a wealth of data on co-ops' impact on the economy. The report will be updated and expanded for October. In the meantime, the 2005 numbers are still relevant and can be used to highlight local co-op month materials. The report, "Cooperative Businesses in the United States...A 2005 Snapshot" summarizes a survey of six sectors conducted in the fall of 2005.

Using the theme "Cooperatives: Owned by Our Members, Committed to Our Communities," the National Cooperative Month Planning Committee encourages co-ops to stress their community involvement, economic development activities, employment and other community contributions in their celebrations for the month, marked annually since 1930.



HONORS PRESENTED AT TTA ANNUAL CONVENTION

Congratulations!

Representatives of TSTCI Member and Associate Member Companies (marked with an *) were among the recipients of awards presented at the Texas Telephone Association Annual Convention in San Antonio.

This year's Neville Haynes Award was presented to John Navarrette of CenturyTel in recognition for his contributions to the telecommunications industry. The prestigious Neville Haynes Award is the highest award presented by TTA to an individual.

Judy Colston of Riviera Telephone Company* was honored with TTA's Outstanding Achievement Award. The 2007 Associate Member of the Year is J.C. Evans of MP Nexlevel.*

Congratulations to all!

News from Associate Members

Innovative Systems Demos New IPTV Middleware Solution

MITCHELL, SD- Innovative Systems, LLC, debuted an early version of its new IPTV Middleware solution in a live demo for nearly two hundred of its customers at their annual User Meeting last week. Innovative Systems customers from as far away as Alaska were able to see the progress on this new turn-key Middleware offering that has entered alpha testing stage.

Ryan Tupper, Voice & Video Products Director for Innovative Systems, demonstrated the functionality of the electronic program guide as well as some of the behind the scenes set-up components. System set-up is quite simple, especially for technical staff already familiar with Innovative's popular Application Peripheral (AP) platform. The IPTV Middleware solution will be delivered on Innovative's next generation platform called APMAX.

"A real value to companies will be the ability to provide both traditional telephony services as well as middleware from the same hardware platform. In the future, we see companies having the ability to seamlessly blend telephony and video services using our products," says Tupper.

Tupper adds, "In a short period of time, our team has made huge strides in development. Having a product to demo to clients speaks volumes about the quality of our partners and the ability of our staff who have worked so diligently to take a concept and turn it into reality."

During the Q&A immediately following the demo, the first question asked was when the Middleware solution would be ready for market. Tupper's response, "When we feel it's functioning to our high level of standards."

For more information, visit www.innovsys.com.

Communications Data Group Announces National Sales Manager

CHAMPAIGN, IL – Communications Data Group, Inc. (CDG) announced the creation of a new National Sales Manager position and the hiring of Trent Anderson to fill the role. In making the announcement, Robert LaBonté, CDG's President and Chief Executive Officer, stated that the National Sales Manager is targeting Carrier Access Billing and end-user billing products to new markets, as well as conducting an energetic sales campaign focused on the traditional Independent Local Exchange Carrier (ILEC) community.

Mr. Anderson has more than 22 years experience in management, business development, sales, and sales management in the telecommunications software and hardware industries, plus expertise in establishing sales goals, plans and processes. In comments regarding his new position, he stated, "I am excited to join CDG, the leader in CABS billing. CDG is always improving its products and services to meet their clients' needs. The end-user billing product, Modularity, is getting great reviews, and CDG is adding new customers monthly."

Mr. Anderson's office is located in Champaign, IL. His e-mail address is trenta@cdg.ws; his phone number is 217 355-7104.



Upcoming Events

October 2007

- 3-5 TSTCI Annual Membership Meeting – Embassy Suites Outdoor World, Dallas, Texas**
- 15-16 NTCA Region 9 Meeting – Billings, Montana
- 29-30 NTCA Region 6 Meeting – Bismarck, North Dakota
- 31-Nov 1 OPASTCO Technical & Marketing Symposium – Minneapolis, Minnesota

November 2007

- 14-16 RICA Fall Conference – Jacksonville, Florida
- 22-23 Thanksgiving Holidays (TSTCI Offices Closed)**

December 2007

- 24-28 Holidays (TSTCI Offices Closed)**
- 25 Christmas Day