

TEAM 2008

PRESIDENT'S CLUB

Robby Allen
Susie Handley
John Howard
Bob Ingram
Beverly Meade
Scott Thompson

DIRECTOR'S CLUB

Robbie Allen
Darlene Burden
Alicia Haynes
Justin Haynes
Thomas Hyde
Joan Johnson
Joe Macias
Rusty Moore
Toney Prather
Milton Sargent
Brian Stalzer
Charlie Thomas
Bob Wilson
Bruce Wood

LONE STAR CLUB

Roger Hutton
Ricky Martinez
Lauren Sanders
Bill Stinson
Jim Whitefield
Delbert Wilson

TSTCI SUPPORTS CANDIDATES IN MARCH ELECTIONS

TSTCI was very successful during the last legislation session. We received 100% support throughout the process from both the House and the Senate. The legislators representing our member's districts worked together, democrats and republicans, to pass our legislation for obtaining additional dollars for the Rural Scholarship Fund. While we received united support, there were individuals that played a higher profile in the process through their sponsorship, co-sponsorship and committee work. These individuals understand and support rural communications and we must make sure our friends return for the 81st Legislative Session starting in January 2009.

The TSTCI Board of Directors reviewed the contested primary races excluding the open seats and created a prioritized resource budget for those members that played a critical role in the passage of our legislation. A decision was made for TSTCI PAC to make contributions in 13 races and we encourage our members living in the following districts to support these candidates.



Senator Craig Estes (R)
Senator Tommy Williams (R)
Representative Charles "Doc" Anderson (R)
Representative Kevin Bailey (D)
Representative Byron Cook (R)
Representative Joe Crabb (R)
Representative Gary Elkins (R)
Representative Juan Escobar (D)
Representative Pat Haggerty (R)
Representative Delwin Jones (R)
Representative Phil King (R)
Representative Rene Oliveira (D)
Representative Buddy West (R)

District 30 - Wichita Falls
District 4 - The Woodlands
District 56 - Waco
District 140 - Houston
District 8 - Corsicana
District 127 - Kingwood
District 135 - Houston
District 43 - Kingsville
District 78 - El Paso
District 83 - Lubbock
District 61 - Weatherford
District 37 - Brownsville
District 81 - Odessa

Investing in TSTCI PAC allows our industry to support those candidates which support our industry, keeping us the **Voice of Rural Communication** in Texas. Invest today!

TEAM 2008**CAUCUS CLUB**

Traci Adame
 Keith Ahrens
 Hector Armendariz
 Terry Bentley
 Ronnie Bilberry
 Debbie Broyles
 Doug Bryan
 Susan Carroll
 Skip Chamberlain
 Shana Cheyne
 Cathy Dart
 Stanley Degan
 Tom Dickinson
 JJ Espinoza
 Ray Faubus
 Ryan Felps
 Barry Ferguson
 Sylvia Fields
 Joe Fincher
 Ismael Franco
 Arturo Galindo
 Kody Gentry
 Terry Gilbert
 Jodi Gonzalez
 Weldon Gray
 Jay & Lee Ann Hagins
 Billy Hale
 Scott Hart
 Roger Holley
 Twila Key
 Roger Langford
 Chris Little
 Michael Macias
 Ruth Macias
 Carla McEntire
 Brent Meador
 Ruben Molinar
 Bennie Molsbee
 Anna Monclova
 Pam Monclova
 Thurmond Moore
 Beryle Murdoch
 Edward Murray
 Debbie Parsons
 Carlos Rodriguez



MID-PLAINS RURAL TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE WELCOMES NEW GENERAL MANAGER BRENT KENNEDY

Effective December 1, 2007, Brent A. Kennedy became the third General Manager of Mid-Plains Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc. Brent came to Mid-Plains from Hopi Telecommunications, Inc., in Arizona.

Brent was employed by Hicks & Ragland Engineering in Lubbock, Texas, as a loan design technician, central office design and project manager before leaving to manage the newly formed San Carlos Apache Telecommunications Utility in Arizona. Brent has successfully managed two new telecommunications companies in Arizona and has assisted in the creation of four new telecommunications companies in the United States.

Brent was born and raised in Guymon, Oklahoma. His father was a manager of an Oklahoma Telephone Cooperative for over 30 years, so Brent is no stranger to the cooperative atmosphere. He attended the University of Oklahoma and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree.

Brent is married to Anita Jodell, who grew up in Dalhart Texas. They have four children and four granddaughters, all living in the Phoenix, Arizona area. Brent and Anita are happy to be back in Texas and closer to home, family and their aging parents.

Brent looks forward to the upcoming challenges the Cooperative will be faced with over the next few years. He also looks forward to his and the cooperative's involvement in the community.

Brent states, "I am truly blessed to work for such a great organization."

**Be sure to register for the
 TSTCI Marketing Conference
 April 3
 Embassy Suites Outdoor World in Dallas, Texas**

Registration packets were sent by e-mail February 15. If you did not receive a packet or have questions about the conference, please call Martha Shepperd at 972-243-8705 or send an e-mail to martha@tstci.org.

TEAM 2008**CAUCUS CLUB**

Danny Rodriguez
Sonya Rodriguez
Annabell Rubio
Rene Rubio
Lily Sanchez
Jerry Smith
Joe Smith
Annie Stone
Lynn Stone
James Stoner
Eric Swenson
Stoney Taylor
Jeff Thacker
Henry Vega
Jesse Villa
Sammy Villarreal

PAC CLUB

Deborah Allen
Faith Askew
Lupe Barrera
Barbara Bogart
Tom Bowman
Mike Cargile
Stefanie Ericsson
Elias Fraga
Lance Harris
Shayne Harris
Douglas Hindman
Lisa Martin
Annette McCormick
Philip McCormick
Toni McCormick
Willie Ortiz
Lisa Paschall
Kathy Rea
Jerry Roberts
Roy Sanchez
Jason Slaton
Richard Stewart
Tommy Swaringen
Mitzi Taylor
Steven Taylor
Andy Vargas
Marvin West

SANDY VANDEVENDER ELECTED TO NTCA BOARD

The National Telecommunications Cooperative Association (NTCA) Board of Directors elected its 2008 officers at the association's annual meeting in New Orleans last week.

Chris A. Bonner, executive vice president and general manager of Pulaski-White Rural Telephone Cooperative, Star City, Indiana, was elected board president. Harry Thomas, president of the board of directors at Venture Communications Cooperative in Highmore, South Dakota, was elected vice president, and **Sandy Vandevender**, executive vice president and general manager of **Five Area Telephone Cooperative**, Muleshoe, Texas was elected secretary-treasurer.

"NTCA is fortunate to have these distinguished members serve as officers on its board of directors," said NTCA Chief Executive Officer Michael E. Brunner. "I greatly appreciate their willingness to serve their industry and peers, and I look forward to working with this dedicated group on behalf of our members."

The board also seated two new members, Gregory Hale of Logan Telephone Cooperative, Auburn, Kentucky and Mitchell Moore of Clear Creek Mutual Telephone, Oregon City, Oregon. Hale replaces outgoing board member and immediate past president, Thomas Rowland, North Central Telephone Cooperative, Lafayette, Tennessee; Moore replaces outgoing member Richard Smith of Stayton Cooperative Telephone Company, Stayton, Oregon. The board also appointed Curley Huggins, Horry Telephone Cooperative, Conway, South Carolina, to replace Richard Bird, who retired his board seat due to ill health.

Joining the aforementioned members of the NTCA board are: Terry Force, Blue Valley Tele-Communications, Home, Kansas; Donald D. Miller, Northwest Telephone Cooperative Association, Havelock, Iowa; William Rohde, Mark Twain Rural Telephone, Hurdland, Missouri; Dennis M. Wallace, Jr. Tri-County Telephone Membership Corporation, Belhaven, North Carolina; Commercial company advisors Kevin Hranicka, Van Buren Telephone, Keosauqua, Iowa and Loren Duerksen, Diller Telephone Company, Diller, Nebraska; and General Counsel, James L. Bass, Esquire.

"I thank these individuals for their time and commitment to the association and to rural telecommunications. Their leadership and knowledge of the industry benefit the entire NTCA membership," Brunner added.



News from Associate Members

Mapcom Systems' M4® Network Equipment Manager Receives "Hot Technology" Award

For the second straight year, Geographical Operations System software leader Mapcom Systems received a "Hot Technology" award given for its development of M4 Solutions Network Equipment Manager during the 2008 National Telecommunications Cooperative Association's (NTCA) Annual Conference and Expo in February. The judging was based on the level of innovation, usefulness, significance of improvement and relevance in the rural marketplace. Mapcom Systems is a TSTCI associate member.

The M4 Solutions Network Equipment Manager was developed to design, map and manage inside plant for copper, coax and fiber-based systems. Typically used in conjunction with the M4 Data Integration Engine linking the NEM to existing network monitoring/management (NMS) and element management (EMS) applications, the NEM features new "report affected" tools which graphically display which customers are affected by outages to specific pieces of inside plant equipment. Telcos may ascertain immediately who is affected by outages and have instant, geographically-based views of common point of failure, fiber cut and fault status locations to significantly reduce outage times.

"We are excited to be recognized for our development of M4 Solutions Network Equipment Manager and work to continually focus on developing new best of breed solutions that are open and integrate easily and effectively with other key components," says John Granger, CEO of Mapcom Systems. "This ability to know immediately who is affected by outages and have instant, geographically-based access to fiber cut locations and splicing priorities will significantly reduce outage times and require fewer escalations to higher-level technicians. In today's competitive environment, the need to gain operational efficiency while enhancing customer service is vitally important," adds Granger.

M4 Network Equipment Manager also provides a suite of inside plant design tools and a template library for standard equipment. Users have the ability to determine rack position, ventilation requirements and amperage thresholds for design and on-going maintenance purposes. Together with the M4 Fiber module, the M4 NEM enables complete long haul, special circuit, and fiber-to-the-premise management.

Upcoming Events

March 2008

- 4** **Texas Primary Election – *Time to Vote!***
- 5-7** **TSTCI Plantmen's Conference - Austin, Texas**
- 19 FCC Open Meeting
- 27 Texas PUC Open Meeting

April 2008

- 3** **TSTCI Marketing Conference – Dallas, Texas**
- 9 Texas PUC Open Meeting
- 10 FCC Open Meeting