

TEAM 2008

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Susie Handley
Bob Ingram
Beverly Meade
Scott Thompson
Joyce Wied

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Darlene Burden
Scotty Hart
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Justin Haynes
John Howard
Thomas Hyde
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Rusty Moore
Toney Prather
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Delbert Wilson
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Don Richards
Lauren Sanders
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Jim Whitefield

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2008

TSTCI BOOKKEEPERS/ACCOUNTANTS/ COMMERCIAL CONFERENCE

The 2008 TSTCI Bookkeepers/Accountants/Commercial Conference was held July 9-11 at The Westin Galleria in Dallas. TSTCI President Delbert Wilson kicked off the conference with a welcome on Wednesday afternoon.

First up on the program were **Debbie Broyles and Kathy Norwood** from Curtis Blakely & Company with an update on the current and revised rules relating to *Sales and New Margin Taxes*.

Following was a presentation by **Blake Lackey**, Curtis Blakely & Company, on *Fin 48 – The Bad and the Ugly – There Ain't No Good*. Blake reviewed the basic requirements, the applicability and the correct processes for dealing with FIN 48.

Capital Credits Allocation Procedures/Retirement Options/IRS Reporting Issues was presented by **Bill Miller**, Bolinger, Segars, Gilbert & Moss. Bill covered the cooperative principles, the allocation of capital credits and the retirement of capital credits.

Rounding out the afternoon was **Wade Wilson**, Bolinger, Segars, Gilbert & Moss, with his presentation on *Part 32 – Accounting for New Technologies*. Wade discussed the different technology types and how those revenues and expenses should be correctly coded for Part 32.

After a great afternoon of very informative sessions everyone gathered for the Welcome Reception where they enjoyed good food and drink, as well as conversation with their peers.

Thursday morning started bright and early with a continental breakfast. TSTCI President Delbert Wilson welcomed the group back and introduced the conference keynote speaker, **Jack McCall**. Jack shared his life stories with the attendees, taking them back to the simpler days of life with memories and visions of childhood antics and innocent rationale. Sharing his stories of family and friends, Jack gently reminded those present that relationships are the most important and basic fundamental necessity to being happy and well-balanced in your personal and

TEAM 2008**CENTURY CLUB**

Charles Albert
Steve Alexander
James Allen
Blake Belcher
Jim Tom Cardwell
Philip Cox
Ray Ellis
Weldon R. Gray
Barak Harlan
Tim Humpert
Stephen Jones
Danny Kellar
Tonya Kelsey
Brent Kennedy
Alan Link
Donald McArthur
Vanessa McGalliard
Jackie Mitchell
Felix Nuniz
Shane Parsons
Gordon Purl
Bernidine Raines
Amanda Ramsey
John Sablatura
Denise Salter
Bonnie Taylor
Patrick Tinley
Sandy Vandevender
Lori Vergin

CAUCUS CLUB

Shirley Allen
Kathy Bohn
Bernice Fischer
Sandi Kennedy
Nina Kinney
Reyna Lopez

professional lives. With laughter and sentimentality, Jack caused all to take pause of their current relationships, consider beginning new ones and to never forget that people need people to be happy.

Telling the attendees that it wasn't fair that she had to follow Jack McCall, **Sharon Minor**, CHR Solutions, took the podium for her presentation on *Forecasting and Budgeting*. Sharon talked about the differences between a budget and a forecast and the processes used to create each. Her final point to the group was that not only is budgeting and forecasting required, it is essential for understanding your business

Next up was **Todd McElmurry**, Curtis Blakely & Company. Todd shared *Computer Tips & Tricks*, covering a wide variety of computer areas including preventative maintenance, decoding errors, what's new and exciting in software and hardware, and how to determine the best setup for you and your company.

Joey Anderson from Nortex Communications provided invaluable information on *Bad Debts – How Do You Handle Customers That Don't Pay?* Joey shared his company's experiences and solutions for dealing with indebted customers.

After a well deserved lunch, the group reconvened to begin the afternoon with **Nathan Paden**, Bolinger, Segars, Gilbert & Moss, who discussed *Documenting and Monitoring Internal Controls Systems and Related New Audit Requirements*. To help the group understand the new auditing standards, Nathan created a "Deal or No Deal" game that allowed for audience participation. The final point to Nathan's presentation - the risk assessment process is crucial to coordinating resources where they are needed the most.

Next, attendees divided up for the concurrent sessions. *Ethernet Transport Services and NECA Tariffs* was presented to the bookkeepers/accountants by **Bob Tegels**, NECA, while **Dee Dee Longenecker**, John Staurulakis, Inc., gave a *Substantive Rules Update* for the commercial office attendees.

The group came back together to continue the general sessions with a presentation by **Jim Miller**, GVNW Consulting, on *PLTS – Rules and Regs – Practical Applications and Internal Procedures*. Jim reminded everyone about the Pre-Paid Local Telephone Services rules and regulations and how this service must be handled with current and future customers.

The day finished up with roundtable discussions, giving attendees the choice of joining discussions on *Customer Communications* which was facilitated by **Teresa Pennartz**, Santa Rosa Telephone Cooperative or the *General Information Exchange* facilitated by **Linda Hill**, NECA.

Friday morning began with **Jo Shotwell**, CHR Solutions, addressing *Implementing CPNI*. Jo updated the group on how the CPNI rules were being

implemented, what new issues had been discovered and reviewed the steps that need to be taken to make sure companies were in compliance with the current rules.

Paul Raak, Independent Telephone and Telecommunications Alliance, then provided the group with an interesting insight into what's happening in Washington D.C. and the FCC with his *Federal USF Update*. Paul talked very directly on the issues of USF reform and the various entities who were trying to influence the FCC and Congress on issues relative to the telecommunications industry.

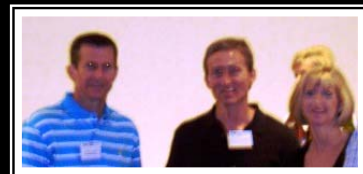
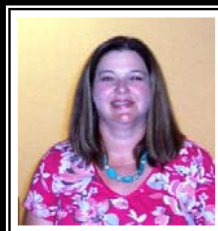
Cammie Hughes, Director – TSTCI Member Services, wrapped up the conference with a report on the legislative and regulatory issues of concern to TSTCI members.



Before adjourning, the last order of the day was the awarding of the grand and raffle prizes. **Deana Williams** of Lipan Telephone Company was the winner of the raffle prize, a Dooney & Bourke leather bag, sponsored by CHR Solutions. Thanks to all who purchased raffle tickets, \$307 was raised for the TSTCI PAC Fund. **Jay Umphlett** of Big Bend Telephone Company won the grand prize, a \$500 Dillard's gift certificate, sponsored by Hughes Network Systems.



The Welcome Reception



Special thanks to our

2008 BOOKKEEPERS/ACCOUNTANTS/COMMERCIAL CONFERENCE SPONSORS

PLATINUM

Eastex Telephone Coop., Inc.

GOLD

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National Exchange Carrier Association
UDP

SILVER

Big Bend Telephone Company, Inc.
Bolinger, Segars, Gilbert & Moss, L.L.P.
Curtis Blakely & Company, P.C.

GRAND PRIZE

Hughes Network Systems, L.L.C.

DISCRETIONARY FUND

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

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Cap Rock Telephone Coop., Inc.
Central Texas Telephone Coop., Inc.
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Dell Telephone Coop., Inc.
Hill Country Telephone Coop., Inc.
Richards, Elder & Green, L.L.P.
Santa Rosa Telephone Coop., Inc.
Taylor Telephone Coop., Inc.

RAFFLE PRIZE

CHR Solutions, Inc.

DOOR PRIZES

Central Texas Telephone Coop., Inc.
Coleman County Telephone Coop., Inc.
John Staurulakis, Inc.
TSTCI

*Thanks to all our sponsors and attendees for helping us
make this conference such a success!*

See you at the

2008 TSTCI FUTURES RETREAT AUGUST 6-7 AT HARVEY'S RESORT – LAKE TAHOE, NEVADA

Though the hotel cut-off date is past, you can still register for the conference. Contact Martha Shepperd at 972-243-8705 or martha@tstci.org. Registration forms are also available on our website – WWW.TSTCI.ORG.

THANK YOU!

A big TSTCI thank you to the following individuals for their generous support of the TSTCI PAC. *We appreciate you all!*

Gay Abernathy, Coleman County Telephone Cooperative
Rosa Adami, Hill Country Telephone Cooperative
Steve Alexander, Eastex Telephone Cooperative
Shirley Allen, Hill Country Telephone Cooperative
Mary Arhelger, Hill Country Telephone Cooperative
Annette Colorossi, Hill Country Telephone Cooperative
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John Ivy, Hill Country Telephone Cooperative
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Gordon Purl, Hill Country Telephone Cooperative
Don Richards, Richards, Elder & Green, L.L.P.
Maria Riveros, Hill Country Telephone Cooperative
Denise Salter, Hill Country Telephone Cooperative
Vergina Shafer, Hill Country Telephone Cooperative
Carol Smith, Hill Country Telephone Cooperative

TEAM 2008

TOGETHER EVERYONE ACCOMPLISHES MORE!



RICKY MARTINEZ RECOGNIZED AT NTCA LEGISLATIVE & POLICY CONFERENCE

Ricky Matinez, Public Affairs Coordinator for Cap Rock Telephone Cooperative, Inc., was honored as the recipient of the 2008 SPIRIT Advocate of the Year award during NTCA's annual Legislative and Policy Conference. The award was given in recognition of Ricky's outstanding job advocating on behalf of the rural telecommunications industry, as well as for leading colleagues on industry initiatives through his involvement with the SPIRIT (Supporting Policy Initiatives for Rural Independent Telecommunications) program.



Upcoming Events

August 2008

- 1 FCC Open Meeting
- 6-7 TSTCI Futures Retreat – Lake Tahoe, Nevada**
- 14 Texas PUC Open Meeting
- 28 Texas PUC Open Meeting

September 2008

- 1 Labor Day (TSTCI offices closed)**
- 11 Texas PUC Open Meeting
- 14-17 TTA Convention & Showcase – San Antonio, Texas
- 14-18 NECA EXPO – Las Vegas, Nevada
- 25 Texas PUC Open Meeting

October 2008

- 1-3 TSTCI Annual Membership Meeting – Irving, Texas**