

TSTCI INFORMATION

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR TSTCI MEMBER COMPANIES

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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.

TSTCI TEAM

PRESIDENT'S CLUB

John Howard

LONE STAR CLUB

Debbie Broyles
Bill Galyean

CENTURY CLUB

Shana Cheyne
Jay Hagins
Roger Hutton
Thomas Hyde
Tonya Kelsey
Ricky Martinez
Shane Parsons
Tommy Swearingen
Bonnie Taylor
Jim Whitefield

CAUCUS CLUB

Scotty Hart
Twila Key
Philip McCormick
Vanessa McGalliard

PAC CLUB

Deborah Allen
Faith Askew
Lupe Barrera
Barbara Bogart
Stefanie Ericcson
Elias Fraga
Annette McCormick
Lisa Paschall
Jerry Roberts
Mitzi Taylor
Stoney Taylor

TSTCI COMMITTEES HARD AT WORK!

One of TSTCI's greatest resources is the number of knowledgeable, dedicated individuals who volunteer each year to serve on the various committees for our association. Nominations for 2009-2010 TSTCI committees have been received, and the committee members are already hard at work.

The **TSTCI Program Planning Committee** members met in Dallas this month to begin planning the programs for the 2010 TSTCI conferences. A complete list of conferences is available on the TSTCI website - www.tstci.org.

At the federal level, the FCC is in the process of creating a National Broadband Plan, as well as proposing changes to USF, intercarrier compensation, and other issues that affect our members. The **TSTCI Regulatory Committee** has been participating in these processes to help ensure our members have a voice in these proceedings.

Though legislators will not be in session during 2010, in the interim, the Sunset Advisory Commission has been tasked with reviewing several state agencies, including the Public Utility Commission, and making recommendations to the Legislature. Members of the **TSTCI Legislative Committee** will be participating in this process to help protect the interests of our member companies.

The TSTCI Board of Directors and staff appreciate the service of these members and we thank the management of our member companies for allowing us to utilize the time, skills and knowledge of their staff members.



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TSTCI TEAM

Special thanks to the employees of **Cap Rock Telephone Cooperative**, who collectively contributed **\$1,445**; and to the employees of **Nortex Communications** who collectively invested **\$2,437** in TSTCI PAC this year!

The TSTCI PAC is a non-partisan political action committee created by TSTCI to support the members of the Texas Legislature who support rural telephony.

All TSTCI members are encouraged to become involved in the process and invest in TSTCI PAC for the future of our industry.

For more information on how you can become involved, visit our website, www.tstci.org and click on "PAC & Grassroots."

Remember...

Together
Everyone
Accomplishes
More!!!

News from Associate Members

UDP Implements Project Management Guidelines

UDP Vice President and CIO Earns PMP Credentials

UDP, a leading billing and OSS provider for the telecommunications industry recently adopted the project management guidelines of the Project Management Institute to streamline new development and implementation projects. UDP is also pleased to announce that Joel Daniels has received Project Management Professional credentials.

UDP project designs and implementations will utilize the Project Management Institute project guidelines to assist the UDP collective project team to insure that projects will occur on time, on budget, and will deliver the functionality to meet or exceed expectations. According to Daniels, Vice President and CIO, "The goal of the UDP project management team is to systematically facilitate the process of client implementation in order to provide the best possible service throughout the project lifecycle."

The PMP® (Project Management Professional) credential is the project management profession's most recognized and respected global credential. To obtain a PMP credential, an individual must satisfy education and experience requirements, agree to adhere to a professional code of conduct and pass the PMP examination. The PMP Certification Program supports the global community of project management practitioners and is designed to objectively assess and measure professional knowledge. PMI's PMP credential offers individuals a wide range of important benefits. The PMP designation following one's name demonstrates to employers and other stakeholders that an individual possesses a solid foundation of experience and education in project management. The PMI Certification Program is the first professional certification program of its kind to receive the ISO 9001 certification, a globally recognized mark of a quality management system.

For more information, visit UDP's website: www.udp.com.



DAMAGE PREVENTION COUNCILS OF TEXAS

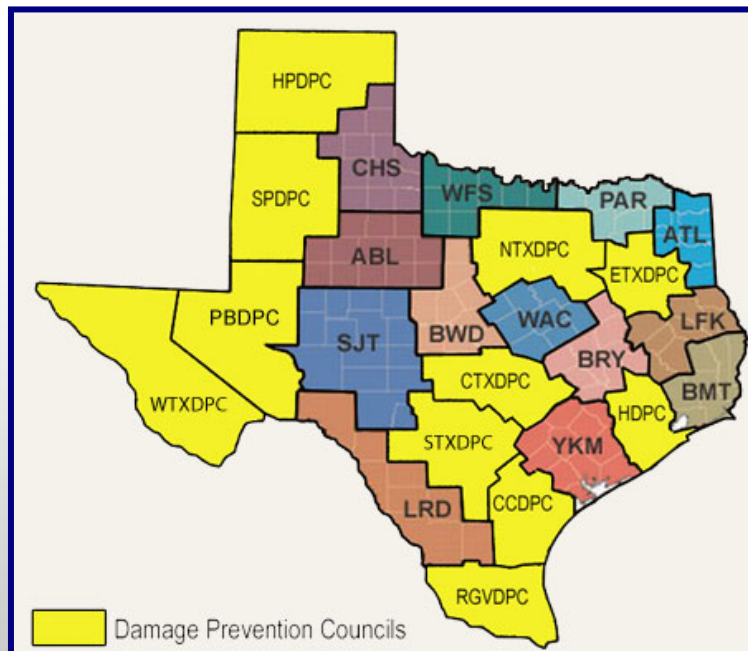
The Damage Prevention Councils of Texas were established to facilitate underground utility damage prevention and contribute toward public safety and environmental protection through stakeholder education and communication.

A Damage Prevention Council (DPC) is a voluntary organization comprised of excavators, utility operators, municipalities, facility locators, TxDOT, and other damage prevention stakeholders.

Typical DPC goals include:

- Identify opportunities to heighten excavator and public awareness to “Know What’s Below - Call Before You Dig” and safe excavation practices;
- Promote Common Ground Alliance Best Practices;
- Provide free safety meetings;
- Work in conjunction with other damage prevention efforts (i.e. Common Ground Alliance, other damage prevention councils, One Call Board of Texas, Railroad Commission of Texas, etc.);
- Provide information and/or updates on legislative actions and;
- Maintain a consistent, State-wide damage prevention message.

Currently, there are 12 regional DPCs meeting on a routine basis all across Texas.



Damage Prevention Council meetings are open to all stakeholders so if your company can benefit from reducing facility damages you have a seat at the table! If there is not currently a DPC in your area, contact dougmeeks@digtess.org. For a list of meeting dates and locations, you can visit <http://www.digtess.com/content/events>.

Season's Greetings!

*The TSTCI Board of Directors
and Member Services Staff*

wish each of you a

Merry Christmas

and a happy,

prosperous New Year!



Upcoming Events

December 2009

25 *Christmas Day (TSTCI offices closed)*

January 2010

1 *New Years Day (TSTCI offices closed)*

14 Texas PUC Open Meeting

20 FCC Open Commission Meeting

28 Texas PUC Open Meeting

31 NTCA Annual Meeting & EXPO – Tampa, Florida

February 2010

1-3 NTCA Annual Meeting & EXPO – Tampa, Florida *(continued)*

11 Texas PUC Open Meeting

25 Texas PUC Open Meeting