

TSTCI TEAM

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Danny Kellar

Perry Mannis

Ricky Martinez

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Jamey Wigley

Jennifer Wilson

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Lonnie Arthur

Lawana Drosche

Kenneth Ehler

Mike Fillingim

Bill Galyean

Jay Hagins

Gary Harrell

Jimmy Horton

Dan Houchin

Tim Humpert

Tonya Kelsey

Don Mimms

Claudia Morrow

Shane Parsons

Rocky Rocchio

Bill Sides

A TEXAS SIZED THANK YOU!



Texas Communications Expo., Inc.

Texas Communications Expo Shows Support through Generous Contribution to TSTCI Discretionary Fund

TSTCI would like to recognize Texas Communications Expo, Inc. (TCEI) for their 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.

Texas Communications Expo, Inc. has once again demonstrated their generosity and support of the telecommunications industry. Following this year's EXPO in Belton, TCEI donated \$6,000 to the TSTCI Discretionary Fund.

TSTCI Board Member **Tim Humpert**, Coleman County Telephone Cooperative, was on hand to accept the contribution on behalf of TSTCI from TCEI Board Member **Ron Davidson**.

On behalf of our members, a Texas-size thanks to TCEI for their support!



TSTCI TEAM**CENTURY CLUB CONT'D**

Steve Smith
Tommy Swaringen
Bonnie Taylor
Scott Thompson
Lori Vergin
Jim Whitefield

Thanks also to:**The employees of Nortex Communications**

To date, their collective investment in TSTCI PAC is \$1,130!

Remember...**T**ogether**E**veryone**A**ccomplishes**M**ore!!!

9th Annual C. Gaylen Ackley Memorial Golf Classic Scheduled for May 15

The Bellville Hospital Foundation and the Ackley family will hold their annual charity golf tournament at the Stephen F. Austin Golf Course in San Felipe, Texas on Friday, May 15. Proceeds will benefit the Belleville Hospital Foundation.

As a tribute to Gaylen, the tournament is the kind of tournament he would have enjoyed. There will be great prizes, great food, great music, and plenty of reasons to laugh, smile and remember.

The field is limited to 36 four-person teams. Entry deadline is May 11.

For tournament registration and sponsorship information, please contact Rodney Hackemack, Industry Telephone Company at 979-357-4411; Bobby Browne at the SFA Pro Shop at 979-885-2811; or Margie Lovell, Foundation Treasurer, at 979-865-3414 X154.



**The C. Gaylen Ackley
Memorial Golf Classic**
benefiting
Bellville Hospital Foundation

Friday, May 15, 2009

Stephen F. Austin Golf Course
1130 Park Road 38
San Felipe, Texas

**This is our 9th annual golf classic!
Join us for a great day of fun
and fundraising!**



Register now for the

TSTCI Spring Managers' Conference
June 3 - 5
Isla Grand Resort
South Padre Island, Texas

Register online at www.tstci.org!

If you have questions about the conference, call Paula Groves at 512-343-2587 or email paula@tstci.org.

News from Associate Members

FRS-JSI White Paper Highlights Connection Between Universal Service and Federal Broadband Build-Out

In a March 20 webcast, the Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) and John Staurulakis, Inc. (JSI) together released a new white paper, "America's Broadband Connection: Universal Service Rediscovered." The paper, the latest in FRS's Rural Telecom Educational Series, underscores the benefits the nation has reaped as a result of the commitment to universal service and the importance of extending the social policy underlying the program to the broadband build-out initiative that is a key part of President Obama's economic reconstruction strategy.

The paper describes how universal service has fulfilled congressional mandates to promote the development and reach of the national network by ensuring that all Americans have comparable access to affordable telephone service. In addition, "America's Broadband Connection" reviews the challenges to the public network and universal service arising from pro-competitive policy shifts and rapid advancements in Internet-based technologies. The paper calls attention to the accomplishments of community based telecom providers in delivering advanced services - i.e., the economic lifeblood of a community - to the most remote parts of the country. FRS and JSI urge policymakers to tread carefully between market-force designs and the social objectives articulated by Congress time and time again. The paper concludes by demonstrating that maintaining the commitment to universal service will be critical to the success of the broadband build-out espoused by President Obama as part of his plan to restore the nation's economy.

The webcast featured Douglas Meredith, JSI director-economics and policy, who reviewed the paper for Hill staffers and press online. He emphasized the importance of the federal universal service program for broadband access in rural communities. Summing up "America's Broadband Connection," Meredith noted that the nation must not lose sight of "the opportunities and return we get from focusing on rural communities. Without pro-rural policy supports, it is difficult to craft a pro-business broadband model."

Hard-copy and PDF versions of "America's Broadband Connection: Universal Service Rediscovered" are available on the FRS website at www.frs.org. For more information about JSI's participation on the paper, contact Chris Lehner (clehner@jsitel.com) in JSI's Greenbelt, MD office, at 301-459-7590, or Douglas Meredith (dmeredith@jsitel.com) in Salt Lake City, at 801-294-4576.

A belated word of thanks to

Richards, Elder & Green, L.L.P.

We appreciate their Bronze Sponsorship of the 2009 TSTCI Plantmen's Conference and apologize for the omission from the sponsor listing in last month's issue.

Rural Texas Telephone Cooperatives Visit the Nation's Capitol



Above – (L-R) Bob Wilson, Wes-Tex Telephone Coop.; Tim Humpert, Coleman County Telephone Coop.; Delbert Wilson, Hill Country Telephone Coop.; Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison; Sandy Vandevender, Five Area Telephone Coop.; Scott Hart, South Plains Telephone Coop.; Dave Osborn, Valley Telephone Coop.

Left – (front row) Scott Hart, Delbert Wilson, Dave Osborn & Ricky Martinez

Upcoming Events

May 2009

- 4-6 OPASTCO Legislative & Regulatory Conference – Washington, DC
- 7 Texas PUC Open Meeting
- 14 FCC Open Meeting
- 21 Texas PUC Open Meeting

June 2009

- 3-5** *TSTCI Spring Managers' Conference – South Padre Island, Texas*
- 4 Texas PUC Open Meeting
- 18 Texas PUC Open Meeting

July 2009

- 2 Texas PUC Open Meeting
- 8-10** *TSTCI Finance/Marketing/Commercial Conference – San Antonio, Texas*
- 16 Texas PUC Open Meeting