

TSTCI INFORMATION

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR TSTCI MEMBER COMPANIES

APRIL 2010

www.tstci.org

Texans Helping Texans

Volume XIV, No. 4

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.

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Texas Communications EXPO, Inc. Makes Texas-Sized Donation to TSTCI!



TSTCI would like to recognize Texas Communications Expo, Inc. (TCEI) for their continued 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 \$9,000 to the TSTCI Discretionary Fund.

TSTCI Board Member Jamey Wigley of Central Texas Telephone Cooperative was on hand to accept the contribution on behalf of TSTCI from TCEI Board Member Ken Baker.

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

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SUPPORT YOUR PAC!

REMEMBER -

T OGETHER E VERYONE A CCOMPLISHES M ORE!

Thanks for Your Support!

The TSTCI Board of Directors extends a special thanks to **Scotty Hart**, General Manager of South Plains Telephone Cooperative, as well as South Plains Board Members **Bill Sides, Kenneth Ehler, Dan Houchin, Mike Fillingim, Bryan Patterson, Gary Harrell and Lonnie Arthur**.

Thanks also to **Robbie Allen** and **Scott Thompson** of Peoples Telephone Cooperative, Inc. for their support of the TSTCI PAC, as well as to the employees of Nortex Communications who continue to show their support through monthly contributions.

Be sure to reserve your seat at the TSTCI Spring Managers' Conference PAC Lunch!

Reservations for the PAC Lunch may be made online when registering for the Spring Managers' Conference. Please be sure to pay with a personal check, cash, or money order. (Credit card payments can be accepted online). Proceeds from the lunch benefit the TSTCI PAC. Help us invest in the campaigns of state legislative candidates who support rural telecommunications.

Register now for the

TSTCI SPRING MANAGERS' CONFERENCE

June 2-4

Isla Grand Beach Resort South Padre Island, Texas

Register online at www.tstci.org

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News from Associate Members



MACC's Mobile Pay Connects Your Company with Its Customers Anywhere They Go

Mid America Computer Corporation (MACC) has made bill payment easy for the texting-generation with its Mobile Pay solution. This new service allows your customers to receive a text message when their bill is ready, as well as pay their bill by simply responding to the text. Sending payments via text is incredibly convenient and provides another option to your customers, while eliminating manual payment entry for your staff.

Any mobile phone customer with standard messaging service (SMS) can use Mobile Pay. How does it work? After registering their account, end-users can make secure payments simply by responding to a text message. They will be sent an SMS alert with a bill summary reminder before the due date, with the option to pay immediately. Available payment methods include checking accounts, savings accounts, or credit card. This is a safe, convenient and fast way to make payments and works anywhere that your customers have wireless service.

Mobile Pay has other benefits as well. Payment records are automatically generated for importing into Customer Master, which is MACC's BSS/OSS solution. This step reduces the number of bills that require manual processing. Another advantage of Mobile Pay is the speed your company receives payments. Payments are validated and deposited into your bank account in 48 hours or less.

Utilizing a text payment method has already proven its worth in other venues such as the wake of the January earthquake in Haiti. Americans used text messages to donate millions of dollars for Haitian relief efforts. Mobile Pay can give your customers a similarly easy way to pay their bill each month potentially leading to fewer late payments for your company. For more information go to www.maccnet.com.

CHR Solutions Announces Agreement with Jara Diversified Services to Offer Remittance Processing Solution

CHR Solutions now offers Draft Conversion Plus (DCP), a remittance processing software product powered by Jara Diversified Services (JDS). DCP enables CHR to provide accounts receivable operations using check-imaging technology that helps reduce bank fees and improve cash flow for clients.

The DCP product will be programmed to interface with CHR's customer care and billing solutions and will bring Check 21 benefits to clients, including same-day fund availability, merchant-to-bank transactions, lower NSF's, and lower chargebacks. DCP has a proven track record of reducing staff time required to deposit and post payments electronically by 50 to 90%.

"We are pleased to provide CHR a check processing solution that helps their clients streamline accounts receivable operations," says Steve Jara, President of JDS. The ability to view images within the CHR billing and customer care software will allow clients to provide better service to their own customers."

"The labor savings and its low cost make DCP the perfect solution for CHR customers," says Jay Wempe, Director of Business Services at CHR. "JDS also has a tremendous track record for customer support that fits very well with our own customer philosophy."

For more information, please contact Jay Wempe at 605-995-2587.

10th Annual C. Gaylen Ackley Memorial Golf Classic Scheduled for May 21

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 21. Proceeds will benefit the Bellville Hospital Foundation.

2010 marks the 10th anniversary of the event, and this year's tournament honors the memory of Keith R. Kidwell. Keith served as Chairman Emeritus of the Foundation at the time of his unexpected death last summer. The golf classic was his brainchild and changing its name to honor his dear friend and fellow golfer, C. Gaylen Ackley, was also his idea. This year the tournament recognizes both of these men for their staunch belief in and support of Bellville General Hospital and the Bellville Hospital Foundation.

There will be great prizes, great food, great music, and plenty of reasons to laugh, smile and remember.

For tournament registration and sponsorship information, please contact Bobby Browne at the SFA Pro Shop at 979-885-2811; or Margie Lovell, Foundation Treasurer, at 979-865-3141, ext. 6154.

Upcoming Events

April 2010

30 Texas PUC Open Meeting

May 2010

6 Texas PUC Open Meeting

14 Texas PUC Open Meeting

20 FCC Open Commission Meeting

25-26 Sunset Commission Hearings (Public Utility Commission/Office of Public Utility Counsel)

27 Texas PUC Open Meeting

June 2010

2-4 **TSTCI Spring Managers' Conference – South Padre Island, Texas**

11 Texas PUC Open Meeting

17 FCC Open Commission Meeting