

TSTCI INFORMATION

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR TSTCI MEMBER COMPANIES

JANUARY 2012

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

DIRECTOR'S CLUB

Mary Ann Ackley

CENTURY CLUB

Scotty Hart

Amy Linzey

Lonnie Arthur

Kenneth Ehler

Mike Fillingim

Gary Harrell

Dan Houchin

Don Mimms

Bryan Patterson

Bill Sides

Steve Smith

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Nortex Employees -
PAC Contributions

Joey Anderson

Deano Bayer

Deborah Bishop

Clara Boyd

Tim Carpenter

Phyllis Cook

Donna Endres

Shay Evans

Pamela Hair

Kyla Henscheid

Brian Hess

Mack Isaacs

Sharon Ivins

Sara Lanier

Douglas Lockhart

Carolyn Martin

John Monday

Alan Rohmer

Lisa Rohmer

Sharlene Schilling

Shelly Sicking

Jerome Yosten

Register now for the

TSTCI Plantmen's Conference

March 7-9 at the

Westin Riverwalk – San Antonio, Texas

Register online at www.tstci.org!

NOTE: Hotel cut-off date is February 6, 2012.

If you have questions regarding the conference or registration, please contact Paula Groves at 512-343-2587 or send an email to paula@tstci.org.

TSTCI PAC APPRECIATES YOUR SUPPORT!

The TSTCI Distribution Committee recently conducted a conference call and approved support from the TSTCI PAC for Representative Renee Oliveira and Representative Byron Cook. Support for candidates is made possible through the generosity of our members who support the TSTCI PAC.

The Board of Directors extends its appreciation to Mary Ann Ackley, President of Industry Telephone Company; Scott Hart, General Manager and, Amy Linzey, Assistant General Manager of South Plains Telephone Cooperative, as well as the entire South Plains Telephone Cooperative Board of Directors for their recent support of the TSTCI PAC.

A special word of thanks again goes out to the employees of Nortex Communications, who have continued their monthly investments for 2012!

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Robbie Allen Announces Retirement

Peoples Telephone announces the retirement of Robbie Allen after 35 years of dedicated service to the cooperative and the telephone industry. After spending the last 11 years serving as Peoples' General Manager, Robbie has decided to enjoy a little peace and quiet on his farm outside of Quitman, Texas. In his announcement to his employees, Robbie said, "It's funny really, growing up, I tried really hard to get away from the farm life. Now, as I look at retiring, I can't wait to get back to the farm. I'll play like a farmer, do a little fishing and whatever else Mary tells me to do."

"During the last several years, with Robbie at the lead, Peoples has focused its efforts and resources on providing the best technology and communication services possible, continually evolving to meet the ever-changing needs of our customers," said Bill Galyean, Peoples' Board president.

Under Robbie's leadership, Peoples also received a \$36 million dollar broadband grant that will allow Peoples to deploy fiber throughout additional counties across east Texas. This project will greatly enlarge our service footprint and offer broadband services to previously underserved areas.

Robbie began his work with Peoples Telephone in 1976 as a construction worker, at the young age of 19. Within less than a year's time, Robbie moved to the accounting department where he served until 1982 when he was promoted to Assistant General Manager. He served in that capacity for another 19 years. In 2001, Robbie assumed the leadership role as General Manager where his strategic oversight ensured the growth of our company during a time of great change in the telecommunications industry.

Robbie has actively served the telephone industry in many roles, including serving on TSTCI's board for 3 terms, two of which he served as President of the board. He has also served on several other TSTCI committees, the boards of Telcom Insurance Group, CSSA, FRS, NetAmerica's Board of Managers, as well as many local boards and committees. Robbie will be replaced as General Manager by Steven Steele, the current Assistant General Manager effective March, 1, 2012.

Peoples Telephone will be honoring Robbie at a reception on Friday, February 24, 2012 at 3:00 p.m. at the Family Life Center at First Baptist Church located at 301 East Lane Street in Quitman, Texas. Friends and well-wishers are invited to attend. Please join us in wishing Robbie all the best in his retirement.

Mary and Robbie would also like to invite you to attend a casual "after-party celebration" at Bill and Marie Galyean's party barn. Food, drink and entertainment will be provided. For directions or more information, please contact Lisa at 903-763-2214 or webber@peoplescom.net.

The TSTCI Board of Directors and Member Services congratulate Robbie on his retirement and extend best wishes for many happy years on the farm!

TSTCI Committees Have a Busy Start to the New Year!

Though we are barely into the New Year, several TSTCI Committees are already hard at work!

As previously mentioned, the TSTCI Distribution Committee held a conference call to discuss support to candidates for their election campaigns.

With the retirement of Robbie Allen, who was elected as a Board Member at the 2012 annual meeting, the TSTCI Nominating Committee met to make a recommendation to the TSTCI Board on Robbie's replacement.

The TSTCI Accounting Committee is currently discussing changes to the telecommunications tax grid to reflect changes in 9-1-1 surcharge rules.

The Public Utility Commission will soon be formally issuing questions for a workshop related to the Texas Universal Service Fund. The TSTCI Regulatory Committee is working to ensure that the needs of our rural telecommunications industry are voiced to the Commission.

On behalf of the TSTCI Board of Directors, thanks to each of you for your support of our industry and our association through your service on one or more committees. In addition, we appreciate the managers who share the talents of their staff by nominating these individuals to serve in these capacities.

Steven Steele Takes Place on TSTCI Board

At the 2011 TSTCI Annual Membership Meeting, Robbie Allen, Peoples Telephone Cooperative, was elected to the TSTCI Board of Directors. Upon his decision to retire as General Manager of Peoples Telephone Cooperative, Robbie notified the Board of Directors of his intent and resigned from the TSTCI Board effective January 6.

Congratulations to Steven Steele, who will be replacing Robbie as General Manager of Peoples Telephone Cooperative, and in addition will serve as a member of the TSTCI Board of Directors.

We look forward to working with Steven in his new role.

TSTCI BOARD WELCOMES NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBER

Please join us in extending a warm TSTCI welcome to our newest associate member, **TONEX**.

TONEX provides training, seminars, certification, and workshops in telecom, datacom, wireless, mobility, IT, security, technology, engineering, power and energy, enterprise architecture (EA), TOGAF, DoDAF, systems engineering, OSS/BSS, NGOSS/eTOM, lean operations, SCADA and management topics directly from expert TONEX Instructors, university professors and industry consultants.

Since their start in 1993, TONEX has had thousands of individuals from a variety of organizations around the world take part in their world-class education, seminars and training courses. They understand that every individual and business has a variety of needs and they offer an array of flexible programs to meet these specific needs. They are committed to providing educational excellence and high quality service to their customers.

TONEX provides instructor-led, hands-on, customized training courses and certificate programs for professionals and managers in business and government organizations. They provide global training, education and consulting services for telecom, wireless, engineering, systems engineering, software engineering, Enterprise Architecture, Defense, information technology, security, mobile applications, power and energy, just to name a few.

To learn more about TONEX, visit www.tonex.com.

Upcoming Events

January 2012

- 26 PUC Open Meeting – Austin, Texas
- 31 FCC Open Commission Meeting – Washington, DC

February 2012

- 10 PUC Open Meeting – Austin, Texas
- 15 FCC Open Commission Meeting – Washington, DC
- 23 PUC Open Meeting – Austin, Texas

March 2012

- 7 PUC Open Meeting – Austin, Texas
- 7-9 TSTCI Plantmen's Conference – San Antonio, Texas**
- 21 FCC Open Commission Meeting – Washington, DC
- 22 PUC Open Meeting – Austin, Texas

April 2012

- 3-5 Texas Communications Expo – Belton, Texas