

# 2018 Annual Meeting Held at Liberty School

This year's meeting of the Plains Cooperative Telephone Association, Inc. was hosted by the Joes and Kirk exchanges in the Liberty School gymnasium on April 26. There were 104 cooperative memberships represented at the dinner and meeting. The attendees enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by Friends Kitchen and served by the Liberty FFA members and their advisor, Martin Adams. We always enjoy seeing the customers who have a chance to come to the meeting and we had fun with extra prize drawings for the 65th annual meeting.

After the meal, the business meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. Pastor Jack Stout of the Liberty Baptist Church gave the invocation. Board President Mike Leerar introduced the Board of Directors, Company auditor Tammy Totzke, Company attorney Ed Zorn and the employees of the company, as well as past directors and employees who were present. Jaret Lichty was appointed to serve as Parliamentarian for the meeting. Lora Liming presented the Secretary's report. Treasurer Dwayne Bowers introduced Tammy Totzke, representing the Company's auditing firm, who reported on the annual financial statements of the Cooperative and its subsidiary. Tammy indicated that the Cooperative had operating cash flow of \$1.9 million in 2017, and currently has about \$23 million invested in telephone, Internet and video property, plant and equipment. Plains has approximately \$960,000 in cash, savings and CD's and purchased \$500,000 in mutual funds during the year. The Cooperative also paid down long-term debt of \$538,000 in 2017. In addition, Plains Telephone paid \$167,000 in local property taxes to the counties and communities we serve. The Cooperative paid approximately \$233,000 in capital credits back to members in 2017.

General Manager Ronny Puckett introduced himself as the new General Manager since September 2017. He reported that the company had also hired a new accounting manager, April Simmons. The company remains strong, stable, secure and continues to grow. Fiber construction within the City of Wray has been completed, ahead of schedule, and customers will be connected beginning this summer. The service will be available to any address within the Wray City limits, thanks to a partnership with the City of Wray. He reminded members that this project has been paid for with cash reserves and earnings, so no new long term debt was incurred for the Wray construction. The company has also added 52 additional customers in Burlington, outside the regulated cooperative area. He also reported that the company launched a new website late in 2017 and that Plains is now a Gig-Certified provider of bandwidth.

Director positions for the Kirk, Cope and Seibert exchanges were up for election. The candidates who had filed proper petitions to run for these offices were Lora Liming from the Kirk exchange, Linda Sackett from the Cope exchange and Gerald Guy from the Seibert exchange. Being the only candidate for these seats, the three directors were elected by motion to cast a unanimous ballot.

During the evening, attendees viewed a slide show of photos from the 2018 directory cover photo contest, Growing Up in a Small Town, and lots of prize drawings were conducted in celebration of 65 years of service to our communities. The progressive cash drawing of \$600.00 was drawn from the full membership list, with the prize to be awarded only if the member whose name was drawn was in attendance. The name drawn was Connie Elabridi of Eckley, who was not present at the meeting. Next year's prize will advance to \$700.00 to be drawn at the 66th annual meeting to be held in the Eckley exchange.



*PLAINS*  
Connecting Our Communities  
65th Annual Meeting

*PLAINS* Service  
Committee  
P.C.S., LLC

JULY 2018

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**Board of Directors**

- Dwayne Bowers.....President  
Anton exchange, 383
- Gerald Guy.....Vice-President  
Seibert exchange, 664
- Linda Sackett.....Secretary  
Cope exchange, 358
- Lora Liming.....Treasurer  
Cope exchange, 362
- Denise Weyerman.....Director  
Idalia exchange, 354
- Richard Meade.....Director  
Joes exchange, 358
- Michael Leerar.....Director  
Eckley exchange, 359
- Ronny Puckett, General Manager
- Our office hours are from  
8:00 am to 4:30 pm,  
Monday through Friday.

We invite you to "like" us on Facebook, where we post photos & fun every day, just because we can.



It's summer, and that can mean construction time. Whether it's putting up a new fence, building a garage or clearing a lot, it's important to have any underground utilities located before you dig. It makes good sense for both your personal safety and your pocketbook.

Utility locates are free of charge to you, but you must give 2 business days notice. Costs to repair damaged utilities will be charged to the telephone customer if notification is not made. Damaged underground power, telephone and gas lines can be dangerous as well as an inconvenience. It's simple to get the locating process started.

Just dial **811** to reach the Utility Notification Center, and tell them where you'll be digging. They'll make sure all your utility providers are notified so they can mark lines that could be in your way.

If you have any questions about the process, or about the project you're planning, you can also call our office during business hours at 358-4211.

*Find the phone*



Take a good look at the picture of the phone up above and to the right. If you look hard enough, you'll find a smaller version of that picture hiding some place in this newsletter. When you see it, just pick up the phone and call to let us know that you found it. **We'll hold a drawing 2 weeks after mailing and all of the names of those who let us know they found the phone will be entered into the drawing for a \$20.00 credit on your phone bill.** Remember...find the phone then pick up *your* phone to call us at 970-358-4211 and tell us that you found it. We'll put your name in a drawing for this publication and you could be a winner.

**The winner of a \$20.00 Plains Telephone bill credit for the Find the Pot of Gold drawing was Dorothy Schneider of Joes. Congratulations, Dorothy, and thanks for playing along!**