



## 2019 Annual Membership Meeting in Eckley, April 25

This year's meeting of the Plains Cooperative Telephone Association, Inc. was hosted by the Eckley exchange in the gymnasium at the Eckley Community Center. There were 63 cooperative memberships represented at the dinner and meeting. The attendees enjoyed a delicious meal prepared and served by the Eckley Community Center board. Company employees always enjoy seeing the customers who have a chance to come to the meeting. After the meal, the business meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. Pastor Jon Shaw gave the invocation. Board President Dwayne Bowers introduced the Board, Company auditor Tammy Totzke, Company attorney Ed Zorn and the employees of the company, as well as past directors and employees who were present. John Turvey was appointed to serve as Parliamentarian for the meeting. Linda Sackett presented the Secretary's report.

Treasurer Lora Liming 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 \$1.8 million in 2018, and currently has more than \$24 million invested in telephone, Internet and video property, plant and equipment. Plains has approximately \$987,000 in cash, savings and CD's. The Cooperative also paid down long-term debt of \$553,000 in 2018 and continues to hold approximately \$1,000,000 in the prepayment account for long-term debt. In addition, Plains Telephone paid \$147,000 in local property taxes to the counties and communities we serve.

General Manager Ronny Puckett reported that the Cooperative had returned to Operating Profit in 2018, partly due to a 12% decline in operating expenses. The subscriber base remains steady, as our cooperative customers continue to utilize landline phone services. Plains Communication Services' partnership with the city of Wray is going well, with commercial services launched, a growing subscriber base, and Phase II of the project in the works. There will be regulatory issues to navigate in 2019, including net neutrality, mandated testing of broadband services to the end user, and changes in regulatory reporting. As the Cooperative moves forward, the company and employees will continue to strengthen our communities wherever possible with continuing education and support of Broadband applications for our local residents and businesses.

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 Mike Leerar from the Eckley exchange and Tammy Sanford and Shane Weaver from the Joes exchange. After the ballots were collected, the Company attorney and a committee of members oversaw the counting of the ballots. President Bowers announced the election of Shane Weaver to serve as director of the Joes exchange, and Mike Leerar was elected by acclamation to serve the Eckley exchange. During the evening, attendees viewed a slide show of photos from the 2018 directory cover photo contest, Farms & Ranches, and numerous prize drawings were conducted. The progressive cash drawing of \$700.00 was drawn from the full membership list, with the prize to be awarded only if the member whose name was drawn was in attendance. Y-W Electric Association was drawn as the winning member and the prize was presented to a representative who was present at the meeting. Next year's prize will reset to \$200 to be drawn at the 67th annual meeting to be held in the Cope & Anton exchange.

### JUNE 2019

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Ronny Puckett, General Manager

#### Board of Directors

Gerald Guy.....President

Seibert exchange, 664

Mike Leerar.....Vice-President

Eckley exchange, 359

Denise Weyerman.....Secretary

Idalia exchange, 354

Dwayne Bowers.....Treasurer

Anton exchange, 383

Lora Liming.....Director

Kirk exchange, 362

Linda Sackett.....Director

Cope exchange, 357

Shane Weaver.....Director

Joes exchange 358



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