

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE 2007 MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

The first meeting will be in Tilden for the Annarose, Artesia Wells, Fowlerton, Millet, San Miguel, & Tilden exchanges on **Saturday, March 17**, at the McMullen I.S.D Cafeteria.

For the El Sauz, Encino, McCook & San Isidro exchanges the meeting will take place on **Saturday, March 24**, at the San Isidro High School Gym.

The Hebronville meeting for the Concepcion, El Sauz, & Mirando City exchanges will be held on **Saturday, March 31**, at the Jim Hogg County Pavilion.

The Official Membership meeting will be in Raymondville for the Hargill, Lasara, Port Mansfield, San Perilita, & Stillman exchanges on **Tuesday, April 3**, at the Raymondville High School Gym.





Valley Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Valley's Save-A-Bundle

ONLY \$19.99 PER MONTH

- 2 Residential Lines
- Choice of Calling Features

- Caller ID (Calling Name & Number Delivery)
- Call Waiting with ID
- Call Waiting with Cancel
- Three-Way Calling

*Federal monthly charges and taxes are not included.



VTX COMMUNICATIONS
A VTCI Company

Long Distance is 6.9¢ a minute

- \$1.95 per month service charge
- Anytime, Anywhere in the U.S.
- Residential & Business

**Call Today!
800-446-2031**

Two Great Services



A MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

Greetings from Valley Telephone! As we enter the spring season, we are busy upgrading our telephone fiber optic network and converting exchanges to the faster ADSL2+ service. The flood of upgrades from both older DSL services and dial up users is proof that our members are enjoying the new services and are telling their neighbors! All these changes will mean better and more reliable service for our members.

I know you will enjoy this issue of our newsletter. We continue our tour of VTCI exchanges and begin an educational series on telecommunications subjects. In this issue we talk frankly about "number portability" and discuss why switching service is not always a good

idea. The old saying is true - "if it sounds too good to be true..." Also, be sure to catch the article on operator services and how VTCI has worked to keep the "live operator" in operator services.

Enjoy the newsletter, and drop in and say hi when you're in Raymondville.

Dave Osborn
General Manager



2nd Annual San Isidro Festival

Sponsored by: San Isidro Catholic Church

April 28, 2007 • San Isidro, TX

San Isidro Church Grounds & Parish Hall

For more information call 956-481-3392

Parade begins at the intersection of FM1017 and FM2294 at 10:00am

Cook-Off

Live Entertainment throughout the day
Rock n Roll, County Music, Tejano

Bike Show, any bikers welcome to parade/bike competition

Food and Beverage Stands available

Coloring Contest Winners

We have discovered true talent among our area students and would like to extend our thanks to all schools who participated in the "My Rural Telephone Co-op" 2007 Member Directory Cover Coloring Contest.

Congratulations!



1st Place Jason Rodriguez Lasara ISD	2nd Place Nancy E. Garza San Isidro ISD	3rd Place Estrellita Lopez San Perilita ISD	Honorable Mention Javier Garcia Ramirez Common School
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They are paid back to the members upon approval of the Board of Directors, depending on the financial condition of the Cooperative.

If you move from our services area, the capital credits in your account will remain in your name and will continue to be refunded until the account is cleared. Capital credit checks are mailed to the last known address. Please keep us informed of your current address, so you can continue to receive your check in the years to come.

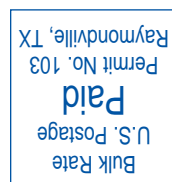
If, for a period of two years after a check has been mailed to the last known address of the member, delivery cannot be made, or checks are not deposited, the capital credits will be determined to be unclaimed. Unclaimed capital credits are turned over to the Valley

Telephone Cooperative trust to be redistributed to membership.

In case of separation or divorce, checks are payable to the person whose name is on the account. The person remaining in the residence where service is provided should contact VTCI to change the account name and number if necessary. If the account is held in both names, both parties must sign a form authorizing VTCI to divide the capital credits equally.

If you have any questions concerning capital credits, please call our Capital Credit department at 800-446-2031 ext.198.

Capital Credit checks will be mailed March 13, 2007.



UNDERSTANDING YOUR CAPITAL CREDITS

VTCI is a non profit corporation. All money paid by members for their telecommunications services, in excess of operating costs and expenses, is furnished by the members as capital and is allocated back to them.

Capital credits are to be paid annually to each member. The amount of capital credits each member receives varies with the amount each member paid for telephone services. The more you, as a member, paid for services, the more capital credits are refunded. You are sent an allocation statement each year that lists the balance in your patronage capital account and the amount allocated that year. This allocation statement is NOT A BILL. It is a statement of your equity in the Cooperative.

Capital credits cannot be refunded all at once because they are retained as capital to operate the business of the cooperative. If VTCI could not get its

operating capital from member payments, it would have to borrow the money, which could cause an increase in rates. Capital credits are used over a period of time for such things as plant improvements and construction.

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AROUND OUR EXCHANGES

Brief History of McCook, Texas as a Polish Family Farming Community


In the late 1920's and continuing through the 1930's, Silesian-Polish families that were connected through common history and common community, began clearing the wild, untamed area of northern Hidalgo county known as McCook. The families came from the Cestohowa, Kosciusko, Panna Maria area of Texas (southeast of San Antonio). The land purchased was thick in cactus, mesquite, snakes, cougars and coyotes. The families left lovely, comfortable homes to pioneer this area, clearing a little at a time for farm land, a commodity that was becoming scarce in the "old Country". Important to these families were keeping their common friendships, their Silesian-Polish traditions, their religion and their commitment to family. Today, most of the original pioneers are deceased and their sons continue the tradition of "stewards of the land".

As recent history witnessed, 2006 was a severe drought year,



"Little Path of St. Joseph." The sign is a prayer for those leaving the driveway to St. Joseph to protect them on their way.

with absolutely nothing growing in the fields in the spring. In the summer months, James and Larry Skloss (sons of pioneers August and Sylvia Skloss) of Sklarz Farms, Inc., planted an unassuming variety of grain sorghum in order to hold down the drought-ravaged fragile topsoils from blowing and to plow under for soil enrichment. Then, the heaven sent rains came in such timing so as to produce a heavy crop not seen in many, many years in this dry-land farming area. With their own personal decisions, with urging from their loyal crew and passersby, and with a rarely seen great market price, the families of Sklarz Farms were in the combines and manning grain buggies harvesting this crop during the week of Christmas. It was truly a Christmas inspiration, a gift born of faith and hard work, a blessedly, soothing end to a very, very difficult year. It was a strong testimony to the enduring spirit and strength of the original pioneers of McCook, Texas.

Valley Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

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Business Office Hours
Monday-Friday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Closed Saturday & Sunday

Internet Support Hours
Monday-Friday: 8 a.m. – 9 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Sunday: 1 p.m. – 7 p.m.
(800) 687-4202

2007 YOUTH TOUR IN WASHINGTON D.C.

Application Deadline: March 15, 2007

Valley Telephone Cooperative (VTCI) is sponsoring one student to attend the 2007 Youth Tour in Washington D.C. scheduled for June 2 - June 6.

Applicants must be children or under legal guardianship of members of VTCI who have a minimum of one year membership with VTCI at the application deadline date. Applicants must be permanent residents of the VTCI area, be a high school junior as of February 2, 2007 and have a minimum high school grade average of 80%.

If you would like an application or request more information on the Eligibility Requirements and Award Criteria, please call Paulette Lefner at (800) 446-2031 or 956-642-1133.

Who will it be this year? Apply today!



OPERATOR SERVICES

Will dialing the operator connect me to a VTCI customer service representative?

A No you will not reach a VTCI customer service representative. Actually, each time you dial "0" or "0" + area code and telephone number, you will hear a recording that says, "VTCI Operator, for English Press 1 Para Espanol oprima el

2" followed by a short pause. We made every effort to keep the service friendly by eliminating long menu options that make it difficult to reach a live person.

Dialing direct (1+area code+ telephone number) is the most affordable way to call. Your direct long distance calling rates are not changing. However, when in need of assistance, take comfort in

knowing that the fee for using the operator will now be controlled.

If you have questions about your phone bill, new services, or existing services you can reach a VTCI customer service representative by dialing 800-446-2031 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. through 5 p.m.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE



David Velasquez, Human Resource Department, takes time out of his schedule to donate.

"Thank you, the blood drive was a great success. We appreciate all of the support from Valley Telephone Co-op." Sarah E. Brandi, donor recruitment representative, United Blood Services.



In the United States, someone needs blood every two seconds. So when the United Blood Service asked VTCI to be a part of their blood drive there was no hesitation. Employees were quick to sign up and make this event possible. A total of 17 pints were donated exceeding their goal by 70%.



Frances Krnavek, Accounting Department, makes giving blood look like fun.

The need for blood never stops. By making a difference in life, you are helping to ensure that life-sustaining blood is available. VTCI is proud of their employees and the difference they've made.

HELLO? CAN YOU HEAR ME?

Local Number Portability (LNP) Not All It's Cracked Up to Be

Local Number Portability (LNP) is defined as "the ability of users of telecommunications services to retain, at the same location, existing telecommunications numbers without impairment of quality, reliability, or convenience when switched from one telephone carrier to another." This means the customer has the ability to keep their telephone number when switching to a competing local telephone service provider.

Very few traditional telephone companies such as Valley Telephone Cooperative, Inc. are not moving their telephone numbers to Competitive Local Exchange Carriers or to wireless companies. Most porting of local numbers is in the wireless arena, where a wireless user with business cards and other advertisements wants a new wireless provider.

Although some companies promise that porting numbers is a breeze foul-ups sometimes occur as with any new service. Sometimes, correcting the problem can take days or hours, and a good questions to ask is, "Can I do without my local number for a matter of days or hours?"

If you are thinking "anything is better than my current service," the next carrier may not be any better, and in fact, it could be worse. This is true especially of wireless providers. Don't get caught up in the promises of better service, better coverage, better billing, better rates, better customer service, etc.



Before you run out and sign up for Local Number Portability (LNP) you may want to consider what you could be loosing:

- You will no longer be part of the Cooperative
- Your capital credit check
- Delivered service versus "promised service"
- Quality and coverage
- Excellent customer service from people you know and trust.

2007 VTCI SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Application Deadline: March 16, 2007

Application packets for the 2007 Valley Telephone Cooperative Scholarship Programs are now available at Valley Telephone Headquarters or local high school guidance offices.

Applicant must be a dependent child of a current member of Valley Telephone Cooperative who has been a member of the Cooperative for at least one year as of the application deadline date.

Applicants must be a high school senior as of March 16, 2007, have a minimum high school grade average of 80%, and plan to enroll in a full-time undergraduate course of study at an accredited 2 to 4 year U.S. college or university in Fall 2007, and who is enrolled at the time of the award.

If you request more information on the Eligibility Requirements and Award Criteria, please call Paulette Lefner at 800-446-2031 or 956-642-1133.

Last Year's Winners

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

2005-2006

 Ashton Teal: Tilden, TX	 Bobby Rodriguez: San Perita, TX	 Christopher Morales: Encino, TX	 Marki Shedd: George West, TX
 Rhoda Rodriguez: Dilley, TX	 Ricardo Garza Jr: Rio Grande City, TX	 Stacy Saenz: San Isidro, TX	 Troy Triplett: Oilton, TX