



COOPERATIVE FUNDS \$23,100 IN SCHOLARSHIPS

Hill Country Telephone Cooperative, Inc. is once again pleased to offer scholarships to graduating high school seniors. This year 21 scholarships of \$1,100 each will be awarded to selected recipients.

There are no prerequisites for these scholarships, and they may be applied to any accredited institution of higher learning where the recipient is enrolled as a full-time student (12 hours minimum).

To qualify, the student's parents/legal guardians must be members of our telephone cooperative (subscribe to telephone service). While above average grades are an asset, they are not required to compete for this scholarship. Awards will also be based on leadership qualities, participation in

extracurricular and community activities, and teacher recommendations.

Since 1996, the Cooperative has awarded 181 scholarships totaling \$306,500. Funding for these scholarships is possible because of a state law passed in September 1995, whereby local exchange telephone companies can place unclaimed refunds into scholarship funds for students in the Cooperative's service area.

Students who wish to compete should obtain an application from their high school guidance counselor. Applications can also be obtained online at www.hctc.net. The application deadline is March 31, 2006. Applications received after that date will not be considered.

U.S. SETS GOALS FOR BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT: HCTC Reports Continued Growth

The United States is reportedly behind our global competitors in broadband deployment. Recently, House Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) challenged Congress and the country to secure America's continued leadership in innovation, and unleash the next generation of discovery, invention and growth to keep America number one. Pelosi highlighted that the nationwide deployment of broadband communications will fuel the development of millions of jobs in the United States. Last year, President Bush made a similar pledge to ubiquitously deploy broadband by 2007.

Since July 2005, our Cooperative has installed more than 700 WildBlue and Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL) services. Because of our rural terrain, satellite Internet access (WildBlue) accounts for approximately 80% of our high-speed Internet services. WildBlue reports that since deployment in 2005, there are more than 24,000 active accounts nationwide with approximately 2,500 orders pending on a weekly basis. This is exciting and very promising news for rural America!

WildBlue and ADSL now available.....see page 3

COOPERATIVE NAME CHANGE DENIED BY STATE

An amendment to change the name of Hill Country Telephone Cooperative, Inc. has been declined by the Secretary of State. According to the Business & Public Filings Division, the proposed name change did not meet the requirements of the Texas Utilities Code.

In October 2005, the members approved an amendment to the Charter to change our Cooperative's name from Hill Country Telephone Cooperative, Inc. to Hill Country Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. Upon receiving verification that the number of required member votes to change the Cooperative's name had been met, an Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation was filed with the State. In mid-December 2005, the Cooperative was notified that the proposed amendment did not meet the requirements of Texas Utilities Code 162.053, which states, in part, that the corporate name of a telephone cooperative entity must contain the words "telephone cooperative".

The Board of Directors sought a name change to more accurately reflect the diversification trend of our Cooperative. And while a name change appears to be quelled, plans are underway to develop a new image—one that reflects information technology in rural telecommunications.

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SURVEY RESULTS ANNOUNCED

The Cooperative recently conducted a customer survey of our members in an effort to more closely evaluate our services. The response exceeded our expectations. Response rate is the single most important indicator of how much confidence can be placed in the results of a survey. Generally, surveys have a rate of return between 2-10 percent . . . we were hoping for at least 17 percent. Much to our surprise 27% of our customer base responded to the Cooperative's survey.

An overwhelming 97% of the respondents were satisfied overall with our telephone service. The largest number of responses was received from our Doss and Mt. Home Exchanges at 32 percent, with the least amount of participation from our Center Point Exchange at 22 percent. In both the Fredonia and Streeter Exchanges, 100% of the respondents were satisfied overall with our telephone service. The largest percentage of dissatisfied respondents was in our Pontotoc Exchange at 8 percent.

Although our Internet services did not rate as well, we were still pleased with the numbers. Overall, 78% of the respondents were satisfied with our Internet. In the Mt. Home Exchange, 100% of the respondents were satisfied overall, with the largest percentage of dissatisfied Internet respondents in our Frio Canyon Exchange at 37 percent. However, based on customer response since the implementation of high-speed Internet, we feel we have significantly improved the quality of our Internet services.

Customers responding by the deadline date were entered into a drawing for prizes. Winners of \$50 gift certificates to their choice of any eating establishment within the Cooperative's service area were:

<u>District No.</u>	<u>Member</u>
1A	Judy Kennedy
1B	Edward Schnurr
2	Ronald Barker
3	Ronnie Lively
4	Arthur L. Hahn
5	Kenneth Gilliam
6A	Dorothy Leslie
6B	Whitney Waters
7	Harold Marble
8	William Morgan
9	Robert Hobbs

Restaurants chosen by our winners were The Copper Top and Hunter House Cafe (Ingram), El Gallo (Doss), Vinny's Italian Restaurant (Leakey), The Hen House and Double D Family Restaurant (Comfort), and Steel Horse Cafe (Tarpley).

An occasional glance toward the summit keeps the goal in mind, but many beautiful scenes are to be observed from each new vantage point. Anonymous

"On behalf of the Board of Directors and employees of the Cooperative, thank you for participating in the recent customer survey. Each and every comment has been reviewed, and we currently are addressing all issues brought to our attention. We appreciate the opportunity to serve you."

Les Esquell, General Manager

CUSTOMER FACTS: Caller ID

Caller ID is an optional service that allows you to see most telephone numbers and names of persons calling your telephone.

As the caller, your name and telephone number will appear on the Caller ID screen even if your number is unlisted. You can take action to prevent this by blocking the information from being sent, as described in the customer guide of our telephone directory.

To protect personal privacy, state law requires telephone companies to offer a free blocking service to all customers where Caller ID is available. Blocking prevents the display of your name and number. You can block all calls or selected calls.

Per-Call blocking is activated by pressing *67 before dialing (1167 on a rotary phone).

Per-Line blocking must be activated by the telephone cooperative.

Persons receiving these calls will see the word "anonymous" or "private" on the Caller ID screen. If your call is rejected because you have per-line blocking, you can unblock your line for a single call by dialing *82 (1182 on a rotary phone) before making the call.

Blocking does not work on 700, 800, 888 and 900 numbers. However, it is illegal to use Caller ID to compile and sell information about individuals without their consent.

Business Telephone Systems

NORTEL NORSTAR

Authorized Dealer

PBX - Key Systems

includes complete installation & maintenance

**For a free quote call us
at 367-5333
or 1-800-292-5457**

AUTOMATIC BANK DRAFT

Our Cooperative's Automatic Bank Draft makes bill paying easy. Here's how it works:

- | | |
|---|---|
| • | Your payment is automatically withdrawn from your checking or savings account for the amount of your monthly bill on the 1st day of each month. We also offer draft services on Visa and MasterCard accounts. |
| • | You will continue to receive an itemized monthly statement for your records, only the amount due will be marked "paid". |
| • | Your payment is recorded on your bank statement. |
| • | The service is free. |

Automatic withdrawals can be discontinued at any time. Simply notify us by the 15th of the month prior to the withdrawal date (the 1st day of the following month).

Sign up for Automatic Bank Draft today.

Call our Business Office at 367-5333 or 1-800-292-5457 to request a Draft Authorization Form. The authorization form can also be obtained online at www.hctc.net.

A graphic with the text "It's Here!" in a large, orange, cursive font, set against a blue background with a white cloud-like pattern.

High-Speed Internet

from Hill Country Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Always on, high-speed, two-way Internet access service that delivers download speeds of up to 1.5 Mbps. *That's up to 25 times faster than standard 56k dial-up connections.*

We provide technical support 24-7.

Call our Business Office at 367-5333 or 800-292-5457 for more information.

Monthly Price Starting at \$49.95.

UNCLAIMED MONIES

(Are you on the list?)

In September 2005 the Cooperative released \$1.2 million in capital credits. To date, approximately 1,500 checks totaling more than \$147,000 remain unclaimed.

It's Your Money

Your next monthly statement will include a list of unclaimed capital credit payments. Please look for your name in this notice. To claim payment, contact our Business Office immediately. Any unclaimed funds are presumed abandoned and reported to the State of Texas.

Steps to Claim Other Property

Government agencies are holding over \$60 billion in unclaimed property and missing money. An asset becomes abandoned in the eyes of the law when contact with the owner is lost, typically due to a name change after marriage or divorce, an unreported change of address, incomplete or illegible records and clerical errors. To search for other possible lost assets, please contact the State Comptroller at:

Mailing Address

Comptroller of Public Accounts
Unclaimed Property Division
Research & Correspondence Section
P. O. Box 12019
Austin, TX 78711-2019

Telephone No.

1-800-654-FIND (3463)

Website

www.window.state.tx.us/up

email

unclaimed.property@cpa.state.tx.us

CUSTOMER FACTS

Texas ‘No Call’ Lists

Texans may register a **residential or wireless** telephone number for one or both of two “No Call” lists sponsored by the Public Utility Commission (PUC). Placing your name, address and telephone number on these lists will identify you as someone who does not wish to receive telemarketing calls at home.

Statewide “Do Not Call” List

The statewide “Do Not Call” list applies to telephone marketers operating in Texas. Your registered telephone number(s) will remain on this list for three years.

“Electric No Call” List

The second list prevents calls only from Retail Providers and telemarketers calling about your electric service. Numbers placed on this list will remain on the list five years. Business numbers can also be added to the “Electric No Call” list.

When will these calls stop?

The date of your registration determines the date by which all telemarketing to your number must stop:

Date Registered	Calls Stop By
Jan 1 - Mar 31	June 1
Apr 1 - June 30	Sept 1
Jul 1 - Aug 31	Dec 1
Sept 1 - Dec 31	Mar 1

How do I sign up?

- At www.TexasNoCall.com - Use the Internet for an easy, automated method that provides instant registration. To register by mail, use the [printable registration form](#).
- Request a registration form by calling 1-866-TXNO-CALL (1-866-896-6225).
- Write: TEXAS NO CALL
P. O. Box 313
E. Walpole, MA 02032

Online registration is free. Telephone registrations must be paid by credit card. Mailed applications may be paid by credit card or by check made payable to Texas No Call. The charge is \$2.25 for each number registered on the “Do Not Call” list and \$2.55 for each number placed on the “Electric No Call” list.

Consumers in Texas can now register for the *National Do Not Call* list by visiting www.DoNotCall.gov or by calling toll-free 1-888-382-1222 (TTY 1-866-290-4236).

Companies that conduct telemarketing activities should call 1-866-896-6225 or visit www.texasnocall.com for compliance information and additional details regarding Texas “No Call” lists.

HECHOS DEL CLIENTE

Listas De “No Llamar” en Tejas

Tejanos pueden ahora registrar un número de teléfono **residencial o radiofónico** para uno o ambos de dos listas “No Llamar” patrocinado por la Comisión de Utilidad Pública (PUC). Poniendo su nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono en estas listas le identificarán pues alguien que no desea recibir llamadas de telemarcaderos en casa.

La Lista Estatal De “No Llamar”

La lista estatal de “No Llamar” se aplica a los vendedores por teléfono que funcionan en Tejas. Su número(s) de teléfono registrado se quedará en esta lista durante tres años.

La Lista “Eléctrica De No Llamar”

La segunda lista previene llamadas solamente de abastecedores y telemarcaderos eléctricos que llaman sobre su servicio eléctrico. Los números puestos en esta lista seguirán apareciendo en la lista por cinco años. Números de negocio se pueden añadir también a la lista “Eléctrica de No Llamar.”

¿Cuándo pararán estas llamadas?

La fecha de su matrícula determina la fecha que toda televant a su número debe parar:

Fecha Registrada	Llamadas Paran
Jan 1 - Mar 31	June 1
Apr 1 - June 30	Sept 1
Jul 1 - Aug 31	Dec 1
Sept 1 - Dec 31	Mar 1

¿Cómo puedo registrarme?

- En www.TexasNoCall.com - Utilizar el Internet para un método fácil y automatizado que proporciona matrícula instantánea. Para registrar por el correo, utiliza el formulario de inscripción imprimible.
- Solicite un formulario de inscripción llamando 1-866-TXNOCALL (1-866-896-6225).
- Escriba: TEXAS NO CALL
P. O. Box 313
E. Walpole, MA 02032

Registración en línea es gratis. Las matrículas telefónicas deben ser pagadas por tarjeta de crédito. Las aplicaciones enviadas pueden ser pagadas por tarjeta de crédito o cheque hecho pagadero a Texas No Call. La carga es \$2.25 para cada número registrado en la lista de “No Llamar” y \$2.55 para cada número puesto en la lista “Electric de No Llamar.”

Los consumidores en Tejas ahora se pueden registrar en la lista Nacional de No Llamar visitando www.DoNotCall.gov o llamando (gratis) 1-888-382-1222 (TTY 1-866-290-4236).

Las compañías que conducen actividades de telemarcadero deben llamar 1-866-896-6225 o visitar www.texasnocall.com para información de conformidad y detalles adicionales con respecto a las listas de “No Llamar” de Tejas.