HCTC SCHOLARSHIPS — $25,500 IN AWARDS

Deadline to Apply
March 1, 2016

HCTC is currently accepting applications for 2016 scholarships. Available to graduating high school seniors only, seventeen scholarships of $1,500 each will be awarded to selected recipients.

While above average grades are an asset, they are not required to compete for this scholarship. Other factors will also be considered, such as leadership qualities, extracurricular and community activities, as well as teacher recommendations.

“HCTC strongly believes that the rural economic development of our communities lies in the education of our youth”, states CEO Delbert Wilson. In support of our upcoming leaders, HCTC has awarded $613,500 in scholarship funds to 412 high school students since 1996.

Students interested in applying can obtain an application online at www.hctc.net. Applications will be accepted through March 1, 2016.

For further details, please visit our website at www.hctc.net.
In spite of all the negativity being pushed by the mainstream media and all of the anti-American sentiment circulating the country, this is still the United States of America where we have freedoms and rights that many have fought and died to secure for us. As Americans, we have all made a choice to live in Rural America. Our basic needs as rural Americans are the same, if not greater in certain situations, as urban Americans.

In response to our part of rural America’s need for communication services, Hill Country Telephone Cooperative (HCTC) was born some 64 years ago. As time has advanced, and our needs and wants have changed, technology has advanced to make servicing those needs and wants possible. Likewise, HCTC has evolved from a simple “telephone company” to a dynamic telecommunications company.

HCTC has continued to invest in the latest technology to ensure our infrastructure is capable of delivering the services desired by HCTC customers. Those services include high speed Internet and broadband as well as superior quality voice service. To better serve customers and support company operation needs, HCTC has recently completed construction on a new headquarters building which will provide much needed space and amenities as our business expands to provide an even greater range of customer service. HCTC is also in the process of building a new Data Center which will be completed by year-end.

As we have seen over the last year, the regulatory and legislative climates in both Austin and Washington D.C. continue to change. In most cases these changes do not benefit cooperatives and small privately owned companies. In the worst cases, the changes negatively affect the funding mechanisms for cooperatives that have been in place for decades.

Recent regulatory and legislative effects on our funding mechanisms have caused HCTC to change from a Rate-of-Return philosophy to a Profit-Loss philosophy. We believe this new philosophy is the path to continued future growth and prosperity for HCTC. Consequently, we now offer expanded services in Mason, Kerrville and Fredericksburg. Services to Junction should be in place in the near future as well.

The Board of Directors, the Management Team, and the Employees are united in commitment to the success of HCTC. The forward-thinking vision of our board of directors has empowered the management team to use their knowledge and abilities to continually seek and analyze all opportunities that may be advantageous to HCTC. We are very proud of the new Headquarters Building, Data Center, and all of the other service advancements HCTC has made this year.

Willard R. (Randy) Bass - President of Board
FRS YOUTH TOUR SCHOLARSHIP
EXPERIENCE HISTORY IN THE MAKING

The opportunity to experience history in the making at one of the world’s most powerful cities – Washington, D. C. – is at your fingertips! HCTC will sponsor two area students to attend the Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) 2016 Youth Tour on June 4-8.

The FRS Youth Tour gives students the opportunity to not only experience the nation’s capital, but to also meet other youth from across the country to form friendships that last a lifetime. In addition to visiting the U.S. Capitol and historical sites, students will experience fun fellowship, dinner, entertainment and dancing.

It’s a trip you don’t want to miss. Apply today! Go to www.hctc.net for more information or to apply.

Application Deadline: March 1, 2016

INGRAM OFFICE DEMOLITION

It is with bittersweet feelings that the original Headquarters Building built by the founders of our Cooperative was recently demolished upon completion of the new Headquarters facilities. Built in the early 1960s on land donated by the Hunt-Ingram Lions Club, the building was in total disrepair. Thus, began a new journey on the very same principles.

In the HCTC spirit, all metals and scrap material was recycled. To further enhance our ecological spirit, the vacated area will provide additional green space, and house a water collection system of approximately 18 thousand gallons of collected rainwater and daily condensation from the HVAC units for irrigation purposes.

For further efficiency purposes, the Cooperative also continues to move forward with the demolition of old central office buildings in our outlying areas. Metals and scrap materials are not only being recycled, but the brick and mortar are being crushed and repurposed for use as a base material.
WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COOPERATIVE AND TO OUR MEMBERS.
DIRECTORY CLOSING DATES NEARING

Any changes or additions to your listings in the May 2016 Telephone Directory must be made soon. Please contact us prior to the deadline date(s).

DEADLINE DATES

Yellow Pages - January 12, 2016
White Pages - February 12, 2016

CONTACT INFO

830.367.5333 or 800.292.5457
busofc@hctc.net

FIND US ON FACEBOOK

We like to keep in touch with our members and our communities. Using Facebook gives you and us an opportunity to connect and share some of our new growth/opportunities.

COOPERATIVE HOLIDAY HOURS

Dec 24th - 8 am – Noon
Dec 25th - Closed
Dec 31st - 8 am – Noon
Jan 1st - Closed

and regulatory and legislative updates on Universal Service Funding. A short video on construction of the Headquarters Building and Data Center was presented to the members.

Approximately 870 members and guests attended this year’s Annual Membership Meeting. Special guests included Dub Haney of our Ingram Exchange who gave the invocation; members of the Vietnam Veterans of America (T. J. Stem Memorial Chapter) Jon Moreno, Arnold Rathke, Bill Vaughan, Barbara Heckman-Sauer, Letty Chacon, and Commander Jack Scott, who presented the colors; and Vocalist Sonja Johnson who sang the National Anthem.

In an executive session immediately following the meeting, officers re-elected for 2015-2016 were: Randy Bass, President (District #2-Hunt); Kathy Bohn, Vice President (District #6A-Comfort & Sisterdale); and Kari Potter, Secretary-Treasurer (District #7-Center Point).

INCUMBENT DIRECTORS RE-ELECTED

Bylaw Amendments Pass

Four directors were re-elected to serve 3-year terms on the Board of Directors of HCTC. Results of the elections were announced at the Annual Membership Meeting on October 5.

Directors unopposed and deemed as consent of the nominees by the members were: Edward (Ed) Bas-tian (District #1B-Ingram); Willard R. (Randy) Bass (District #2-Hunt); Jim Faught (District #4-Doss); and Randy MacNaughton (District #8-Medina & Tarpley).

Members of HCTC also approved two amendments to the Cooperative’s Bylaws which passed by an overwhelming margin. In other action, CEO Delbert Wilson reported on the investment and expansion of the Cooperative’s network; completion of the new Headquarters Office Building; construction of the new Data Center;

BYLAW ADMENDMENTS

First Proposition, Article IV Section 4.3 Qualifications to be Nominated

FOR 1,069 AGAINST 28

Second Proposition, Article VIII Section 8.2 Membership Capital

FOR 1,045 AGAINST 39
HCTC’s Technology Solutions Service includes technical training on the usage of smart phones and tablets. As part of the Club Ed program, classes are held at the Dietert Center and are free and open to the public. Future training topics will include how to connect to wifi, how to use various applications, and how to get the most out of your device. For more information visit www.clubed.net

HCTC was proud to be a sponsor for the Ingram Elementary School students Business and Personal Financial Literacy project in which they created a business plan for a lemonade stand. To date, student’s of Ms. Jennifer Hyde’s class have raised the funds, built the stand, and earned enough money to build a gaga ball pit and small school garden plot. We wish them much continued success with this project.
In recognition of National Cooperative Month, each October employees of HCTC travel throughout our local communities and service areas handing out home-baked cookies in appreciation of our customers. For 62 years HCTC has been connecting rural Texas..........thank you for entrusting us to serve you !!

The Substantive Rules, Section 26.31(c), of the Texas Public Utility Commission, requires all telephone companies to inform subscribers of “Your Rights as a Customer”. Your rights have been published in the May 2015 Telephone Directory and can be found on pages 43-49. In addition, the Cooperative’s Bylaws have been published in the back of the directory for your convenience.

Las reglas substantivas, seccion 26.31(c), del Comision Utilidad Publico de Tejas, requiré todas las compañias de teléfono a informar suscriptores de <Los Derechos Como Un Cliente>. Sus derechos han publicado en la quia telefonica de Mayo 2015 y pueden encontrarios en las paginas 50 a 57. En adicion, Los Reglamentos del Cooperativo se han publicado de atras de la quia para sus conveniencia.