



**2010 Annual Meeting, April 22 at the Arickaree School**

This year's meeting of the Plains Cooperative Telephone Association, Inc. was held in the Cope and Anton exchanges, at the Arickaree School. Eighty-eight cooperative members were in attendance for the dinner and meeting. The attendees enjoyed a delicious roast pork dinner prepared by the Arickaree FFA Chapter and Plains Telephone employees enjoyed seeing some of the customers we visit with on the telephone.

After the meal, the business meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. Pastor Pete Tel of the Bethel Union Church gave the invocation. Board President Terry Oestman introduced the Board of Directors, Company attorney, Ed Zorn, and Company auditor, Dave Aspenson and the employees of the company, as well as past directors and employees who were present. Marissa Amos was appointed to serve as Parliamentarian for the meeting.

Denise Weyerman, Secretary, along with Company attorney Edward Zorn, presented the Secretary's report.

President Terry Oestman introduced Dave Aspenson, representing the Company's auditing firm, who reported on the annual financial statements of the Cooperative and its subsidiary. He indicated that the Cooperative had a positive operating cash flow of \$731,000 in 2009, and was able to invest over \$431,000 in new property, plant and equipment during the year. The Cooperative also paid down long-term debt of \$380,000 in 2009, and paid \$275,000 in capital credits to members during the year.

Manager D. Kevin Felty discussed the National Broadband Plan, which has a goal of providing speeds of up to 100 mbps to 100 million Internet users by 2020. Plains Telephone applied for American Recovery Act funding, which, if approved, would allow the Cooperative to place fiber optic cable to each residence in every exchange.

Terry Oestman, director from the Eckley area, was not running for re-election because of term limits. Terry has served 15 years on the board. Richard Meade, director from Joes, was eligible for re-election. The candidates who had filed proper petitions to run for these positions were Michael Leerar from the Eckley exchange and Richard Meade from the Joes exchange. Being the only candidates for each of these seats, these two directors were elected by motion to cast a unanimous ballot. During the evening, attendees viewed a slide show of photos from the 2010 directory cover photo contest and prize drawings were conducted. The progressive cash prize drawing of \$500.00 was drawn from the full membership, with the prize to be awarded only if the member whose name was drawn was in attendance at the meeting. No one was able to claim the prize this year and the progressive drawing will move to \$600.00 for next year's annual meeting, which is scheduled to be held in the Seibert exchange.



**D. Kevin Felty.....General Manager**

**Board of Directors**

**Richard Meade.....President**  
**Joes Exchange, 358**

**Denise Weyerman.....Vice-President**  
**Idalia Exchange, 354**

**Lora Liming.....Secretary**  
**Kirk Exchange, 362**

**Gerald Guy.....Treasurer**  
**Seibert Exchange, 664**

**Dwayne Bowers.....Director**  
**Anton Exchange, 383**

**Michael Leerar.....Director**  
**Eckley Exchange, 359**

**Linda Sackett.....Director**  
**Cope Exchange, 357**

**Office Hours are from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM**  
**Monday - Friday**

## Saying Goodbye

There have been some changes recently at Plains Telephone. In February of 2010, our longtime accountant, [Elaine Lewis](#) retired from the company. At this year's annual meeting, [Terry Oestman](#), from the Eckley exchange, retired from the Board of Directors after 15 years because of term limits. Terry was the last of several board members who have completed 15 years of service on the board. [Bob Brenner](#) from Idalia, [Elva Masters](#) from Anton, [Jim Cecil](#) from Cope, [Allen Liming](#) from Kirk and [Kelly Burr](#) from Seibert have also retired from the board in recent years.



The service of all these people to Plains Telephone has been greatly appreciated, and they will always be a part of the Plains Telephone family.

### *Community Contributions*

Any nonprofit organization which is officially recognized by the community, within Plains Telephone service area and benefitting the Cooperative's subscribers is considered to be eligible for "Community Contributions" from Plains Cooperative Telephone. Written requests for "Community Contributions" must be received at our office in Joes by June 23, 2010 to be considered for this year's contributions.

### *Call Before You Dig*

It's almost 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 remember 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.

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.



# Storing Email on the Webmail Server

Although many people have an email program, such as Outlook Express, set up in their computer, your Plainstel email goes first to our webmail server. Chances are that those messages are set to be saved on the webmail server, even though you may only view them in Outlook Express or another email program. We'd like for all our Internet customers to be aware of the webmail. It's easy to log in and view your webmail by going to the home page of our website - [www.plainstel.com](http://www.plainstel.com) - and clicking on the "Do More" button, then choosing "Webmail". You will then enter your Plainstel username and password to log into your webmail.

1. After logging into your account in webmail, click on "Account Management" in the lower left-hand corner.
2. Choose "My Email", the second tab at the top in the Account Management Center.
3. Now, click on "Email Quota", the second link down on the left hand side of the Account Management Center menu.
4. This link will show you how much space your email messages are using on the server, as well as how much space is remaining before you reach the quota.

Each Plainstel email address comes with 200 MB of webmail storage. If you feel need more, you can pay a small monthly fee for a larger storage capacity. When your webmail quota reaches 200 MB, incoming messages will bounce back to the sender, unless you have contacted us to request more storage capacity.

*If you have questions regarding the webmail or your storage capacity, our tech support is available to help you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Dial your local number: 357-3200, 358-3200, 359-3200 or 664-3200.*

## It's Thunderstorm weather!

Plains Telephone would like to remind you to protect your electronics during storm season. Lightning strikes can travel through the telephone line and electric energy can possibly be transferred. Please keep in mind these simple steps to follow before, during and after a storm.

**Before:** *Unplug electronic equipment (routers and modems, as well as computers and cordless phones) if possible. Surge protectors cannot guarantee 100% protection.*

**During:** *Stay off the telephone unless you need to make an emergency call. Lightning can travel through telephone lines and there is a chance you could be hurt if you are on the phone.*

**After:** *If you have no dial tone, please check each device in your home that is plugged into a jack. Unplug all devices, then plug one back in and check for dial tone.*

We also want to remind you that your cordless phones won't work during an electrical outage, or when the phones are unplugged because of a thunderstorm. We encourage you to have at least one corded phone available for use in your house!





PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Joes, Colorado  
PERMIT NO. 4



## Remember your first fishing trip? Bet your dad does too.

This Father's Day, use **Plains Long Distance** to call dad and reminisce about that first catch.

We know that your long distance calls are important and we're here to help you make those important connections.

Calls made with *Plains Long Distance* are just 11 cents a minute, any time to any number in the continental United States. If you are not already on Plains Long Distance, you can call us to switch from your current provider **at no charge** during the months of May and June.

If you'd like another option for long distance calling from your Plains landline, you can buy a prepaid Plains Long Distance phone card. **For just \$7.00 you'll have 100 minutes of guilt-free time with your loved ones far away.**

**Call us today at 358-4211 to switch to Plains Long Distance or to request a prepaid phone card.**

