



2017 Annual Meeting Held at Idalia School

JUNE 2017

970-358-4211
6488 Highway 36
PO Box 123
Joes, CO 80822
www.plainstel.com

Shawn Bellows, Plant Manager

Board of Directors

Michael Leerar.....President

Eckley exchange, 359

Richard Meade., Vice-President

Joes exchange, 358

Lora Liming.....Secretary

Kirk exchange, 362

Dwayne BowersTreasurer

Anton exchange, 383

Denise Weyerman.....Director

Idalia exchange, 354

Gerald Guy.....Director

Seibert exchange, 664

Linda Sackett.....Director

Cope exchange, 357

This year's meeting of the Plains Cooperative Telephone Association, Inc. was hosted by the Idalia exchange in the Idalia School cafeteria on April 20. There were 91 cooperative memberships represented at the dinner and meeting. The attendees enjoyed a delicious dinner of shredded pork prepared and served by the Idalia volleyball team, the freshman class and their sponsor, Kylie Chamberlain. We always enjoy seeing some of the people we visit with on the phone throughout the year and we had fun giving away prizes with a couple of great kids to help draw tickets and spin our prize wheel.

After the meal, the business meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. Pastor Chuck Wright of St. John's United Church of Christ gave the invocation. Board President Mike Leerar introduced the Board of Directors, Company auditor Tammy Totske, and the employees of the company, as well as past directors and employees who were present. Nick Goode was appointed to serve as Parliamentarian for the meeting. Lora Liming presented the Secretary's report. Treasurer Dwayne Bowers introduced Tammy Totske, 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 a positive operating cash flow of \$969,227 in 2016, and currently has about \$21.9 million invested in telephone Internet and video property, plant and equipment. Plains has approximately \$1,774,800 in cash, savings and CD's. The Cooperative also paid down long-term debt of \$520,600 in 2016. In addition, Plains Telephone paid nearly \$133,700 in local property taxes to the counties and communities we serve. The cooperative received \$1,875,954 in partnership investment income for the year.

President Mike Leerar and Plant Manager Shawn Bellows spoke about the state of the Cooperative. The board accepted the General Manager's resignation in March. Shawn Bellows, plant manager and Miriam Berry, office manager have taken over GM duties on an interim basis. The company is currently strong, stable and secure with employees having an average of 18 years industry experience. The Cooperative's wholly owned subsidiary, PCS has entered into a partnership with the City of Wray to provide services there, financed in part by a grant the city has received. We are excited about this service expansion and the City of Wray is excited to welcome Plainstel as a partner in providing cutting edge technology, as enjoyed by members of Plains Cooperative, to the residents of Wray.

Director positions for the Anton and Idalia exchanges were up for election. The candidates who had filed proper petitions to run for these positions were Denise Weyerman from the Idalia exchange and Dwayne Bowers from the Anton exchange. Being the only candidates for each of these seats, the two directors were elected by motion to cast a unanimous ballot.

During the evening, attendees viewed a slide show of photos from the 2017 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. The name drawn was Rick Hansen of Cope, who was not present to claim the prize. Next year's prize will advance to \$600.00 to be drawn at the 65th annual meeting to be hosted by the Joes and Kirk exchanges at Liberty School.

Our office hours are from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday.

Calls to 358-4211 are always local from your Plains Telephone landline!



We're happy to announce our 2018 Directory Cover Photo Contest Theme:

Growing Up in a Small Town

We'll be choosing a photo for the cover of our 2018 directory and using some of the photos in our 2018 calendar. The remainder of the pictures will be used throughout the year for our newsletters and daily Facebook posts.

Here's your chance to get a picture of life in our small town communities and the surrounding farms.

You'll be receiving all the details in the near future, but for now you can start snapping pictures of your favorite small town community and school activities, fun, people and places.

Take a picture showing us what your favorite part of living in small-town Eastern Colorado is and email it to us at phototest@plainstel.com



We invite you to "like" us on Facebook, where we post photos & fun every day, just because we can.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

Summer is here, 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 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 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 so they can mark lines that could be in your way.

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.

Find the phone



Take a good look at the picture of the phone up above and to the right. If you look hard enough, you'll find a smaller version of that picture hiding some place in this newsletter. When you see it, just pick up the phone and call to let us know that you found it.

We'll hold a drawing 2 weeks after mailing and all of the names of those who let us know they found the flag will be entered into the drawing for something fun! It could be a credit on your monthly bill, it could be a gift card for our phone store or another fun place within the community, who knows?

Remember...find the phone then pick up *your* phone to call us at 358-4211 and tell us that you found it. We'll put your name in a drawing for this publication and you could be a winner. We'd also like to encourage you to call from your Plains Telephone landline. Don't forget, it's always a local call from your landline to 358-4211!

