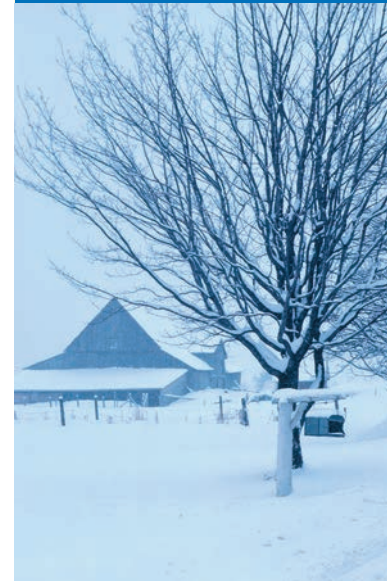


# Communicator

A Biannual Newsletter for Cooperative Customers



Members at Hardy Telecommunications' annual meeting listen as General Manager Scott Sherman (top center) presents his report.

## Hardy Selecting Students For Youth Tour In D.C.

Hardy Telecommunications will send two local students on a four-day trip to our nation's capital, giving them the chance to see our country's historic sites and meet students from all over the United States.

One student each from Moorefield and East Hardy high schools will be selected to attend the 2016 Foundation for Rural Service Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., June 4-8. The trip includes sightseeing to D.C.'s famous landmarks as well as educational sessions to teach today's youth about the telecommunications industry. Hardy will pay all basic expenses, including travel.

The Youth Tour provides students from rural areas with a first-hand look at the telecommunications industry and educates students about the legislative and governmental processes. Students will visit the U.S. Capitol Building and hear presentations from representatives of Capitol Hill and the Federal Communications Commission. Other stops include Mount Vernon; the WWII, Vietnam, Korean and Lincoln Memorials; Arlington National Cemetery; and the Smithsonian Museums.

Applications for the tour may be picked up in late December from the guidance counselors at both East Hardy and Moorefield high schools or by contacting Derek Barr at Hardy's offices. To be eligible for the trip, students must be either 16 or 17 years old at the time of the tour and receive telephone, Internet or



East Hardy High Senior Sardana Coyle (right) met with Moorefield native McKenzie Clark, legislative aide for W.Va. Senator Shelley Moore Capito, during the 2015 FRS Youth Tour.

television service from Hardy Telecommunications. Preference will be given to students from the 2017 graduating class.

The deadline to return applications is February 17, 2016. Applications may be returned to either the high school guidance counselors or to Derek at Hardy's offices.

### What's Inside

- Hardy Awarded \$2,000 Grant For East Hardy High
- Hardy Sponsoring FRS College Scholarship
- Hardy Presents Donations To Moorefield Schools
- Hardy Selecting Students For Youth Tour To D.C.

### Calendar

- Dec. 24-25 Christmas Holiday - Offices Closed
- Jan. 1, 2016 New Year's Day Holiday - Offices Closed
- Feb. 17, 2016 Deadline for Foundation for Rural Service Youth Tour and Scholarship Applications

## Directors Elected For New Three-Year Terms At Annual Meeting

Three directors were elected to serve new three-year terms at Hardy's Annual Meeting on October 2. The meeting was back at East Hardy High School after moving to the Early Middle School last year due to construction.



**Ervin Wilkins Jr.**



**Phyllis Cook**



**Harold Michael**

The directors re-elected were Ervin O. Wilkins Jr. of Baker, representing Lost River serving area 4; Phyllis B. Cook of Moorefield, representing South Fork serving area 2; and Harold K. Michael of Moorefield, representing Moorefield serving area 1. All three were re-elected by acclamation with no others running for the positions.

Hardy General Manager Scott Sherman shared the latest information about OneNet, Hardy's fiber-to-the

home project. Scott pointed out that the company remains committed to expanding OneNet even though the federal portion of the project has ended and federal money is no longer available. As of the meeting date, Hardy had built an additional 7 1/2 miles of distribution fiber and notified 70 potential customers that fiber service was now available to them. That

number has continued to increase since the meeting.

About 500 people attended the meeting and enjoyed a meal prepared and served by the East Hardy High Band Boosters and FFA, with help from EHHS faculty and staff.

We appreciate their help in making our annual meeting a success, and we thank everyone who attended!





Derek Barr (center), Hardy director of customer service and sales, marketing and human resources, talks to East Hardy juniors and sophomores about the community outreach possibilities with Hardy OneNet, including running EHHS content on television.

## Hardy Awarded \$2,000 Grant For East Hardy High Outreach

Hardy Telecommunications has been awarded a \$2,000 grant to support public and community outreach for East Hardy High School.

Derek Barr, Hardy's director of customer service and sales, marketing and human resources, applied for the grant through The Education Alliance, which oversees business/school partnerships throughout West Virginia. The award was one of 10 distributed statewide. Hardy is a business partner with East Hardy High School.

"School funding is always tight, and often there isn't enough money or resources for schools to spread the word in their communities," Derek said. "I'm happy to be able to help EHHS with this grant."

The Public Engagement Community Grant was

awarded with the intent for schools to "engage their communities in efforts to support public education." Derek has been working with EHHS Principal Jennifer Strawderman to identify different projects that can utilize the money.

"The school has produced an advertisement that plays at the local theater, and we will help pay for that," Derek said. East Hardy kept county residents apprised of school construction through the theater advertisements.

Another possible project involves a sign thanking the community for its support of East Hardy's renovation and new construction.

"These are different ways to let Hardy County citizens know how much East Hardy High's students, faculty and



Hardy Public Relations/Business Development/Website Hosting Representative Heather Robbins (left) gives tips about Internet safety to EHHS 10th and 11th graders.

staff appreciate what the community has done for them. The new East Hardy facility will pay benefits for years to come," Derek said.

As part of the application, Derek wrote about wanting the business community to have a greater presence in the schools. As a first step, he and Hardy Public Relations/Business Development/Website Hosting Representative Heather Robbins addressed

the sophomore and junior classes on November 4 to stress the importance of education in finding a job.

Derek also told the students that they could work to develop original video content that could then be broadcast on Hardy OneNet television, leading to EHHS having its own channel.

"That's a long-term goal, but we'd love to get there," he said.

## Hardy Donates To Moorefield Schools

Hardy Telecommunications presented donations to teachers from Moorefield Intermediate and Moorefield Middle schools in September to help with classroom projects and supplies as the new school year began.

Derek Barr, Hardy director of customer service and sales, marketing and human resources, delivered \$100 checks to Emily Sherman from MIS and Adam Leatherman from MMS. The two teachers accepted the donations on behalf of their respective schools. Mrs. Sherman teaches 4th grade at Moorefield Intermediate, while Mr. Leatherman teaches chorus at Moorefield Middle.

Derek said the donations were prompted by a request from Donna Bodkins, vice principal for both MIS and MMS. She had sent a list of



Moorefield Middle School's Adam Leatherman (left) and Moorefield Intermediate's Emily Sherman (right) accept \$100 donations to their schools from Derek Barr, Hardy director of customer service and sales, marketing and human resources.

suggested items that would benefit the schools, and she invited businesses to help. Derek said he was familiar with Mrs. Sherman's and Mr. Leatherman's dedication to their students and profession.

"I believe Mrs. Sherman and Mr. Leatherman exemplify the talented teachers who put children first," he said. "Our school system is fortunate to have them, and we are proud to support them."

## Hardy Sponsoring FRS Scholarship

Hardy Telecommunications is sponsoring the 2016 Foundation for Rural Service College Scholarship, valued at \$2,500, for graduating seniors from East Hardy and Moorefield high schools.

Members of the Class of 2016 at EHHS and MHS can apply through Hardy for the national scholarship program.

The scholarship, open to applicants who receive local telecommunications service (either telephone, Internet, or television) from Hardy, is worth \$2,000, and Hardy Telecommunications will contribute an additional \$500 to the amount, bringing the total one-time scholarship award to \$2,500.

Interested students can contact their guidance counselors

at the two schools or download the application at the FRS website at [www.frs.org](http://www.frs.org). Students also can contact Derek Barr, Hardy's director of customer service and sales, marketing and human resources, at 304-530-5000 for an application.

Completed applications must be sent to FRS postmarked no later than March 1, 2016, and must bear Derek's signature as Hardy's official representative, so students are asked to return their applications locally no later than February 17, 2016. *Students should not send their applications directly to the Foundation for Rural Service.* Applications should be returned to the guidance counselors at Moorefield and East Hardy high schools or to Derek at one of Hardy's

offices in Moorefield or Lost River. Derek will mail all applications to the FRS.

The FRS will award scholarships nationwide. A qualified selection committee of current educators determined by the Foundation for Rural Service will select the winners; Hardy itself has no input in the selection process.

Applicants must be a U.S. citizen and graduating high school senior; accepted by an accredited two- or four-year college, university or vocational-technical school; have at least a C grade point average; express an interest in returning to a rural community following graduation; and be sponsored by a contributor to, or supporter of, the FRS.

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