

Communicator

A Semi-Annual Newsletter for Cooperative Customers



Corporate Attorney Jack Walters (top left), speaks at the 2017 Hardy Annual Meeting of Members at East Hardy High School. About 450 people attended.

Directors Elected To New Terms At Hardy Annual Meeting

Two directors were re-elected to new three-year terms at Hardy Telecommunications' Annual Meeting of Members on October 6 at East Hardy High School.



Loring Barr

Those directors re-elected were Loring E. Barr, representing South Fork serving area 1; and Victoria O. Dyer, representing Lost River serving area 3. Both were unopposed in their bids for re-election.



Victoria Dyer

Scott said the biggest challenges facing Hardy Telecommunications are the underfunding of the Universal Service Fund and the ever-increasing price demands of TV content providers. He said Hardy has lost hundreds of thousands of dollars in the past few years that it had earned under USF regulations, but the federal fund doesn't have the money to pay its obligations, so Hardy loses that money under "budget control mechanisms." On the TV side, he gave the example that Hardy currently is negotiating with a TV channel that is demanding a 560 percent price increase in one year. Hardy has to balance

its desire to offer a wide range of programming with its goal of keeping TV costs affordable for customers.

The meeting started a half-hour earlier than in past years to accommodate the EHHS football schedule. About 450 people attended the meeting and enjoyed a meal featuring barbecue pork, prepared and served by the East Hardy High and Middle School Band members and Band Boosters, EHHS FFA, EHHS Prostart, and Boy Scout Troop 81. We appreciate their help in making our annual meeting a success. We also send a special thanks to EHHS Band Director Bob Thompson.

What's Inside

- Hardy Taking Applications For FRS College Scholarship
- Hardy Sponsoring Local Students For D.C. Tour
- Hardy Announces Change In Wardensville Office Hours

Calendar

- Dec. 22 Christmas Holiday - Offices Close At 3:30 p.m.
- Dec. 25-26 Christmas Holiday - Offices Closed
- Jan. 1, 2018 New Year's Day - Offices Closed
- Feb. 9, 2018 Deadline for Foundation for Rural Service Youth Tour and Scholarship Applications

From our family to yours, best wishes for a joyous holiday season and happy new year!



Hardy Sponsoring Applications For 2018 FRS College Scholarship

Hardy Telecommunications is again sponsoring a \$2,500 college scholarship for graduating seniors from East Hardy and Moorefield high schools.

Members of the Class of 2018 at EHHS and MHS can apply through Hardy for the national Foundation for Rural Service College 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. Students also can contact Derek Barr, Hardy 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, 2018, and must bear Derek's signature as Hardy's official representative, so students are asked to return their applications to Derek no later than February 9, 2018.

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 ensure that all necessary Hardy signatures



Caitlin Fitzwater, a member of East Hardy High School's Class of 2017, receives her \$2,500 college scholarship from Derek Barr, Hardy's director of customer service and sales, marketing and human resources.

are obtained and 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 Telecommunications 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 current member of NTCA – The Rural Broadband Association.

Caitlin Fitzwater, a 2017 graduate of East Hardy High School, is the most recent recipient of an FRS Scholarship. Because the scholarships are awarded by region throughout the United States by an independent FRS panel, Hardy Telecommunications is not assured of having a student selected each year.

Caitlin's essay focused on her hope to return to a rural area after college graduation and

start a foundation for cancer patients with limited financial means, providing support for both physical and emotional needs.

"We were thrilled to present the scholarship to Caitlin for 2017, and we're hopeful that we can do the same for another deserving student in 2018," Derek said. "I encourage all eligible students to apply."

The Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization that promotes, educates and advocates rural telecom issues in order to sustain and enhance the quality of life within rural American communities.

Hardy To Send Two Local Students To D.C. Youth Tour

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 2018 Foundation for Rural Service Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., June 2-6. 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 Telecommunications 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.

In addition to the FCC and U.S. Capitol, past groups



Moorefield High Senior Hannah Weatherholt and East Hardy High Senior Clayton Strawderman visit the Federal Communications Commission during the 2017 FRS Youth Tour.

have visited the Lincoln Memorial, the World War II Memorial, Mount Vernon (home of George Washington), the Vietnam War Memorial, the Smithsonian Museums, the Korean War Memorial, and Arlington National Cemetery. A night tour of Washington is also planned.

Hardy can only sponsor one student from Moorefield High and one from East Hardy High. Applications for the tour may be picked up from the guidance counselors at both high schools or by contacting Derek Barr at Hardy's

Moorefield Office, telephone 304-530-5000. To be eligible for the trip, students must be 16 or 17 years old at the time of the tour and receive either telephone, internet, or television service from Hardy Telecommunications. Preference also will be given to students from the 2019 graduating class.

The deadline to return applications is February 9, 2018. Applications may be returned to either the high school guidance counselors or directly to Derek Barr, Hardy Telecommunications, 121 South Main St., Moorefield, WV 26836.

Hardy Announces Change In Wardensville Office Hours

Hardy Telecommunications has announced a change in the office hours for its Wardensville office at 345 East Main St. Effective in October 2017, the office is now closed for lunch from 12:30-1:30 p.m. each day. The office will still open at 8 a.m. and close at 5 p.m.

"In order to accommodate the needs of our employees while we undergo some staffing changes, we are closing the Wardensville office from 12:30-1:30 p.m. each day for lunch," said Derek Barr, Hardy's director of customer service and sales, marketing and human resources.

"We appreciate your patience and cooperation."

Office hours for Moorefield and Lost River are unchanged, with Moorefield open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Lost River open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. All offices are open Monday through Friday.

How To Reach Us

Lost River Office
2255 Kimseys Run Road
Lost River, WV 26810

Phone:
304-897-9911

Fax:
304-897-6585

Hours:
Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Moorefield Office
121 South Main Street
Moorefield, WV 26836

Phone:
304-530-5000

Fax:
304-530-5100

Hours:
Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Wardensville Office
345 East Main St., Suite A
Wardensville, WV 26851

Phone:
304-897-2355

Hours:
Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Closed for lunch 12:30-1:30 p.m.

Toll-Free
800-838-2497

Personal Computer Sales
304-530-PC4U (7248)

Visit Us On The Web
www.hardynet.com

Emergency After Hours
Lost River:
304-897-9913

Moorefield:
304-530-HELP (4357)

24-Hour Internet Technical Support
800-884-0778

Hardy Telecommunications is an equal opportunity provider and employer.