

Communicator

A Semi-Annual Newsletter for Cooperative Customers

Two Directors Elected Via Mail-In Ballot; Hardy Holds Virtual Annual Meeting

With the COVID-19 pandemic making an in-person Annual Meeting impossible, Hardy held its annual board election by mail-in ballot. Two directors were elected to three-year terms, including one incumbent and one new director chosen to fill the seat of a retiring board member.



Victoria Dyer



Ward Malcolm

Victoria O. Dyer was elected for the position of Lost River serving area 3. She will serve a new three-year term. Ms. Dyer has been on the Board of Directors since 2006.

Ward A. Malcolm II was elected for the position of South Fork serving area 1. He will take over the seat previously held by Loring Barr for more than 42 years. Mr. Barr chose to retire in 2020 rather than run for another three-year term. Please see our separate article in this newsletter thanking Mr. Barr for his service to Hardy Telecommunications.

Because of restrictions necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic, the company was forced to modify its usual Annual Meeting and election routine. The board election was held by mail-in ballot. Each member was mailed a ballot and could vote his/her choice for the two available spots on the board.

Mr. Malcolm ran unopposed for the South Fork serving area 1 position.

The Lost River serving area 3 position was contested, with one candidate submitting a valid petition to be included on the ballot along with Ms. Dyer, who was selected for nomination by the Nominating Committee. Both candidates appeared on the official ballot. More than 400 ballots were returned.

The Credentials and Election Committee met in Lost River to review and count the ballots. After the official tally, Ms. Dyer was re-elected to the Lost River serving area 3 seat.

The Annual Meeting itself could not be held in person at East Hardy High School, so the meeting was conducted over Zoom after the votes were counted and the results were announced. Company Attorney Jack Walters officially recognized the Credentials and Election

Committee's voting results and congratulated Ms. Dyer and Mr. Malcolm on their elections.

Board President Greg Zirk and General Manager Scott Sherman both talked about the difficulties faced by the company in continuing to serve its members in the midst of the pandemic. Hardy has seen a surge in demand for broadband installations as schools have gone to virtual instruction and many residents are working from home. In particular, many part-time residents with weekend or seasonal homes in Hardy County have flocked to the area because Hardy's broadband allows them to conduct their activities online.

The EHHS Band and other organizations were not able to prepare and serve the usual meeting meal, which is a fund-raiser for them. Please see the separate article about our donation to assist them in this trying time.



What's Inside

- Hardy Thanks Retiring Board Member Loring Barr
- Hardy Remembers EHHS Band With Donation
- Hardy Sponsoring FRS College Scholarship
- Hardy Sponsoring Local Students For D.C. Tour

Calendar

- Dec. 24-25 Holiday - Offices Closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day
- Jan. 1, 2021 Holiday - Offices Closed For New Year's Day
- Feb. 19, 2021 Deadline for Foundation for Rural Service Youth Tour Applications
- Mar. 5, 2021 Deadline for FRS Scholarship Applications

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



Hardy Thanks Retiring Board Member Loring Barr For 42 Years Of Service

Loring E. Barr has retired from the Hardy Telecommunications Board of Directors after 42 years of service. Mr. Barr has been serving as the board representative for South Fork serving area 1 since 1978. He chose not to run for re-election this year.

"It's incredible to think about how much has changed with Hardy Telecommunications and in our industry during Loring's watch," said Hardy General Manager Scott Sherman. "We've gone from strictly a telephone company to a leading provider of broadband and television with Hardy County's only fiber-to-the-home network. We're known throughout the state of West Virginia.

"On behalf of all of us at our cooperative, both employees and members, I thank Loring for everything he has given to Hardy Telecommunications, and we wish him well," he said.



(Above) Loring Barr is recognized in 2018 when he reached the 40-year service plateau on Hardy Telecommunications Board of Directors.

(Left) Loring Barr, who retired in 2020 after 42 years on Hardy's board.

Hardy Sponsoring FRS Youth Tour To D.C.

If COVID-19 pandemic conditions allow, 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 2021 Foundation for Rural Service Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., June 5-9. 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 legislative and governmental processes concerning the telecommunications industry. Students will visit the U.S. Capitol Building and hear presentations from Capitol Hill and Federal Communications Commission representatives. Past speakers have included the chair of the FCC.

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

Applications for the tour may be picked up from Derek Barr at Hardy's Moorefield Office, telephone 304-530-5000, or downloaded from Hardy's website at hardynet.com. 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 for selection will be given to students from the 2022 graduating class.

The deadline to return applications is February 19, 2021. Applications may be returned to Derek Barr, Hardy Telecommunications, 121 South Main St., Moorefield.

The 2020 Youth Tour had to be cancelled due to the pandemic, but FRS still plans to hold the 2021 Tour if conditions allow.

Hardy Donates To EHHS Band, Other School Organizations

Hardy Telecommunications has made a donation to the East Hardy High Band and other school organizations to support them during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Hardy was not able to hold its normal annual meeting at EHHS because of the pandemic. However,

the company knew that the band and other groups rely on it for funding, because those groups prepare and serve the meal. The decision was made to give a donation anyway.

EHHS Band Director Bob Thompson accepted the donation and will distribute the money among the band,

EHHS Band Director Bob Thompson



FFA, Prostart, and the gymnasium teachers.

Hardy Sponsoring College Scholarship For Area Seniors

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 2021 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.

The Foundation for Rural Service has changed its application process so that the entire application is done online. Students can visit the Hardy Telecommunications website at www.hardynet.com for the guidelines detailing how to apply. Students will need to go to www.frs.org/student and create an account with NTCA per the instructions there.

Completed applications must be submitted online to the Foundation for Rural Service no later than March 5, 2021.

To apply, students will need to submit a 500-800 word essay; two letters of recommendation - only one can be from a teacher or educator; and seven semesters of transcripts. The transcript does not have to be an official copy. FRS urges all applicants to have all of their documents ready to upload before beginning the application. Students no longer have to return any paperwork to Hardy Telecommunications.

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.

Hardy Assistant General Manager Derek Barr stressed that Hardy Telecommunications can't guarantee that any local

student will be selected. Hardy simply sponsors local applications and agrees to contribute \$500 of the total \$2,500 amount if the national FRS committee does pick a Hardy County student.

"The scholarship selection is divided into regions, and the Foundation for Rural Service does make sure that scholarships are awarded in every region. But West Virginia is still in a region with several other states. So while it's a wonderful opportunity that we're happy to offer, it's also a very competitive process with the national committee literally receiving hundreds of applications," he said.

Local 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 Hardy Telecommunications, a member of NTCA.

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Hardy Telecommunications is an equal opportunity provider and employer.