

Communicator

A Semi-Annual Newsletter for Cooperative Customers



The last in-person Annual Meeting of Members for Hardy Telecommunications took place in 2019. More than 400 people enjoyed the pork barbecue dinner. If COVID conditions allow, we plan to return to an in-person meeting at East Hardy High School in 2022.

2022 Annual Meeting Scheduled For October 7 At East Hardy High

Hardy Telecommunications, Inc., would like to invite all of our members to attend the Annual Meeting of Members on Friday, October 7, 2022, at the East Hardy High School gymnasium. The agenda includes the election of two members to fill seats on the Board of Directors.



Gerald Smith



Greg Zirk

Two seats on the Board of Directors have terms that expire this year. Present directors may be nominated and elected to succeed themselves. The positions expiring this year are Lost River serving area 1, currently held by Gerald W. Smith of Baker; and Moorefield serving area 2, currently held by Greg M. Zirk of Moorefield.

Any member interested in serving on the Board of Directors may submit a resume that defines the member's interest and

qualifications for the position. The deadline for resumes is August 9, 2022. The resumes should be delivered to the Nominations Committee, Hardy Telecommunications, Inc., 2255 Kimseys Run Road, Lost River, WV 26810.

Doors will open for registration at 5:00 p.m. October 7 with dinner to follow immediately upon registration. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. Meals are free for each member and one guest (up to two free meals

per member), with additional meals costing \$10 each. Drawings for door prizes will be held throughout the evening.

Hardy Telecommunications members will receive a mailing that includes a reservation card, proxy and, if necessary, ballot for the annual meeting. If you plan to attend, please return the completed reservation card in the provided postage-

Story continued inside

Updated Music Choice App Available For OneNet TV Customers

Music Choice is springing into summer with their NEWLY updated Music Choice mobile app! The updated Music Choice app includes:

- More than 100 commercial-free audio and video channels plus access to 20,000+ music videos.
- A newly curated menu showcasing exclusive content, such as limited-edition music channels, video collections, seasonal content, and more.
- A new Family destination hand-curated by Music Choice Programmers for parents and kids to explore safe and worry-free audio and video content.
- Available on iOS, Android, and Web platforms.
- The Music Choice app is FREE to Hardy OneNet TV customers with your Watch TV Everywhere credentials. Visit our website at <https://hardynet.net/residential/onenet/watch-tv-everywhere/> for more information about Watch TV Everywhere.

Get ahead of "Are we there yet?"

Keep the kids entertained while you're on-the-go with kids-safe channels on the free Music Choice app – and no ads!



Scan now to download the app

Enjoy your favorite oldies and current pop hits, country, jazz, children's songs, music videos and more, commercial-free, with the updated Music Choice mobile app. Family road trips or even just getting through the workday is much easier with Music Choice!

What's Inside

- Hardy Designated a "Smart Rural Community" Provider
- Updated Music Choice App Available For TV Customers

Calendar

- Aug. 9 Board Resumes Due To Nominating Committee
- Sept. 5 Labor Day Holiday - Offices Closed
- Sept. 23 Proxies Due For Annual Meeting
- Sept. 29 Responses/Ballots Due For Annual Meeting
- Oct. 7 Annual Meeting Of Members At East Hardy High School

NTCA Names Hardy Telecommunications “Smart Rural Community” Provider

Hardy Telecommunications has been named a Smart Rural Community (SRC) provider by NTCA – The Rural Broadband Association. SRC is a national network of communities powered by innovative rural broadband providers that are building a brighter future for small-town America. The program promotes rural broadband and its role in supporting innovative economic development, effective education, efficient energy distribution and use, state-of-the-art health care and other important issues for rural America.

In order to receive recognition as an SRC provider, Hardy Telecommunications was required to affirm that it offers 25/3 Mbps broadband to at least 50% of its service area; that it has broadband subscription rates of at least 50%; and that it is committed to program principles of collaboration and innovation. As a result of Hardy Telecommunications’ national recognition, Hardy County will now be celebrated as a Smart Rural Community in program materials and online at www.smartruralcommunity.com, joining a national network of similarly innovative communities.

“The community of Hardy County salutes Hardy Telecommunications for its hard work to meet these standards, which enable our residents to fully participate in today’s connected society,” said Mallie Combs, executive director of the Hardy County Rural Development Authority. “Because of access to high-speed Internet, our community provides its residents with educational and economic opportunities on par with



(Top) SRC is a national network of communities powered by innovative rural broadband providers that are building a brighter future for small-town America, according to NTCA - The Rural Broadband Association. (Below) Hardy is now certified as an Smart Rural Community Provider.



those in the most connected regions of America.”

NTCA Chief Executive Officer Shirley Bloomfield also recognized Hardy Telecommunications for this achievement, noting, “We are so excited to welcome another Smart Rural Community provider into this growing network of innovative

broadband providers delivering the Internet’s fastest speeds in some of the most remote and rural communities of our country. I applaud Hardy Telecommunications and Hardy County for their commitment to enabling cutting-edge technologies that drive innovation and promote economic development in their region and nationwide.”

Hardy General Manager Scott Sherman said the company was committed to enhancing the quality of life in the communities it serves.

“Rural areas deserve the same broadband speeds that urban areas receive, and our OneNet network provides those speeds. That access and all the innovation and opportunities that come with it are critical in today’s world,” he said.

NTCA - The Rural Broadband Association is the premier association representing nearly 850 independent, community-based telecommunications companies that are leading innovation in rural and small-town America. NTCA members are leading the technological evolution for rural consumers, delivering robust and high-quality services over future-proof networks that make rural communities vibrant places in which to live and do business.

Protect Yourself With Proper Passwords

The first Thursday every May is designated as World Password Day. According to Microsoft, World Password Day was created by cybersecurity professionals in 2013 to foster good password habits that help keep our online lives secure.

Remember to update your passwords regularly with difficult-to-guess passwords. For the most secure combinations, try to use all of the following in your passwords:

- Upper-case letters
- Lower-case letters
- Digits
- Special characters

Make layered changes to already tough-to-remember



passwords. For example, if you really want “Iloveytwolabs” as your password, try this layered alternative: “iHEARTmy21Ab\$!!” Or download and use a password manager to create (and remember) unique and complex passwords for you.

Multi-factor authentication is another important tool to add another layer of security.

Microsoft says there are 921 password attacks every second - nearly doubling in the past year. Use proper passwords and stay safe!

FCC Offering Affordable Connectivity Program

The Affordable Connectivity Program is a Federal Communications Commission government benefit program that is designed to expand Internet access for low-income households.

The Affordable Connectivity Program provides up to a \$30/month discount for broadband service. The ACP is limited to one monthly service discount per household.

A household is eligible if a household member meets at least one of the following criteria: has an income that is at or below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines; participates in certain assistance programs, such as SNAP, Medicaid, Federal Public Housing Assistance, SSI, WIC, or Lifeline; is approved to receive benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch program

or the school breakfast program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision; received a Pell Grant during the current award year; and more.

Learn more about the benefit, including additional eligibility criteria and enrollment information, by visiting www.fcc.gov/ACP, or by calling 877-384-2575.

2022 Annual Meeting Set For October 7

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paid envelope by Thursday, September 29, 2022, to allow for the ordering of food.

If voting is necessary, it will be through mail-in ballot. Ballots also must be received by Thursday, September 29, 2022, in order to be counted.

If a member wishes to vote by proxy, please keep in mind

that only the official proxy included in your mailing will be accepted.

This proxy will include the member’s name, address and account number. Your proxy must contain both your signature and the signature of a witness to be accepted.

Only proxies that are received by Friday, September 23, 2022, will be accepted. No

proxies or ballots will be accepted at the meeting, as voting already will have taken place by mail. Results will be announced at the meeting.

For more information about our election process, please see our bylaws, which begin on page 28 of the 2022 directory, or read them on our website at www.hardynet.com.

How To Reach Us

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

Phone:
304-897-9911

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

Moorefield Office
121 South Main Street
Moorefield, WV 26836

Phone:
304-530-5000

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

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

Phone:
304-897-2355

Hours:
Tues., Thurs. 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Capon Bridge Office
199 Capon School St.
Capon Bridge, WV 26711

Phone:
304-897-9911

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

Toll-Free
800-838-2497

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.