

Communicator

A Semi-Annual Newsletter for Cooperative Customers



Members enjoyed a return to an in-person format for the 2022 Annual Meeting at East Hardy High School. The previous two meetings were online during the COVID-19 pandemic.

2023 Annual Meeting Scheduled For October 6 At EHHS

Hardy Telecommunications, Inc., would like to invite all of our members to attend the Annual Meeting of Members on Friday, October 6, 2023, at the East Hardy High School gymnasium. The agenda includes the election of two members to fill seats on the Board of Directors.



Ward A. Malcolm II



Victoria O. Dyer

Two seats on the Board of Directors have terms that expire this year. Present directors may be nominated and elected to succeed themselves, and other members also may submit resumes to the Nominations Committee to be considered. The positions expiring this year are South Fork serving area 1, currently held by Ward A. Malcolm II of Moorefield; and Lost River serving area 3, currently held by Victoria O. Dyer of Wardensville.

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 8, 2023. 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 4:30 p.m. October 6 with dinner to follow immediately upon registration. The meeting will begin at 6:00 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.

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-paid envelope by Thursday, September 28, 2023.

If voting is necessary, it will be through mail-in ballot. Ballots also must be received by Thursday, September 28, 2023, in order to be counted. Late ballots will not be accepted.

Story continues inside

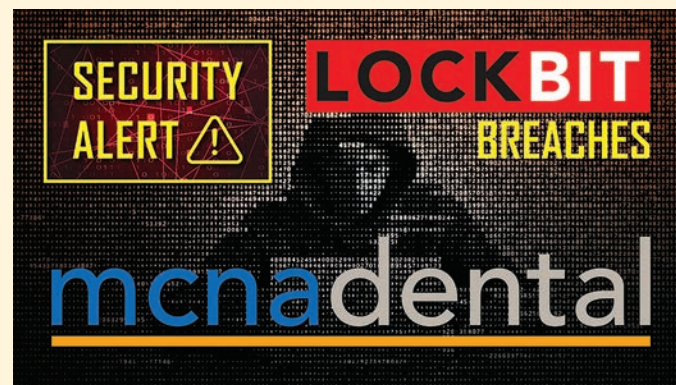
How To Respond To A Health-Care Data Breach

Managed Care of North America, a dental benefits provider, reported that it was a target of a massive data breach affecting almost 9 million people. A forensic analysis determined that the company's network had been compromised and infected with malware, resulting in a number of files being copied or removed. The ransomware group, LockBit, demanded \$10 million or they would publish the data. MCNA did not pay the ransom, and the pieces of data (including SSNs, personally identifiable information, and health records) were released.

Beneficiaries of 112 insurance plans (including Medicaid) were notified and offered 12 months of credit monitoring, but victims of health data breaches have additional concerns beyond their credit. Sometimes they have the insurance cancelled, reimbursements are denied, or they have to reapply for coverage (resulting in lapses and potentially uncovered claims).

Here are a few steps you can take to get your healthcare back on track after a breach:

- File an Identity Theft Report with the Federal Trade Commission (<https://identitytheft.com>).
- If you use Medicare or Medicaid, call 800-HHS-TIPS to report the theft.



- Monitor your credit carefully and contact the three credit bureaus if an unpaid charge or attempt to collect appears.

- Contact all your medical providers and get a complete record of all services, including those for your partner and children. This is important to ensure no services you or your family did not receive were paid, but also to ensure all information (like blood type, implanted devices, and allergies to medications) is current and correct.

Being the victim of theft is mentally, emotionally, and financially exhausting, but having your personal medical data taken is so much more invasive. With so much of our medical data now housed online, a breach is (unfortunately) always possible.

For more helpful tips, visit our Tech Tips page on our website!

What's Inside

- Reed Williams Joins Hardy Board of Directors
- Students Thank Hardy For Youth Tour Experience

Calendar

- Aug. 8 Resumes Due To Nominating Committee
- Sept. 4 Labor Day Holiday - Offices Closed
- Sept. 22 Proxies Due For Annual Meeting
- Sept. 28 Ballots/Responses Due For Annual Meeting
- Oct. 6 Annual Meeting Of Members At East Hardy High School

Students Enjoy Youth Tour In D.C., Thank Hardy For Sponsorship

Two Hardy County rising seniors thanked Hardy Telecommunications for the “phenomenally successful” and “once-in-a-lifetime experience” of their four-day educational tour of our nation’s capital.

“This opportunity has led me to make lifetime friendships and has a great basis for networking in the future,” said Moorefield High School student Quincy Combs.

“I had such a wonderful experience on the FRS (Foundation for Rural Service) Youth Tour,” said East Hardy High student Brianna Walker.

Quincy and Brianna were sponsored by Hardy Telecommunications to attend the FRS Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., from May 31-June 4. The trip included sightseeing to some of the nation’s most popular and historic monuments as well as educational sessions with visits to the U.S. Capitol and the Federal Communications Commission. Hardy Tel paid all expenses for the pair.

Along with hearing from Capitol Hill staff members and visiting the offices of West Virginia Senators Shelley Moore Capito and Joe Manchin III, the students also learned about the telecommunications industry and the FCC’s impact on rural broadband. FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr addressed the students and took questions about various aspects of his job.

Quincy and Brianna were two of almost 100 students from around the country who attended the Youth Tour. Each student was sponsored by a



(Left to right) Moorefield High student Quincy Combs and East Hardy High student Brianna Walker stop by the offices of West Virginia Senators Shelley Moore Capito and Joe Manchin III during the 2023 FRS Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.

rural telecommunications company. The tour is designed to introduce the students to some of the challenges that companies like Hardy Telecommunications face in trying to deliver modern broadband to rural areas.

“My favorite part of the week would have to be meeting the many other students,” Brianna said. “... All these individuals share the same rural background, facing many of the same challenges we do in Hardy County. One prominent issue is access to broadband connectivity, which thankfully is made possible to me through Hardy Telecommunications and the FCC’s efforts.”

The group also toured Arlington National Cemetery, the Smithsonian Museums, Mount Vernon, and the Lincoln, Vietnam War, Korean War, World War



(Left to right) Brianna and Quincy visit the Federal Communications Commission during the 2023 Foundation for Rural Service Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.

II, Jefferson, Franklin D. Roosevelt and Martin Luther King Jr. memorials.

“One of my favorite places on this trip was Arlington National Cemetery,” Quincy said. While there, the students were able to watch the

Changing of the Guard ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Both students said the tour was a learning experience they won’t forget.

“This trip made me realize that we have such great freedoms that many take for granted,” Quincy said. “Again, I would like to thank Hardy Telecommunications for sponsoring me.”

“I would like to thank Hardy Telecommunications for opening this educational outlet,” Brianna said. “I truly had an amazing time throughout the FRS Youth Tour, and it would not have been possible without their gracious sponsorship.”

FRS was established in 1994 as a non-profit 501(c)(3) by NTCA-The Rural Broadband Association.

Reed Williams Joins Hardy Tel Board Of Directors

Reed Williams has joined the Hardy Telecommunications Board of Directors in the newly created position of Director-at-Large, effective January 1, 2023.

Mr. Williams was named to the Director-at-Large position by the rest of the board members. Hardy Telecommunications had a Director-at-Large opening in the past, but it was removed several years ago. The board recently voted to re-establish the position, citing the importance of introducing new people to the board with varied viewpoints. As Director-at-Large, Mr. Williams does not represent a specific part of Hardy Telecommunications’ coverage area but rather the entire region, and he will serve a typical three-year term and be eligible for re-election as with any other board position.

Mr. Williams is a Moorefield native and well known throughout the Hardy Telecommunications area, and indeed throughout the state. He attended West Virginia University where he received multiple degrees and



Reed Williams

was a fixture with the WVU football team as a linebacker, winning Defensive MVP in the 2008 Fiesta Bowl win over Oklahoma. He’s frequently appeared on TV and radio football broadcasts.

His varied background and educational achievements have enabled him to attain a variety of business experience in his career, and he has been recognized by the Hardy County Chamber of Commerce for his contributions and service to

the community. He plans to bring that experience and perspective to Hardy’s board.

Mr. Williams is a farmer at heart, and after tackling jobs in other locales, he returned to Hardy County and settled in the South Fork area where he currently works the Williams family farm. He is married to Haylea LaBossiere-Williams, an ER nurse and Petersburg native.

Reed has embraced the various aspects of being a Hardy Tel board member. He traveled with Hardy CEO/General Manager Scott Sherman and Hardy Assistant General Manager Derek Barr to Washington, D.C., as part of the NTCA - The Rural Broadband Association’s Legislative and Policy Conference. While there, he met with West Virginia Senator Shelley Moore Capito and other staff members of West Virginia’s congressional delegation. He also has visited the Moorefield and Lost River offices to meet employees and see Hardy’s operations.

We welcome Reed to the Hardy Tel Board!

2023 Annual Meeting Set For October 6 At EHHS

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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 22, 2023, will be accepted. No proxies or ballots will be accepted at the meeting, as voting already will have taken place by mail. Results of the voting will be announced at the meeting.

If there is new information or changes regarding the Annual Meeting, these will

be posted on our website at hardynet.com and on our Hardy Telecommunications Facebook page. Please visit them regularly for the latest information.

For more information about our election process, please see our bylaws, which begin on page 28 of the 2023 directory, or read them 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.