



Communicator

A Semi-Annual Newsletter for Cooperative Customers



A large crowd turned out for the 2025 Hardy Annual Meeting of Members at East Hardy High School, enjoying a pork barbecue meal.

Three Directors Re-Elected At Hardy Annual Meeting

Three directors were re-elected at Hardy Telecommunications' annual meeting on October 3 at East Hardy High School. They will serve new three-year terms.



Gerald Smith



Greg Zirk



Reed Williams

The three directors are Gerald Smith of Baker, for Lost River serving area 1; Greg Zirk of Moorefield, for Moorefield serving area 2; and Reed Williams of Moorefield, for Director-At-Large. All were unopposed in their bids for re-election, so voting by ballot was unnecessary.

Hardy Board of Directors President Greg Zirk thanked everyone for attending the meeting, and Attorney Jack Walters presented the report of the Nominations Committee. All three directors were congratulated on their elections to new terms.

Hardy General Manager Scott Sherman said the previous year had been financially

successful but also challenging for the company. He cited the changing rules governing the federal Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment program to remove an emphasis on fiber-optics and give more consideration to low-earth-orbit satellite technology like Starlink. Hardy twice has been told that it's in line to receive awards, only for the awards to be suspended.

Starlink has its uses for certain difficult-to-reach areas, but it is not equipped to handle the future speed needs of the U.S. as artificial intelligence becomes more prevalent, he said.

Hardy also continues to battle against the major TV networks' insistence on huge price increases for us to carry their channels, but the company has little leverage, he said.

Mr. Sherman also cited the cooperative's recent release of Internet-only service.

About 425 people attended the meeting, enjoying the food and door prizes. Hardy thanks the EHHS Band and Band Director Colton Watts, Band Boosters, ProStart, Philip Miller, and EHHS cooks, staff and faculty, who prepared and served the meal.

What's Inside

- Hardy Offering Senior Cybersecurity Safety Videos
- Hardy Sponsoring FRS Scholarship
- Hardy Sending Two Local Students To D.C. Youth Tour

Calendar

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|---------------|---|
| Nov. 27-28 | Thanksgiving Holiday - Offices Closed |
| Dec. 24-25 | Christmas Holiday - Offices Closed |
| Jan. 1, 2026 | New Year's Holiday - Offices Closed |
| Feb. 14, 2026 | Deadline for FRS Scholarship Applications |
| Feb. 14, 2026 | Deadline for FRS Youth Tour Applications |

Gizmo the Internet Guard Dog Offers Safety Tips

Gizmo - The Internet Guard Dog

Make sure your software is up to date.

Enable automatic updates and check for updates through your device's settings app for your operating system.



Gizmo - The Internet Guard Dog

Be sure to use Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA)

Providing two or more verification factors to log into an account is the best way to protect your system.



Hardy Telecommunications and NTCA – The Rural Broadband Association present Gizmo, the Internet Guard Dog, with helpful cybersecurity tips. He advises using Multi-Factor Authentication for your accounts and keeping your software up to date. View more from Gizmo, including a children's coloring book for download, on our Tech Tips webpage at <https://hardynet.net/about/tech-tips/>.

Hardy Sponsoring D.C. Tour For Local Youth

Hardy Telecommunications will send two local students on a five-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 2026 Foundation for Rural Service Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., June 1-5. 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.

Students typically visit the U.S. Capitol Building and meet representatives of Capitol Hill and the FCC.

Hardy can sponsor only one student from Moorefield High and one from East Hardy



Students and chaperones visit the U.S. Capitol during the 2025 Foundation for Rural Service Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.

High. Applications may be picked up from the 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 15-17 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 2027 graduating class if there are multiple applications.

The deadline to return applications is February 14, 2026. 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 Offering Cybersecurity Training Videos For Seniors

Hardy Telecommunications in October announced a special Senior Safety Series of videos in connection with Cybersecurity Awareness Month. The series is produced through NTCA - The Rural Broadband Association’s Smart Rural Community initiative. Hardy Telecommunications and Hardy County have been recognized by NTCA as a Smart Rural Community.



This three-part series tackles issues critical to online safety for seniors, including:

- Recognizing and avoiding phishing attacks

- Developing effective passwords and how to secure them

- How to respond in the event of a data breach of your personal information

Watch the entire series of videos on Hardy’s YouTube page at <https://www.youtube.com/@HardyNetVideo> or link to the videos through our website’s Tech Tips webpage.

Hardy Sponsoring College Scholarship For Area Students

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

Members of the Class of 2026 at EHHS and MHS can apply through Hardy for the national Foundation for Rural Service Undergrad 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 application process is done online. Students can go to the FRS website at frs.org/programs/youth-programs/

and click a link to the Kaleidoscope application platform. Completed applications must be submitted online to the Foundation for Rural Service by February 14, 2026.

To apply, students will need to submit a 500-800 word essay; email addresses for two people who can provide a letter of recommendation - only one can be 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 submit no 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 and cannot guarantee that any local applicant 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.

Local applicants must be U.S. citizens; express an interest in returning to a rural community following graduation; and be sponsored by Hardy Telecommunications, a member of NTCA - The Rural Broadband Association. One application qualifies you for all available scholarships.

How To Reach Us

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Wardensville Office
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Capon Bridge Office
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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.

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

