

# Annual Report 2007



**HTC**  
HALSTAD TELEPHONE COMPANY  
*How To Connect*

# Official Notice

Annual Meeting Of Halstad Telephone Company  
Wednesday, June 18, 2008, at 7:00 p.m.  
Norman County West Gymnasium • Halstad, Minnesota

The purpose of the meeting is to present the financial condition of the cooperative as of December 31, 2007, to elect two directors for the Halstad exchange, and to conduct other business as may come forth before the members of the cooperative.

- Dinner: 5:30–7:00 p.m. (Served in the Norman County West High School Multipurpose Room. Enter through marked doors on west side of building.)
- Registration and Entertainment: 6:30–7:00 p.m.
- Meeting: 7:00 p.m.

The Nominations Committee placed into nomination the following names for director candidates from the Halstad exchange. The election will take place on June 18, 2008, at the Annual Meeting.

Halstad Exchange: Lori DeLong  
Ron Gotteberg, Incumbent  
Dave Meyer  
Steve Sortland

Two directors from the Halstad exchange will be elected.

The Nominations Committee members are: Rob Hawkins, Rita Olson, and Sue Purrington.

## 104th Annual Meeting Agenda

### 7:00 p.m. Norman County West Gymnasium

Call to Order .....	Chester Mauritson, President
Determination of Quorum.....	Warren Olson, Secretary/Treasurer
Secretary’s Report.....	Warren Olson
President’s Report .....	Chester Mauritson
Financial Report.....	Mark Forseth, Office Manager
CEO’s Report.....	Ronald Laqua, CEO
Election of Directors.....	William Brudvik, Attorney
Entertainment	
Announcement of Election Results.....	Chester Mauritson
New Business	
Phonotes Contest Drawing and Other Prize Drawings	
Adjournment .....	Chester Mauritson

*Join us for pie and coffee in the multipurpose room following the meeting,  
served by the Norman County West Close Up.*



*Please read the minutes from last year's meeting prior to the meeting. A motion will be solicited to dispense with the formal reading of the minutes and to approve them as written below . .*

# Last Year's Meeting Minutes

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF HALSTAD TELEPHONE COMPANY, JUNE 20, 2007

The Halstad Telephone Company held its Annual Meeting on June 20, 2007, at 7:00 p.m., at the Norman County West High School gymnasium in Halstad, Minnesota. Dinner was served prior to the meeting. The staff gave product demonstrations on high-definition television and other new technologies. The Norman County West Jazz Band provided entertainment prior to the commencement of the annual meeting and during the meeting.

At 7:00 p.m., President Mauritson called the meeting to order and welcomed the people in attendance. He called upon Board Secretary Warren Olson who declared that the meeting was called pursuant to due and proper notice and that a quorum was present.

Minutes of the 2006 annual meeting were contained in the 2006 Annual Report. Motion made and seconded to approve the 2006 annual meeting minutes. Motion carried.

President Mauritson gave the President's Report. He reported that the previous year was a very successful year for Halstad Telephone Company and its subsidiary and thanked the management staff and board. He recognized past board members John Eggebraten and Elmer Larson who were in attendance. He reported that the decision to create a competitive local exchange telephone company in Hillsboro was one of the best decisions Halstad had ever made.

President Mauritson called upon Office Manager Forseth to give the financial report for the previous year. Office Manager Forseth presented a PowerPoint presentation of the financial statements for the company as prepared by Olsen Theilen. Following study, motion made and seconded to accept the financial report. Motion carried.

President Mauritson called upon Manager Laqua to give the Manager's Report. Manager Laqua recognized employees and acknowledged longevity awards to existing employees. He also recognized Tom Maroney as the recipient of the MTA 21st Century Award for public service. He reported on the Onvoy Operator Center, which has been in operation since October of 2006. Manager Laqua reported that Chester Mauritson had received the NTCA's plaque for 30 years of dedicated service to the telephone industry. He also reported on the Coalition to Keep America Connected, a political action committee for rural telephone companies. Manager Laqua also reported that he had received a distinguished service award from the NTCA. He gave a summary of Halstad's civic activities in the community and reported that all patronage had been paid through 1995. He reported on the results of focus group meetings held in the spring of 2007,

long distance cost increases, and the East Grand Forks and Crookston expansions.

President Mauritson called on the company's attorney, William Brudvik, to conduct the election of directors. Mr. Brudvik reported that the nominating committee consisted of Jamie Tronnes, Roy Stola, Osmund Moe, Loren Wegge, Arlen Paulsrud, and Alan Halverson. The committee presented a list of candidates for the open positions in the Bygland, Neilsville, and Shelly exchanges. Candidate for the Bygland Exchange was Kent Wavra. Candidates for the Neilsville Exchange were Elroy Hedde and Marlene Paulsrud. Candidates for the Shelly Exchange were Chester Mauritson and Jeff Neil. Attorney Brudvik asked for nominations from the floor and none were received. The candidates were given an opportunity to speak to the members prior to balloting. Following their presentations, the ballots were collected and Attorney Brudvik and the nominating committee counted the ballots. He reported that Kent Wavra, Elroy Hedde, and Chester Mauritson had been reelected to the board.

President Mauritson called for old business. There was none. President Mauritson asked the membership if there was new business to be discussed. There was none.

Prizes were awarded and President Mauritson then declared the meeting adjourned.

The meeting was followed by an organizational meeting of the Board of Directors, which was called to order by President Mauritson. He turned the meeting over to Vice President Steve Williams, who called for nominations for president. Gotteberg moved and Mauritson seconded a motion to nominate Chester Mauritson as president. Hedde and Olson moved and seconded that nominations cease and that a unanimous ballot be cast. Both motions carried. Williams turned the meeting back over to Mauritson. Mauritson called for nominations of vice president. Olson moved and Evenson seconded a motion to nominate Steve Williams as vice president. Evenson moved and Wavra seconded a motion that nominations cease and that a unanimous ballot be cast. Both motions carried. Williams moved and Wavra seconded a motion to nominate Warren Olson as secretary-treasurer. Hedde and Williams moved and seconded that nominations cease and that a unanimous ballot be cast. Both motions carried.



Warren Olson,  
Secretary/Treasurer

# A Message From Your President And CEO

Before we review the accomplishments of your company in 2007, we first extend our welcome to Hillsboro, which will become a member of the cooperative in 2009! It has been a goal of the Halstad Telephone Company Board of Directors to bring Hillsboro into the cooperative someday, and next January 1 will be that day.

Hillsboro is among many success stories your cooperative can tell about. The 2007 financial report contained in this Annual Report shows we are doing well. We have branched into more services than plain old telephone service, as you know. Our most recent major venture, providing data circuits to businesses in East Grand Forks and Crookston, was a significant investment in 2006 that is paying off very well, proving itself almost immediately in 2007. The financial strength of the cooperative comes first because of its core services – those telephone, Internet, and Cable TV services that our members from Halstad to Fisher have enjoyed over the years. Those dollars have leveraged funds to extend our fiber-optic network into new lucrative ventures like East Grand Forks and Crookston. These opportunities help strengthen our ability to fund initiatives within our core member service areas between Halstad and Fisher – and now Hillsboro.

Our society is becoming more mobile every day. Wireless services are growing by leaps and bounds. As with other communication services, HTC is exploring its role in this ever-expanding wireless world. In addition to local cellular voice investments in the 1980s, your cooperative is making additional wireless investments toward serving a more mobile data society. Expect to hear from us as these investments develop at HTC.

Cable TV continues to be a mix of great rewards and great challenges for us. We receive many compliments about our great line-up of programming, enhanced by our own local schools with their channels that include live sports, concerts, and other events. We are also proud to say that none of our TV customers need

worry when the February 2009 conversion to digital comes – their TV sets, no matter what kind, digital or analog, if connected to HTC's TV system, will still work when the TV industry changes to all digital. And, although we and nationally advertised DVR services are compatible with each other, we continue to work for an in-house DVR solution that can best deliver that option to those who want it.

We harp on it each year. These new investments, as well as continued landline, Internet, and TV services depend on sound telecommunications policy coming from your state and national lawmakers. Appropriate Universal Service and other telecommunications regulations are crucial to our high-cost, low-density service areas. New technologies emerge on the market at a faster pace than ever, often outpacing the ability of our lawmakers to determine appropriate laws for them. We are working hard with our associations to continue educating state officials, Congress, and the FCC to help make appropriate rules and procedures to keep all of America connected.

We celebrate in this report those who have served the valued members of your cooperative for many productive years. Note the length of devoted service of so many of our employees and directors. Along with this experience, we add the additional perspective over the years that comes with our newer employees and directors. You have a strong team working for you at your cooperative, Halstad Telephone Company! Thank you for your continued patronage.

We hope to see you June 18 at your Annual Meeting and Customer Appreciation Dinner !



Chester Mauritsen



Ron Laqua

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chester Mauritsen".

Chester Mauritsen,  
Board President

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ronald Laqua".

Ronald Laqua,  
CEO

# A Message From Your Office Manager

I am very pleased to give my second financial report to the patrons of Halstad Telephone Company. My first report, which I presented at last year's annual meeting, was simply a breeze to give because it was good news and highlighted probably one of the best financial years in HTC's 104-year history.



Mark Forseth

It is my pleasure to once again report on an outstanding financial year, having surpassed last year's margin by \$323,899 for a total, 2007 net margin of \$1,313,357.

Please keep in mind that in 2006 a substantial part of the net margin of \$989,458 consisted of a one-time gain received from the redemption of stock held in the Rural Telephone Bank. In 2007, a similar situation occurred when HTC sold a portion of its shares in Rural Cellular Corporation that resulted in \$321,392 of income, which is included in 2007's net margin.

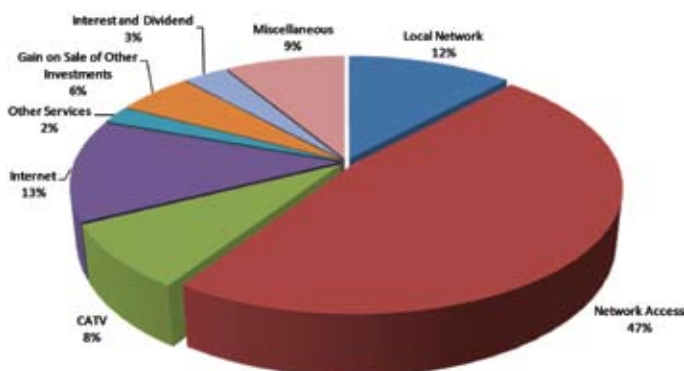
When you compare 2007 with 2006 and take away the fact that both years had a substantial one-time financial gain, you will see the following:

	2007	2006
Net Margin	\$1,313,357	\$989,458
Less One-Time Gain	(\$321,392)	(\$297,298)
<b>Normal Business Operations Margin</b>	<b>\$991,975</b>	<b>\$692,160</b>

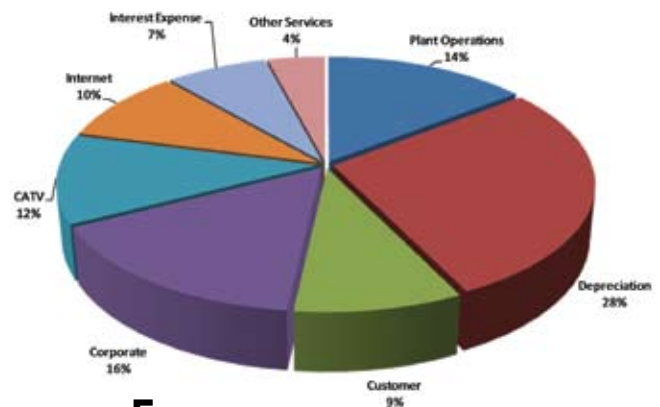
These numbers illustrate that HTC was able to grow its net margin by \$299,815 in 2007, in large part from increased operation in Crookston and East Grand Forks. This growth helped increase the amount of Patronage Capital allocated in 2007 to \$1,185,077.

I look forward to visiting with you and presenting the full financial report at the annual meeting in June.

Mark Forseth, Office Manager



**Income**



**Expenses**

# Financials

**Minnesota 555  
Halstad Telephone Company And Subsidiary  
Consolidated Balance Sheet  
December 31, 2007 And 2006**

	<b>Assets</b>	
	2007	2006
Current Assets:		
Cash And Cash Equivalents	\$ 472,259	\$ 388,290
Temporary Cash Investments	2,909,100	2,350,000
Cash – RDUP Construction Fund	1,574	1,549
Trade Receivables, Less Allowance For Doubtful		
Accounts Of \$14,196 And \$26,816	446,837	530,088
Income Taxes Receivable	10,234	–
Materials And Supplies	94,487	73,923
Total Current Assets	3,934,491	3,343,850
Investments And Other Assets:		
Investments	2,813,895	1,352,137
Other Assets	160,440	164,000
Total Investments And Other Assets	2,974,335	1,516,137
Property, Plant, And Equipment, Net	9,379,478	9,470,415
Total Assets	\$ 16,288,304	\$ 14,330,402
<b>Liabilities And Members' Equity</b>		
Current Liabilities:		
Current Portion Of Long-Term Debt	\$ 905,100	\$ 894,000
Accounts Payable	98,225	83,947
Accrued Income Taxes	–	24,803
Other Current Liabilities	89,183	82,188
Total Current Liabilities	1,092,508	1,084,938
Long-Term Debt	6,655,835	7,127,333
Deferred Credits And Liabilities:		
Income Taxes	344,548	395,854
Post Retirement Benefits Other Than Pension	60,562	55,021
Other Deferred Credits	19,380	20,117
Total Deferred Credits And Liabilities	424,490	470,992
Members' Equity:		
Patronage Capital	3,666,223	2,855,267
Accumulated Unallocated Margins	2,177,603	2,031,992
Accumulated Deficit Of Subsidiary	(186,122)	(168,791)
Accumulated Other Comprehensive Income	2,457,767	928,671
Total Members' Equity	8,115,471	5,647,139
Total Assets	\$ 16,288,304	\$ 14,330,402

# Financials

**Minnesota 555**  
**Halstad Telephone Company And Subsidiary**  
**Consolidated Statement Of Operations**  
**Years Ended December 31, 2007 And 2006**

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Operating Revenues:		
Local Networks	\$ 729,071	\$ 803,061
Network Access	2,913,180	2,496,874
CATV	512,013	589,421
Internet	797,642	796,230
Other Services	134,744	123,279
Miscellaneous	568,908	568,985
Uncollectibles, Net	<u>(21,768)</u>	<u>(44,415)</u>
Total Operating Revenues	<u>5,633,790</u>	<u>5,333,435</u>
Operating Expenses:		
Plant Operations	701,671	690,889
Depreciation	1,363,514	1,499,120
Customer	437,859	436,043
Corporate	758,208	692,979
CATV	560,487	473,172
Internet	460,959	359,221
Other Services	118,388	107,759
Taxes Other Than Income	<u>17,471</u>	<u>19,866</u>
Total Operating Expenses	<u>4,418,557</u>	<u>4,279,049</u>
Operating Margin	<u>1,215,233</u>	<u>1,054,386</u>
Other Income And (Expenses):		
Interest And Dividend Income	193,306	125,260
Gain From Redemption Of Rural Telephone Bank Stock	13,917	297,298
Gain On Sale Of Other Investments	321,392	-
LLC Loses	(14,292)	(9,198)
Interest Expense	<u>(352,642)</u>	<u>(390,403)</u>
Net Other Income And (Expenses)	<u>161,681</u>	<u>22,957</u>
Net Margins Before Income Tax	1,376,914	1,077,343
Income Tax Expense	<u>(63,557)</u>	<u>(87,885)</u>
Net Margin	<u>\$ 1,313,357</u>	<u>\$ 989,458</u>

# Your Directors



Chester Mauritsen  
*President  
Shelly*



Steve Williams  
*Vice President  
Fisher*



Warren Olson  
*Secretary/Treasurer  
Halstad*



Duane Evenson  
*Climax*



Ron Gotteberg  
*Halstad*



Elroy Hedde  
*Nielsville*



Kent Wavra  
*Bygland*



William Brudvik  
*Attorney*

# Your Employees



Ron Laqua  
*CEO  
15 Years*



Tom Maroney  
*Plant Manager  
33 Years*



Mark Forseth  
*Office Manager  
2 Years*



Pauleen Hinkley  
*Customer Service  
7 Years*



Tracy Holte  
*Customer Service  
2 Years*



Kathy Maroney  
*Customer Service  
29 Years*



Melanie Nelson  
*Customer Service  
19 Years*



Sheri Nelson  
*Customer Service  
8 Years*



Brandon Mickelson  
*Network Service  
Coordinator  
9 Years*



Kevin Richter  
*Operations  
Coordinator  
30 Years*



Andy Shulstad  
*Technician  
6 Months*



Chad Tice  
*Network Service  
Technician  
7 Years*



Ole Van Den Einde  
*Technician  
10 Years*



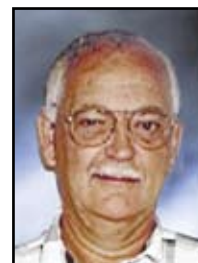
Dave Weeding  
*Technician  
1 Year*



John Hilley  
*Technician  
7 Years*



Jake Quern  
*Technician  
7 Years*



Arden Buchholz  
*Custodian  
41 Years*



Tom & Laurel Keeney  
*Custodians  
4 Years*

# Phonotes

Volume 42, Issue 2 • Summer 2008

The Official Newsletter Of Halstad Telephone Company

## Meeting With Congressional Representatives pg 10

HTC Ventures West pg 10

HTC Legends pg 11

New Developments  
In Your TV Service pg 11

Telephone Assistance pg 12

New Web Site pg 13

Successful Audit pg 13

NECA Review pg 13

HTC Gives Back pg 14

HTC Works At The Capital pg 15



**HTC**  
HALSTAD TELEPHONE COMPANY  
*How To Connect*

halstadtel.com • 800-457-2125



# Laqua and Brudvik Meet With Congressional Representatives

HTC's efforts to deliver enhanced communications discussed

In April, CEO Ron Laqua and cooperative attorney Bill Brudvik met with North Dakota Senators Byron Dorgan and Kent Conrad and Representative Earl Pomeroy. They also had the opportunity to meet with staff of Minnesota Senators Amy Klobuchar and Norm Coleman, and Representatives Colin Peterson and Betty McCollum to explore the unique challenges small communications providers, like HTC, face in delivering affordable, cutting-edge communications services to consumers.

Among the issues discussed was the critical role of the federal universal service fund, which helps support HTC's efforts to connect consumers to the nation's robust broadband-capable network and the numerous opportunities for education, health care, commerce, and entertainment it provides. The Congressional representatives were urged to act to ensure rural communities remain a vital part of our nation's fabric by advocating policies that will sustain universal service support. In the future, HTC will come to rely on universal

service support to help deliver area residents next-generation technology at affordable rates.

The group also discussed the need for flexible policies that do not unduly burden small businesses like rural telecommunications co-ops with limited resources, and ensure that HTC can continue to provide top-notch customer service and affordable, reliable communications to its consumers.

Laqua and Brudvik were in Washington to participate in the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association's Legislative & Policy Conference. The annual meeting hosts more than 600 telecommunications representatives from throughout the country for educational briefings about emerging rules and regulations and other pressing industry issues as well provides the opportunity to speak with policy makers on Capitol Hill and the Federal Communications Commission.

## HTC Ventures West

HTC was one of several organizations highlighted at Norman County West Elementary School's "West Adventure" in May. Dave Weeding, HTC technician, was there handing out candy to the kids, as well as giving them a look inside his truck during this parent-teacher conference event. West Adventure focused on the various jobs in the area. Along with Dave and HTC, the local ambulance crew, other utilities, and semi-truck drivers were featured.



HTC Technician Dave Weeding with Julie Christianson, Ross Christianson, and their children Emily and Ryan.

*Front Cover:*  
Water Tower  
in the city  
of Halstad.



# HTC Legends In The Making

In 1978, Kevin Richter came to work for Halstad Telephone Company straight from his telephone training at technical school in Wadena. Through the years, Kevin has seen big changes in the telephone industry. Kevin has literally been in the trenches – burying the once overhead wires used by HTC. He’s learned the new digital telephone switch technology employed by HTC, as well as new technologies like internet and digital cable TV. In his 30 years with HTC, he has seen the evolution of telecommunications from the front lines.

Today, Kevin is the operations coordinator at HTC. He still has the responsibilities of his fellow technicians, but with the added duties of coordinating schedules, safety procedures, ordering materials, and updating records, among others. “Kevin always brings a can-do attitude to work with him,” notes Tom Maroney, HTC plant manager.

“I’ve enjoyed learning all the new developments in telecommunications,” remarks Kevin. “It sure has come a long way from the plain old telephone service I started with.”

Thank you, Kevin, for 30 years of dedication to your company and all the members and customers it serves!

HTC Technician Ole Van Den Einde has been with our co-op for a decade. Ole moved here in the spring of 1998 from Heart of Iowa Telephone in Union, IA, where he worked for 8 ½ years.

Ole and his wife Amy moved to Halstad to be closer to family; they are originally from Fertile, Minnesota. Amy works for the Halstad Living Center as an RN. Their daughter Abby is now 13 years old and a 7th grader at Norman County West High School.

“I get the most pleasure from meeting and helping customers and members of HTC,” says Ole of his career at HTC. “Ole’s enthusiasm for his job shows in the many thank you’s and comments we receive on our customer satisfaction surveys,” comments Ron Laqua, CEO of HTC. “Our customers really appreciate Ole’s friendliness and skill at his job.”

Thank you, Ole, for 10 years of great service to our members and customers!



Kevin Richter  
30 Years



Ole Van Den Einde  
10 Years

## New Developments In Your TV Service

HTC works hard to provide you with the TV networks you love. These include national programming, as well as local stations such as KXJB (4), KVLV (11), WDAY (6), WDAZ (8), and KVRR (15). In airing some of these local stations, we are now being assessed a “retransmission fee.” This, along with ever-increasing programming costs of all providers, will result in an increase of \$2.00 to the Value Vision and Family Vision packages you receive from HTC starting on July 1, 2008. At HTC, our members and customers are the backbone of our business, and keeping you informed with local and national news programming is an important part of what we do.



# Telephone Assistance Programs

Telephone Service Discounts Minnesota local service providers are authorized to provide two federally funded and one state-funded telephone service discount programs designed to provide low-income individuals with new telephone service installations and monthly telephone service discounts.

Who is eligible? Telephone service must be in your name and you must participate in at least one of the following public-assistance programs or have income at or below 135 percent of the federal poverty guidelines to be eligible:

- Medicaid/Medical Assistance
- Food Support (food stamps)
- Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance or Section 8 Assistance
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP)
- National School Lunch Program's free lunch program

Attach any one of the following documents to your application to prove your income is at or below 135 percent of the federal poverty income guidelines.

- Last year's state, federal, or tribal tax return
- Current annual income statement from employer
- Three consecutive months of most recent paycheck stubs
- Veterans Administration Benefits Statement
- Unemployment/Workmen's Compensation Statement
- Social Security Benefits Statement
- Retirement/Pension Benefits Statement
- Divorce Decree
- Child Support Document
- Other

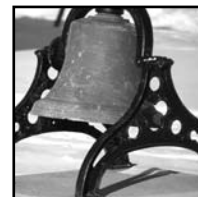
What do the programs provide? LinkUp provides eligible subscribers with reduced connection charges for the main home telephone line. This reduction is 50 percent of applicable charges or \$30.00, whichever is less. LinkUp also provides for deferred payment of connection charges without interest. It does not cover the cost of wiring inside the home and is available to eligible subscribers only once per home address.

LifeLine provides eligible subscribers with a monthly credit on the basic local service portion of their telephone bill. The credit applies on the main home telephone number listed in the name of the eligible telephone company subscriber.

LifeLine subscribers also may receive free blocking of long distance calling on their telephone line. The Telephone Assistance Plan (TAP) program provides an additional monthly credit for LifeLine subscribers.

Could I become ineligible? When you no longer participate in any of the qualifying programs listed above, you are no longer eligible for LifeLine, LinkUp, or TAP. You are obligated by law to notify the telephone company and advise the company that you are no longer eligible for LifeLine, LinkUp, or TAP.

How do I apply? Complete and sign an application form, which you can obtain from Halstad Telephone, and attach proof of income. Submit the completed application to HTC.



# HTC Launches New Web Site

HTC will soon have a new web site! HTC will soon launch a new web site to bring you information on the services available through your cooperative.

“We are excited about the new look of the web site,” says Ron Laqua, CEO of HTC. “As the internet becomes more important in spreading the word about our cooperative, we decided it was time to give it a face-lift.”

The new HTC web site will feature Flash technology, so there is a lot of movement. “There’ll even be sound on

the new site,” remarks Mark Forseth, office manager. “The new web site is a good change for us. It helps to demonstrate the high-tech business that we are, while keeping our hometown values.”

HTC invites you to check out its newly launched web site at [www.halstadel.com](http://www.halstadel.com).



# Another Successful Accounting And Controls Audit

The audit firm of Olsen Theilen has once again performed a successful accounting and controls audit of HTC, and its wholly owned subsidiary HTC Services, for the year 2007.



HTC Customer Service Representative Sheri Nelson, Rob Koch of Olsen Theilen, HTC Office Manager Mark Forseth, Rana Rand, and Pete Yankowiak of Olsen Theilen.

# A Successful NECA Review

The National Exchange Carrier Association (NECA) recently conducted a review of HTC’s reporting practices for adherence to FCC rules on various Interstate services that HTC provides. Formed by the Federal Communications Commission in 1983, NECA oversees the proper implementation of new FCC rules established following the break-up of the Bell/AT&T system. NECA has been instrumental in assuring that all telephone companies play their part in maintaining affordable service for all areas of the country.

HTC has an additional challenge of providing services to the sparsely populated Red River Valley that are as affordable as in the middle of Minneapolis, Chicago, or New York. “It has been a team effort between NECA and HTC for the past 25 years to assure proper implementation of FCC rules geared toward this goal of affordability. We are grateful for NECA and for this recent confirmation by NECA that we are properly doing our part,” commented HTC’s CEO Ron Laqua.



Pictured from left to right: (Back Row) HTC Plant Manager Tom Maroney, CEO Ron Laqua, and Office Manager Mark Forseth. (Front Row) NECA representatives Bruce Chapman and Sheila Marvin.



# HTC Gives Back To Our Schools

HTC is proud to support Dollars for Scholars® in our area schools. HTC donated \$1,350 to scholarship programs at Climax, Fisher, Hillsboro, and Norman County West Schools. At HTC, we are committed to furthering the education of the students in our service area and are proud to contribute to these fine programs.



HTC CEO Ron Laqua and Fisher Principal Erik Erie



Mark Forseth, HTC Office Manager, presents a check to Michelle McLean, representing Hillsboro Dollars for Scholars



HTC CEO Ron Laqua and Karen Thoreson of Climax-Shelly Dollars for Scholars



Kathy Maroney and Ron Laqua of HTC, both members of the Norman County West Dollars for Scholars Board and NCW Dollars for Scholars President Anita Olson



## Win Cash From HTC!

Submit your entry to be one of two \$25 winners. Also, all entries that we receive during the year (winners or not) will be eligible for two \$100 cash prizes to be drawn at the annual meeting on June 18, 2008! (Must be present to win the \$100.) Just return this coupon by June 18, 2008, to be eligible for the drawing.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fill in the blank in this sentence:

“HTC donated \_\_\_\_\_ to scholarship programs at Climax, Fisher, Hillboro, and Norman County West schools.”

(Answer can be found somewhere in this issue.)



# HTC Works At The Capitol

HTC's CEO, Ron Laqua, and several other Minnesota telecommunications company managers met with legislators in St. Paul to discuss issues facing rural telecommunications.



Picture (l to r): Ron Laqua, HTC; Rep. Bernie Lieder; Al Lundeen, Wikstrom Telephone Co.; George Wikstrom, Wikstrom Telephone Co.; George Fish, Garden Valley Telephone Co.



Pictured (l to r): Rep. Sheldon Johnson; Rep. Kent Eken; Dave Arvig, President of Arvig Communications; Bob Gannon, General Manager of Blackduck Telephone; Rep. Brita Sailer; Ron Laqua, CEO of HTC; and George Fish, General Manager of Garden Valley Telephone.



Pictured (l to r): Al Lundeen, Wikstrom Telephone Co.; George Wikstrom, Wikstrom Telephone Co.; Senator LeRoy Stumpf; George Fish, Garden Valley Telephone Co.; Ron Laqua, HTC.

## Statement Of Nondiscrimination

Halstad Telephone Company is the recipient of federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Ronald Laqua. To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Halstad Telephone Company es la beneficiaria de la ayuda financiera federal otorgada por el Servicio de Infraestructuras Rurales, un organismo del Ministerio de Agricultura de Estados Unidos. El Ministerio de Agricultura de Estados Unidos (USDA) prohíbe en todos sus programas y actividades la discriminación por razón de raza, color, nacionalidad, edad, discapacidad y, en los casos que corresponda, sexo, estado civil, situación familiar, situación de paternidad, religión, orientación sexual, información genética, creencias políticas, por represalia, o porque el ingreso total o parcial de una persona proviene de un programa de asistencia pública. (No todos los criterios prohibidos se aplican a todos los programas). Las personas con discapacidades que necesitan medios alternativos para la comunicación de la información del programa (Sistema Braille, letras grandes, cintas de audio, etc.) deben ponerse en contacto con el TARGET Center de USDA a través del (202) 720-2600 (voz y TDD).

La persona responsable de coordinar las campañas de adhesión a la no discriminación de esta organización es Ronald Laqua. Para presentar una queja de discriminación, escriba a USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, o llame al (800) 795-3272 (voz) o al (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA es un proveedor y empleador que ofrece igualdad de oportunidades para todos.





HALSTAD TELEPHONE COMPANY

*How To Connect*

PO Box 55 • Halstad, MN 56548

*Attend Your Annual Meeting  
And Customer Appreciation  
Night, June 18, 2008, In Halstad.*



## New Connections

### CLIMAX

857-2295 Vargas, Maria

### FISHER

891-2267 Norby, Deanne

### HALSTAD

456-2401 Harrington, Frank C.

456-2463 Hersch, Daniel

456-2426 Hesby, Mildred

456-2351 Lenius, Latisha

456-2443 Saucedo, Frank

456-2515 Zahl, Roger

### NIELSVILLE

946-2775 Atkinson, Brandi

946-2845 Roningen, Morris

### SHELLY

886-7601 Dohman, Mark

## HTC Offices Closed

Our offices will be closed July 4th in observance of Independence Day and September 1st for Labor Day.



HALSTAD TELEPHONE COMPANY

*How To Connect*

345 2nd Ave. W.  
Halstad, MN

218-456-2125

124 E. Caledonia Ave.  
Hillsboro, ND

701-636-2125

After Hours Troubles 800-300-1687

Help Desk 218-891-3006 or 888-891-3006

halstadtel.com • 800-457-2125