

# Co-op Connection

Hamilton County Telephone Co-op

October 2018

## Co-ops Put People First

It's October again, and the weather is starting to let us know that the Fall season is upon us. October is a special month here, as it is nationally known as Co-op Appreciation Month.

Our co-op was created for one reason...to provide the rural areas communication services like you would receive in cities or urban areas. We are in a time when technology is changing at an evolutionary rate, while at the same time competition continues to increase, where you as a member and a consumer have more choices than ever before. The world around us seems to be in chaos and disarray but change still evolves and continues to carry on.

We are working hard every day to meet the challenges of this evolution as we look to move the co-op forward. We do not want to forget history, the dedication and sacrifice of those who came before us in the success of the co-op. However when looking back, let it be a constant reminder to us, to be prepared for the challenges of today and what we see coming in the future. Even though the install of fiber cable in our Co-op area has now stalled due to funding, just know that we are determined to move forward looking for other ways to meet our obligations for the co-op's future.

Chance favors the prepared and our employees work hard toward that effort everyday...I hope you understand the importance of what you have in your co-op.

We exist to meet the service needs of our members. They set the priorities that guide the co-op. Co-ops work for the sustainable development of their communities through cooperation, investment and involvement.

Since 1930, Co-op Month has served to create awareness of cooperatives throughout the United States. To celebrate October's Co-op Appreciation Month this year, every day in the month of October we will be giving away a \$10 bill credit. Every co-op member will be automatically entered into a daily drawing. There will be a list of winners displayed in November's newsletter.



### Calendar of Events:

- Oct 8 - Columbus Day  
Our office is *OPEN*.
- Oct 16 - Bosses Day
- Oct 27 - Make A Difference Day
- Oct 31 - Halloween



### Oct 1 Statement Changes:

As of October 1st, the IUSF Surcharge is changing. This percentage is increasing from 1.6952% to 1.9104%. This percentage fluctuates quarterly.

Also, as of October 1st, all Single Line & Multi-Line Business customers will see an increase of the Universal Service Contribution Charge. The increase will move from 17.90% to 20.1%. This percentage also fluctuates each annually.

How does this affect you?

Single Line Residential will see \$ .07 increase  
Single Line Business will see \$ .13 increase  
Multi Line Business will see \$ .32 increase  
Multi Line Business w/hunt group will see a \$ .33 increase

These charges are federally regulated and mandated by federal government.



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## Give back to your community.

Thousands of households in Illinois do not have local telephone service. You can help make a difference for the most vulnerable in your community.

For too many in Illinois, the cost of a telephone to connect them to family, emergency services, and employers is just too high. Families with young children, persons with disabilities, and senior citizens, are among the most vulnerable without a telephone. You can help connect them to emergency help, caretakers, schools, and employers by contributing to the Universal Telephone Assistance Corporation (UTAC).

The UTAC Lifeline and Link-Up programs are funded entirely through voluntary donations. These programs work with the federally-funded Lifeline program to help Illinois households obtain local phone service and receive a partial discount on their monthly phone bills.

It's easy to contribute. Simply fill out the form at the bottom and indicate the amount you would like to give each month - 50 cents, \$1, \$2 or as much as \$5. That amount can be paid with your monthly telephone bill. Your contribution will be supplemented by federal fund to help provide phone service for individuals and families who could not otherwise afford it. Please Help! Every contribution counts.

### Please Help!

Please indicate the amount you would like to donate each month to help someone obtain local telephone service in Illinois.

YES, I want to help! Please bill me monthly for contributions to the Universal Telephone Assistance Corporation in the amount shown below. I understand that I may change or discontinue my donation by giving 30 days advance notice. Note: One-time contributions are also welcome.



Universal Service Telephone Program

RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER MONTHLY DONATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 50 cents	<input type="checkbox"/> \$2
<input type="checkbox"/> \$1	<input type="checkbox"/> \$5

BUSINESS CUSTOMER MONTHLY DONATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$1	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10
<input type="checkbox"/> \$5	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25

Please complete the information below, sign your name and return this form with your next phone bill payment.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Your contribution to the Universal Telephone Assistance Corporation is deductible on your income taxes to the extent allowed by law. Consult your tax advisor to determine how this applies to you.

Congratulations to September's Questionnaire Winners: Rick Morton, David Musgrave & Flossie Webb. They each received a \$10 bill credit.

Check out our website at [www.hamiltoncom.net](http://www.hamiltoncom.net) for more information about the Co-op.