



W.Va. Representative Shelley Moore Capito (front row, second from right) visits Hardy's board of directors. Front row (left to right): Loring Barr, former General Manager Mary Mongold, Glen Bradfield, Rep. Shelley Moore Capito, Phyllis Cook. Back row (left to right): Greg Zirk, Victoria Dyer, Arlie Funk, General Manager Scott Sherman, Gerald Smith.

## West Virginia Rep. Shelley Moore Capito Visits Hardy's Board Of Directors

West Virginia Republican Congresswoman Shelley Moore Capito visited the Moorefield office of Hardy Telecommunications in April to chat with board members and hear concerns about various telecommunications issues.

"I just wanted to stop by," she said. She said she and her staff are accustomed to seeing former Hardy General Manager Mary Mongold and current General Manager Scott Sherman at her Washington, D.C., office, but she doesn't have the opportunity to visit Hardy County as much. Hardy Telecommunications is a member of the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association, and Hardy's managing officers regularly visit West Virginia's legislative representatives during NTCA's annual legislative and policy conferences.

Mary, who retired from Hardy on May 1, said the congresswoman's visit was helpful and informative.

"We're very pleased that Representative Capito

would take time out of her busy schedule to meet with us," she said. "We appreciate her willingness to hear our concerns about issues affecting our members."

Rep. Capito spent about 30 minutes talking with Hardy's board of directors and discussing the Universal Service Fund and President Barack Obama's economic stimulus package recently passed by Congress.

Although she said she was against many provisions in the package because she didn't think they were geared toward stimulating the economy, she hoped that Hardy Telecommunications may be able to take advantage of some of the funds available for building telecommunications and broadband infrastructure in rural areas.

The Universal Service Fund was the main topic of conversation between the board and Rep. Capito. USF is a federal fund that encompasses four programs: High Cost, Low Income, Rural Health Care and Schools and Libraries.

The idea behind the High Cost program is that all U.S. residents, regardless of where they live, are entitled to modern, affordable telecommunications services.

In a rugged area like Hardy County, where some areas are sparsely populated, it is very expensive to build and maintain a modern network. Without monies from the USF to offset those expenses, some areas of the country would never receive modern telecommunications service because companies wouldn't be economically inclined to provide service there.

"In a densely populated urban area, a company may make enough revenue from customers to offset the expense of maintaining your network," said Hardy Marketing/Human Resource Director Derek Barr. "But that's not the case in our area of Hardy County. Most people don't realize that the revenue Hardy Telecommunications gets from customers doesn't cover our costs. The Universal Service Fund is designed to offset that expense."

## How To Reach Us

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## Calendar

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| Aug. 11  | Deadline: Resumes To Nominating Committee           |
| Sept. 7  | Labor Day: Hardy Offices Closed                     |
| Sept. 29 | Deadline: Proxies For Annual Meeting                |
| Oct. 2   | Annual Meeting Of Members At East Hardy High School |

# Communicator

A Quarterly Newsletter for Cooperative Customers

SUMMER/FALL 2009



A packed house turned out for the 2008 Hardy Telecommunications Annual Meeting of Members.

## 2009 Annual Meeting To Be Held October 2 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 2, 2009, at the East Hardy High School gymnasium. The agenda includes the election of three members to fill seats on the Board of Directors.

Three 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 4, currently held by Ervin O. Wilkins Jr. of Baker; South Fork serving area 2, currently held by Phyllis B. Cook of Moorefield; and Moorefield serving area 1, currently held by Harold K. Michael of Moorefield.

Any member interested in serving on the Board



**Ervin Wilkins Jr.**



**Phyllis Cook**



**Harold Michael**

of Directors may submit a resume that defines the member's interest and qualifications for the position. The deadline for resumes is August 11, 2009. 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 p.m. October 2 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 and proxy for the annual meeting. If you

*Story continued inside*

## Hardy Newsletter Wins Third National Award

Hardy Telecommunications Marketing/Human Resource Director Derek Barr accepted a third consecutive national award when the company's newsletter won first place in the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association's TeleChoice Awards.

Derek was given the award April 28 in Albuquerque, N.M., at NTCA's marketing/public relations PRNet Conference. NTCA represents about 600 telecommunications companies across the United States, and voting for the TeleChoice Awards is done anonymously by conference attendees.

It is the third consecutive year that the First Place Customer Newsletter Award has been given to

Derek and Hardy Telecommunications.

"This award is very special to me because of the way that it's judged," Derek said. "The TeleChoice Awards are judged by your peers, so to have your work recognized by those in the same line of work is extremely gratifying. I have great respect for the quality of work being produced in our industry."

The Communicator, Hardy's newsletter, was honored in the customer newsletter competition for companies with 5,000 or fewer access lines. An entry must include three consecutive copies of the newsletter published in the same calendar year. Another requirement for the category was that the creative content

of the newsletter be designed in-house and not outsourced. Derek writes and designs the Hardy Telecommunications newsletter.

Derek noted that the number of entries in Hardy's category increased substantially this year.

"I think there were more than three times the number of entries as last year, and the submissions were very impressive," he said. "I'm really honored for our newsletter to be noticed in this way."

The NTCA PRNet Conference is held for marketing and public relations professionals from rural telecommunications companies around the



Derek Barr

country. The TeleChoice Awards are presented once a year. Hardy Telecommunications and other award winners were featured on NTCA's website.



(Left photo): Taylor Evans (left) and Merissa Hill pose outside the U.S. Capitol during the 2009 FRS Youth Tour; (right photo): Taylor and Merissa visit the Federal Communications Commission.



## Local Students Thank Hardy For Unforgettable D.C. Experience

Local high school students Merissa Hill and Taylor Evans agree that being sponsored by Hardy Telecommunications for a five-day tour of our nation's capital and learning about the telecommunications industry are experiences they will never forget.

"When I first received word that I was selected to attend the tour, I could only imagine what it was going to be like. Once we arrived and I started getting to know people, it turned out to be a lot better than I could have dreamed," Taylor said.

Merissa said the trip was so engaging that it was over before she knew it.

"The Foundation for Rural Service trip was one

experience that I will never forget. With the educational sessions and getting to all the places we could visit, five days just wasn't enough," she said.

Hardy sponsored Merissa and Taylor, rising seniors at East Hardy High and Moorefield High schools, respectively, on this year's FRS Youth Tour May 30-June 3 in Washington, D.C.

The students not only were allowed to tour the sites, but they also got a first-hand view of the telecommunications world through educational sessions and visits with Commissioners Jonathan S. Adelstein and Robert M. McDowell of the Federal Communications Commission. Both commissioners answered student questions and

described how the commission impacts everyday lives with its regulation of telephone, internet, radio, wireless, and other telecommunications services.

Taylor said the educational sessions were among her favorite experiences.

"One of the best parts of the trip was everything that I learned. I hadn't realized how much there was to the telecommunications world and what all can be done through telecommunications," she said.

Interspersed with the educational sessions were visits to the U.S. Capitol, Mount Vernon, Arlington National Cemetery, the F.D.R. Memorial and the Smithsonian Museums, as well as a

night tour of Washington that included the Lincoln Memorial and the World War II, Vietnam, and Korean war memorials.

Merissa said the night tour "was my favorite because all the memorials were lit up, and the places just seemed to be even more lifelike."

"In my opinion every teen that has the opportunity to go on the FRS trip should do so," Merissa said.

Taylor echoed that sentiment.

"I suggest that any student in Hardy County eligible to go on the trip apply, because altogether the trip was a blast, and if I could I would definitely do it all over again," she said.



## Ride The Wave!

HardyNet announces new broadband Internet speeds! With four options ranging from up to 6 megs to our economy plan at up to 768 kbps, choose what's best for you.\* Call us for details at 304-897-7500 or 304-530-5000.

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\* Two-year Price Guarantee required for all new customers and existing customers modifying their current plans. Broadband connection speeds will vary depending on customers' proximity to HardyNet facilities; testing may be required to determine eligibility for certain plans. Offer subject to credit approval.

## Youth Board Told Of Cellular Reliance On Landlines

Hardy Telecommunications' Youth Advisory Board was surprised to find out that their cell phones would be mostly useless if not for the established network of landlines around the country.

During the last regular meeting of the 2008-2009 board in April, Hardy Marketing/Human Resource Director Derek Barr drew a diagram to explain how wireless systems use the wireline system in order to connect calls. It's quite common for a cellular telephone call to travel over wirelines built by a company like Hardy that presently does not offer cellular service.

"There are not enough cell towers in Hardy County or the rest of the country



Front row (left to right): Raven Mongold, Chelsea Wilson, Shannon Combs. Back row (left to right): Tanner Sherman, Taylor Evans, Jeremy Lohr

to provide universal coverage," Derek said. "At some point, that cellular traffic has to travel over landlines in order to get connected. Many calls from

cell phones to other cell phones use the landline network to operate."

Derek said the students were genuinely shocked to learn

how much technology is required to make a simple cellular call.

"They had no idea how much cellular calls traverse virtually the entire country over the landline network," he said.

Hardy formed the Youth Advisory Board in 2007 with students from East Hardy and Moorefield high schools.

This year's members of Hardy's Youth Advisory Board were Taylor Evans (Moorefield junior), Jeremy Lohr (East Hardy junior), Tanner Sherman (Moorefield sophomore), Raven Mongold (East Hardy sophomore), Shannon Combs (Moorefield freshman), and Chelsea Wilson (East Hardy freshman).



Above and below: East Hardy students and faculty at Hardy's 2009 After-Graduation Party.

## Students Celebrate At EHHS Grad Party

Hardy Telecommunications would like to thank all businesses, organizations and individuals who contributed to the 2009 East Hardy High After-Graduation Party on May 29 at South Branch Lanes. Students and faculty alike turned out to celebrate the Class of 2009's achievements.

The students enjoyed cosmic bowling, billiards, karaoke, and food. Students also were eligible to win numerous door prizes, including a television set donated by Hardy.



Hardy Telecommunications, a business partner with East Hardy High, began the after-graduation party years ago to provide students with a place to celebrate in a safe, alcohol-free environment.

As with past parties, the event was successful because of the generosity of everyone in the community who contributed door prizes or in other ways.

"This year's students were really appreciative," said Hardy Marketing/Human Resource Director Derek Barr. "They went out of their way to say thank you. Everyone had a great time. We're happy to honor the students in this way, but we couldn't do it without community support. So we thank the public for making the party a success."

## 2009 Annual Meeting Set For October 2

*Continued from front page*

plan to attend, please return the completed reservation card in the provided postage-paid envelope by Thursday, September 24, 2009.

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 in order to be accepted.

Only proxies that are received by Tuesday, September 29, 2009, will be accepted. No proxies will be accepted at the meeting.

If you would like more information about our election process, please see our bylaws, which begin on page 36 of the 2009 Hardy Telecommunications directory.

Our bylaws can also be reviewed by visiting the Hardy Telecommunications website at [www.hardynet.com](http://www.hardynet.com).

## Hardy Assists Cellular Service

Hardy Telecommunications has gone the extra mile to assist in the deployment of AT&T cellular service from the Bears Hell Tower, utilizing the latest wireless technology to connect the tower to Hardy's fiber network.

Because running fiber to the tower was cost-prohibitive, Hardy technicians worked with Bechtel Communications (a company which does project management for AT&T) to come up with the idea for a wireless connection from the site to Hardy's remote unit at Beans Settlement.

Equipment on the tower would transmit cellular signals wirelessly to an antenna at the Beans Settlement remote, where the cellular traffic would enter Hardy's fiber network. The traffic would then reach the rest of the world over the traditional public switched telephone network.

Hardy County Commission Chairman Stanley Moyer said he appreciated Hardy's efforts.

"We'd like to thank Hardy Telecommunications for the work in bringing all the entities together," he said.

Hardy Marketing/Human Resource Director Derek Barr also thanked Bill Doman, who allowed Hardy to set up a special pole and antenna on his Beans Settlement property to link to Hardy's closest fiber connection.