

Communicator

A Semi-Annual Newsletter for Cooperative Customers



Greg Zirk (top left), Hardy's board of directors president, speaks at the 2016 Annual Meeting. The 2017 meeting will start 30 minutes earlier than usual to accommodate the EHHS football schedule.

2017 Annual Meeting To Start 30 Minutes Earlier Than Usual

Hardy Telecommunications, Inc., would like to invite all of our members to attend the Annual Meeting of Members on Friday, October 6, 2017, at the East Hardy High School gymnasium. The agenda includes the election of two members to fill seats on the Board of Directors.



Loring Barr



Victoria Dyer

Two 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 South Fork serving area 1, currently held by Loring E. Barr 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 15, 2017. The resumes should be

delivered to the Nominations Committee, Hardy Telecommunications, Inc., 2255 Kimseys Run Road, Lost River, WV 26810.

The 2017 annual meeting and dinner will start 30 minutes earlier than in past years. This is to accommodate East Hardy High School's football schedule.

"It's become more difficult for EHHS to avoid having a football game conflict with our meeting because opponents have to agree to a different schedule," said Derek Barr, Hardy's director of customer service and sales, marketing and human resources. "To help with the

process and ease traffic congestion, we're going to start our registration and meeting 30 minutes earlier. That will allow people time to head home if they wish or stay and go to the game."

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.

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Students Thank Hardy For D.C. Youth Tour

Moorefield High senior Hannah Weatherholt and East Hardy High senior Clayton Strawderman both thanked Hardy Telecommunications for their recent experience on the Foundation for Rural Service Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.

"I visited many places I had never been, such as the Holocaust Museum and the Washington National Cathedral, all of which I found interesting. I met many students my age from all over the nation and am now friends with two people from Oregon, as well as others that I would never have met had it not been for this Youth Tour," Hannah said.

Clayton also enjoyed the many historic sites.

"We visited many places of historic value. We went to the National Mall and lots of museums. We visited the Lincoln Memorial and took a night tour of Washington, D.C. On the night tour, I saw the city from a different perspective," he said.

The pair, sponsored by Hardy, spent June 3-7 in D.C. for the tour. More than 100 students from across the country went sightseeing, visited the Federal Communications Commission and learned about the rural telecommunications industry.

"Many things accessible to people who live in suburban areas are not accessible to those of us who live in rural areas, such as



(From left) East Hardy High senior Clayton Strawderman and Moorefield High senior Hannah Weatherholt stand with the U.S. Capitol in the background during the 2017 FRS Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.

speedy internet and the newest medical technologies. Many men and women are working hard to make those things accessible to everyone, rural and suburban," Hannah said.

Clayton said he valued learning about the industry from the legislative and regulatory perspective.

"The information learned about legislation and regulations for communications was also beneficial," he said.

Both students said they recommend that other students apply for the Youth Tour in the future.

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- Hardy No Longer Operating As Sprint Retailer
- Students Recall Experience At FRS Youth Tour In D.C.
- EHHS Senior Selected For FRS College Scholarship
- Hardy Thanks Supporters Of EHHS Graduation Party

Calendar

- Aug. 15 Deadline: Resumes To Nominating Committee
- Sept. 4 Labor Day Holiday - Offices Closed
- Oct. 3 Deadline: Proxies For Annual Mtg.
- Oct. 6 Annual Meeting Of Members At East Hardy High School

EHHS Graduate Caitlin Fitzwater Chosen For FRS College Scholarship

East Hardy High 2017 graduate Caitlin Fitzwater has been awarded a \$2,500 college scholarship sponsored by Hardy Telecommunications and the Foundation for Rural Service.

Caitlin is one of only 47 students selected nationwide from a pool of more than 1,500 applicants from rural communities served by members of NTCA - The Rural Broadband Association. Hardy Telecommunications is a member of NTCA. An independent committee of judges picked the recipients for FRS; Hardy Telecommunications is not allowed to be involved in the actual selection, although only students sponsored by NTCA companies were eligible and Hardy agreed to sponsor part of the scholarship should a Hardy applicant be chosen.

"We at Hardy Telecommunications are so happy that someone as deserving as Caitlin is receiving this award," said Derek Barr, Hardy's director of customer service and sales, marketing and human resources. "Because the judging is done by an independent national committee, Caitlin's achievement truly deserves to be celebrated."

The FRS College Scholarship Program awards one-time scholarships to students from rural America for their first year of college, university or vocational-technical school. Students completed an application process including an essay about how their rural community has shaped them and how they would like to help their area in the future.

FRS Executive Director Jessica Golden said the judges were moved and impressed by Caitlin's application.

"FRS is extremely proud of our college scholarship program and the people who make it possible: the astounding students who apply and the supportive companies that sponsor them. Our 47 scholarship winners have proven their academic abilities - often despite challenging personal circumstances - and have also showcased a remarkable love and appreciation for their communities. We wish all awardees the best in their future endeavors and hope they feel a great sense of support and community pride," she said.

Caitlin thanked Hardy Telecommunications and FRS for the scholarship and said the funds help to make possible her goal of attaining a higher education degree in either radiation oncology or nursing.

"Without this, I wouldn't be able to go to college because I wouldn't be able to afford it," she said.

Caitlin said her essay focused on her rural upbringing and the example set by her mother, a single parent who has worked extremely hard to afford opportunities for her daughter. Caitlin herself maintains a busy work schedule in addition to going to school and preparing for graduation.

Her plans right now are to attend West Virginia Wesleyan College. She said she hopes to return to a rural area after graduation and start a foundation for cancer patients



Caitlin Fitzwater, a member of East Hardy High School's Class of 2017, was selected by the Foundation for Rural Service to receive a \$2,500 college scholarship, funded by Hardy and FRS.

with limited financial means, providing support for both physical and emotional needs.

"Often the emotional needs of cancer patients are overlooked, but those need to be treated as well," she said.

The \$2,500 scholarship is funded with \$2,000 from FRS

and \$500 from Hardy Telecommunications.

The Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization that promotes, educates and advocates rural telecom issues in order to sustain and enhance the quality of life within rural American communities.

Hardy No Longer Operating As Sprint Authorized Retailer

Hardy Telecommunications is no longer operating as an authorized Sprint retailer as of July 1, 2017.

Derek Barr, Hardy's director of customer service and sales, marketing and human resources, said the mobile telephone business has changed significantly since Hardy first began service as an authorized Sprint retailer.

"The business model has changed, and authorized retail stores aren't as prominent as they used to

be," he said. "More and more people are buying phones and accessories online or at Sprint branded retail store locations. Our core business is Hardy Telecommunications, and it was a mutual decision that it would be better for Hardy to focus on our core business."

Derek stressed that Sprint service in the Hardy County area is not being affected; Sprint remains committed to providing service and satisfying customers in the area. This move only affects Sprint operations at Hardy's

Moorefield and Wardensville offices.

"Sprint isn't going anywhere, and this part of West Virginia remains an important part of their business," he said.

Hardy and Sprint are working together to make the transition as easy as possible for customers, but Hardy ended any Sprint-related business at its offices as of July 1. Derek said customers should visit a Sprint branded retail store or go online at UnlimitYourData.com.

Hardy Thanks Supporters Of East Hardy High After-Graduation Party

Hardy Telecommunications thanks everyone who donated items or otherwise supported the EHHS After-Graduation Party, held May 26 at South Branch Potomac Lanes. We had a great turnout from East Hardy High graduates and faculty. We appreciate your support in giving East Hardy students a place to celebrate their accomplishments in a safe, alcohol-free environment. The party would not be successful were it not for the generosity of the community members who contribute to its success.



East Hardy High 2017 graduates, faculty and guests enjoy the After-Graduation Party at South Branch Potomac Lanes. Hardy Telecommunications sponsors the party each year with the support of local businesses and residents.

2017 Annual Meeting Gets Earlier Start Time For October 6

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Hardy Telecommunications members will receive a mailing that includes a reservation card and proxy 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, 2017.

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 Tuesday, October 3, 2017, will be accepted. No proxies will be accepted at the meeting.

For more information about our election process, please see our bylaws, which begin on page 28 of the 2017 directory, or read them at www.hardynet.com.

How To Reach Us

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304-530-PC4U (7248)

Visit Us On The Web
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Hardy Telecommunications is an equal opportunity provider and employer.