

December 2025

# Newsletter



Above: Board member Tonya Pike recognized for her dedication to 15 years on the board for MCTC since starting her role in 2010. Joseph Winans was elected to fill the District 6 (LaFayette exchange) board seat.

## Your Board of Directors

- Ray McCausland - District 1
- Sheila Blout - District 2
- Donna Cecil - District 3
- Michael Gray - District 4
- Jeff Wilke - District 5
- Joseph Winans - District 6
- Daniel Lundeen - District 7

## 2025 Annual Meeting Recap

Members of Mid Century Telephone Cooperative came together on Thursday, September 4, 2025, at Spoon River Valley High School to celebrate 75 years of service and community connection during this year's Annual Meeting of Members. Fittingly, the event's theme – "Together, We Build a Stronger Future" reflected both the cooperative's proud history and its vision for the years ahead.

The evening began with a pulled pork meal and time for members to visit with board members and employees. A special historical timeline display walked attendees through Mid Century's 75 year journey from the early days of party lines to rotary phones to today's advanced fiber technology – showcasing the cooperative's legacy of innovation and commitment to serving rural communities.

During the business meeting, leadership shared updates on financial performance, network expansion, and member initiatives. The primary focus of the evening centered on the consolidation with Adams Telephone Co-Operative, a partnership that continues to strengthen both organizations. Members learned how this planned unification will build on decades of shared collaboration, ensuring the cooperative remains strong, efficient, and positioned for the future.

The evening concluded with prize drawings and plenty of conversation about what's next. As we look back on 75 years of progress and ahead to a new chapter of opportunity, one thing remains certain – **together, we're building a stronger future for our members and the communities we serve.**

## Townhall Recap

Thank you to all the members who joined us at our fall Townhall meetings! We held sessions in Altona and Table Grove to share updates about the proposed consolidation between Mid Century Telephone Cooperative and Adams Telephone Co-Operative.

These meetings provided great opportunities for members to ask questions, learn more about the benefits of uniting our two cooperatives, and hear directly from

*(Continued on next page)*



(continued)

leadership. We appreciate your engagement and thoughtful feedback as we continue working together toward a stronger future.

### Upcoming 2026 Townhall Meetings

We'll take a short break during December and January for the holidays, but we'll resume townhalls in February. Mark your calendars and plan to join us at a location near you!

- **February 19, 2026** – Yates City Community Center, Yates City, IL
- **March 19, 2026** – Nazarene Fellowship Hall, Smithfield, IL
- **April 16, 2026** – American Legion, Williamsfield, IL
- **May 21, 2026** – Mid Century Telephone Cooperative, Fairview, IL

We encourage all members to attend to learn more and ask questions about the upcoming consolidation process.

### FRS Scholarship Program Now Open

The Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) Scholarship Program is now accepting applications for 2026! This national program provides financial support to students from rural communities who plan to pursue higher education. Children of cooperative members are eligible to apply. Applicants must:

- Be a graduating high school senior
- Have at least a "C" average
- Be accepted to an accredited 2 or 4-year college, university, or vocational-technical school
- Live in a household with telephone service from Mid Century Telephone Cooperative

Applications are due in early 2026, and qualified applicants will also be considered for local Mid Century scholarships if not selected for the national award.

Visit [www.midcentury.com/youth-corner](http://www.midcentury.com/youth-corner) for details and to apply!



### Holiday Office Closures

Our offices will observe the following holiday hours:

- **Wednesday, December 24 at noon**
- **Thursday, December 25**
- **Wednesday, December 31 at 3 p.m.**
- **Thursday, January 1**



We wish all our members a safe and happy holiday season! If you need assistance during these times, please contact our 24/7 technical support team at 309-778-3278.

### Honoring Randy Hellyer for 14 Years of Board Service



Mid Century Telephone Cooperative extends its sincere appreciation to Randy Hellyer for his dedicated service on the Board of Directors from 2011–2025. Throughout his tenure, Randy provided steady leadership and thoughtful guidance, most recently serving as Treasurer.

Randy resigned from the Board after moving out of the Cooperative's service area, and while we will miss his insight and commitment, we are deeply grateful for the many years he devoted to supporting Mid Century's mission and growth.

### Jeff Wilke Appointed to Mid Century Telephone Cooperative Board



Mid Century Telephone Cooperative is pleased to announce the appointment of Jeff Wilke of Dahinda, IL as the new District 5 Director. Jeff was selected by the Board of Directors after an official search to fill the unexpired term of Randy Hellyer.

Jeff brings a wealth of professional experience to his new role, with more than 24 years in marketing and management at John Deere, where he has led global marketing integration, product development, and process improvement initiatives. His background includes expertise in marketing strategy, change management, and product development process management.

In accordance with the Cooperative's bylaws, board vacancies are filled by appointment until the next election. The District 5 seat will be up for re-election at the 2026 Annual Meeting.

### Pay On Time Winners

- Chris McClain (September 2025)
- Randy Harstirn (October 2025)

### Paperless Billing Winners

- Max Roberts (September 2025)
- Olivia Chandlee (October 2025)