

**Quality Service You Love!**

NEWSLETTER

# Teleconnections

February 2020

## THIS ISSUE:

Pick It Winner  
Annual Meeting Date  
WCDTV Rates  
Newsletter Contest

(968-4283)

Did you enjoy the WCCTA  
Pick-It Bowl Challenge?  
Watch for the basketball  
challenge coming in  
March!



## Bowl Game Challenge

Webster-Calhoun Cooperative Telephone Association members enjoyed participating in the annual Pick-It Bowl Challenge that ended with the LSU Tigers taking home the championship by beating the Clemson Tigers 42-25. We had 124 participants in this year's contest.

### Congratulations to winners:

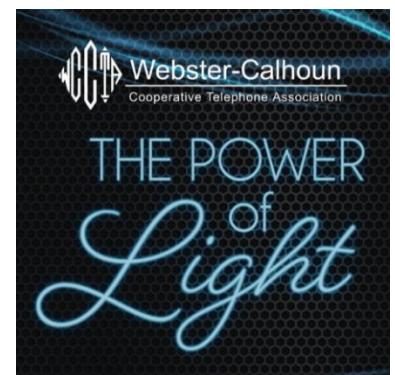
1<sup>st</sup> Place Kevin Light  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place Mandy Oleson  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place Laura Dawson

Watch for the WCCTA Pick-It March Mania contest during the NCAA men's basketball tournament. Selection Sunday is March 15<sup>th</sup> when all the bracket teams will be announced. Make your picks quickly because play will begin on March 19<sup>th</sup>. It's easy to enter and fun to play!

## Save The Date – Annual Meeting

Make plans to attend the Annual Meeting of Members for Webster-Calhoun Cooperative Telephone Association which will be held at the Southeast Valley High School Gymnasium in Gowrie on Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.

It's sure to be an "enlightening" experience. Watch for more information and the voting ballot for your district in the mail in late February.



# WCDTV Rate Changes

(353-4334)

This year the annual cost increase for TV, approved by the WCCTA Board of Directors, solely comes from the increase in programming. Contracts typically include an annual rate increase for each channel as well as dictating what service tier WCCTA can provide specific channels on. That leaves very little flexibility for most TV providers.

WCCTA continues to itemize the retransmission charge for over-the-air programming of ABC, CBS, FOX, NBC and CW and their multicast channels on a separate line item on your billing statement (those rates went up, too.) Did you know WCCTA is charged for the over-the-air channels you can get for free with an antenna? This rate is passed through to TV customers as Retransmission fees in the amount of \$18.84 per month.

Effective March 1, 2020 TV rates will be:

Broadcast Basic Service: \$32.95

Basic Service: \$83.95

Extended Basic Service: \$103.95

## FOX Negotiations

“How does it work? I heard we might lose our Fox News channel?” In late December you may have seen social media posts where we were asking for Fox News to #PlayFairandBalanced and wanted #SignTheDealFox! Essentially as the negotiations reached the contract deadline Fox was requiring all companies like WCCTA to remove the signal at midnight on December 31<sup>st</sup> if a deal was not reached. It all worked out in the end but it was frustrating! And not unusual as you see other TV providers dealing with the same issues.

Many of our customers ask great questions like “why can’t I just get the channels I want to watch? Why is it so expensive?” So how does it really work?

Our channel lineup is made up of several media giants. They all have multiple channels they require to be added to the offered channel lineup as part of a multi-year contract. They raise the prices based on popular channels and still require that we pay for additional channels. We band together with other companies like WCCTA to try to increase the negotiating power throughout the Midwest. Sometimes it’s a fair negotiation. Sometimes we push back on your behalf.

## Newsletter Contest

Congratulations to R Heggen of Lanyon and Richard Silvey of Moorland! They both found their phone numbers hidden in the newsletter last month! There are three hidden in this newsletter. Can you find them? Find YOUR phone number in this newsletter and contact our office to win a \$10.00 credit on your billing statement!

