



Join Us at the 2018 Annual Meeting

Join us at Poka Lambro's 67th Annual Membership Meeting on Thursday, March 29th. The Annual Meeting will be held at the Poka Lambro business office located 11.5 miles north of Tahoka on US Highway 87. Registration will begin at 11:00 a.m. and we will start serving lunch at 11:30. The business meeting will begin at 12:30 to take action upon the following matters:

- Determination of Quorum
- Secretary's Statement
- Minutes of March 30, 2017 Annual Meeting
- The Reports of Officers and Directors
- The Election of Directors
- Financial Report
- Any Other Business to Come Before the Meeting

Nominating Committee Report

During the January 2018 board meeting, the Board of Directors appointed a Nominating Committee for the purpose of nominating at least one candidate from each District whose term is expiring. Appointed to the committee were:

District 3: Dwain Brown, Kenny Ferguson, Billy Vogler, and Jerry Webb
District 5: Randy Cook, Ricky Gandy, Jennifer McLelland, and Jacob Lowe
District 7: Stacy Smith, Gregg Neiman, and Leonard Nettles

The Nominating Committee met on February 9, 2018 and in accordance with the By-Laws, nominated the following members to be presented to the membership:

District 3: Kevin Pepper (Incumbent)
District 5: Wayne Barton (Incumbent)
District 7: Wendell Morrow (Incumbent)

Sign-Up for SmartHub® in 5 Easy Steps!

1. Visit www.poka.com
2. Click "Pay Your Bill Online" in the top menu
3. Click the red "Pay Your Bill Online" button
4. Click the underlined link: [Sign-up to access your Self Service site](#)
5. Enter your account number, last name, and e-mail address

IN THIS ISSUE

Annual Meeting

Sign-up for SmartHub®

Scholarships

**Cut the Cord with an
HD Antenna**

Fiber Network Updates

Voicemail Service

What is the Cloud?

**New, Lower Pricing on
30Mbps & Up!**

New Connects

**Bookmark Websites
for Safety**

What's Cooking?

Do you have a recipe you would like to see featured in "The Connection"? Email your recipe, along with a picture, to marketing@poka.com and we will choose one dish each quarter to feature.



Scholarships Available

It's that time of year again! Poka Lambro will be awarding multiple scholarships in 2018. Recipients are selected based on academic achievement, involvement in extra-curricular activities, and educator recommendations. Area high school seniors whose parents are customers of Poka Lambro are invited to apply.

Applications and information packets have been sent to area high schools. Applications may also be picked up at Poka Lambro offices, or printed on-line at www.poka.com in the "About" section. The deadline to apply is Monday, March 5th. Scholarship recipients will be announced at our Annual Meeting on Thursday, March 29th. Call 806-924-7234 or email tray@poka.com for more information.



Tech Tip



If you are thinking about doing away with cable TV, the first thing you might want to look into is an HD antenna. It is the cheapest and easiest way to watch live TV. An HD antenna is the modern version of the rabbit-ears you had on top of your TV as a child. You can get a good HD antenna for less than \$40, and like with a regular antenna, there are no subscription fees. Hook the device into your TV, put it somewhere near a window, and you will have instant access to over-the-air broadcasts of local stations that are ideal for news, sports, and public broadcasting. The picture and sound quality are better than compressed cable and satellite transmissions. However, your channel selection depends a lot on where you live and your line of sight to the broadcast location. Most of our rural customers will likely need amplified antennas, which cost more than non-amplified antennas, but pick up signals over a range of about 50 miles. An HD antenna is great as a stand-alone option for people who watch mostly local TV, or as a compliment to subscribers of streaming services like Netflix or Hulu.



Fiber Network Updates

We remain committed to upgrading our infrastructure and network in order to deploy a first rate fiber optic voice and data network to meet the evolving needs of our customers. Once fiber has been installed in an area, customers located there will need to upgrade to the new fiber facilities to experience the added benefits. There is no cost to the customer to transition to fiber facilities. However, we do need to enter the home or business to install a small piece of equipment.

Ausborne: Fiber-splicing is complete. Customer conversions are underway.

Hatch: Customer conversions are underway. If you are located in this area and have not yet been upgraded to the new fiber facilities, please contact our office to schedule a time for the upgrade.

New Home: Construction is complete. Fiber-splicing has begun.

Patricia: Fiber-splicing is complete in Sparenburg. Customer conversions are underway.

Wheatley: The Wheatley exchange has been completed. If you are located in this area and have not yet been upgraded to the new fiber facilities, please contact our office to schedule a time for the upgrade.

If you are unsure whether you are in an area that has been upgraded, or need to schedule an appointment, please call us at 806-924-7234 or 800-422-2387.

Voicemail Service

SIGN-UP FOR VOICEMAIL SERVICE AND NEVER WORRY ABOUT MISSING AN IMPORTANT PHONE CALL AGAIN!

Our **Basic Voicemail** Service allows remote access from any phone and has voicemail to email capability. You can get your voice messages no matter where you are. With safe and secure access, it is ideal for the family on the go. Never worry about your answering machine playing private messages out loud.

Enhanced Voicemail features web portal access, sub-mailboxes, and scheduled greetings in addition to all of the Basic Voicemail benefits. If you have employees out in the field, or spending a lot of time away from their desk, this service is perfect for your business. Log-in from anywhere and stop worrying about missing out on potential business or urgent calls.

What is the Cloud?

There is no doubt you have heard the term “the cloud” by now, but a lot of us still don’t know exactly what the cloud is. You might not realize it, but if you are using Facebook, Outlook, iTunes, or Netflix you are already using the cloud. The cloud is best described as software or services on the internet that store your data. Your data is still stored on a network of physical servers, but the servers are not owned by you. Your personal computer or device acts as a terminal, simply accessing data rather than storing the data itself. The easiest way to illustrate this is with iTunes or Facebook. When you save songs to your iTunes list, you can access them from anywhere by logging in. They are stored by Apple. By signing-in to Facebook you can view pictures from years ago that are not saved on your computer. They are stored by Facebook.

Before the cloud, all of your data was stored locally on your computer. This created a couple of obvious problems. The first was that your space was limited. As you began to run out of memory you had to decide what to keep on the computer, what to back-up on an external device, what to delete, or if it was time to buy a computer with more memory. This issue is solved because the companies using cloud technologies to store your data will continue to ensure there is plenty of room for it on their servers. The other obvious problem was that it was immobile. It was stored on one device in one place. If you were at home and needed something from your work computer, you had to make a trip to the office. Now, through the cloud, you can access your data from anywhere with an internet connection by simply logging in.

While there are many advantages to this type of storage, the cloud also comes with drawbacks. For example, if your internet connection goes down, or the site has technical issues, you are locked out of your data. This is very frustrating on a personal level, and can be disastrous for a business. Another downside of cloud storage is the security threat. With your information being stored online instead of on your physical computer, there is a risk of it falling

into the wrong hands. Companies using these technologies are always making advancements in their security measures, but so are the thieves and hackers with bad intentions. Always think about the possible ramifications before saving anything in the cloud. It might still be true that some information is better kept only on your hard drive. Some information that can’t be lost should be kept on your hard drive and in the cloud. It all depends on the nature of the data.

As you can see, while the cloud is an abstract term, it isn’t that complicated of an idea. Just remember, all of the information is still stored on servers somewhere. We simply access it via the internet.

New Lower Pricing on 30Mbps & Up!



ARE YOU TIRED OF BUFFERING? CALL TODAY TO INCREASE YOUR SPEED AND GET THE STREAM OF YOUR DREAMS!

These days, many of us are using the internet to stream videos on Facebook, music on our cell phone, and our favorite t.v. shows on our Smart T.V. Let’s face it, 4Mbps just isn’t going to cut it anymore! The average household now has more than seven connected devices. That means we need more bandwidth! We are proud to introduce new, lower pricing on speeds of 30, 50, and 100Mbps!

New Connects

Aten

Kylene Wetzel..... (806) 439-6373

Ausborne

Porsh Boyd..... (806) 585-6302

Fletcher-Carter

Laverne Aten..... (806) 327-5678

Ermina Honesto..... (806) 327-5259

New Home

Clint Chapman..... (806) 924-7577

Jarred Dewbre..... (806) 924-7250

O’Donnell

Brandy Cruz..... (806) 428-3296

Donna Forbes..... (806) 428-3797

Frank Perez..... (806) 428-3470

Punkin Center

Marsha D Choate..... (806) 489-7421

John Hutchison..... (806) 489-7448



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The Connection

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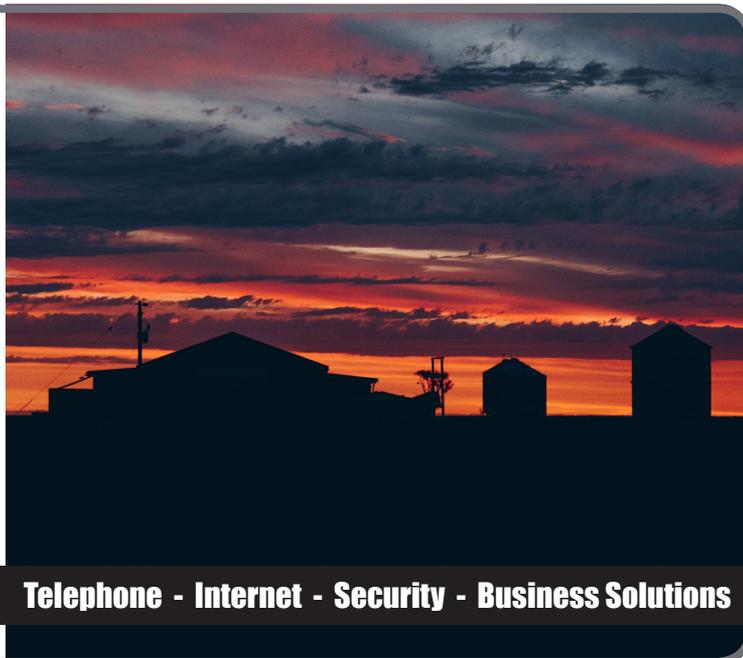
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Bookmark Websites for Safety



Hackers are constantly coming up with new ploys to take advantage of unsuspecting victims, but some of their tactics have been around for years. One of their most common schemes is to set-up a fake website that is close to the spelling of a legitimate one. For example, they might own www.twitter.com instead of www.twitter.com. Did you catch the extra "t" in there? One change in the address and up pops a fake version of the site you were trying to visit. The login and links can be full of viruses, or other harmful codes, that download when you click on them. Hackers often send emails with these fraudulent links in them, and now they are becoming more prevalent on social media. The hacker can also post an article on a social media site with several of these harmful links. Never trust links in unexpected emails, text messages, or pop-ups either.

One of the best ways to avoid these attacks is to bookmark the websites you visit frequently. Go to the bookmarked link rather than clicking any link within an email or on a social media site. If you wish to visit a site that isn't bookmarked, take the time to type out the website in the address bar and double-check your spelling. This will ensure that you are visiting the trusted site.