



2018 Annual Meeting Recap

Poka Lambro Telephone Cooperative, Inc's (Poka Lambro) 67th Annual Membership Meeting was held March 29, 2018 at Poka Lambro's main location, 11.5 miles north of Tahoka on US Highway 87. Prior to the business meeting, attendees enjoyed lunch catered by Danny's Fens and Hens and caught up with friends. The goodie bags were a big hit as always!

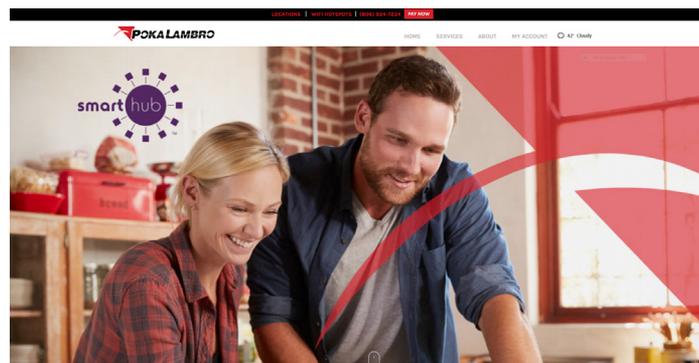
The business meeting was called to order by Board President Randy Hensley at 12:30. Hensley introduced and welcomed guests, then turned the meeting over to Board Vice President Randy Simpson who announced the 2018 Poka Lambro Scholarship winners (see page 2 for scholarship details). Board Secretary Quinton Kearney presented the Secretary's Statement on Notice of the meeting. The Directors and General Manager were introduced, and the minutes of the 2017 Annual Meeting were reviewed. Next on the agenda was the election of Directors. Congratulations to Kevin Pepper of District 3, Wayne Barton of District 5, and Wendell Morrow of District 7 on their re-elections. Each will serve a 3-year term. The next item on the agenda was the presentation of the financial report by Wade Wilson of Bolinger, Segars, Gilbert & Moss, L.L.P. Mr. Wilson summarized the balance sheet and income statement for 2017.

After the conclusion of the business session, attendees enjoyed the much-anticipated door prize drawings. Congratulations to Grand Prize winner Kathy Grant, who took home a 50" Smart TV! Many lucky members went home with great prizes including BBQ tools, insulated cups, and cash. Thanks to all who attended the 2018 Annual Membership Meeting! Visit our Facebook or Twitter page to see pictures from the meeting. We look forward to seeing all of you again next year!

Check Out Our New Website!

SAME ADDRESS... TONS OF NEW STUFF!

If you haven't had a chance yet, go take a look at our new website! We've made it easier than ever to check your email and pay your bill online. Plus, there are plenty of cool new features like a weather app, news feed, and a "contact us" form. Visit www.poka.com and let us know what you think!



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www.poka.com

2018 Scholarship Recipients

Serena Ayala – Serena is a student at Tahoka High School. She is the daughter of David Ayala and Naomi DeLaCruz. Serena plans to study Physical Therapy at West Texas A&M.

Clara Barrington – Clara attends New Home ISD. She is the daughter of Matt and Lisa Barrington. She plans to attend Texas Tech University where she will study Ag Business.

Carley Bell – Carley is a student at Borden County. She is the daughter of Steve and Melissa Bell. Carley looks forward to attending Angelo State University where she will study nursing to become a Midwife.

Hannah Bingham – Hannah attends Loop ISD. Hannah is the daughter of Jerry and Anne Bingham. She plans to go to Tarleton State University to study Animal Science.

Alexi Bushong – Alexi is a senior at Klondike High School. She is the daughter of Tony and Sara Bushong. Alexi plans to study Physical Therapy at Howard Payne University.

Meagan Fails – Meagan attends Meadow ISD. Meagan is the daughter of Chris and Deanna Fails. She plans to attend Angelo State University where she will study Ag Business.

Ashleigh Jonas – Ashley is a student at O'Donnell High School. She is the daughter of Rick and Sharmye Jonas. She plans to study Cosmetology at South Plains College.

Gillian Jonas – Gillian is also a student at O'Donnell High School and the daughter of Rick and Sharmye Jonas. Gillian plans to attend South Plains College where she will study Psychology.

Riley McBee – Riley attends Meadow ISD. He is the son of James and Tracy McBee. Riley plans to attend Texas Tech University where he will study Biology with a Pre-Med focus.

Carolynne Olsen – Carolynne is a senior at New Home ISD. She is the daughter of Jim and Theresa Olsen. Carolynne plans to study Astrophysics at Texas Tech University.

Sebastian Pedroza – Sebastian is a student at O'Donnell High School. He is the son of Manuel and Melissa Pedroza. Sebastian plans to attend Texas A&M University to study Dentistry.

Trace Richey – Trace is a senior at Borden County. He is the son of Trey and Haley Richey. He plans to study Criminal Justice.

Macy Sharp – Macy attends Klondike High School and plans to study Ag Communications at Texas Tech University. She is the daughter of Gary Don and Cindy Sharp.

Ashlyn Tucker – Ashlyn is a student at Borden County. She is the daughter of Brent and Sheila Tucker. She plans to attend Texas A&M University where she will study Animal Science.



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.

Fletcher-Carter: The construction phase has begun.

Hatch & Patricia: Customer conversions are underway in the Sparenburg area.

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

Southland: Construction is complete.

Union: Construction is complete. Fiber-splicing has begun.

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.

Back-Up Your Data



These days, backing-up data is critical to a business' success. It's no longer a matter of if attacks will occur, but when. Ransom attacks can be particularly damaging to, and potentially even bankrupt, small businesses. These attacks succeed by locking your data and demanding a payment to have it returned. By having a copy of your data saved somewhere else, you will not need to pay hackers to have the data returned. Both cloud back-up services and external hard drives are cheap and effective tools to store data. Also, be sure to have the latest versions of software, firmware, and applications on your computers. To learn more about Poka Lambro back-up and disaster recovery solutions for your business, give us a call at 806-924-7234.

New Device Tips for Parents

A lot of times we, as parents, can be hesitant to give our children new devices, but when the time comes it can be a great opportunity to teach them responsibility. Do your best to monitor, protect, and prepare your children so they can use their device in a manner that is both safe and responsible. You know your child best, so trust your instincts on what devices and activities they are ready for.

SET RULES AND EXPECTATIONS

When giving your child a new electronic device, make sure to set the rules and expectations up front. Define appropriate and inappropriate uses of the device. Make the rules clear with specific time and data limits, and set clear consequences if they break them. Devices are expensive, and a lot of money can be thrown away on apps and overage fees. Entrusting them to keep these things in mind is a valuable learning experience. Just keeping up with the device itself is a pretty big responsibility! If necessary, have your child turn the phone in to you at night to ensure they are getting proper sleep and not misusing the device. Many devices come equipped with controls that can monitor how many hours a day and what times of day your child is on them.

TALK TO YOUR CHILD ABOUT CYBERBULLYING, SCAMS, & PREDATORS

A connected device gives your child around the clock access to the internet. With that kind of exposure; bullies, scams, and predators will be hard to avoid. Do some research and set the parental controls on their device, and on your network, to make sure they do not have access to explicit sites. Make sure they know what sites they are allowed to visit. Give your children advice on what to do if they are bullied. Make it a point to learn who is sending your children direct messages and the type of messages they are sending to others. Know your child's passwords for their device, and any social media apps they are using. Also, teach them to spot phishing emails, scams, and fake web addresses. Never click on links that look suspicious, or try to download "free" music or games. Remember, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

TEACH THEM TO UNPLUG

Have a set time each day for the family to unplug from electronic devices. Dinner is a great time to put down the cell phones and talk to each other. It is also great to unplug on family vacations for a few days at a time. Studies actually show that doing this at least a couple of times a year has a positive influence on our self-esteem.

HELP THEM ENJOY IT!

Today's devices can be a lot of fun! Help them download appropriate games, movies, educational materials, and teach them to surf the web for things a child their age might be interested in. Technology has come a long way in the last 20 years, and it will be even more important in the future. Expose them to it and teach them as much as you can at a young age!

Go Paperless with SmartHub!



We have seen a lot of you signing up for SmartHub lately! Take it a step farther and go paperless. We all receive a ton of mail every month, and eventually all of that paper is going in the trash can. If you have already signed-up for SmartHub, each time you log-in there will be a prompt asking if you want to turn off paper bills. To do so, just tap the "turn off paper bills" button and click submit. From SmartHub you can view your account balance, manage your account, and make a payment. You even get a notification when you have a new bill! If for any reason you ever needed a hard copy of your bill, you can print it directly from SmartHub. If you still haven't signed-up for SmartHub, now it's easier than ever...

Go to www.poka.com

Hover over "My Account" and click "Pay My Bill"

Click the underlined link [Sign-up to access our Self-Service site](#)

Enter your account number, last name, and e-mail address in the designated fields

New Connects

Ausborne

Brandon Welty..... (806) 585-6353

Gail

Renee Hobson..... (806) 756-4467

Ray Stephens..... (806) 756-4394

Hatch

Ryan Webb..... (806) 497-6389

Loop

Amber Harper..... (806) 487-6835

Aaron Martin..... (806) 487-6455

Amanda Proctor..... (806) 487-6601

New Home

Julie Bass..... (806) 924-7516

Kirsten Dutton..... (806) 924-7718

Tyler S. Smith..... (806) 924-7624

Sherri Williams..... (806) 924-7230

O'Donnell

David Olvera..... (806) 428-3488

Jesus Villa..... (806) 428-3806

Patricia

Jane Berry..... (806) 462-7495

Punkin Center

Debra Alaniz..... (806) 489-7681

Wheatley

Clarissa Gamez..... (806) 522-6668

Kevin C. Hart..... (806) 522-6505



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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PRESIDENT

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VICE PRESIDENT

Quinton Kearney
SECRETARY

Kevin Pepper
TREASURER

Wendell Morrow
DIRECTOR

Wayne Barton
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DIRECTOR

The Connection

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DO YOU NEED MORE SPEED?



**DON'T FORGET ABOUT OUR SPEED-UP PROMO.
TRY A FASTER SPEED FOR 3 MONTHS AT NO
ADDITIONAL CHARGE!**

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 tablets or 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! The typical family of 4 likely needs 20-30Mbps to keep up with all of that internet traffic. Give us a call to find out what speed is right for you!

Tech Tip



In the last newsletter we talked a little bit about cutting the cord with an HD antenna. In this edition, I wanted to focus on streaming subscriptions like Netflix, Hulu, YouTube, and Amazon Prime. They have excellent selections of TV shows and movies, and the services are quite inexpensive. Even if you subscribe to all of them, and combine them with the HD antenna we discussed last time, this will represent a substantial price break over cable. Plus, with your subscription, you can log-in and watch your shows anywhere you go. While these services are great, many people do not realize how much bandwidth they use. If you experience buffering while streaming, which can be extremely frustrating, it is a good indicator that you need more bandwidth. While streaming video on one device generally uses 5Mbps of bandwidth or less, most of us now have several devices connected to the internet at all times. There are a couple of other issues that might lead to buffering as well. Your router might need an update. If it's older, it might need to be replaced altogether. You could also have an old device that doesn't have enough processing power to stream the video, or does not have enough available memory to perform properly. Make sure that your device has all of the latest updates and delete unused applications.