

Annual Meeting 2010

Huxley Communications has announced the 2010 annual meeting will be held on Thursday March 25, 2010, in the Ballard High School gymnasium. This year will bring a different time and format to the annual event.

“An objective of ours over the last few years is to increase member attendance at the annual meeting. Our annual meeting is a unique opportunity for member customers of Huxley Communications to engage in the organizational process of the cooperative.” states Mike Leeds, Sales & Marketing Specialist for Huxley Communications. “With increased legislative pressures and competition at an all-time high, it is more important than ever that people attend.”

All members of the cooperative are welcome to attend and take part in the cooperative process. Come vote for new board members, win door prizes, and much more. The evening will include a dinner and will feature presentations by the president of the board of directors and management.

You are a member of a cooperative, which entitles you to vote for candidates for the board of directors. Members of the board of directors are elected to guide the direction of the cooperative. Your vote will directly help determine many aspects of the company including available services, pricing and future investments.

You are a member of a cooperative and your input is vital to the organization. Although much of the annual meeting agenda is scheduled ahead of time, there is an opportunity to ask questions of employees, management and the board of directors before, during and after the meeting.



You are a member of a cooperative that strives to deliver the most advanced telecommunications services available in your community. Your participation in the cooperative process directly affects the services you receive and the price you pay for them.

Here is the schedule for the evening meal and meeting:

6:00 - 6:30 P.M. *Registration/Social Time*

6:30 P.M...... *Dinner*

7:00 P.M...... *General Meeting and Election of Directors*

We highly encourage you to attend the annual meeting. You can RSVP by calling 515-597-2281 or respond by e-mail to huxtel@huxcomm.net. An official invite and notice will be mailed in late February or early in March.

HUXLEY HAPPENINGS

Wednesday, January 20

ITA Legislative Day at the capitol

Thursday, March 25

Huxley Communications Annual Meeting,
Ballard High School



CONTACT INFORMATION

Huxley Communications
P.O. Box 36 • Huxley, IA 50124
515-597-2281 or 800-231-4922
www.huxcomm.net
huxtel@huxcomm.net

Free Internet Tech Support
515-597-HELP (4357) • Available 24/7

Report an Outage
515-597-2281

Call Before You Dig
Iowa One Call • 800-292-8989

Gary Clark
General Manager

Connie Patrick
Business Office Manager

Terry Ferguson
Director of Operations

Brant Strumpfer
Plant Manager

Legislative News

Huxley Communications (HCCoop) actively participates on the state and federal level regarding legislation and how it affects communications and our customers. Several employees have volunteered to be on committees that are essential to your phone and internet survival at HCCoop. On the federal level, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has to decide what direction to take regarding the Universal Service Fund (USF). Nobody doubts that the task before the FCC is large—the FCC has initiated nearly 20 different comment proceedings on various aspects of the plan. Thousands of sets of comments have been filed. During the second week of December 2009, a progress report focused on policy recommendations in 10 key areas: Universal Service, infrastructure access, spectrum, Tribal lands, set-top boxes, consumer information, media, adoption of broadband,

accessibility for people with disabilities, and public safety.

In January 2010, the Broadband Task Force (a committee of Iowa Telecommunications Association (ITA)) will address the role of broadband in education, energy, health care, civic participation and others. On the state side, HCCoop has been active through various committees of their state association to address the ability to charge Interexchange Carriers (IXCs) an appropriate amount for their use of our network. The Iowa Utility Board (IUB) has requested a summary of costs for the average schedule communications company and the ITA is in the process of providing that information.

It is imperative that you as a customer realize that we are striving to keep your local service and internet rates as low as possible by engaging in ways to “tell our story” about Huxley Communications. We try to let them



*Gary Clark, General Manager,
Huxley Communications*

know that we provide the highest quality, most technically advanced service at the lowest cost possible. HCCoop is always open to the public and its members to talk about ways to make your experience better.

Call us; we can make a difference and We Are Still the One!

Save Time and Trees

Do something nice for yourself and Mother Earth. Switch from paper to electronic bills, statements, and payments. You'll save time by eliminating the clutter of paper statements and the need to write and mail checks. You'll also help conserve resources and protect the environment.

According to a study conducted by the PayItGreen Alliance, a coalition of financial service companies, the average American household receives 19 bills and financial statements in the mail every month and makes seven payments in paper form. Here's the impact on the environment if just 2 percent more households made the switch to electronic bills and payments:

- More than 15 million pounds of paper would be saved, preserving more than 181,000 trees.

- Emissions of more than 390 million pounds of greenhouse gases would be halted.
- More than 143 million gallons of wastewater would be prevented from entering the environment.

To find out your financial paper footprint, click on “Green Calculators” at www.payitgreen.org.

Remember, when you set up electronic bill payment through your financial institution, be sure to give complete information including your Huxley Communications account number and phone number so we can correctly process your online payments. Also be sure to sign up for paperless statements from Huxley Communications by calling our office at 515-597-2281. Your bill will come by email only every month.





Dr. Bob Davis, Ballard Dental Associates

Get “LinkedIn” to Job Resources

Job seekers have long turned to their network of family and friends to help them find work. Now social networking sites make it possible to greatly expand these networks by taking advantage of vast online communities.

Perhaps the best known of the business networking sites, LinkedIn is a professional network of more than 39 million people. LinkedIn members range from executives at Fortune 500 companies to employees of small businesses. Are you one of them? If not, consider joining LinkedIn, especially if you’re currently in the job market or think you could be soon.

Launched in 2003, LinkedIn plays to the “six degrees of separation” theory that anyone on the planet can be connected to any other person on the planet through a chain of acquaintances. Your network consists of your connections plus your connections’ connections.

Here’s what you do:

1. Visit www.Linkedin.com and go to the “click to join” button to complete basic information and open a free account.

2. Create a profile summarizing your professional accomplishments including the names of previous employers, schools you’ve attended, and details on your skills and expertise.

3. Add known business contacts to your network by sending them a LinkedIn invitation.

4. Search the site by company name, school name, or the person’s name to reconnect with people you’ve lost touch with over the years.

As you build your list of contacts and they build theirs, you’ll gain opportunities to network with more people than you could possibly do otherwise. LinkedIn can help you manage the information that’s publicly available about you, introduce you to subject experts, give you insights from discussions with other professionals, and discover inside connections that lead to job prospects.



10 Reasons to Have a Landline Phone

You may have considered eliminating your landline phone and replacing it with a cell phone or Internet-based system such as a digital phone or VoIP. Think twice before you make that move, since a landline phone is the most reliable device on the market today and offers these valuable advantages:

1. Provides security in an emergency with reliable 911 communication.
2. Gives you superior sound quality and clarity.
3. Works even during an electrical outage.
4. Eliminates the need to charge batteries.
5. Provides unlimited local calling.
6. Never drops your calls.
7. Can’t be hacked.
8. Saves you money when you bundle services.
9. Provides you with a directory listing.
10. Keeps your communications dollars here to boost our local economy.

For an excellent value, ask about our landline phone plan that combines unlimited local and long distance calling. Call 515-597-2281 today.



Protect Your Home Before Your Vacation

You see your vacation as an opportunity for fun and relaxation. Unfortunately, burglars see it as an opportunity to more easily get inside your house and take off with your valuables.

You can do a lot to reduce your chances of being a property crime victim by taking simple precautions to protect your home before you leave town:

- Inform trusted neighbors that you will be gone and for how long. Ask them to keep an eye on your home.
- Stop mail and newspaper deliveries or have a neighbor pick them up each day.
- Depending on the season, make arrangements to have your lawn mowed or snow shoveled so that your house appears occupied. Also use timers on lights, setting them to go on at different times.
- Double check that you've locked all doors and windows, including all doors in the garage. You may want to unplug the cord to the garage door opener so it can't be opened with a code.



Kenny Twedt, White Oak

- Don't announce your absence on your answering machine or voice mail message.
- If you have a security system on your house, make sure it is working and on.
- Don't leave a key hidden outside. Leave it with a friend or family member instead.

By completing these tasks before your vacation, you can really rest easy when you get there.

New Webmail System

Huxley Communications recently upgraded its webmail system. The new system offers an enhanced look and feel and a modern, streamlined interface. In addition to being more user-friendly, the webmail system delivers improved spam protection and advanced user options.

If you have not logged on yet to the new system, it does not require you to do anything different than before and you do not need a new username or password. Additionally, all of your current e-mails and unique preferences have been transferred to the new webmail application. To log on to your Huxley Communications webmail account go to www.huxcomm.net and click on "Check My Mail" or simply type in mail.huxcomm.net into your browser. If you need to know your username and password, please contact our office.

Reminder of Customer Service Policies

Under the FCC's rules, telephone companies like Huxley Communications are responsible for maintaining the security and confidentiality of Customer Proprietary Network Information (CPNI). Please remember that we'll follow the policies below when discussing CPNI with our customers:

- When visiting us in person, you will be required to show a photo ID to discuss your account.
- We can only discuss account information with people authorized by the account owner.
- For some routine customer service issues, CPNI can be addressed if you have the bill or call detail information you wish to discuss.
- When you call with account questions, we must authenticate you by requesting your pre-established password, calling you back at the telephone number related to your account, or sending the information to your street or e-mail address of record.

If you have any questions or would like additional information on these policies, please contact our office.

