

## Goodbye Summer!

Dear Members,

Summer is coming to an end and we are already back to school. It seems like time really clicks by during the summer.

In order for our students to be able to efficiently do their homework projects, they need a reliable internet service. Kingdom's lowest fiber speed is 600 mbps which will ensure families have a big enough pipe to do homework, work from home, and stream all the entertainment a normal family has time to enjoy. In addition, with Kingdom, you earn capital credits while enjoying twice the speed for the same money as our competitor.

As a reminder, we have several hotspots around our territory:

1. Kingdom Telephone 211 S. Main, Auxvasse
2. North Callaway Middle School – 650 E Harrison, Auxvasse
3. North Callaway High School
4. Pleasant Grove Church in Hatton
5. Kingdom's Mokane Central Office - 304 Fulton Ave., Mokane
6. Rhineland Ball Park 201 Main, Rhineland
7. Tebbetts Community Center inside and outside the building



Reneé Reeter  
Chief Executive Officer

A few exciting events this summer were the Callaway County, Audrain County and Montgomery County Youth Livestock Auctions. At the Callaway Auction, we bought a reserve champion hog from Abigail Jenkins, bacon from Emma Wilson, and a steer from Katie Birge. At the Audrain Auction we bought a steer from Layne Rohan, and at the Montgomery Auction, we bought a steer from Trenton Lampkin and a hog from Madelyn Poage. These events are always fun and supporting the kids is very important to Kingdom. We hope to see you at other upcoming events like the Mokane World's Fair and the Tebbetts Picnic.

We finally got the Environmental release from USDA on the Reconnect 2 grant that we were awarded in 2021. The contractor should begin plowing this fall so we can get those people in the Audrain grant area connected. We anticipate the project to take 12-18 months depending on how many crews we can get and the winter weather. This area has a little over 900 locations passed and covers about 81 square miles.

I shared that we were awarded another grant through USDA called Reconnect 3. We are now in the environmental clearance stage of this grant, again waiting on Osage Nation Tribe. This application covers parts of Audrain and Montgomery Counties. We had to involve our congressional leaders in Washington to push USDA on Reconnect 2 Environmental clearance and those same members are pushing on Reconnect 3 so that we are not sitting here two plus years waiting like we were on Reconnect 2. I hope to be able to tell you in our next newsletter that both projects are underway, but we can only wait. This area has almost 2,000 locations passed and covers about 465 square miles. This area will take 4-5 years to complete construction, again depending on the number of crews and winter weather.

The FCC required companies to comply with a rule referred to as Stir and Shake. The deadline was June 30, 2023. We were also required to block all incoming calls in case they were a robo caller. So right after Father's Day we implemented that stage of the requirement. Each of your callers had to listen to instructions the first time they called you and physically press 1 to get through. This was only the first time they called as the system kept track of the numbers calling that complied and remembered. The idea is that when one of those automated calls came through, they would be unable to press 1 and would be denied. I know this caused some confusion, but it should stop most of those robo callers. As we told you in our letter of instruction, you are in complete control of this function. As always if you need assistance we are here to help.

Not much more news to share so until next time: enjoy the remainder of your summer and keep your families safe and healthy!

### Privacy Control/Do Not Disturb

The free Privacy Control service selectively intercepts telemarketers, unknown callers and callers who have their number blocked from displaying on Caller ID. This service was activated in June 2023 for all members. The Do Not Disturb service is great if you work late hours and want to avoid calls while you are trying to sleep. It will let you designate quiet times where callers will be blocked unless they have a 4 digit PIN to override. More information can be found at [kingdomtelco.com/telephone-features/](http://kingdomtelco.com/telephone-features/)

## **FRS WASHINGTON D.C. YOUTH TOUR MAKES MEMORIES THAT LAST A LIFETIME**

Every year the Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) offers 100 rural students a unique opportunity to visit our nation's capital on the FRS Youth Tour. This year Kingdom sponsored Caitlyn Sobba of North Callaway High School and Jackson Poehlman of Hermann High School, who joined their peers, on the tour from May 31 – June 4. They visited the FCC where they heard lectures on legislative and governmental processes and toured several historical sites, including Mt. Vernon and Arlington National Cemetery. Dinners, a dance, shopping, and bowling gave the kids plenty of opportunities to have fun and strike up friendships with each other. Applications for the next tour will be available in early Spring 2024 on our website and at high school guidance offices.

## **CAPITAL CREDITS TO BE ISSUED THIS MONTH**

For the thirty-first consecutive year, Kingdom Telephone will distribute capital credits to its member/owners. The payout formula for this year is 18.3% of the outstanding capital credits for 1987 and 4.1% of 2022. Active members will see a bill credit if the amount is \$65 or less, otherwise members will receive a check.

Patronage is accumulated when you purchase our telephone, internet, and other telecommunication services. Based on the Cooperatives' year end profits, the patronage is used to determine a member's share of capital credits for that calendar year.

# Lifeline Assistance

## **LOW INCOME OR DISABLED? STRETCH YOUR COMMUNICATION DOLLARS WITH LIFELINE**

### **The Lifeline Program**

Eligible low-income and disabled consumers can receive up to \$24.00 in reductions on their bill as a credit against monthly charges. The disabled service program is only available for voice subscribers. The lifeline service program discount is based on both voice and broadband subscribers.

There is a federal lifeline discount available in the amount of \$9.25 for broadband only lines with a speed of 25 Mbps(down)/3 Mbps (up) or higher.

### **Eligibility**

To qualify for Low-Income Lifeline in Missouri, you must participate in one of the following programs: MO HealthNet ( f/k/a Medicaid), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA), Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit Program or have household income at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

To qualify for the Disabled Lifeline in Missouri, you must participate in one of the following programs: Federal Social Security Disability Benefits, Veterans Administration Disability Benefits, State Blind Pension, and State Aid to Blind Persons or State Supplemental Disability Assistance.

### **The Benefits**

Qualifying consumers will receive a discount on home phone service, which includes voice grade access to the public switched network, single-party service, access to emergency services, access to operator services, access to inter-exchange service, access to directory assistance, and voluntary total toll blocking, which prevents the placement of any long-distance calls OR a service bundle of home phone service and broadband internet.

For further details, call to speak with a Customer Service Representative or visit our website at [kingdomtelco.com](http://kingdomtelco.com)