



# Bell Ringer

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## IT'S COOP MONTH!

It's October; time to celebrate Coop Month! If you received this newsletter, you are most likely a member of ITC. But do you know why being part of a coop is so great?

Cooperatives have been around for a long time, but the important values of years ago remain the same. These core values have provided guidance when making important decisions for ITC.

When you join a coop, you are a member. You have a voice. You also have a vote regarding changes made in the Coop or in the directors that represent our communities. Not many companies can say that.

One of the top benefits is capital credits. ITC has been paying out capital credits to its members for years and has paid out almost 18 million dollars since 2006! ITC is able to provide capital credits to the members because you support the products and services provided by your Coop. Your support also makes it possible to offer the latest technologies at affordable rates. For those of you who could not attend the Annual Meeting in September, Tracy Bandemer, ITC's CEO, announced that approximately 4.2 million dollars in capital credits would be paid out again this December. These checks will include the remainder of 2006 and 25% of 2017. What a great Christmas present!

Besides being a coop, ITC's employees and board of directors help make this company what it is today. They live in the same communities as you, and they make it their business to bring you the latest technologies possible.

Thank you for supporting ITC, your local Cooperative. Happy National Coop Month!



Tracy Bandemer, ITC's CEO, announces a Capital Credits payout for December!

## ANNUAL MEETING RECAP



The theme of the meeting was Fiber Fest! ITC celebrated 100% fiber-optics to all member locations!

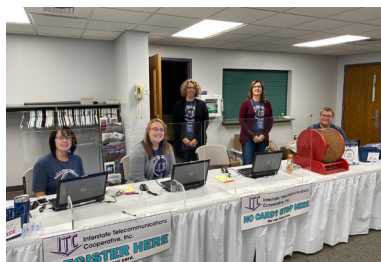


Tracy Bandemer talks about ITC's expansions in Lincoln County, MN, Grant County, SD, Codington County, SD, and areas of Lake Poinsett and Lake Albert in SD.

Big prize winners - (To the left) Holly Stormo presents the iPad to Gordon Goens from Goodwin. (On the right) Tracy Bandemer stands with Howard Horner from Toronto, who won the Smart TV. Congratulations to both!



Mary Mack, Mary Ries, Jennifer Short-Gladis, Cindy Damm, and Tristan Rabine were all on hand to answer questions about your Coop!



President Warren Brandlee called the 67th ITC Annual Meeting to order, and reports were given by Brandlee, Secretary Joel Brandt, and Treasurer Susan Robbins. Twenty lucky attendees went home with a \$50 bill!





## *Internet 911:* **THE INTERNET TODAY**

*By Michael Martinell, Network Broadband Technician*

Sometimes it is fun to look to see how the world has changed over the years. On August 6, 1991, Tim Berners-Lee posted his World Wide Web project to the "alt.hypertext" newsgroup. This project was the very first website. Computer networks and bulletin board services existed before then, but this was the first time the Internet was published as we know it today. Since that date, the Internet has grown significantly.

- As of January 2021, there were 4.66 billion Internet users around the world. That is over half of the people alive in the world today.
- The countries with the most Internet users are, in order: China, India, and the United States. The United States has 313 million users, which is almost everybody in the country.
- More than 1.8 billion websites are currently available, and 194 million of them are considered "active."
- The two most popular websites in the world are Google.com and YouTube.com. Around 500 hours of video are uploaded to the website YouTube.com every 1 minute.
- The most popular web browser is Google Chrome. It accounts for about 65% of all internet traffic. Apple Safari is used by about 17% of users, and Mozilla Firefox about 4%.
- The three most popular social media platforms in the world are Facebook, YouTube, and WhatsApp. Instagram and TikTok together have about the same number of users as Facebook.
- Since the early days of the Internet, people have been trying to figure out how to capitalize on it. Google's ad revenue in 2020 was around 146 billion dollars.
- About half of all Internet users use an ad-blocker to stop advertisements from reaching them.
- In 2009 a new currency was created called Bitcoin. This currency would not have been possible without the Internet connecting computers together.
- The Internet also brings with it some new issues of its own. Viruses and malware spread more easily when all machines are connected. Ransomware is also a very significant threat.
- According to a recent Google Transparency Report, despite the threats, less than 2% of websites scanned in China, the US, the UK, Germany, and Spain contained bad websites.
- There are excellent job opportunities in computer security fields. It is estimated that about 500,000 cybersecurity jobs are open in the US right now.

A lot has changed in the 30 years since that first web page was available via a phone line. Since then, we have been able to get wireless Internet on our televisions, telephones, and every device in between. At ITC, our Blast Wi-Fi will help ensure you are ready for the next significant Internet change.



## *ITC University:* **ASK ANYTHING**

*By Holly Stormo, Marketing Communications Specialist*

ITC is happy to start up ITC University again! In October, we will be holding at least two ITC University classes via Zoom. The class will review some Zoom features along with time for you to ask all your tech questions from the last year and a half.



Start writing down your questions now. There will be an Internet/computer technician on hand to answer all your questions! Information on logging into the Zoom class will be emailed to you a few days before the class starts.

Zoom class dates and times:

- October 13 at 10:00 AM
- October 20 at 2:00 PM

The classes are limited in size, so there is time for everyone to ask questions. More class times will open up on those days if there is a lot of interest.

To sign up, please email Holly at [marketing@itccoop.com](mailto:marketing@itccoop.com) or call ITC at 1.800.417.8667.

## **EMPLOYEES HONORED FOR YEARS OF SERVICE**

ITC honored 19 employees in 2021 for their years of service. Left to right - front row: Holly Stormo, Stacey Amdahl, Tim Nowick, Julie Donahue, Tristan Rabine, Cory Akin, and Jason Roberts. Back row: Mark Bearman, Kent Simon, Justin VonEye, Travis Engelkes, Mike Donahue, Brad Mathis, Jerome Salanoa, and Mark Van Eck. Not pictured: Derek Benck, Ray Hjermsstad, Hilary Dexter, and Wayne Nowick. Congratulations!



## **START DIALING 10-DIGITS FOR LOCAL CALLS TODAY!**

Now through July 14, 2022, 10-digit dialing (area code + telephone number) is allowed and should be used for local calls. 7-digit dialing may still work. Starting July 15, 2022, 10-digit dialing will be required and 7-digit dialing will no longer work.

