2017 Spring Managers Conference — *A Time and A Season for All Things*

The time will be just in the knick of, after what we hope is a successful legislative session. The season will be summer with the added flavor/season of salt water.

We want you to join us for the **2017 TSTCI Spring Managers Conference** at the **Pearl on South Padre Island, June 14-16, 2017**. This always family-friendly conference will continue its dual-purpose — Business and Pleasure. It is and always has been networking in a causal environment but the business-side this year is the main attraction. We are going to have just completed — and results are unknown at this time — one of the most important legislative sessions of our industry. While we want you to enjoy as we always do our time at the meeting, we are also asking that the membership bring their “A” game to the business portion of the meeting. No matter the outcome of the legislative session, we are going to have some important issues to discuss as we move forward together.

In addition to looking at the great program that we are putting together for this conference, please also remember that we need your help in sponsoring. Our membership has been incredible in stepping up to help sponsor so that the quality of our meetings continue to outdo itself yearly. So, thank you in advance for your consideration of all of our sponsor opportunities.

As we begin this new season of meetings, just a slight refresher course of sponsorship opportunities: **“Premiere Sponsor Package.”** allows you and your company to take care of sponsoring at all the TSTCI conferences this year in one transaction. In addition to the enhanced acknowledgement you will receive before, during and after at each meeting, you also get **four (4) registrations to TSTCI meetings** that you can use as you choose. You can either use your 4 registrations at one single conference or you can use 1 registration per conference. You also get a **foursome at the Golf Tournament at either the Spring Managers OR the Annual Meeting**; your get a **tee box sponsor at the Golf Tournament at both the Spring Managers and Annual Meeting**; you get a **Table Sponsor at the Annual Awards Banquet** at the Annual Meeting; and, your get a **Tabletop Display at the Annual Meeting** with table location preference. Last year we also added some benefits under the **Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze Sponsorships** as well.

To help you refresh your memory on all the wonderful additions to the Sponsorship Opportunities, **CLICK HERE** to view the Sponsorship Menu so you can select the level that best suits your situation.

The TSTCI Staff together with the Program Planning Committee work to put together these conferences that include material that is relevant to the world our industry operates in today. We strive to include speakers and topics that will move you, WOW you, challenge you, educate you, include you and compliment you. Again, with your help from the evaluation forms of meetings past and the presence of mind of your Planning Committee and the generous nature of our membership with speakers and sponsorships — we may have done it again.
The Pre-Agenda outline is included for your review. We are still working on confirming some of the invited speakers; however, you can get a taste of the flavor of the program.

As is now also part of tradition, on Tuesday, before the conference officially kicks off, Texas Expo will once again host the Fishing Tournament. They are still finalizing some details and will get more information out to you and to us after the Expo in April. So for now, SAVE THE DATE of Tuesday, June 13th for the Expo Annual Fishing Tournament.

In the spirit of tradition, the Vendor Reception will also happen again on the Tuesday before the official kick-off. More details will be shared in the coming month; however, please note that it is planned for “same bat time, same bat location and same bat band” — As we understand and have experienced, things with this party may appear to be the same but it is always better!

On Wednesday morning, June 14, as we tee off the TSTCI Spring Managers Conference with the Wesley B. Roberts Memorial Golf Tournament at the South Padre Island Golf Club. The golf registration includes the cart rental, green fees, driving range balls, full breakfast buffet, beverages on the course, lunch buffet, chance for great door prizes, and (depending on your golf play) chances for team prizes as well as bragging rights. We’d like to think you also get to enjoy the company of your friends and peers or you may just get to enjoy the game and the scenic location! Registration for golf and opportunities to assist with golf sponsorships are available on the online registration page.

After returning from golf, the Texas Lone Star Network (TLSN) will hold its Annual Membership Meeting beginning at 3:30 p.m.

We officially welcome all participants to the conference during the Welcome Reception Wednesday evening. Beginning at 5:30 p.m., this gives everyone a chance to enjoy the casual atmosphere, fantastic food and fellowship as we watch the day end with a beautiful sunset over South Padre.

Our Thursday morning, a breakfast buffet begins at 7:30. After breakfast, TSTCI President, Rusty Moore and TSTCI CEO, Weldon Gray introduce the Opening General Session and our Keynote Speaker, Richard Hadden. Richard will make the connection between people and profit in his aptly named presentation, “Contented Cows Give Better Milk: Your People, Your Profit.” We will move to a topic that remains relevant in our ever-changing world, industry and home life — “Culture of Change.” Two of our members, will walk us through a map of culture change they are experiencing, encountering or causing! Then Charlie Cano, Etex Telephone Cooperative, and an invited representative from Hill Country Telephone Cooperative, will bookend the “Warehouse in the Sky” with a continued look at Data warehousing and the Cloud. Before we break for lunch, Scott Lively, NTCA-The Rural Broadband Association, will give us an update from the Hill in his presentation, “The FCC – The Congress – and, Politics as Unusual.” And no, the original title was not Three Blind Mice!

We will break for the PAC Luncheon (separate ticket required) where you’ll get the Top 10 List from the just completed legislative session. We hope many of you will register and attend the PAC luncheon or you are welcome to lunch on your own. NOTE: We’d love for you to join us for the luncheon; however, in the past many of you have financially supported the PAC by
buying lunch tickets but had other lunch plans. We are grateful for your support but if you want to support the PAC but really aren’t interested in attending the luncheon, we’ll have PAC donation forms available for your use. It will save us the cost of your lunch at the PAC luncheon.

As we return from lunch but before we introduce our first afternoon session, we will draw for the “you don’t want to be late or miss door prize.”

The afternoon sessions will keep your attention as Toni Rivas, VTX1, Steven Steele, Peoples Telephone Cooperative, and Joey Anderson, Nortex, tackle the issue of managed services of “Home Networks, Managed WiFi and much more.” Then Barbara Vrahnos, NECA, will give us an update on “Ethernet Transport Services E-Rate Option.”

For the finale (and topic back by request of the membership), a panel TBD will update the Rural Video Viewing Survey and Challenge TV — Get In? Stay In? or Get Out?

Before adjourning for the day and the Texas Lone Star Network hosted Ice Cream Social, we will do the Grand Prize Drawing sponsored by Texas Communications Expo (must be present to win) followed by the PAC Raffle prize drawing (at press time, we are accepting sponsors for the PAC Raffle)

Friday morning, Members and Associate Members are invited to enjoy a continental breakfast prior to the ILEC Member Meeting. The Member Meeting is open to all ILEC Full Members and/or their designated representatives. This is an important meeting and we request that you make plans to be able to stay for the full amount of time allotted to this part of the program. During this time, we will discuss in detail the outcome of the legislative session. This will include some important information for our ILEC members. Please make your travel plans accordingly.

We look forward to spending these few days with you and the sharing of valuable time and information. Below are additional ways that you may participate in this important meeting and important additional information about registering.

Early Registration!
General or Early Registration runs from now through May 19th at the normal registration fee. After May 19th, the “late registration fee” will apply. Now it really does pay to register early.

Looking forward to seeing you down by the sea!