

TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE: DO YOU REMEMBER ANY OF THESE COMPUTERS?



TCC sells new HP laptops and also repairs/updates older computers. Leave these to the museum!

ANNUAL MEETING RECAP

Our 2017 Annual Meeting was held on Thursday, March 30th at the Ss. Peter & Paul Parochial School in Independence. We registered 394 memberships and served 550 meals. It was great to see so many of our high school seniors in attendance, too! Thank you to everyone who attended and helped with the Annual Meeting!



A little Annual Meeting fun!



Winners! (clockwise) Jo Solberg won the Apple iPad; Deanna Matchey won the HP laptop; and Dennis Moe won the 40" HDTV. Congratulations!



Thank you again to the lunch volunteers!!



Scholarship winners in attendance.



What a great crowd! 394 memberships!

STORM SEASON IS HERE!

Storm season is here! Protect your equipment from lightning and power surges before it's too late!

- 1. Get good surge protectors for your electronics (a power strip is not a good surge protector).
2. Unplug electronics from power and service lines if a storm is expected or if you will be out of town.
3. List major electronics on your insurance so they will be covered in case of damage.



Password Genie + Password Manager + Secure Digital Wallet Just \$1.99/mo



American Red Cross Blood Drive TCC offices in Strum & Independence

Tuesday, May 16th 12-6 pm - Independence

Thursday, May 18th 12-6 pm - Strum

Please give blood.



TRI-COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE

WWW.TCCPRO.NET 800.831.0610



Strum & Independence Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Galesville Location Wednesday Noon - 4 p.m. Thursday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.



Strum Office 417 5th Ave. N P.O. Box 578 Strum, WI 54770 715-695-2691

Independence Office 23669 Washington St. Independence, WI 54747 715-985-3101

MAY EVENTS:

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY SUNDAY, MAY 14TH

MEMORIAL DAY

Monday, May 29th. Our offices will be closed. We have drop boxes at our offices for payments.



TRI-COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS CO-OP www.TCCPRO.net 800.831.0610



## ONLINE PRIVACY

Recent Congressional action to override FCC rules governing broadband customer information has caused some customers to be concerned about their personal information. We want to be clear that at TCC, we never have and never will collect and sell your browsing data. It is important to remember, however, that your browsing data can (legally) be collected and sold or used by the websites (search and shopping pages) and social media platforms you are engaging with. There's an article at NTCA.org (The Rural Broadband Association) about this titled "Congressional Action on Broadband Privacy – What Does it Really Mean?" You can find a link to the full article on our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/tricounty-coop](http://www.facebook.com/tricounty-coop)).



### Here are some things to keep in mind about Internet Privacy:

**(1) Every website and app that you engage with (visit, post things to, search in, type things into) can collect, keep, and even use or sell that information.** When you go to a search page and type things like "Asics Running Shoes" or "Yellowstone Park", that information is being collected, stored, and shared with their affiliates. Websites you register with, store data on or utilize services from may use any information you provide them. You may have seen advertisements on your Facebook page or on websites with advertising that match keywords you recently searched online. Most of this tracked information is just your wants/preferences like merchandise brands, TV shows you like, places you would like to visit, etc. and not personal identify information.

**(2) Your email address is in a spam list.** Unfortunately, that is a reality in today's Internet world. Even if you are extremely careful about who you give your address to and what emails you open, there are still ways your address gets onto spam lists. Anytime you offer your email address on a website form or as the login for an online service, you are giving your address away. Anybody you have ever sent email to or received email from could get a virus or malware on their computer, which could capture any addresses they've ever emailed with (including yours).

**(3) Consider it captured.** Try to have the mindset that anything you type anywhere online is going to be captured. This will help you re-think when, where and what you type into websites, emails, etc. online. If you type your cellphone number into an online form, assume that somebody will capture it.

**(4) Everything is online.** So many companies, organizations, and entities put all their information online (including applications and primary means of correspondence), that we're somewhat forced to put ourselves into the electronic information space to do business with or interact with them.

**(5) Create an online-identity.** If possible, set up a secondary identity - or use alternate information - for yourself to use online so you aren't giving your vital/primary information away (as much). Examples include:

- Get a second bank account from your bank that is not tied to your main account and use it for online purchases. If there is a breach with the online retailer, your real/main account will not be at risk.
- Get a second email address (Gmail, etc.) to only use with websites and services that require an email address.
- Get a second phone (cheap, prepaid) if what you need to do online requires a phone number so you are not giving away your main phone number (that you've spent years safeguarding from telemarketers).
- Unless your real birthdate is required, add a day/month/year to your birthdate (or don't put one at all) so you're not giving out that personal info (like for Facebook, etc.).

**(6) Scrutinize everything** - Verify everything - really good offers, virus threats, IRS warnings, etc. Verify them by calling the actual organization (or visiting them in person) to see if it's legit. Fake notices are very convincing!

## SOCIAL MEDIA DO'S AND DON'TS

Here are some Social Media (Facebook, etc.) Do's and Don'ts to give you a safer and more enjoyable experience in the Social Media scene.

**1) DON'T mess with 'free' games, contests, quizzes, etc.** - These games, contests and quizzes are typically created and hosted by 3rd party applications, which may or may not collect, track, and sell your information. Even if they don't do that, they might not be very secure and could be hacked by someone else to get at your information.

**2) DO be selective about people you accept as friends/connections** - While it can seem harmless, advantageous, or even 'fun' to collect as many friends/connections as possible, this could expose information meant for true friends and family to people with other intentions. Even people you know (and like) in the real world might not make for the best experience in the social media space.

**3) DON'T use the same password for your email, social media and website logins** - Not only can it be confusing for you should you need to reset a password, if a hacker gets your password from one site, they may try it on other sites, too. It would act as a master key to all your online information.

**4) DO be positive/constructive in your posts** - Negativity seems to attract more negativity. Your experience online is likely to be more enjoyable if you stick to posting positive, constructive things.

**5) DON'T gossip or post negative/argumentative things** - Social media is most enjoyable when participants share positive, helpful content. It's a good practice to avoid gossip and negativity online altogether. That doesn't mean you can't have a fun, healthy discussion - just remember it's easier to say and do things online that you wouldn't do in person. In some cases, posts that go over the top will violate a provider's or social media service's Acceptable Usage policies and you could face repercussions. It's difficult-to-impossible to undo something said/done online. (see #6)

**6) DO assume everything you post is permanent and sharable** - Because it is. Even a post that you delete could have been viewed, copied, printed, shared, and re-posted by someone else. There might also be a copy online somewhere too. One ill-advised post could damage employment prospects, relationships, and could follow you for a long time (or forever).

**7) DON'T post that you are on vacation** - In fact, don't post that you are 'going' on vacation, either. Your posts could get shared to people you don't know and don't want to tell when your house is vacant. It's better to save the posts until after you return.

**8) DO share this with friends and family!**  
The more people who know these tips, the better!  
If a friend is compromised, that will likely increase the risk to you!

