

# Going Farther



2010 Annual Report

**OTZ Telephone  
Cooperative, Inc.**

# Letter to Members

May 5, 2011

Dear OTZ Members:

We first want to thank everyone in the region for their support over the past year. OTZ cell service has been really well received in Kotzebue, Selawik and Noorvik...and we worked hard to build the foundation to bring cell service to Kivalina, Noatak, and Kiana. All the outside work is done. We're now ready to turn-up cellular service, as soon as the necessary federal funding comes through to purchase the new switches.



**Chester L. Ballot,  
President**

Recognizing that for OTZ to succeed in the cellular market, our focus in 2010 was largely looking for ways we could provide the best customer service possible. Along with companywide customer service training, we found numerous ways to improve our processes so our customers can enjoy the best service right here at OTZ.

Our work paid off for customers — and the company, too. With a net margin of \$142,486, OTZ returned to profitability in 2010. Looking ahead to 2011 and beyond, we've planned an ambitious build-out schedule for cellular service in the villages.



**Doug Neal,  
OTZ CEO**

One of the challenges we face in the coming year is FCC's proposed changes to the Universal Service Fund, which helps lower telecom rates for high-cost areas such as ours. The funds may shift away from funding telecommunication networks in rural Alaska and other rural areas of the country to instead making modern broadband networks affordable in suburban areas of the Lower 48. This would have a serious impact on OTZ and our ability to continue operations. So together with other organizations, OTZ is working hard to make sure rural Alaska is not forgotten.

With all our efforts, we are forever striving to be the communications company that always goes the extra mile for our customers, keeps expanding our cellular reach into more and more villages, constantly adds value and improves services, and gives you all the communication tools you need to go farther.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Doug Neal".

**Doug Neal  
OTZ CEO**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chester L. Ballot".

**Chester L. Ballot  
President**

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Cover: 2011 Iditarod Champion,  
John Baker.

Back Cover: Three generations of  
Ahkpuks - grandma Nina Ahkpuk,  
daughter Emma Ahkpuk and  
grandson Daniel Snyder - share a  
laugh after receiving a text.

# Highlights

## Major 2010 Achievements

- Made significant progress in Ambler construction projects, including rebuilding the cable plant system, adding a new central office switch, and relocating out of the city office building to prepare for placing a tower for cell service.
- Upgraded special circuit equipment throughout all villages for better monitoring and troubleshooting for landlines, Internet and cell service.
- Placed cellular antennas in Noatak, Kivalina and Kiana.
- Upgraded to paperless internal communications.
- Began sale of smart phones.
- Became a Hearing Aid Compatible (HAC) cell phone provider.
- Won FAA permits to raise cellular towers in villages from 40 feet to 100 feet.
- Installed in-building antennas to improve Kotzebue cell reception.
- Added value and reduced monthly cell plan rates by 50%.
- Increased overall number of cell subscribers.

## On the Horizon for 2011

- Cut over to new cable plant system in Ambler.
- Bring cell service to Kivalina, Noatak, and Kiana (pending federal funding to purchase switches).
- Build tower & bring cell service to Ambler.

# Sponsorships & Community Support Highlights

- Donated cell phones with local calling and unlimited text messaging to local businesses, including Maniilaq, NANA, Kotzebue IRA, City of Kotzebue, KOTZ Radio, and Archie Ferguson/Willie Goodwin Memorial Race.
- Provided entertainment at the Kotzebue Klassic basketball tournament.
- Provided internship experience for Lois Miller, Sally Brown, and Colby Howarth.
- Provided frequent cellular customer service visits to Noorvik and Selawik.

## 2010 Zonna Lie-Ito OTZ Scholarships

### Total: \$1,500 per year

Congratulations to our 2010 scholarship recipients! Each will receive \$1,500.00 per year as a full-time student, as long as he or she maintains a GPA of 2.0 or higher. And the winners are...

- **Hannah Atkinson** (Kotzebue H.S.), attending Lewis & Clark College.
- **Andrew West** (Kotzebue H.S.), attending University of Alaska/Fairbanks.
- **Lee Staheli** (Kiana H.S.), attending University of Alaska/Fairbanks.
- **Wendy Walker** (Kiana High School), attending University of Alaska/Tanana.

“With all our efforts, we are forever striving to be the communications company that always goes the extra mile for our customers...”

# Going Farther

This last year, all of our departments worked on communicating more closely — so customers can go farther. We made great strides in customer service, lowered prices, built infrastructure for the future, and invested in our communities. Here are a few highlights from 2010.



## Front Office:

*Going the extra mile.*

In the OTZ Front Office, we worked on improving customer service on many fronts. We streamlined communications by going paperless. This now enables every department access to customer work orders and keeps them moving along quickly. We hired consultant David Saxby, who came out to the region in February 2011 to do customer service training and refreshers for every department. We are currently in the process of doing cross-training with the cellular department so we can help customers sign up for cell service directly and get the very most out of all of OTZ services.

Top: 2011 Iditarod Champion "Snickers" and his lead human, John Baker, go farther - and faster, too!

Middle: Doug Neal discusses key points of customer service with Carl Weisner, LeAnn Schaeffer, Cindy Fields and Ben Phillips.

Right: Getting fresh air while using her OTZ cell phone is customer Bobbie Gomez.



# OTZ Telecommunications:

## *Taking communication farther.*



Our Internet, long distance & cellular department improved communications with customers, partners and federal authorities, enabling OTZ to take communications to the next level. In addition to training the front office staff on cellular services, regular internal meetings in 2010 kept systems flowing smoothly, generated new ideas, and helped achieve several milestones.

OTZ relocated Customer Service to the front desk for added customer convenience. We also made frequent visits to Noorvik and Selawik to provide in-person customer service there.



For our cell customers, we found a way to add value to our package plans and still reduce monthly cellular rates by 50%. We also started selling smart phones and improved cell reception at several key locations in Kotzebue (at AC, KIC, Crowely, Eskimo Building, and Ferguson Building). In the villages, we landed FAA permits to raise cellular towers from 40 to 100 feet, which will allow signals to go farther and improve reception.

Other achievements included becoming a Hearing Aid Compatible cell phone provider, with more than half of our cell phones being HAC compliant.

Top: Data Network Administrator Mark Iten discusses numbers with Accounting Clerk Donna McConnell to better provide services for our customers.

Above: While walking home from visiting friends, customer Josephine K. Sampson receives a call.

**We can help customers sign up for cell service directly and get the very most out of all of OTZ services.**



## Outside Plant Department: *Building foundations for a far-reaching future.*

Ambler saw a lot of action in 2010. The OTZ Outside Plant department spent the entire year there, working on several construction projects, including rebuilding the cable plant system, adding a new central office switch, and relocating out of the city office building to prepare for placing a tower for cell service. We hope to cut over in 2011.

In Noatak, Kivalina and Kiana, we placed cellular antennas in preparation for new cell service. Once federal funding comes through for the switches, we'll be able to start cell service there.

All of the villages benefited from special circuit equipment upgrades for better monitoring and trouble shooting of landlines, Internet and cellular service. Plus the department went paperless, streamlining records, service orders and more.



Top: Grandma Alvira Downey receives texting lessons from granddaughters Alvira Frances Downey and Irene Downey.

Above: Brett Reich shows his friend Koy Johnson the new features of his cell phone.

Opposite: Keeping in touch with all her grannies, Susanna Norton finds time to talk with one of her grandchildren.

## OTZ in the Community:

*Your dollar goes farther in the region by staying right here.*



As always, OTZ is proud to be a part of the Northwest Arctic community. This year we provided entertainment and marketing support for the Kotzebue Klassic basketball tournament, donated cell phones with local calling and unlimited text to local businesses (including Maniilaq, NANA, Kotzebue IRA, the City of Kotzebue, KOTZ Radio, and the Archie Ferguson/Willie Goodwin Memorial Race). We also provided internship experience for Lois Miller, Sally Brown, and Colby Howarth...and awarded college scholarships to four deserving young students in the region.

OTZ currently employs 40 people and continues to help fuel the region's economy. Together, we will go far.

## OTZ Telephone Cooperative, Inc. Employees

Chandra Abeyratne  
Vernon Adams  
Harry Baldwin  
Sam Ballot  
Bruce Barr  
Melford Booth  
Theodore Booth  
Culum Campbell  
Brian Cleveland

Verne Cleveland  
Shaun Conwell  
Isaac Douglas  
Phyllis Ferguson  
Sadie Ferguson  
Cindy Fields  
Hadley Ferguson  
Sean Hoffman  
Mark Iten

Gary Jackson  
Wilbur Karmun  
Harold Lambert  
Lucy Mae Lambert  
David Lee  
Donna McConnell  
Lois Miller  
Jason Nantelle  
Doug Neal

Grace Norton  
Ben Phillips  
Malinda Reich  
John Richards  
Brenda Schaeffer  
LeAnn Schaeffer  
Dan Schultz  
Ben Sheldon  
Ann Sieh

Don Smith  
Margie Ubben  
Carl Weisner  
Ricky Wells

## OTZ Telephone Cooperative, Inc. Directors



**Chester L. Ballot,**  
President  
Dist. 6: Kotzebue



**Lucy S. Nelson,**  
Vice President  
Dist. 7: Kotzebue



**Jane Cleveland,**  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Dist. 1: Ambler,  
Shungnak, Kobuk



**Marie N. Greene,**  
Director  
Dist. 5: Kotzebue



**Larry D. Jones,**  
Director  
Dist. 4: Kivalina,  
Noatak, Red Dog



**Eunice Hadley,**  
Director  
Dist. 3: Buckland,  
Deering

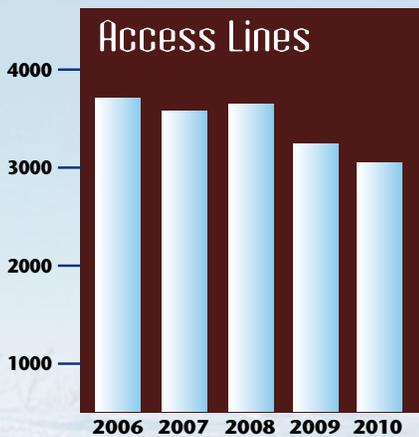
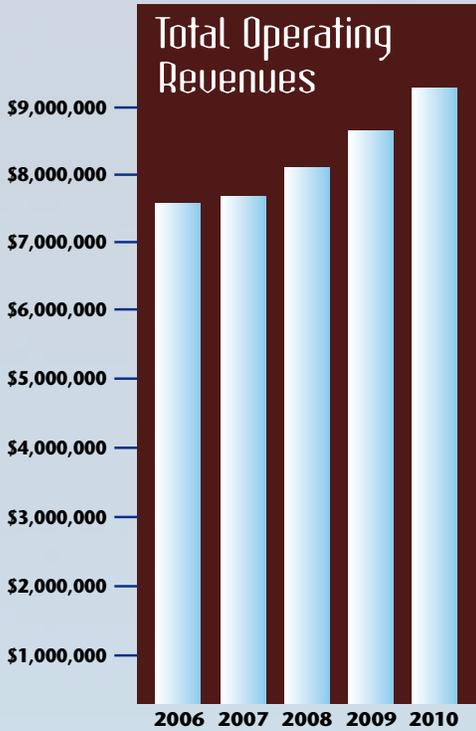


**Gordon Newlin,**  
Director  
Dist. 2: Kiana,  
Noorvik, Selawik

**OTZ TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC. and SUBSIDIARY**  
**Consolidated Balance Sheets**  
**December 31, 2010 and 2009**

<b>Assets</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
Current assets:		
Cash	\$ 762,257	522,725
Accounts receivable, less allowance for doubtful accounts of zero	1,059,496	879,300
Materials and supplies	379,637	372,291
Prepaid expenses	35,129	40,496
Total current assets	2,236,519	1,814,812
Other assets and investments:		
Other investments	656,995	663,453
Deferred income taxes, net	495,400	244,750
Restricted cash	229,186	211,497
Total other assets and investments	1,381,581	1,119,700
Property, plant, and equipment:		
In service	29,119,330	29,869,712
Under construction	835,799	237,995
	29,955,129	30,107,707
Less accumulated depreciation	16,247,796	16,437,505
Property, plant, and equipment, net	13,707,333	13,670,202
	<u>\$ 17,325,433</u>	<u>16,604,714</u>

<b>Liabilities and Members' Equity</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
Current liabilities:		
Current portion of long-term debt	\$ 1,053,800	880,200
Line of credit	1,500,000	1,500,000
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	1,209,563	1,239,067
Customer deposits	87,408	78,228
Advanced billing	63,707	68,481
Total current liabilities	3,914,478	3,765,976
Long-term debt, net of current portion	8,337,494	7,924,792
Deferred credits	229,186	211,497
Unclaimed capital credits	296,233	295,623
Members' equity:		
Memberships	17,001	17,661
Patronage capital	4,531,041	4,389,165
Total members' equity	4,548,042	4,406,826
	<u>\$ 17,325,433</u>	<u>16,604,714</u>





**ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES  
OTZ TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.  
May 11, 2010**

**I. Call to Order**

The Annual Meeting of the OTZ Telephone Cooperative, Inc. was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on May 11, 2010 by Board President Chester L. Ballot.

Chester greeted and thanked the Selawik High School staff for allowing OTZ Telephone Cooperative to meet with you all and hold our annual meeting here. He commented that we are also live on KOTZ Radio.

He expressed to the members of Selawik how sorry we at OTZ are to hear about what happened to your church; we hope that the person or persons that did this bad thing does not go unpunished.

**II. Invocation**

Chester requested that Jane Cleveland give the invocation. Jane asked the children to sit down and be quiet so we can pray; she then prayed in English and in Inupiaq.

**III. Determination of Quorum**

It was determined that a quorum was established with more than 50 members in attendance. At that moment in time we had 95 members signed in.

Chester informed the membership that they should have an agenda in their bags along with the annual report.

**IV. Early Bird Drawing**

Ann Sieh and Lucy Mae Lambert administered the early bird drawing after an explanation of how the raffle was going to be run. The first drawing winner was attendee Carrie Skin, who picked the 7-piece non-stick steel core cookware set and drew mail-in winner NWABSD of Kotzebue. The second drawing winner was attendee Jackie Commack, who picked the Stanley stainless steel thermos bottle and drew mail-in winner Beulah Ticket of Kotzebue.

**V. Approval of Annual Meeting Minutes of May 28, 2009**

Marie N. Greene moved to waive the reading of the minutes of the Annual Meeting of May 28, 2009, seconded by Maureen Ticket. Motion passed unanimously.

Allen Ticket Sr. moved to approve the minutes of the Annual Meeting of May 28, 2009, seconded by George Sheldon. Motion passed unanimously.

**VI. Election of Two Directors – from District 2 (Kiana, Noorvik, Selawik); and District 3 (Buckland, Deering)**

Chester thanked the nominating committee that met on March 16, 2010, including Clyde Ramoth, Ben Atoruk and Noah Naylor.

**OTZ TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC. and SUBSIDIARY  
Consolidated Statements of Operations  
December 31, 2010 and 2009**

	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
Operating revenues:		
Local network	\$ 1,041,890	1,082,969
Network access	6,271,195	5,388,842
Billing and collection, directory, and other	7,414	40,046
Equipment sales and leases	353,218	324,050
OTZ Telecommunications	1,680,061	1,791,519
<b>Total operating revenues</b>	<b>9,353,778</b>	<b>8,627,426</b>
Operating expenses:		
Plant specific	2,328,156	2,058,819
Plant nonspecific	566,531	547,451
Depreciation	1,483,644	1,422,822
Customer	308,023	301,764
Corporate	1,587,746	1,558,705
Operating taxes	113,620	116,020
Equipment sales and leases	474,900	519,476
OTZ Telecommunications	1,749,593	1,865,797
General and administrative	360,039	215,138
<b>Total operating expenses</b>	<b>8,972,252</b>	<b>8,605,992</b>
<b>Operating margin</b>	<b>381,526</b>	<b>21,434</b>
Other income (expense):		
Interest and dividend income	11,854	12,698
Interest expense	(510,002)	(492,971)
Income tax benefit	250,650	244,750
Other gains (losses), net	8,458	(101,667)
<b>Total other income (expense)</b>	<b>(239,040)</b>	<b>(337,190)</b>
<b>Net margin (loss)</b>	<b>\$ 142,486</b>	<b>(315,756)</b>

A complete copy of the consolidated financial statements audited by Mikunda, Cottrell and Company, Inc. may be seen during regular office hours at: OTZ Telephone Cooperative, Inc., Kotzebue, Alaska.

Annual Meeting Minutes,  
Continued on Page 8...

Chester informed the membership of the election of two directors and then read the list of nominees from the ballot that was mailed to all the members: From District 2 (Kiana, Noorvik, Selawik) – Gordon Newlin, incumbent from Noorvik; Charlie “Nasruk” Nazuruk from Noorvik; Thomas Pungalik Sr. from Noorvik; Joseph “Amianiq” Ballot from Selawik; and Hannah “Paniyavluk” Loon from Selawik. District 3 (Buckland, Deering) – Eunice Hadley, incumbent from Buckland; Grace L. Washington from Buckland; and Brenda E. Karmun from Deering.

Chester notified the members that he had to wait for one minute to pass and asked if there were any more nominations from the floor; hearing none, he requested a motion to close the nominations. At that time Jane Cleveland interpreted in Inupiaq for the elders that were present.

Tommy Ballot made a motion to close the nominations, seconded by Ramona Sheldon. Motion passed unanimously.

Chester requested 10 volunteers from the membership to help Ann with counting the ballots. He then asked if there were any more ballots for the staff to pick up.

## VII. New Business

There was no new business.

## VIII. Reports

### A. Board

Chester introduced the board members: himself, Chester L. Ballot, President, District 6 (Kotzebue); Lucy S. Nelson, Vice-President, District 7 (Kotzebue); Jane Cleveland, Secretary/Treasurer, District 1 (Ambler, Kobuk, Shungnak); Eunice Hadley, Director, District 3 (Buckland, Deering); Larry D. Jones, Director, District 4 (Kivalina, Noatak, Red Dog); Marie N. Greene, Director, District 5 (Kotzebue); and Gordon Newlin, Director, District 2 (Kiana, Noorvik, Selawik).

Chester then introduced Doug Neal, our chief executive officer.

### B. Management

Doug greeted everyone and jokingly said, “Can you hear me now? Can you hear me now?” He then welcomed everyone to OTZ’s 35th Annual Meeting of the Members and thanked the village of Selawik for being such great hosts. He recognized that one great thing about Selawik is that whenever the OTZ crew is in town they do such a great job of taking care of them, and that OTZ really appreciates what the folks in Selawik do for them.

He then thanked the board and staff for all their hard work this past year. As it always has been in the past — whether through good times or difficult times — it is a total team effort, which makes working at OTZ really special.

He introduced Community Outreach Coordinator Ann Sieh, who puts on the whole annual meeting show for us. Her work on the event starts in January and runs through the meeting and beyond. Doug commented that in the past, a few board members and staff would say, “Gee Doug, you are not pacing around like you used to.” To which he would reply, “Well Ann Sieh does such a great job that I don’t have to worry about those things anymore.” Doug said he would like to recognize Ann, who would say that she has a lot of great supporting staff and everybody just chips in to help. Doug recognized all this to be true and added that he appreciates everyone’s efforts to make the meeting a success.

He then went into his report, sharing that have a build out schedule for 2010 with the installation of three new cellular switches in Selawik, Noorvik and Kotzebue. He also gave an update on the Rural Utilities Service loan that we applied for 18 months ago, which will continue to expand our cellular network throughout our villages. Once the loan is approved, OTZ plans to install four new cellular switches throughout this summer and in the following year.

He finally informed the membership that the Federal Communications Commission came out with a new National Broadband Plan that is called “Connect America Fund.” As written, the plan is long on promises and short on specifics. Under this

proposed plan the Universal Service Funds would be eliminated which is OTZ’s lifeblood in terms of keeping OTZ’s phone rates affordable. OTZ will be working with State, Federal and National Associations to work on getting these problems solved.

Doug then introduced Ben Phillips, our outside plant manager.

Ben thanked Doug and greeted the members. He shared that before he gives his report he would like to introduce members of the Outside Plant Department:

Donnie Smith is our purchasing agent and building coordinator. Harold Lambert is our warehouseman and expeditor. In the Central Office, we have Wilbur Karmun, Jr., our central office technician; Margie Ubben, our central office technician; Dan Schultz, our COE installation technician; and Chandra Abeyratne, is our COE administrator. Harry Baldwin, our foreman and journeyman splicer; Ricky Wells, our journeyman lineman and construction foreman; Shaun Conwell, our install repairman and PBX phone system technician; and Adam Greene, our install repairman.

Ben took the time to recognize our company engineers: Whit Reeve with Reeve Engineering and Frank Simpson with St. Elias Communications.

Ben then recognized our village representatives: Brian Cleveland of Ambler; David Lee and Rudy Thomas of Buckland; Bruce Barr of Deering; John Richards and Ben Sheldon of Kiana; Gary Swan of Kivalina; Melford Booth and Vernon Adams Jr. of Noatak; Verne Cleveland and Sean Hoffman of Noorvik; Gary Jackson and Sam Ballot of Selawik; and Isaac Douglas of Shungnak.

Ben summarized the 2009 completed projects, during which we:

- Installed new wireline switches in the following locations:

- Kiana
- Buckland
- Deering
- Red Dog

- Did central office maintenance work, region wide.

- Upgraded buried cable to Kotzebue Federal Aviation Association and the Kotzebue Airport.

He noted the 2010 - 2011 projects:

- Install four towers, region wide.

- Rebuild outside plant in Ambler

- Construct new central office buildings and wireline switches in:

- Ambler
- Kobuk
- Shungnak
- Kotzebue

- Do various cable upgrades.

Ben then introduced OTZ Telecommunications Operating Manager Nasruk Carl Weisner.

Carl thanked Ben in Inupiaq saying, “Taikuu Ben. Yoiil Silvikmii — thank you for showing up, we worried about getting 50 members; but with so many of you here it goes to show how important Telecom is to you.” He asked the membership if they can see the slides that were being presented; he asked that the lights be turned off for the presentation part of the meeting.

He then introduced members of the Internet department: Mark Iten, our Network Administrator; Jason Nantelle, our Internet Systems Administrator; and Culum Campbell, our Network Systems Technician.

He then introduced the OTZ Telecommunications staff, which consists of Sadie Ferguson-Wilson, our Billing Clerk; and Malinda Reich, our Customer Service Representative.

He mentioned that he will be sharing with members about OTZ Telecommunications Internet, cellular and long distance services. He shared an example of our local company talent. We have Lucy Mae Lambert who does our artwork on our doors and windows. As you can see, she has a door with a Selawik Wolf on a snowmachine inviting people to “Race on Over to Selawik to our Annual Meeting.” It just shows how a smaller company can keep everything fresh and local.

Carl then went into his overview of 2009:

- Installed wireless switches:
  - Kotzebue
  - Selawik
  - Noorvik
- Provided local calling within communities of:
  - Kotzebue
  - Selawik
  - Noorvik
- Added Nationwide Text Messaging
- Added prepaid cell service
- Provided roaming service with:
  - AT&T
  - T-Mobile
  - US Cellular
  - Arctic Slope Telephone and Cellular Wireless

He then showed the cellular plans, highlighting that if you have four or more phones you get more services such as unlimited text messaging and roaming minutes.

He shared that if you feel tied down, or tired of being stuck inside waiting for a telephone call when you would rather be outside in the country, that you can sign up for a free cell phone from OTZ as long as you are a member of the cooperative in good standing. Details of this offer include:

- One phone per account
- No contract
- No fees
- A certain amount of minutes that are renewable
- Upgrade at anytime
- Local calling within the community only.

He gave a highlight on the Lifeline/Linkup Program for cellular service. If you qualify, it's \$1.00 per month for unlimited text and a free cell phone; he also shared the programs to qualify and that members can always add an additional phone for just \$9.95 per mo.

He shared that one of the calling plans that he wanted to highlight is the OTZ Aana & Taata Plan and showed a photo of Jonas Ramoth with the headline, "Respect for Elders."

Finally, he shared the 2009 OTZ Cellular Subscribers and explained what the OTZ Long Distance One Simple Rate plan included. He thanked the members for supporting OTZ Telecommunications.

Carl then introduced Phyllis J. Ferguson, the Front Office Supervisor, Billing Clerk, and Customer Service Representative for Ambler, Kobuk, Shungnak and Noatak.

Phyllis greeted the cooperative members and shared a slide of the OTZ Ladies honoring the National Red Heart Day, which is celebrated 1st of February. She pointed out that heart disease is the number one cause of death for women and men.

She then introduced the front office staff: Cindy Fields, Billing Assistant and Selawik Representative; Grace Norton, Customer Service Representative for Kotzebue residents; Hadley Ferguson, Customer Service Representative for Kotzebue businesses; LeAnn Schaeffer, Customer Service Representative for Buckland, Deering, Kiana, Noorvik, Kivalina and Red Dog; and Lois Miller, Receptionist.

She then shared with the membership that if they are looking for convenience, "go paperless" and sign up for eBill.

She also shared information about the wireline Lifeline/Linkup Program for \$1.00 per month, with a list of the qualifying programs.

Phyllis then introduced Brenda Schaeffer, our Accounting Supervisor.

She greeted the membership and then introduced the Accounting Staff: Lucy Mae Lambert, Accounting Clerk who does payroll and Donna McConnell, Accounting Clerk who does accounts payables.

### C. Finance

Brenda then gave an outline of the financials, which were for both OTZ Telephone and OTZ Telecommunications with transaction between the two companies eliminated.

She informed the members that the financials were audited by an independent public accounting firm, which issued a clean opinion of the cooperative's financial statements.

She then went into the financial reports, informing the membership about OTZ's assets, liabilities, members' equity, statement of operations, operating revenues, total customers, total operating revenue, summary of significant cash transactions, and summary that were in the annual report.

She then turned the meeting back to the President Chester Ballot.

### IX. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

Chester gave the membership an opportunity for questions and answers.

Cindy Fields commented that a person left the meeting because she couldn't cast a vote for an elder (because she was not on his account). The person wanted to know that if a member is disconnected and has their \$5.00 membership fee returned, is there a way that they could become members as OTZ Internet and cellular customers. Chester replied and thanked Cindy for those hard questions, stating that the board will look into them.

Priscilla Ballot commented on the Internet connection, "it is really, really slow; are you going to speed up the connection?" Doug replied that with the National Broadband Plan, there is hope that we will get monies to provide upgrades for our rural communities.

Hannah Loon thanked OTZ for coming to Selawik and spending time with members there. She had a couple of comments. First, she wanted to know if there was something OTZ could do to help with the radio station. "We don't have a radio connection here in Selawik and in Red Dog." Second, regarding the Aana and Taata cellular plan, she didn't expect such a big first bill once she signed up for the plan. Carl thanked her for those questions and explained that we had a glitch in our billing regarding the Aana and Taata plan at first, so Sadie Wilson our billing clerk spent a lot of time fixing those bills and that OTZ is now past that and moving forward — and she should not have any more problems. Doug thanked Hannah for the questions. He shared that Ben Phillips, Mark Iten and Pierre Lonewolf with KOTZ Radio have been working on putting in FM receivers in our Central Office building so that residents can get an AM & FM signal from KOTZ.

Chester then introduced Margie Ubben, Donna McConnell, Grace Norton, Lucy Mae Lambert and LeAnn Schaeffer, who entertained the membership with games that required their participation.

### X. Election Results

Chester introduced Enoch Howarth, Jr. and Maureen Ticket to present the election results.

Maureen announced the results as follows. District 2 (Kiana, Noorvik, Selawik): Gordon Newlin, Incumbent, Noorvik with 178 votes; Charlie "Nasruk" Nazuruk, Noorvik with 58 votes; Thomas Pungalik Sr., Noorvik with 60 votes; Joseph "Amianiq" Ballot, Selawik with 60 votes; and Hannah "Paniyavluk" Loon, Selawik with 156 votes. The winner was Gordon Newlin, Noorvik with 178 votes. District 3 (Buckland, Deering), Eunice Hadley, Incumbent, Buckland with 237 votes; Grace L. Washington, Buckland with 122 votes; and Brenda E. Karmun, Deering with 154 votes. The winner was Eunice Hadley, Buckland with 237 votes.

Chester thanked the ballot counters and congratulated the winners Gordon and Eunice, both incumbents.

### XI. Drawing of Door Prizes

Chester then introduced Ann and Carl volunteered to help with the final drawing. Ann then explained the process of being picked, attendee and mail-in. The drawing of door prizes was held and the following winners were announced: attendee Leo Ticket picked the 4-pound sleeping bag and drew mail-in winner Paula Smalley of Kotzebue to receive the same prize; attendee Sandra

Ramoth picked the 8-piece camping set and drew mail-in winner Emma M. Miller of Kiana; attendee Michelle Larkin picked the 54-piece SAE & metric drive socket set and drew mail-in winner Brett Connor of Kotzebue; attendee Sheila Foxglove picked the 23-piece stainless steel cutlery set and drew mail-in winner Henry Outwater of Noorvik; attendee Amelia Davis picked the 48-quart Igloo cooler and drew mail-in winner Lori D. Williams of Kotzebue; attendee Tracey Ticket picked the 12-cup coffee maker and drew mail-in winner Richard & Nellie Sheldon of Ambler; attendee Tommy Ballot picked the Gevalia 12-cup coffee set donated by NWAB; attendee Amber Smith picked the \$50.00 certificate donated by Rotman's Store in Selawik; attendee Kirk Oviok picked the oversize outdoor folding chair and drew mail-in winner Bertha Adams of Kivalina; attendee May Walton picked the 4-quart crock pot and drew mail-in winner Deering Native Store; attendee Carrie Kolhok picked the 5X7 birch frame donated by NWAB and drew mail-in winner Anthony Tickett of Ambler; attendee Evelyn Ballot picked the 4-slice toaster and drew mail-in winner Jerry D. Moto of Deering; attendee Liz Sours picked the 20-piece flatware set and drew mail-in winner Marge Baker of Kotzebue; attendee Alice Norell picked the 201-piece outdoor first aid kit and drew mail-in winner David & Christina Mills of Noatak; attendee Ethel Ballot picked the Kiktugiaq Haven half marathon jacket donated by NWAB and drew mail-in winner Josephine K. Sampson of Kotzebue; and attendee Pocky Kashotok picked the 8-piece kitchen towel set and drew mail-in winner Hilda & Thurston Booth of Noatak. For the grand prizes, attendee Tracey Ticket picked the round-trip ticket donated by Era Aviation and drew mail-in winner Jack & Jennie Henry of Kotzebue; attendee Crystal Ballot picked the round-trip ticket donated by Era Aviation; attendee Martha Foster picked the Grand prize round-trip ticket donated by Bering Air and drew mail-in winner Chasly Lykin of Kotzebue; attendee Mildred Meyers picked the VHF package donated by OTZ Telecommunications Inc. and drew mail-in winner Connie Walton of Noatak; attendee Allen Ticket Jr. picked the certificate for 53 gallons of gas or stove oil donated by OTZ Telephone Cooperative, Inc. and drew mail-in winner Janet N. Mills of Noatak.

Chester informed the membership that the door prize drawing was concluded and thanked all for coming.

## **XII. Adjournment**

Ramona Sheldon moved to adjourn, seconded by Roger Clark. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.



## **OTZ Telephone Cooperative, Inc.**

346A Tundra Way  
P.O. Box 324 • Kotzebue, Alaska 99752  
Phone: 907-442-3114 • 800-478-3111  
Fax: 907-442-2123  
[www.otz.net](http://www.otz.net)