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Montana Telecommunications Association Bestows its 2011 Distinguished Leadership Award to Lincoln Telephone Company Board of Directors - Vice President DICK HAINES.

Montana is the first state in the nation, and remains one of only a few states, to have enacted a law that requires telecommunications providers to identify the source of calls they send over the nation's telephone networks. The person responsible for passing this forward-looking legislation was Rep. Dick Haines, this year's recipient of the Montana Telecommunication Association (MTA) Distinguished Leadership Award, presented MTA's Annual Meeting in Red Lodge.

In 2002 MTA discovered an increasing amount of telephone traffic was disappearing from billing records. Telecommunications providers were masking their traffic to avoid paying other providers for carrying and terminating calls. They were the corporate equivalent of shoplifters. This practice later became referred to as "Phantom Traffic." Not only does Phantom Traffic deprive telecom providers of legitimate revenues, and thus reduce resources that otherwise could be used for employing people and investing in advanced telecom networks, but consumers end up paying more to compensate for Phantom Traffic losses.

We needed a law to put an end to companies that were failing to pay for the services they received from local telecom providers. So MTA turned to Dick Haines who spent countless hours with MTA and its members, and with his colleagues in the State Legislature. He had to educate his colleagues on both sides of the aisle, and on both sides of the Capitol on the complicated subject of originating, terminating and transport traffic. In so doing, he demonstrated his leadership, intelligence, and perseverance (as with most major laws, this one nearly fell apart on more than one occasion) as well as the respect he has earned from all who have the privilege of working with him.

There still isn't a national Phantom Traffic law. But the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has proposed to adopt a new rule this year. And it reads just like it's taken right out of Montana Statute.

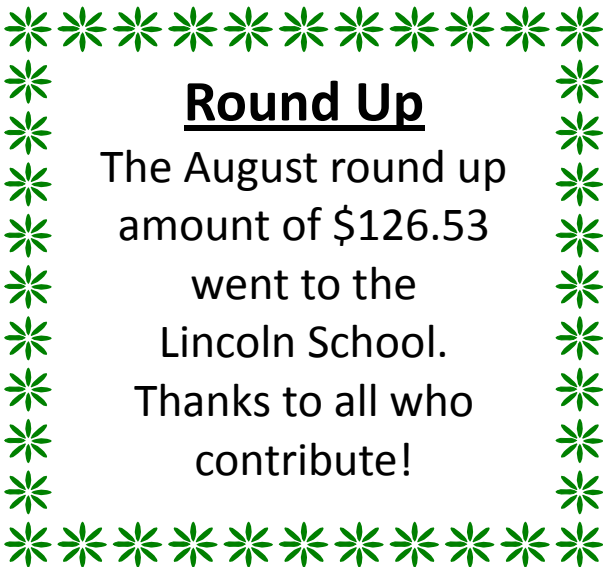
After writing, and passing, Montana's Phantom Traffic law, Dick never stopped giving back to his community. He has, and continues, to serve in a variety of leadership positions in Missoula and statewide. Since leaving the Legislature, Dick has spent the last 6 years on the Missoula City Council.

Dick serves on the boards of Lincoln Telephone Company, where he's served since 2001, and the Transportation Management Association. He's served as a Board member of the Travelers Rest Preservation and Heritage Association. Dick continues to serve on the Missoula Aging Services Board as a City Council Liaison. He's a member of the Western Montana Military Officers Association, the Five Valley's Audubon Club and serves on the Board of the Missoula Pachyderm Club.

He is a tireless campaigner, if not for his own election, for countless others who have heard the calling to serve their state and their communities and who benefit from the advice and counsel of a seasoned veteran like Dick.

In short, Dick Haines is just the sort of person who deserves to be recognized as an extraordinary man, an exemplary citizen, and a distinguished leader.

MTA is honored to present its 2011 MTA Distinguished Leadership Award to Dick Haines for his outstanding leadership and commitment to the citizens of Montana as a legislator, telecommunications executive and community leader.



Round Up

The August round up amount of \$126.53 went to the Lincoln School. Thanks to all who contribute!



**Grandparents Day
Sun Sept 12th!**



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CALL BEFORE

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One wonderful thing about a vacation is that it makes you feel good enough to go back to work and poor enough so that you have to.

~James A. Nix



**Lincoln Telephone
Company will be closed
Monday, Sept 5th
for Labor Day.**



Have a Safe & Happy Labor Day!