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WTA – Advocates for Rural Broadband Elects New President, Officers, and Board of Directors

HELENA, MT – (SEPTEMBER 12, 2019) – WTA – Advocates for Rural Broadband is pleased to announce the election of its new officers for the coming two years: **David Shipley**, COO of USConnect (CO) as President; **Jimmy Todd**, CEO/GM of Nex-Tech (KS) as Vice-President; **Jason Williams**, CEO of Blackfoot (MT) as Secretary-Treasurer; and **Jerry Piper**, Vice President of Operations of Cambridge Telephone Company (ID) as Past President.

Additionally, **Robert DeBroux**, Director of Regulatory Affairs and Public Policy at TDS Telecom (WI); **Jason Hendricks**, Chief Regulatory Officer of the Range Companies (WY); **Jack Keen**, CEO of WNM Communications (NM); **Mark M. Gailey**, President/GM of Totah Communications (OK); **Darby McCarty**, CEO of Smithville Communications (IN); and **Pat McElroy**, CEO/GM of Northeast Nebraska Telephone (NE); and **Steven Sanders Jr.**, President/GM of NATCO (AR), were elected to serve on the Executive Committee.

“I appreciate the WTA Board of Directors providing me this opportunity to lead our Association for the next two years,” said David Shipley. “WTA is a strong, national association and I will work with the Executive Committee and the Board to ensure the work of my predecessors is continued and the companies we represent continue to have the tools they need to bring broadband to the most rural parts of America.”

The WTA membership elected the following members who will serve three year terms on the Board of Directors: **Brian Cornelius**, President of Citizens Telephone Co. (MO); **Robert DeBroux**; **Mike George**, President/CEO of NE Louisiana Telephone Co. (LA); **Matt Gilbert**, Risk Advisor for UNITEL Insurance; **Steve Hanson**, President of Tenino Telephone Co. (WA); **Kristi Lee**, COO of Valley Telecom Group (AZ); **Pat McElroy**; **Kent Schimke**, CEO/GM of Dickey Rural Networks (ND); and **Judi Ushio**, Midwest Division Manager, GVNW.

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WTA - Advocates for Rural Broadband represents more than 340 small, rural telecommunications carriers providing voice, broadband and video-related services in the United States. WTA's members serve some of the most rural and hard-to-serve communities in the country and are on the forefront of bringing 21st Century telecommunications services to rural America. To learn more about WTA, visit www.w-t-a.org.