

## **Supporting Rural America Strengthens All of America**

Advocacy, Education, Relationships

The Rural Wireless Association (RWA) is a Washington, DC-based trade association that ensures carrier members with fewer than 100,000 subscribers have a strong voice in our nation's capital. Our member companies are united to drive wireless telecom and broadband policy that strengthens rural America.

**Valuable Relationships** – Industry leaders from member companies participate in RWA committees, attend conferences throughout the year for education and networking, and strengthen connections at RWA members-only networking events. The RWA provides many opportunities to connect with Carrier Members. At the RWA:

- Associate Members value participation in the Education Committee for the opportunity to **inform RWA members about revenue generating opportunities** and/or cost saving methodologies through instructional material and educational webcasts.
- Members-only networking events provide opportunities for you to **connect with Carrier members** in a more personal environment, share information and learn about innovative and cost saving ideas to both increase revenue and cut expenses.
- Member-driven committees and councils **influence our policy approach**. As an active committee member, you:
  - shape what Capitol Hill and the FCC learn about rural wireless telecommunications and broadband.
  - have a voice in RWA's approach to influencing Capitol Hill and the FCC.

**Innovative, Devoted Advocacy** – RWA's experienced team of legal and regulatory experts are devoted to strengthening policies that affect our rural wireless companies and increasing our members' earning power. The RWA:

- Generates **innovative strategies to combat challenges unique to rural wireless companies**. Our focus in 2017 is on reforming Universal Service on both the distribution and contribution fronts to ensure that our members are sufficiently funded to serve rural America.
- Maintains **established relationships with congressional and regulatory staff** to promote effective rural broadband policies that increase funding and provide access to these decision makers to its members.
- Files dozens of pleadings, comments and *ex partes* each year covering issues that impact rural wireless carriers including: Universal Service/Mobility Fund; Spectrum Auctions; Fair and Reasonable Roaming Access to Devices; Unfair Competition.
- Works with the press and social media to build grassroots support for its advocacy.

**Essential Information** – RWA reports essential information to you as it unfolds, in a readable format. Our knowledgeable team educates government decision makers on the vital facts and heart of rural wireless telecom and broadband issues. RWA provides:

- **Member-only briefings that detail congressional and FCC actions** and other issues that impact your business including universal service, spectrum auctions, regulatory and reporting requirements, E-911 emergency system compliance.
- **Regulatory updates for members** six times a year via conference call.
- **Educational programming** via conferences, workshops and webcasts.
- **Access to a network of your industry peers** via councils and conferences.
- **Knowledgeable staff with 30+ years of experience supporting the rural wireless industry.**

### ***Board of Directors***

RWA's Board of Directors is made up of carrier and associate members dedicated to strengthening policies for and increasing the earning power of our members. Our 2016-2017 Board of Director members are:

- Brian Woody, Union Wireless – President and CEO
- Michael Kilgore, Sagebrush Cellular, Inc. – Vice President
- Roger Schmitz, NewCore Wireless - Treasurer
- Bert Potts, STRATA Networks - Secretary
- Michael Candelaria, Mid-Rivers Communications
- Bill Levy, Huawei Technologies USA
- Todd Houseman, United Wireless
- John Nettles, Pine Belt Wireless
- Jana Wallace, Panhandle Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

### ***General/Regulatory Counsel and Staff***

- Carri Bennet, General Counsel
- Daryl Zakov, Assistant General Counsel
- Erin Fitzgerald, Regulatory Counsel
- Michele Giroux, Chief Administrative Officer

### ***Public Policy Committee***

- Mike Kilgore, Nemont – Committee Chairperson
- Jake Baldwin, Cross Wireless
- Michael Candelaria, Mid-Rivers Cellular
- Doug Eidahl, Vantage Point Solutions
- Shawn Hanson, PTCL
- Mike Higgins, West Central Wireless
- Erin Lutts, Mid-Rivers Cellular
- Steven D. Lysne, SRT Communications
- Lynn Merrill, Monte R. Lee & Company
- Brian Woody, Union Wireless

### ***Education Committee***

- Shilah Butler, Copper Valley, Chairperson
- Grif Griffin, West Central Wireless
- Todd Houseman, United Wireless
- Curtis Knobloch, Telispire
- Julie McGowan, Globecomm
- David Mould, Ericsson
- Patrick Rhyne, Wells Fargo Advisors
- Jana Wallace, RWA BOD Representative

### **Membership Details**

**A 600 MHz Member** is a 600 MHz licensee that secured a rural or small business bidding credit for the 600 MHz auction.

- Membership Investment: \$600 (May 1 – September 30)
- Full Voting (Carrier) Member rights as set forth below.

**Voting (Carrier) Member** is an FCC licensee or one that leases spectrum from an FCC licensee with fewer than 100,000 subscribers.

- Annual Membership Investment
  - **Carrier 1** (0 – 2,000 subscribers): \$3,450
  - **Carrier 2** (2,001 – 10,000 subscribers): \$6,000
  - **Carrier 3** (10,001 – 100,000 subscribers): \$11,500

**Supporting Members** are resellers of wireless services, unlicensed providers of service and affiliated companies of Voting Members.

- Annual Membership Investment: \$4,600

**Associate Members** are any company providing goods or services to the rural wireless industry (consulting firms, law firms, engineering firms, suppliers and those companies not otherwise qualifying as a Voting or Supporting Member).

- Annual Membership Investment: \$2,500

### **Membership Applications**

You may email [info@ruralwireless.org](mailto:info@ruralwireless.org) to request a membership application or visit [ruralwireless.org](http://ruralwireless.org) “Membership”. Membership applications can be found within each membership category.

### **Questions**

If you have questions about the RWA or membership, please call Michele Giroux, RWA Chief Administrative Officer at (202) 551-0025; email [info@ruralwireless.org](mailto:info@ruralwireless.org); or visit [ruralwireless.org](http://ruralwireless.org).