



Madison's Kim Harber and Linda Prante Named to NTCA Committees

Kim Harber and Linda Prante of Madison Communications Company were recently asked to serve, respectively, on the Government Affairs and the Association Services Committees of the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association (NTCA). Mr. Harber has been very active in industry-related legislative and governmental affairs policy development both before and since he joined Madison as Senior Vice-President over two years ago.

In addition to this new appointment, Mr. Harber is an active member of the State of Illinois Broadband Deployment Council, the Connect SI Leadership Advisory Council and continues to provide leadership in addressing rural economic development, education, and health care initiatives as they directly impact support for progressive policy development for rural Illinois. His efforts have been to proactively address the equitable availability of advanced technology for the competitive positioning of rural areas in securing access to global information through broadband deployment.

His position on the NTCA Government Affairs Committee will allow him to develop, review, and recommend national policy that supports the deployment of advanced technology infrastructure and consistent, equitable federal and state regulatory policy that is designed to meet NTCA member needs in the deployment of this critical rural infrastructure.

Linda Prante, Madison's Marketing Coordinator, has been actively engaged locally with economic development and with NTCA's PR Net Marketing Conferences for a number of years. She has also recently been appointed to serve as Vice-President for the Staunton Chamber of Commerce. Now, in her role with the Association Services Committee, she will focus her attention on NTCA membership, education, meetings, and matters concerning the foundation for rural service.

The NTCA is widely recognized as the national advocate for small, rural communications providers. Most often referred to as "the voice of rural telecommunications," it is the premiere non-profit association representing more than 580 small and rural telephone cooperatives and commercial companies. As a full-service association, it offers a highly effective government affairs program; expert legal and industry representation; a broad range of educational services; a comprehensive assortment of regular and special publications and public relations programs; and a well-rounded complement of national and regional meetings.

Mr. Harber and Ms. Prante recently attended the NTCA Annual Meeting in Dallas, Texas, February 13-16th, to participate in their respective committee meetings and engage in industry discussions regarding the National Broadband Plan, Connect America Fund, and recent FCC Notice of Rulemaking.