

# Big Changes Coming to the Desktop

by Jason Sele, IT Manager

A few changes are in the plans in the Information Systems Department. For starters, the IS name is being replaced with Information Technology (IT). IS does not reflect what we do any more.

Dave Winkler has been promoted to Network Administrator. Dave has been doing the job ever since Mark Quistorff left last year and it was time to recognize his responsibilities in his title.

Another change is the implementation of Microsoft Windows servers. We have been running Novell servers for many years, but the product is dead (support from Novell ends next fall). Over the next few months we will be installing Windows Server, Active Directory, Exchange Server, Outlook, Sharepoint, Windows Configuration Manager, Windows 7, and many more.

These are a significant enhancement to our network systems. We are essentially rebuilding our network from the ground up and there will be many new features that users can take advantage of, while support will be much easier for the IT Department. It will take several months to roll out the new software.

The most notable changes to the desktop will be the installation of Windows 7 and Outlook. We have not done any changes to the desktop operating system since Windows XP was installed over five years ago. Outlook will replace GroupWise as the e-mail client. Even though Outlook looks and acts much like GroupWise, we still intend to provide training so people are comfortable with the transition.



Information Technology Department members (back row) **Dave Winkler, Anthony Stovall, Kevin McMahon, Bryan Griggs, Davis Barringer, Jason Sele,** (front row) **Dan Wright, Frank Ball, and Allan Laird.**

There were plans a year ago to implement Open Office in place of Microsoft Office, but with the changes to our network software there are compelling reasons to stay with Microsoft Office. Microsoft has done many things to integrate Microsoft Word, Excel, and other Office applications with Windows Server; plus Bright Wood gets a substantial discount when buying all the desktop and server software together. We will receive new versions of all the software automatically, which will keep us from falling behind.

Good news for associates too. With the company's purchase of Microsoft software, associates will be able to get Microsoft Office for use at home for only \$20! That's a significant savings over the full price of \$399. Information about how to get your license to install the software is coming in September.