Thank you to all those who attended the SRT Annual Meeting on Thursday, June 18th at the State Fair Center in Minot. The annual meeting’s purpose is to relay the financials and vision for the cooperative as well as elect the board of directors, but while we’re there, we like to have fun too!

Guests were entertained by the JMB Band as well as Tin Star. The Kid’s Zone featured inflatables and snacks, and Tech Talks made their appearance for the 2nd year in a row. SRT employees presented on Smart Apps (apps for your Smartphone) and Smart Gadgets (techie lifestyle gadgets that are wifi based devices). New to this year’s meeting were some added prizes throughout the Customer Service area. Guests could stop by each booth to enter to win one of five prizes. The prizes ranged from SRT Bucks (credit towards services) to a wireless printer.

The business meeting featured presentations from Board President Tom Wentz, Jr. and SRT General Manager/CEO Steve Lysne, along with SRT’s CFO Perry Erdmann who presented the cooperative’s financials. Wentz talked about SRT’s ability to provide the resources you need to live in a digital world and how SRT is constantly improving our service offerings. Lysne focused on SRT’s technology and some of the government regulation that we will face in coming years and what that means to us as a co-op. U.S. Representative Kevin Cramer made a special appearance and gave an update on what’s happening in Washington, D.C. both as it relates to the telecom world and Congress in general.

Four directors were elected to serve a three-year term on the Cooperative’s Board of Directors. Nominations of directors’ petitions were distributed and accepted at SRT’s headquarters from April 20 to May 18, 2015. Four members of the Cooperative submitted nomination petitions; all petitions were verified, which authorized the names to be placed on the official election ballots that were distributed at the meeting.

The following directors were elected to serve a three-year term on SRT’s Board of Directors: District 1: Ardel Rice from Mohall; District 2: Dennis Erber from Glenburn; District 3: Dennis Schott from Butte; and District 4: Tom Seymour from Minot.

continued on page 5
KX/Co-op Day at the Fair

Dakota State Fair was full of fun this year! SRT enjoys the opportunity to get together with other area cooperatives to celebrate the contribution that co-ops make to our state, and to thank our co-op members.

The day began with a free breakfast, where SRT board member Stan Vangsness helped serve pancakes & sausage to early fairgoers. Later, board members Ron Schepp, Jim Newman, Gerald Henry, & John Marshall helped serve ice cream cones at the ice cream social on a hot summer fair day! As a special treat, we brought our friend Spongebob Squarepants along. What fun to see so many smiles as people walked through the tent and saw who was there to greet them!

Safety Comes First at National Night Out

Each year SRT partners with local law enforcement agencies and businesses to sponsor National Night Out to promote personal and community safety. Visitors had the opportunity to look at emergency vehicles from the Minot Police Department, ND Highway Patrol, US Border Patrol, Minot Ambulance, Minot Air Force Base, and Minot Fire Department. Local organizations showcased games and crafts focusing on their part of safety efforts leaving kids with bags full of prizes and goodies! SRT staff helped kids make phone number keychains and handed out pencils just in time for back-to-school season. Have fun and be safe!

Keep up with what is happening at SRT....
Gooseneck Implement receives $1 million loan from USDA through SRT

SRT Communications presented Moure Equipment, dba Gooseneck Implement, with a check for $1 million from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Rural Utilities Service program (RUS). The RUS Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant program (REDLG) allows utilities to serve as a pass through to local businesses with projects that will create and retain employment in rural areas. The $1 million loan is being used to partially fund Gooseneck Implement’s Velva Store, which opened on April 1, 2015 and features 39,800 square feet, of which approximately 16,000 square feet is dedicated to a showroom and 23,800 square feet to house the service department and parts department. In addition, the store created 7 new jobs.

SRT was there with a SPLASH of color

Saturday, August 8th was a great day for getting your color on with a stop at our color bar to put the finishing touches on your pre-race look. If you tagged yourself & your friends in our pics or tagged SRT Communications in your photos, you got a chance to win a pair of Beats headphones! Congrats to Logan Weber on winning the Beats! Racers of Give360 Color Dash raised $10,000 for the Magic City Discovery Center children’s museum!!

“Minot Ag in the Classroom” visits SRT

Educators from around the area visited SRT as part of their “Minot Ag in the Classroom” program. SRT Network Operations Manager Dan Roberts spoke to the group about “Ag & Technology” and how Internet, GPS, smart devices and more are shaping the ag industry. The two day class also included a tour of the US Customs office, a drone presentation, visits to farms throughout the area, and talking with representatives from both Senator Heitkamp and Senator Hoeven’s offices.

Twice a year, SRT employees donate to United Blood Service.
What is Lifeline and Link-Up?

Lifeline and Link-Up are government benefit programs supported by the Universal Service Fund that provide a discount on phone service for qualifying low-income consumers.

Qualifying for Lifeline and Link-Up Support

A consumer of SRT Communications or North Dakota Network Co. (doing business as SRT Wireless), must either have a household income that is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, or participate in one of the following assistance programs:

- Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA) or Section 8
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Medicaid
- National School Lunch Program’s free lunch program
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or (TTANF)
- Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance
- Head Start (those meeting its income qualifying standard)

Important Notes for Eligible Consumers Nationwide

- These services are available for both landline and wireless telephone services, however only one discount per household is allowed. Link-Up is only available to Tribal land customers.
- Consumers who willfully make false statements in order to obtain the benefit can be punished by fine or imprisonment and can be barred from the program.

How Can I Sign Up?

To apply for Lifeline or enhanced Lifeline and Link-Up, call SRT Communications or North Dakota Network Company (doing business as SRT Wireless) at 701-858-1200 or 1-800-737-9130. Lifeline Assistance Application forms for SRT Communications, Inc. and North Dakota Network Co. (dba SRT Wireless) are available at www.srt.com. By completing this application, you are certifying that all Lifeline qualification requirements are met. Application forms can be mailed to P.O. Box 2027, Minot, ND 58702-2027. Upon receipt of the application form, SRT or SRT Wireless may require additional documentation.

In Memoriam

SRT lost a long time dedicated employee and friend when Steve Coyle passed away in June. Steve worked as a technician at SRT for 18 years. He enjoyed watching his garden flourish and was an avid Minnesota Vikings fan. Above all Steve enjoyed spending time with his family and was proud to be a new grandpa. Steve will be greatly missed by his co-workers and customers. Our sympathies go out to his family.

Stevens Retires

Congratulations to Dusty Stevens on his retirement after 25 years at SRT. Dusty started as a TV Technician, and worked as a Combination Technician before retiring. Best wishes to Dusty & his wife Karen, as they enjoy traveling, spending more time with grandkids, and all retirement has to offer!
2015 Election Results

District 1: (43)
Ardel Rice ..................... 42
Spoiled ballots ............. 1

District 2: (65)
Dennis Erber ................. 64
Spoiled ballots ............. 1

District 3: (46)
Dennis Schott .............. 46
Spoiled ballots ............. 0

District 4: (447)
Tom Seymour .............. 442
Spoiled ballots .......... 5

SRT appreciates the support of the membership at our annual meeting and if you weren’t able to join us this year, we hope to see you at the next one!

You could win 2 tickets to Ronnie Milsap - The Farewell Tour - October 2nd at 1PM. Enjoy an afternoon out at North America’s largest Scandinavian Festival, courtesy of SRT. Simply fill out this form and send to the following address by Sept. 16, 2015:

SRT
Attn: Høstfest Contest
PO BOX 2027
Minot, ND 58702-2027

Declutter Your Life – Go Paperless!

You’ve dejunked the junk drawer and pared down your wardrobe – it’s time to attack the paper clutter! With SRT’s SmartHub you can:

- Manage your SRT Account
- View, Print, & Pay your SRT bill
- View 16 months Account history
- Do it all from your computer OR the free SmartHub app on your phone!

Get SmartHub now – Save $5!!

1) Visit srt.com/smarthub
2) Enter your Account #
3) Enter your Last Name and email address

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2015 SRT ANNUAL MEETING continued from front page

Legislative Aide Brendon Dorgan who works for U.S. Senator Heidi Heitkamp’s office in Washington, D.C. and Norman McCloud, Northwest Area Director based in Minot visited SRT to discuss wireless phone technology and how SRT brings service to our customers.
Mom, MOM, MOM!
Can I use your phone?

FREE smart phones with SRT’s Family Plan – Keep what’s yours!