

SRT News

2019 SRT Annual Meeting – Technology For Every Generation



The 2019 SRT Annual Meeting was held Thursday, June 20th at the North Dakota State Fair Center in Minot. The annual meeting’s purpose is to inform members of the financial health of the cooperative and vision for the future,

as well as elect seats for the Board of Directors.

With over 2,700 guests in attendance, they listened to the JMB Band as doors opened and then were entertained with a wonderful performance on the main stage from Too Old To Stand, a local band whose easy-going sound delighted the audience. The Kid’s Zone featured inflatables from Mohall-based Dakota Party Rentals along with snacks and prizes. The customer service area once again featured SRT’s products and services with employees on hand to answer questions.

The business meeting featured Board President Allan Engh and SRT General Manager/CEO Steve Lysne giving a joint message to the membership, along with SRT’s CFO Perry Erdmann, who presented the financials. SRT’s message focused on the increase of broadband customers, an update on the fiber project throughout our service area, an update on net neutrality in relation to SRT, and how SRT’s network connects to other entities. Following the meeting, prizes were awarded to registered guests.

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 22 to May 17, 2019. Six petitions were qualified and 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: Allan Engh, Sherwood;

District 2: Tom Jespersen, Velva; District 3: Stuart Rothe, Newburg; and District 4: Benjamin Robertson, Minot.

2019 Election Results

District 1: (52 total)	
Allan Engh	50
Spoiled ballots	2
District 2: (86 total)	
Tom Jespersen	86
Spoiled ballots	0
District 3: (65 total)	
Tom Henry	27
Stuart Rothe	38
Spoiled ballots	0
District 4: (466 total)	
Benjamin Robertson	238
Tom Wentz, Jr.	222
Spoiled Ballots	6

2019 Board of Director officer positions are as follows: Allan Engh, President; Kristi Miller, Vice President; Deanna Klein, Secretary/Treasurer; Stacey Diehl, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer.

Thank you for attending our cooperative business meeting!





Board of Directors Retirees

SRT would like to recognize two long term members of the SRT Board of Directors who have decided to retire from the SRT board. We are thankful for their many years of service to the cooperative.

Gerald Henry from Newburg has represented District 3 for 24 years, and Jim Newman from Sawyer has represented District 2 for 30 years.

Both of these gentlemen helped SRT navigate many changes over the years, and we thank them for their service and congratulate them on their retirement.



Kupfer Retires

Sue Kupfer began her journey at SRT on February 1, 1991 as a temporary Administrative Aide. In October 1991, she moved to the Accounting Dept and remained there for the next 28 years, until her recent retirement.

During her retirement she plans on spending more time with her eight grandchildren, ranging in ages 4 to 19 with six in Minot and two in Fargo. She looks forward to gardening, hopefully traveling and completing more woodworking and craft projects.

Adaptive Gaming Controller Arrives at Minot Public Library

Thanks to an online fundraiser by Independence, Inc. and The Good Talk Network, enough funds were raised to provide the Minot Public Library with an adaptive gaming controller that is available for public use at the library. An adaptive gaming controller allows kids and adults of all abilities to be able to experience playing video games, perhaps for the first time ever. The adaptive controller is designed to pair with multiple accessories that can be customized to the needs of the gamer depending on their physical limitations. This inclusive customization means each gamer can have the best gaming experience possible.

SRT pledged to match donations up to \$1,000 once Independence, Inc. and The Good Talk Network met their original goal. It didn't take long for people to respond to the online fundraiser, as the initial goal of \$1,000 was met in just under two weeks. The fundraiser organizers were so grateful and inspired by the community's response.

"Gaming is something everyone should be able to experience and has been denied to those with disabilities for too long. Scott Burlingame [Executive Director at Independence, Inc.] and I saw this need in our community and knew we wanted to launch this online fundraiser. It was fantastic to see the public response was extremely positive and supportive," said Jonah Lantto, Owner and Host of The Good Talk

Network. "The Minot Public Library was the perfect choice because it would make it very accessible. With all the added accessories that



may be required depending on an individual, these controllers can become costly. We wanted to make sure everyone who would like to try the adaptive controller would have that opportunity."

The adaptive gaming controller is now at the Minot Public Library and library staff are training in preparation of its public launch, which will be soon. If you or someone you know would be interested in playing, make sure to follow Minot Public Library on social media for an official opening date or be on the lookout for any adaptive controller upcoming events!



FIRST LEGO LEAGUE JR.

STEAM TEAMS POWERED BY  **SRT**

MINOT'S FIRST LEGO LEAGUE JUNIOR PROGRAM LAUNCHES

SRT and technology go hand in hand, so it only made sense to support a new technology-based youth program in the area. SRT is supporting Full STEAM Ahead's First LEGO League Jr., the first program of its kind in Western North Dakota for children ages 6-10. Most robotics and coding programs like this are aimed more towards teenagers, so this program will allow younger kids to get involved in robotics programs.

"Currently, there is a First LEGO League program in Minot geared towards ages 11 to 16, but nothing for younger children. This new program will allow kids to build an even earlier interest in science, technology, engineering and math," said Steve Lysne, SRT CEO and General Manager. "As a technology company, we understand the importance of this education track because we see it daily in our business, and we are proud to sponsor this new program for kids in our area."

The program theme for this year is called "Boomtown Build". Each team of six, along with their coach, will set a goal to explore needs within their community, then design and create a building to meet those needs. Over the course of 12 weeks, the kids build a motorized robotic model through exploratory research, hands-on construction and the use of LEGO elements. The coaches are students currently in Minot State University's teacher education program.



"We are helping children develop a passion and an interest in robotics at a young age. When children explore concepts behind programming and building robots, all while working together as a team, they learn so many life skills. We are proud to partner with and be powered by SRT!" said Ali Auch, Full STEAM Ahead Executive Director and Founder.



SRT and Full STEAM Ahead recently celebrated the program's kickoff on September 10 in Minot State University's Swain Hall. The energy in the room from kids and parents alike was contagious. Trudy and Mary, two sisters in the program, were excited to share what they were looking forward to the most while being in First LEGO League Jr.

"We play LEGOs at home so we can't wait to make them move and do stuff," said Mary. "Yeah, we want to someday build robots that can help people, like bring you a snack or juice if you're hungry!" replied Trudy.

SRT looks forward to checking in on the teams throughout the 12 week course. Watching the kids' creativity shine through while using the STEAM elements of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art,

and Math are something this technology company is proud to

KEEPING NORTH DAKOTA CONNECTED FOR GENERATIONS

Letter from the Executive Director

The story of North Dakota broadband across the state is one of the most remarkable stories in our history. Today, North Dakota regularly ranks in the top handful of states when measuring internet speeds and the percentage of people that have access to broadband services. One national publication even posed the question, "How did North Dakota become the crown jewel of the internet in the Midwest?" The answer is fascinating in its simplicity; it's because of locally-owned broadband providers.

BAND



By David Crothers

BAND Executive Director

In 1953, local owners joined together to form an association to represent local interests. Working with policymakers in both North Dakota and Washington, D.C., they created an understanding of the importance vibrant communications networks have within our state. When founded, its name was the North Dakota Association of Telephone Cooperatives. Since then, it has evolved as the members, services, technology, but, most importantly, the needs of customers, have changed.

Today, we are known as the Broadband Association of North Dakota or "BAND." This change reflects how we are no longer simply telephone companies, but are now state-of-the-art technology companies. Early on, BAND realized that success would be determined by the ability to prepare for the future. And they did just that. Members began to transition, offering new products and researching new communication technology. Now, a "telephone company" has become a "broadband company," providing access to entertainment, opportunities, and a connection to the world.

In fact, it's almost inconceivable, but the "telephone" services offered by BAND almost no longer exist. Today, customers' wants and needs call for greater bandwidth in their homes to use streaming services, like Netflix and YouTube, which consume larger amounts of broadband. Phone services now make up a sliver of the traffic traveling through the broadband pipe to your home.

Unlike other states, in North Dakota, you likely receive broadband services from a local provider. BAND's 18 members serve over 96 percent of the

geographic territory across the state. Decisions regarding broadband networks that bring you services are being made in Park River, Hazen, Williston, and other local communities, not in a corporate board room in New York City.

For BAND and our member organizations, we see this local ownership as a unique strength. It's how we are able to offer some of the fastest internet in the country. The U.S. Department of Agriculture defines high-speed broadband as the ability to "download 4 megabits and send 1 megabit per second." The Federal Communications Commission defines it as "downloading 25 megabits and sending 3 megabits." Gigabit service is 1,000 megabits each way. Rural North Dakotans have access to speeds 250 times faster than the federally defined minimum.

And yet, despite that, North Dakota still experiences a "digital divide." The digital divide exists when a state's urban areas receive high-speed broadband funding and the rural areas receive virtually none, leaving rural areas with a lack of infrastructure to support new technologies.

In North Dakota, BAND is actively working to close that gap. In addition to advocating with policymakers in Congress to advance proposals that eliminate the digital divide, we are in the midst of completing the most ambitious technological build-out to deliver next-generation services across the state. We are committed to bringing gigabit-speed to every home, business, school, library, and government office we serve.

This effort is not cheap, easy, or some promise made for the future. It is happening now. Already, nine BAND members are 100 percent "fiber to the home." Meaning, it doesn't matter if you live in town or 30 miles outside its limits, you can have Gig service. Two more members will finish build-out this fall, another next year, and the rest within two years from now. North Dakota will be one of the most connected states in the nation.

The Broadband Association of North Dakota has changed over 70 years, but the guiding principals and promise to their customers remain the same. BAND continues to evolve as the needs of customers do, using the best technology available to give North Dakotans opportunities equal to anyone else in the world.

BUILDING UP BROADBAND:

How BAND makes life
easier in rural America

BAND

broadband association of north dakota

Special Insert

In the winter, it's quiet out at Feil Farms. The 3,500-acre farm is 20 miles northwest of Langdon, far from the hustle and bustle of town. Sean Feil grew up here watching his grandfather and father work the land, growing barley and wheat. Later, they would start planting canola, and years later, soybeans. Each day was spent outdoors, and each day was different. Sean couldn't imagine any other life.

"I enjoy being outside," he says. His voice is low, thoughtful. "Being your own boss. Watching the crops grow each year."

It's a familiar lifestyle to many families in rural North Dakota, where agriculture is the leading revenue-producing industry and accounts for about one-fourth of the state's economic base. From Williston to Wahpeton, this is the heart of "America's Breadbasket," where we value the art of working the land. In fact, 39.1 million acres — nearly 90% of North Dakota's land area — is in farms and ranches.

And yet, what does living in rural America look like in a world that is growing increasingly connected? What does it look like in a post-dot-com society where the internet is no longer a nice-to-have, but a need-to-have?

Questions like these are why in 1953, a group of North Dakota telephone cooperatives had the forethought to band together to keep North Dakota connected. They met at the Patterson Hotel in Bismarck, with a mission to guard against unfavorable legislation and ensure the highest quality communication systems would remain available across North Dakota.

They had no idea how much would change.

This committed organization has ebbed and flowed through a revolutionary era of communication. At the time of the association's creation, a majority of rural North Dakota residents had party-line service, wires were strung from pole to pole and "long distance" calls were prohibitively expensive. Today, rural areas of the state have access to some of the fastest and most affordable broadband technology found anywhere in the United States.

Today, 65 years later, this organization now serves North Dakota as BAND — the Broadband Association of North Dakota. And while so much has changed, their mission has not; to ensure the highest quality communication systems are accessible to all North Dakotans. Their hard work over the decades laying over 45,000 miles of fiber across the state has changed the lives of folks across North Dakota. Folks like Sean, and his family, on their farm in Langdon.

As Sean reflects on the broadband services he uses to sustain his farm, he shakes his head with a smile.

"My dad could have never imagined this," he says.

Living in a rural area, Sean was used to not



I FaceTime my kids to say goodnight and tell them I love them.



having a good connection from the farm to the 'outside world'. The phone reception was choppy, and if he needed to look up equipment on the internet, he had to wait until he went back into Langdon. Every day, he said goodbye to his wife and kids and made the 20-mile drive to check on the farm. At night, he often lay awake worrying if the crop and equipment were safe — but he had no way of knowing.

That is until he brought up his challenge to his uncle, who works at United Communications, a member organization of BAND. He suggested Sean try out installing a wireless access point and a security camera system, to allow him to check on the farm remotely.

Sean was sold. With the help of United Communications, he installed four cameras throughout his farm. Now, Sean gets a text any time motion is detected by the sensors or the cameras, and can even see who it is. Everything is also recorded on his DVR, so he can rewind and review video footage if needed.

"I have a lot more peace of mind," Sean said. "I don't worry so much when I'm gone."

In addition, his broadband provider dug fiber out to Sean's farm and set him up with a wireless access point so that he now has a point-to-point internet connection throughout the yard. Now, he can keep up to date on markets, weather, and look up equipment parts right from the field.

Far more important for Sean, however, is that he can spend more time with his wife Brittany, his 4-year-old daughter, his 3-year-old son, and their new 15-month-old little girl. Before, his frequent trips took time away from home. During busy season, when work requires him to stay overnight at the farm, he was forced to say goodbye and had little to no connection with his family. Now, with the broadband services from his local broadband provider, Sean is able to stay connected.

"During the busy times, I can still stay in touch with my wife and ask how things are going back home," he said. "And every night before bed, I FaceTime my kids to say goodnight and tell them I love them."

For the 18 local broadband providers across North Dakota that make up BAND — this is why we do what we do. It's stories like Sean's that illustrate what it looks like to live in rural America today; how North Dakotans can enjoy the beauty of rural living while maintaining quality broadband and connection across the state. Serving the people of North Dakota is how it all started 65 years ago — and no matter where the adventure of communication services takes us, BAND's mission will remain true for the next 65 years and beyond.

Learn more about BAND and how you can connect with your local BAND organization, at broadbandnd.com.

Special Insert

BROADBAND AND BASEBALL

How Giants Snacks became the snack of choice for every American baseball league

It was an otherwise ordinary afternoon at Giants Snacks in Wahpeton, ND, when the phone rang with an unknown number. Jason Schuler, a sales manager at the time, answered.

"Hello?"

"Hello, I'm a manager for the New York Yankees. We'd like to get some of your sunflower seeds for our dugout."

Jason smirked and hung up. He knew it had to be some of his buddies pulling a prank. The number called again.

"Look —" Jason began.

"Sir, this really is the New York Yankees," the manager said.

Jason froze. Then he laughed and apologized. A few weeks later, New York Yankees like A-Rod, Derek Jeter, and Kevin Brown were chewing Giants original sunflower seeds on the field. And they weren't the only ones.

All hail, the North Dakota Giants

It was a time of exponential growth for Giants Snacks. They had recently been declared the official seed of the Minnesota Twins, thanks to a concerted effort from Jason, now the Vice President of Sales. From there, they quickly gained a reputation as the best sunflower seeds around — in large part (no pun intended) due to their bigger-than-average variety of sunflower seeds (hence the name "Giants").

"Other teams would come to the Twins' stadium, try the Giants seeds, and then request them for their own dugout," said Tom Spiekermeier, Operations Manager at Giants. "Today, we're at the dugout of every league in the country. And that's all through the player's choice."

Giants remains the official seed of the Minnesota Twins to this day, and over the years they have also been the official seed of the Colorado Rockies and the St. Louis Cardinals, among others. Today, every year, the company ships out 2-3 pallets, or around

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Sir, this really is the New York Yankees.

6,732 bags of sunflower seeds, to every major league baseball home stadium in America. (The only exception is the Toronto Blue Jays, and that's only due to the restrictions and costs of shipping into Canada.)

"So if you're watching baseball and see the players chewing seeds — that's Giants Snacks!" Tom said.

Sunflower Socks

The origin of Giants Snacks is far more humble. The Schuler family traces it to generations ago, when a young man who was leaving Russia for America smuggled sunflower seeds in his socks — all the way to the Red River Valley. That man would eventually have a grandson named Jay Schuler, who sold sunflower seeds to snacking companies across the U.S. Meanwhile, fields of yellow sunflowers continued to grow and bloom across North Dakota.

During Jay's time working for the snack company, he found some of the sunflower seeds were larger and plumper than the others. These, he was instructed to ship overseas. Jay had a vision that these larger seeds could be popular in America — but none of the companies wanted to jump on board.

"We were concerned about the consumer. They were concerned about their bottom line," Jay Schuler said, in a Grand Forks Herald article about their story.

So, finally, in 1995, he put some in a bag and began selling them himself, calling them "Giants." Over the years, these "Giants" grew in popularity. When Jay's sons Jason and Robert joined, which lead to the Twins declaring Giants the official seed of the team, Giants snacks became a sought after snack.



Today, Giants Snacks continues to grow from their home based in Wahpeton, ND. There, they can remain in close proximity to the farmers producing the seeds and maintain quality control over their products. And, Tom adds, there are just good people out there.

"There's a small-town mentality that people have," he said. "That's what I really appreciate about this area."

Baseball & the Broadband Association of North Dakota

Of course, owning and operating a business that caters to customers across the country — and even a few around the world — demands certain resources in order to be successful. One of the most important pieces, Tom said, is having reliable internet.

Thanks to their local broadband provider, Red River Communications, part of the Broadband Association of North Dakota (BAND), Giants doesn't have to worry about their rural location affecting their internet connection. BAND's initiative, from the beginning, has focused on providing North Dakotans with quality broadband no matter where they are located, urban or rural.

Through decades of concerted effort laying fiber and fighting for the right legislation, North Dakota is now one of the most connected states in the nation. In fact, many rural areas often have higher internet speeds than in major cities.

"Having quality broadband makes my job so much easier — it makes all of our jobs so much easier," Tom said. "I don't know how I would get by without it."

Quality broadband allows Tom to use a technology platform that tracks every productivity line, runs quality checks, and gathers data, all on his iPad. They also use a security service that allows them to remotely monitor and control their entrances. More recently, Giants is also beginning to utilize automated machines to optimize their productivity. None of these tools would be possible without a reliable internet connection, Tom said.

"We always try to ask ourselves, what can we do to be better? What can we do to be more efficient?" Tom said. "With these tools and data, I'm able to see which problems to focus on. It truly does help us to make a better product, and run a better business."

Innovate or Die

Giants Snacks also uses their internet to connect with consumers. With the rise of e-commerce, they've launched a brand new website (you can check it out here!) which has increased their online sales. They also interact with their groups of taste-testers via

online groups, where they can fill out online surveys and provide market research on new products. Once new products are released, Tom and the Giants Snacks team are able to track feedback through customer reviews on the website.

"Sometimes we have to nix a flavor and years later people are still asking for it," Tom said, mentioning their top request right now is spicy garlic. "Sometimes they don't get enough traction, and you have to know when to bite the bullet and move on to the next thing. Our online surveys and feedback help us know when to do that."

Recently, the "next thing" for Giants was the release of two completely new product lines: pistachios and cashews. Both products are quickly gaining success, Tom said — although their most famous continues to be their famous Giants Original Flavor Sunflower Seeds.

"My personal favorite is bacon ranch sunflower seeds," Tom shared. "We also just released a sour cream and onion pistachio, and they're so good."

With flavors, packaging, technology and every other aspect of their business, Giants Snacks is committed to staying innovative. Giants Snacks founder Jay Schuler often quotes a famed line from Gary Vaynerchuk: "If you don't innovate, you die." From the very early days of pitching larger sunflower seeds to consumers (and even further back, one might argue, the innovative method of using a sock to transport seeds cross-country) — innovation runs in Giants Snacks roots. Equipped with quality broadband and technology, a quality home base in North Dakota, and a quality team of folks who understand agriculture and the beauty of a tasty sunflower seed, Giants Snacks is looking forward to continued success.

Epilogue

Last year, Lucy Spiekemeier, Giants Snacks Inc. General Manager, received a call from an unknown number. Like Jason years before, she was skeptical. She answered anyway.

"Hello, this is Giants Snacks Inc.?"
"Hello, this is the White House. We'd like to invite

you to participate in Made in America Day," the caller said.

Lucy hung up. Spam, she thought, shaking her head.

The phone rang again.

"Ma'am, this really is the White House," they said.

Sure enough, a few months later, Lucy and another Giants Snacks representative found themselves heading to the White House with a custom designed American Flag bag of sunflower seeds to show off the snack-of-choice for the players of America's favorite pastime.

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**Ma'am
this really is
the White House**



BAND
broadband association of north dakota



USDA Programs Encourage Rural Development in Partnership with SRT

SRT participates in the USDA Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant (REDLG) program. This federal program provides funding to create economic development opportunities in rural communities. SRT aids in the process by assisting with and monitoring loans to qualifying rural organizations. The first recipient of the SRT REDLG program was the Mohall Ambulance Service in 2009 to fund a portion of a new emergency services building. Then in 2015, Gooseneck Implement in Velva built a new facility and applied for a REDLG pass-through loan, in which the USDA provided a zero-interest loan to SRT for Gooseneck to fund part of its build. The most recent loan was awarded in 2017 to the United Rural Ambulance District in Berthold. They received a zero-interest loan to assist in funding a new ambulance services building for the community.

SRT is proud to support local economic development and encourages businesses to apply for the REDLG program. Applicants can apply for loans starting at \$5,000, but the project must bring economic development to the area and SRT cannot be a lender of last resort. The program is not meant to compete with local banks, instead it is meant as a supplement to other financing options. Business plans are required but SRT has a pre-application available for interested parties.

Contact us for more information and to request a pre-application. Pre-applications can also be found at www.srt.com/srtcares. SRT REDLG Program, Cassidy Hjelmstad, Corporate Communications Director, 701-838-9719

OFFICIAL NOTICE

STOP TELEMARKETING CALLS

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) launched the National Do Not Call Registry to give Americans a choice about getting telemarketing calls at home.

To register your number on the Internet: logon to www.donotcall.gov and click on Register Now. If you register online, you will receive an email from www.donotcall.gov as part of the confirmation process and you will need to click on the link in that email within 72 hours after you receive it to complete your registration.

To register your number by telephone: call 1-888-382-1222; TTY call 1-866-290-4236. You must call from the number you want to register.

After 31 days, most telemarketing calls will stop, however some calls are not covered such as:

- calls from, or on behalf of political organizations, charities, and telephone surveyors

- calls from companies with whom you have an existing business relationship
- calls from companies you've given permission to call

Once you register, your registration will not expire. Telephone numbers placed on the National Do Not Call Registry will remain on it permanently due to the Do-Not-Call Improvement Act of 2007, which became law in February 2008. And you only need to register once to be on both North Dakota's list and the national do not call list as one registration simultaneously adds your number to both.

To file a complaint: if your number has been on the registry for at least 31 days, and a telemarketer calls, you may file a complaint with the FTC. Visit www.donotcall.gov or call 1-888-382-1222 (TTY 1-866-290-4236). You'll need to provide the date of the call and the phone number or name of the company that called you.

OFFICIAL NOTICES

LIFELINE AND LINK-UP

Lifeline is a government benefit program supported by the Universal Service Fund that provides a discount on landline and broadband service for qualifying consumers. Lifeline helps ensure that eligible consumers have the opportunities and security that landline phone and broadband service brings, including being able to connect to jobs, family, and emergency services.

Qualifying for Lifeline Support – Non-Tribal and Tribal

A consumer of SRT Communications, 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)
- Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) general assistance program
- Medicaid
- Veteran Pension & Survivor Pension Benefit
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

If you are requesting Lifeline on the basis of your household income, please refer to the Estimated Income Requirements for a Household at or below the Federal Poverty Guidelines. You may find this chart, which is revised annually, on the United States Department of Health and Human Services, website at <http://aspe.hhs.gov>.

Important Notes for Eligible Consumers Nationwide

Lifeline is available for wireless, landline and broadband services, however only one discount per household is allowed. Lifeline is a government benefit program, and consumers who willfully make false statements in order to obtain the benefit can be punished by fine or imprisonment or can be barred from the program.

Important Notes for Eligible Consumers Living on Tribal Lands

Link-Up provides eligible consumers living on Tribal lands with a one-time discount of up to \$100 on the initial installation or activation of a wireless, landline or broadband service for the primary residence.

Minimum Service Standards

Landline – unlimited local calling, toll charges will apply at your long distance company's rates.

Broadband – speed of 25x3 Mbps, and usage allowance to 1024 GB. If 25x3 Mbps is not offered, any generally available residential package that meets the minimum service standard qualifies for Lifeline.

Lifeline Support Level Phase-Down

	Landline	Broadband
12/1/2019	\$7.25	\$9.25
12/1/2020	\$5.25	\$9.25
12/1/2021	\$0.00	\$9.25

How Can I Sign Up?

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is now using a National Lifeline Eligibility Verifier to review an applicant's Lifeline eligibility. You can apply for Lifeline by visiting www.CheckLifeline.org by selecting your state in the drop down menu on that site. Once the National Verifier approves your application, contact SRT to activate your Lifeline benefits.

For more details, contact the FCC at 1-888-225-5322 voice, 1-888-835-5322 TTY, or by mail at FCC, 445 12th ST SW, Washington, DC 20554. You may also visit the FCC's website at www.lifeline.gov.

UNCLAIMED CAPITAL CREDITS

Is your name on the list? Find out at SRT.COM/unclaimedCapitalCredits

If you find your name on the unclaimed capital credit list that listed on the website above, you may have money coming to you. These checks were returned to us by the Post Office when originally mailed.

You may even recognize someone else's name and encourage them to contact us. Individuals or their lawful heirs may claim their checks by contacting SRT at 858-1200 by May 15, 2020.

SRT CARES /

Renville County Fair / One of our summer traditions we enjoy helping at is the Renville County Fair. The fair occurs annually in July and is a great way for 4-H kids to showcase their hard work



through livestock shows and other various project exhibits. In addition, there are other activities for kids, such as the Coin Hunt and Kids' Tractor Pull. SRT employees not only had fun picking out prizes for the top three tractor pull winners in each

age group, but also assisting with the events.



JDRF Community One Walk / SRT sponsored the JDRF Community One Walk again this year. JDRF holds fundraising walks across the U.S. and even though it is nationwide, this 5K walk is still organized by local volunteers whose goal is to find a cure for Type 1 diabetes (T1D), as well as fund prevention and innovative treatments for those with T1D. The JDRF Community One Walk was on September 8th and held at the Minot State University Dome. Over \$55,000 was raised from this event. SRT employees have family members directly affected by this disease and we are proud to support this cause.



North Dakota State Parade / The weather could not have been better for the North Dakota State Parade in July! SRT employees and their families walked the parade route and handed out candy and toy softballs to thousands of parade-goers. Employees had fun helping kick off the North Dakota State Fair.



North Dakota State Fair Co-Op Day / SRT employees and board members participated in KX Co-Op Day at the North Dakota State Fair. As part of KX Co-Op Day, fairgoers received a free pancake and sausage breakfast and could stop by the SRT booth to learn more about us. A favorite part of the afternoon is the free ice cream social, where SRT board members and other cooperative members scooped and served ice cream to fairgoers looking for a tasty afternoon treat.



National Night Out / National Night Out celebrated its 36th Anniversary this year, taking place across the U.S. on the first Tuesday in August. National Night Out in Minot was held outside at Magic City Campus. This event is a great way to promote safety within the community and also support relations with firefighters, local police officers

and other occupations within similar fields that help keep the community safe. Kids played corn hole against their friends or parents at the SRT booth and took home a reflective blinking safety light, a must-have safety item with the start of the new school year.

SRT IN THE COMMUNITY / Fall 2019

Minot State University Homecoming Parade – October 5, 2019

Velva Co-op Month Lunch – October 24, 2019

Trick-Or-Treating and Halloween Photo Booth at SRT– October 31, 2019

Showcase of Business – November 14, 2019

SRT Night at MSU Women's/Men's Basketball Game – November 30, 2019

SRT Annual Meeting – June 18, 2020

Touch-A-Truck / Touch-A-Truck held its 3rd Annual event at MAYSA Arena in Minot. Hosted by Minot Parks and Magic City Discovery Center, this free event lets kids check out and sometimes climb inside a variety of different trucks and vehicles! Kids could check out an SRT boom truck, sometimes known as a bucket truck, and decorate their own plastic construction hat with SRT Technician theme stickers to take home. Another great aspect of Touch-A-Truck was that kids could meet and talk to the people who drive and operate the vehicles, like our SRT Splicer Technician. He enjoyed talking to the kids and answering their questions about the big boom truck, especially since this may be the first time some kids are seeing a vehicle of this size up close.



SRT

HOMETOWN

GRILL TOUR

SRT recently finished its first Hometown Grill Tour. The final events of this year's grill tour included Towner Crazy Daze, Burlington Running Wild Fun Run, and Velva Summer Picnic. Towner Crazy Daze had many activities for kids, so it was a great opportunity to provide a meal for families. Burlington Running Wild Fun Run was another successful grilling event, as many of the fun run participants had worked up an appetite after their 5K run. The Running Wild Fun Run was held to raise funds for a new playground at DLB Elementary School, and we were glad to support this cause by grilling up a tasty meal.



Our Hometown Grill Tour concluded in Velva at the Velva Summer Picnic, which was held at the Velva Park. Having burgers, brats, and hot dogs was a great addition to the event, which had a bounce house for the kids and people of all ages in attendance. Overall, SRT Hometown Grill Tour was a great opportunity for SRT employees and board members to meet our members within the communities we serve. We wanted to show our appreciation for our members, and feel providing a fresh meal would be a great way to do so!





October is National Co-op Month.

October is National Co-op Month! There are over 40,000 cooperatives that reside in the United States, and many of their members belong to more than one cooperative. Cooperatives also generate jobs within the communities they serve, providing local opportunities for people. Our employees are made up of people who are your family, friends, and neighbors. That's definitely something to celebrate! The theme for 2019 is "Co-ops: By the Community, For the Community." SRT will be celebrating within the communities we serve through a variety of fun events. Whether it is a homecoming parade or community luncheon, we want to show our members how much we appreciate them! In addition to events, SRT is embracing this year's theme in a technology-focused way by trying out new social media surprises and contests. While October is a month to celebrate cooperatives,

SRT is a cooperative "By the Community, For the Community" year-round.

Cooperative Principles

1. Voluntary and Open Membership
2. Democratic Control
3. Focused on You
4. Autonomy and Independence
5. Education, Training and Information
6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives
7. Concern for Community

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Scholarship Opportunities Available to Local Students!

SRT supports educational opportunities through our scholarship program, awarding over \$90,000 in scholarships since its initiation. Our SRT General College Scholarships will again be presented to four students with \$1,500 awarded per student. In addition, we also offer the \$2,500 SRT Technical Scholarship to one student.

SRT General Scholarship - \$1,500 (4 available) / Students are evaluated on community involvement, school involvement, grades and an essay.

SRT Technical Scholarship - \$2,500 (1 available) / This award focuses on a student studying telecommunications

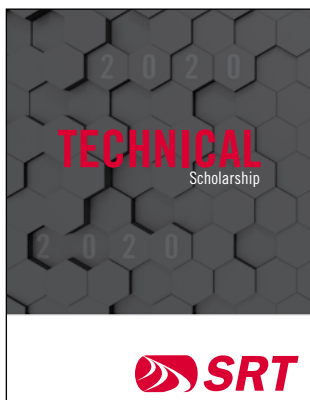
or other computer technology related fields. It requires students to write an essay about future career plans, submit a letter of recommendation along with community activities and academics.

The SRT Technical Scholarship can be used to attend four-year colleges, two-year programs and technical schools. If you know

a student from our service area who is planning on or currently attending a two-year technical college such as North Dakota State College of Science, Bismarck State College, or Minnesota State-Wadena and studying in a tech-related field, we highly encourage them to apply!

In addition to our local scholarships, SRT offers national scholarship opportunities through NTCA-The Rural Broadband Association and the Foundation for Rural Service (FRS). Applications have not been released yet but watch our website for the information to be released.

Scholarship information comes out in December so mark your calendars. Details will be on srt.com or through high school guidance counselors. Don't miss an opportunity to get college assistance. Applications are due the end of February!



2020 DIRECTORY COMING IN OCTOBER!

SRT Directory Recycling – October 7th through November 8th.



Find a location near you to drop off your old phonebooks to make room for the upcoming 2020 SRT Directory!

Berthold	United Agronomy
Butte	Butte Mini Mall
Glenburn	Enerbase Cenex
Granville	Merchants Bank
Lake Metigoshe	Lake Metigoshe State Park
Lansford	Lansford Mall
Minot AFB	Memorial Middle School
Minot	Jim Hill Middle School
Minot	Ramstad Middle School

SRT Communications	3615 North Broadway
Mohall	Dakota West Credit Union
Newburg	Border Ag & Energy
Sawyer	Sawyer City Hall
Sherwood	Cameron's Hardware
Towner	Hardware Hank
Upham	Merchants Bank
Velva	North Star Community Credit Union
Westhope	Peoples State Agency



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