

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE TO LOCAL STUDENTS!

SRT supports educational opportunities through our scholarship program, awarding nearly \$100,000 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).

Details and applications for all three scholarships can be found on srt.com/srtcares or through high school guidance counselors. Don't miss an opportunity to get college assistance. Applications are due in the beginning of March.

MINOT DAILY NEWS READERS' CHOICE AWARDS

BEST INTERNET PROVIDER



THANK YOU!

For the 16th year in a row, you have voted SRT the "Best Internet Provider" in the 2020 Minot Daily News Readers' Choice Awards! We appreciate your business and look forward to serving you in 2021!

2020 SRT Annual Meeting – Pandemic Forced Changes to Meeting

The 2020 SRT Annual Meeting was held Thursday, October 1, 2020 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. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and state and federal guidelines restricting large in person gatherings, the SRT Board of Directors voted to hold a drive through election and speeches were placed online in order to minimize contact and keep our members safe. Updates regarding the cooperative were filmed with SRT General Manager/CEO Steve Lysne and SRT Board President Allan Engh. The financial report was given by SRT CFO Perry Erdmann. The videos were posted on srt.com in advance of the meeting. No new business was presented in advance of the annual meeting.

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 August 3, 2020 through August 31, 2020. Eight 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: Stanley Vangsness, Berthold/Carpio; District 2: Kristi Miller, Maxbass; District 3: John Marshall, Towner; and District 4: Deanna Klein, Minot. Members also voted to approve the 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes as presented.

2020 Election Results

District 1: (44 total votes)

Stanley Vangsness...44

Spoiled ballots.....0

District 2: (160 total votes)

Jennifer Barta.....27

Kristi Miller.....131

Spoiled ballots.....2

District 3: (34 total votes)

John Marshall.....33

Spoiled ballots.....1

District 4: (518 total votes)

Deanna Klein.....210

Dawn Palumbo.....77

Ben Parker.....64

Steve Pinnow.....146

Spoiled Ballots.....21



2021 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 annual meeting. SRT's 2021 Annual Meeting will be held Thursday, Oct. 14, 2021.

SAVE THE DATE
SRT ANNUAL MEETING
OCTOBER 14, 2021

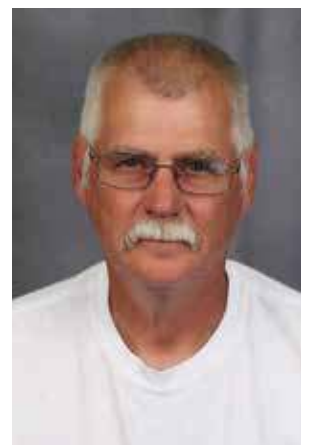
ND STATE FAIR CENTER
2005 BURDICK EXPY E. / MINOT, ND

Watch our Facebook page and srt.com for updates on this year's meeting. Can't wait to see you in October!

SRT.COM / 701.858.1200 / f t

POLUM RETIRED

Randall Polum has retired from SRT. He spent his tenure in the buildings and grounds department as a custodian. In retirement, he plans to participate in a variety of outdoor activities, spending as much time as possible with his family, and completing a multitude of small and big projects around his home and in Deering. Congratulations, SRT wishes you the best in your retirement!!



CUSTOMERS GET FESTIVE TO WIN PRIZES DURING THE 12 DAYS OF TECH-MAS

SRT spread holiday cheer with the 12 Days of Tech-Mas. From December 1 through 12 we posted techy gift ideas daily on our Facebook and Instagram pages to provide “gift-spiration.” We featured an SRT employee each day with their favorite tech gadget and why they love it. Customers then had a chance to “Get One, Give One” and win prizes by liking our posts and tagging friends!

The prizes were a Blue Microphone Snowball iCE won by Rob G., an Amazon Fire TV Stick won by Cheryl B., an Instax Printer won by Janet D., and a Belkin Wireless Charging Station won by Carla M. Corporate Communications Coordinator Brittany A. suggested the Blue Microphone Snowball iCE because “The mic is very portable. I can use it while recording video on my iPhone or with my laptop for video calls with friends or family!” The Amazon Fire TV Stick was the favorite gadget of Technician Scott S. who explained, “I like being able to



stream web-based content from many different sources and also cast content from my phone to the Fire TV Stick.” As for the Instax Printer, Graphic Designer Hope S. raved, “I don’t have to worry that the picture isn’t going to be good since I already can see it on my phone before printing. It’s great for making cards and scrapbooking!” Our final gadget prize was the Belkin Wireless Charging Station, which Network Operations Specialist Jersey K. recommended because “I can just set my phone on it and charge without having to plug it in every time. It also supports fast charging which is really nice!”

Each winner was able to gift the extra prize to their friend they had tagged in the winning comment, such as Rob G. who tagged Chelsie G., pictured, as the prize recipient of the second Blue Microphone Snowball iCE. The friends of the winners were just as surprised and excited to win these prizes right before the holidays!

Didn't catch our 12 days of Tech-Mas Online?

Do you have gift cards or Christmas money you received and looking for ideas on what to buy? We've got you covered. Here are some of our employee's favorite Gadgets!





SRT Lights Up Minot's Downtown Tree / As a proud community partner, SRT technicians helped place jumbo sized decorations on the Christmas tree located in Downtown Minot, and removed the decorations after the holidays. This year, decorating this festive tree felt a little more special than usual, since the tree was donated by SRT employee Annette Keller and her husband, Chuck! Chuck had gotten the idea from a neighbor to contact the Minot Downtown Business and Professional Association when he mentioned he would need the tree removed, as it had grown too large for their front yard. Chuck remarked, "In September I contacted the Minot Downtown Business and Professional Association offering our tree. They came to look at it and later let us know it would be perfect to use on Minot's Main Street for the holidays. We were pleased knowing our tree had another purpose and were happy to see the tree on display to be enjoyed by everyone who visited downtown Minot during the holiday season!"



Sertoma Christmas in the Park / Minot's Oak Park is home to the Sertoma Club's Christmas in the Park, which begins the day after Thanksgiving and remains open through New Year's Eve. SRT and other local businesses support Christmas-themed light displays. By participating, SRT helped Sertoma further their mission to assist with speech and hearing disorders and youth-related activities.

For Bonus Content

Scan the QR code to see KX News Studio 701's interview with Paul Gillund, Sertoma Club President and SRT's Director of Sales.



Sawyer Parade of Lights / SRT participated in Sawyer's Third Annual Parade of Lights to celebrate the holidays. SRT employee Dave A. and his family helped out by participating in the parade and supporting the community. Dave's passengers were excited to be the exclusive "sleigh" chauffeurs for our 8-foot-tall Santa!



Star City Christmas Night / The Velva Association of Commerce held their First Annual Star City Christmas Night in Velva Park on December 19. SRT was one of the participants and had a light display set up in the park, complete with an SRT truck decked out in festive lights and giant light-up Santa! Velva residents were able to celebrate the holidays safely and enjoy the lights by driving around Velva Park.



Good Samaritan Society - Mohall



Good Samaritan Society - Bottineau



Souris Valley Care Center - Velva

Delivering a Little Joy to Local Care Facilities /

COVID-19 has been hard on many people. One sector that experienced major impacts were long-term care facilities. Not only were residents of care facilities unable to see loved ones, but the pandemic impacted staffing needs as well. SRT set out to boost the emotional health of both residents and caretakers. We delivered Christmas themed cookies to each of the care facilities in our rural service territory, and though we were unable to enter the building to drop them off, we could see the positive impact made immediately. Many of the residents of these organizations have been long time members of SRT. This was one small way we were able to thank them for their years of service and show our support during this difficult year.

United Way / SRT employees have the opportunity to donate directly to the Souris Valley United Way through monthly payroll deductions. Because of their generosity, SRT employees have pledged over \$21,000 in 2021 to the Souris Valley United Way. SVUW focuses on three main initiatives - Education, Income and Financial Stability. They serve over 28 programs in the area, including the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, Backpack Buddies, Companions for Children, and the Domestic Violence Crisis Center, just to name a few. SRT is proud to help them continue great work!

DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS

DEERING

Scott Schalesky
7715 18th Ave N, Deering
362-7500

MINOT

David Bertsch
1106 32nd Ave SE, Minot
852-4207

Stacey Abrahamson
813 24th Ave SW, Minot
839-2017

WESTHOPE

Erna Berentson
PO Box 193, Westhope
245-8028

ALWAYS HAVE YOUR PHONE BOOK WITH YOU!

SRT ONLINE DIRECTORY Download Our App

Search the App Store
for SRT Minot
Phone Directory



Join us at the
KMOT Ag Expo • March 3-5
at the State Fair Center in Minot

Visit the SRT booth to learn about Internet, Security and Surveillance products from your local cooperative.

DAKOTA SQUARE MALL AND SRT CONTINUE WI-FI PARTNERSHIP

SRT has long recognized the value of access to the Internet, and it became even more evident in 2020 due to the pandemic. While many were forced to turn to online shopping, the importance of shopping local is more important than ever. Therefore, SRT found it to be an easy match when Dakota Square Mall asked to continue a Wi-Fi partnership. Not only are many local businesses housed in this anchor institution, but added Wi-Fi to the mall experience was a win-win.

As part of the Wi-Fi partnership, mall goers can access Gig Internet for free in the main corridors at the mall. While the system was not designed to provide service into each retail store, the Wi-Fi signal spans throughout the facility.

Additionally, SRT is pulling fiber optic cable throughout the mall so each store has access to their own secure internet. The value of a



retail store having their own secure, dedicated internet protects that company, but also adds to consumer safety.

SRT is proud to provide free community Wi-Fi at Dakota Square Mall and throughout our service area including places such as the MAYSA Arena, Mouse River Park, and the State Fair Center.

Check out SRT's Free Gig Wi-Fi at:

#DakotaSquareWiFi

STAY SAFE ON PUBLIC WI-FI

Public Wi-Fi connections are super helpful, especially when you are in a building like a mall or sports stadium where your cell phone reception is lacking or even non-existent. However, there are some things to keep in mind when it comes to safely using a public network. Make sure to be aware of the following potential scenarios before you connect!

- Be sure that you are connecting to the correct network. Attackers can create networks that are similarly named, with slight differences. Be sure to check signs in your area, the building's website, or contact a building manager for details on the proper network to connect to.
- Do not access banking information or transfer money. When you are on public Wi-Fi networks, it is much easier for hackers to access your phone than it is on a private network. That being said, it is important to steer clear of logging into your banking accounts or other financial transactions while connected. Try to keep these sensitive and important logins for your own personal, private Wi-Fi source.
- Do not automatically connect to any public network. If you have your phone set to actively search for networks to connect to, and connect automatically, it is much more likely that you will accidentally connect to a fraudulent network. In order to

avoid this, after you are finished using any public network, select "Forget This Network" in your Wi-Fi settings. You will have to manually reconnect each time, but it will ensure that you are safe from attackers!

- Try to limit the amount of time spent on public networks. While public Wi-Fi is convenient, it is not always secure. Use the network for necessary tasks. Try to stay away from online shopping, social media scrolling, logging into any accounts, or working. They contain information that you do not want others to access, so do not use them on a public network.
- Stay away from wandering eyes. If you do need to log into an account or make some sort of transaction in public, be sure that you are aware of your surroundings. If possible, sit with your back against a wall and shield your screen while you are typing in important information. You could also purchase a privacy screen, which will make it impossible for someone next to you to read what you are typing on your phone.

Public Wi-Fi networks certainly do not have to be scary, there are just some minor precautions to take in order to avoid anything bad happening. Be safe, and happy public surfing!

OFFICIAL NOTICE

BACKUP POWER FOR HOME PHONE SERVICES DURING POWER OUTAGES

For many years, your home phone would allow you to stay connected to emergency voice services during a power outage. However, if your home phone service is provided with our state-of-the-art fiber optic network, it requires electric power to operate. Upon request, SRT Communications offers battery backup power for your home phone.

What Your Battery Can – and Can't – Do for You

SRT's backup battery for telephone allows you to continue to use your home voice services during a power outage. Without a backup battery or alternate backup source such as a generator, customers will not be able to make any calls, including emergency calls to 911. The only way to maintain the ability to use your phone is by using some form of backup power. Home security systems, medical monitoring devices, cordless phones and other equipment will not run on backup battery as they need power as well.

Expected Backup Power Duration

SRT offers a battery that lasts up to seven hours on standby and approximately six hours of talk time. If requested, our technicians can install this battery. If interested, a battery that lasts up to 24 hours on standby can be purchased from SRT.

Instructions for Proper Care and Use of Your Battery

If you do not store your battery correctly, it may shorten its useful life. Environmental factors such as temperature can shorten your battery's useful life. We recommend that you store your battery above [41°F and below 104°F]. These batteries are not rechargeable. If your device starts to make a loud beeping sound, that means the battery could be depleted, and may need to be replaced. SRT will be happy to assist you if needed.

STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint deadlines vary by program or incident.

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at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

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- (1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410
- (2) Fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) Email: program.intake@usda.gov

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PO Box 2027
Minot, ND 58702-2027
701.858.1200
800.737.9130
SRT.COM  

"SRT.news" is published three times per year from SRT, Minot, ND
Cassidy Hjelmstad, Editor
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Check Out What's Inside



Scholarship Opportunities Available to Local Students!



Save the Date
SRT Annual Meeting
October 14, 2021



Customers Get Festive to Win Prizes During the 12 Days of Tech-Mas



SRT Cares
Delivering a Little Joy to Local Care Facilities

GET THE RIGHT INTERNET SPEED!

It doesn't have to be hard.
We can help!

Making the change is easy as 1-2-3.

1. Contact us
2. We'll Help You Pick the Right Package
3. Love Your WiFi!

Get our **POPULAR** Social Package!

\$45⁹⁵ MO

Make the whole family happy!