

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF SRT'S 2021 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

October 14, 2021 / ND State Fair Center

By action of the Board of Directors, the 2021 annual membership meeting of SRT Communications, Inc. will be held on Thursday, October 14, 2021 at the North Dakota State Fair Center – 2005 Burdick Expy. East – Minot, ND.

Registration and voting will open at 5:00 PM and will close at 7:00 PM. As of this publication, SRT plans to serve a catered meal to guests from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM. However, entertainment and kids activities will not take place at this year's meeting.

Regular business includes the election of four directors, one from each of our four districts, for a three-year term. The candidates who have been nominated are as follows:

District 1

Ardel Rice from Mohall, Incumbent

District 2

Dennis Erber from Glenburn, Incumbent

District 3

Dennis Schott from Butte, Incumbent

District 4

Stacey Diehl from Minot, Incumbent

Dated this 20th day of September, 2021.

Voter designation form for churches, schools, corporations, cooperatives, partnerships, public golf courses and associations is on page 6.

Updates or more information will be available on the SRT Facebook page and srt.com/annualmeeting.

SRT NAMES CASSIDY HJELMSTAD AS CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND GENERAL MANAGER

The SRT Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Cassidy Hjelmstad has been named Chief Executive Officer/General Manager of SRT effective January 1, 2022. She succeeds Steve Lysne who will retire December 31, 2021, after 27 years with the cooperative.

"The Board and I are confident in Cassidy's ability to guide this company in the years ahead," said

Board President Allan Engh. "The decision was carefully considered, and we were fortunate to have such qualified candidates. We look forward to her leadership, which will include completion of the fiber optic network build that delivers state of the art communication services to our members."

Hjelmstad stated, "My family and I are humbled to serve this organization and continue SRT's mission to

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RETIREMENTS Thank you for your service to our customers and best wishes to you all in retirement!



TODD ASENDORF

retired in June after being with SRT for nearly 25 years. In retirement, he plans to spend time with his children and grandchildren, camping, kayaking, fishing, traveling, visiting family, and simply enjoying his new found free time! Todd spent most of his time at SRT within the Provisioning and Purchasing Department.



RICHARD HONEYCUTT

retired in June after working at SRT since 2014. Richard worked within the Building Operations Department, retiring as custodian foreman. In retirement, he looks forward to spending time with his family.



MIKE KEITH

recently retired after 23 years at SRT. He has held the position of combination technician the entirety of his career. Mike looks forward to traveling the country and visiting his grandchildren in his retirement, including two newborn grandbabies!



ROGER SCHUMANN

retired in June. He had been with SRT in a full time position since 1990, but began part time in 1985. In that time, he worked on the construction crew, in the TV department, and most recently as a splicer technician. Roger is looking forward to spending his time fishing and doing work around his home.



WADE WILLIAMSON

retired in September after 26 years at SRT. He began his career at SRT as an outside plant installer and also worked as a combination technician. Wade most recently fulfilled the role of splicer technician, and completed his splicer apprenticeship in 2019. He looks forward to spending his retirement working on home projects and traveling to visit relatives and grandkids.

TEAL MYRE PROMOTED TO DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

SRT is pleased to announce the promotion of Teal Myre to director of communications and marketing. Myre has served as public relations manager since 2016, and has worked in the Corporate Communications Department at SRT since 2004. In her time at SRT, Teal has been influential in implementing effective marketing strategies, community outreach and events, and overseeing impactful programs such as youth scholarships and working with area non-profits. Myre will lead SRT's corporate communications, customer service and billing departments to promote technology driven services and provide exceptional customer experience.

SRT CEO and General Manager Steve Lysne said, "We are happy Teal can step into this position. She has continued to excel in the public relations and marketing arena throughout her years of

service to SRT. Teal is committed to member experience and the cooperative values that impact telecommunications services for our members. We look forward to adding her to our executive team."

Myre is a graduate of the University of North Dakota with a degree in Public Relations, and earned a master's degree in Management from Minot State University. Myre succeeds Cassidy Hjelmstad who was recently selected to serve as SRT's next CEO and General Manager.





BANTRY CEMETERY This summer, SRT board members Allan Engh, Dennis Schott, and John Marshall visited Glenna Johnson and other Bantry Cemetery volunteers to celebrate the completion of new benches for cemetery visitors. SRT partnered with the Rural Development Finance Corporation last year to each contribute \$500 to this project.



TRINITY HEALTH - THANK YOU SRT and Trinity Health partnered to provide free meals as a way of saying “Thank You” to Trinity Health’s staff for everything they have done to serve our communities during the pandemic. Tim Dandy’s BBQ and Smoked Meats and LBJ Texas BBQ, catered a delicious BBQ meal and employees were able to gather to enjoy an ice cream treat and each other’s company on a hot summer day. It was truly a privilege to serve these frontline workers!

SUNNYSIDE VEHICLE FAIR

In May, students at Sunnyside Elementary School’s Vehicle Career Fair got a chance to see one of our boom trucks up close. They asked our splicer technician Brian B. questions about the boom truck. Students wondered what it is like to sit in the bucket when he’s really high up in the air!



TOUCH A TRUCK

Touch-A-Truck held its 4th Annual event at MAYSA Arena in Minot. Hosted by Magic City Discovery Center, this free event lets kids check out a variety of different trucks and vehicles, like our SRT boom truck! Splicer Technician Brian H. enjoyed helping the kids decorate plastic hard hats and answering questions.

ZOO CENTENNIAL

Roosevelt Park Zoo celebrated their centennial in August, and SRT was honored to help with the festivities by providing a free photo booth. Families had their picture taken against the beautiful zoo scenery and posed with fun zoo related props, including our giant huggable sloth stuffed animal, a favorite among the kids and kids at heart!



SRT is celebrating our 70th Anniversary this year. Founded in 1951, SRT has come a long way since our early beginnings, which was initially bringing telephone service to rural residents of McHenry and Ward Counties. Fast forward to 2021, and we have become the largest telecommunications cooperative in North Dakota, striving to provide the best experience and services to our customers. It's our customers and employees who have helped shape us into the technology company we are today. We look forward to further celebrating our 70th Anniversary at our Annual Meeting in October.

Thank you for a great 70 years, here's to 70 more and beyond!



TOP MILESTONES

- 1960 – Minot Air Force Base becomes SRT's largest phone exchange.
- 1970 – Touch tone comes to life! Rotary dial telephones are replaced, and customers have a choice of using the new touch pad style phone.
- 1987 – SRT opens a retail store that markets telephones, computers, and security alarms.
- 1990 – SRT reaches beyond its borders to install telephone wire throughout the 17 floors of the North Dakota State Capitol building.
- 1996 – Beep boop beep...Dial Up Internet becomes available for every SRT phone exchange.
- 1998 – DSL (Digital Subscriber Line) is added to SRT's services. This was a big speed upgrade from Dial Up Internet!
- 2001 – SRT expands wireless cell phone calling area and DSL into its rural communities, providing cell phone service to those who most likely didn't have any type of cell phone coverage.
- 2006 – The future is fiber optics! SRT deploys first fiber to the premise solution in rural Lansford, ND.
- 2011 – Installation of 10 gig Ethernet transport rings.
- 2018 – Completion of cut over to new Voice over IP (VoIP) telephone switch.
- 2018 – Upgrade of two Internet upstream routes to 100 gigabit.
- 2021 – Addition of third 100 gigabit Internet upstream route.

HJELMSTAD CEO Continued from front page

meet and exceed the needs of our customers. I am grateful to the board of directors for their trust in me and for the management team and employees who have built the strong foundation we currently have. This is an exciting industry and I look forward to furthering the cooperative's mission."

Hjelmstad serves as the Chief Marketing Officer, leading the corporate communications, customer service and billing departments. She has led

her teams to implement effective strategies for product sales growth while delivering exceptional customer experience.

Hjelmstad becomes the fifth Chief Executive Officer/General Manager in SRT's 70-year history. Originally from Newburg, Hjelmstad, and her husband, Travis, have three children and live in Minot.



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. Mohall Ambulance paid off the loan in 2019 and continues to offer emergency services to the community. Then in 2015, Gooseneck Implement in Velva built a new facility and applied for a REDLG pass-through loan, in which USDA provided a zero-interest loan to SRT for Gooseneck to fund part of its build. Another 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. The

most recent loan was awarded to Precision Farm Parts in Sherwood to expand their business, which makes custom parts for farm equipment.

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 or the contact for the SRT REDLG Program, Cassidy Hjelmstad, at 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 broadband service for qualifying consumers. Lifeline helps ensure that eligible consumers have the opportunities and security that 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 SRT broadband service. 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

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

Lifeline support for landline telephones is no longer available per the FCC Phase Down. However, Broadband support remains at \$9.25, or until further notice.

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.fcc.gov and search for Lifeline.

CELEBRATE COOPERATIVE MONTH IN OCTOBER!



SRT 2021 Annual Meeting Voter Designation Form

To be used by organizations such as: Churches, Schools, Corporations, Cooperatives, Partnerships, Public Golf Courses, and Associations. ***This form cannot be used as a proxy by individuals or individually owned businesses.***

_____ hereby
Organization

designates and appoints _____ as
the person authorized to vote on behalf of the above named entity at
the **October 14, 2021** Annual Meeting of SRT Communications, Inc.

Organization Telephone or Account Number: _____

Print name of authorized voter (entity)

Date: _____ By: _____
Signature of Officer

Organizations Can Designate Voters

Churches, schools, corporations, cooperatives, partnerships, public golf courses and associations, can designate a party to cast their vote by using the form above.

If an organization is to be represented at the Annual Meeting of SRT Communications Inc. which will be held Thursday, October 14, 2021, an authorized representative must present this completed form to the credentials registration desk at the annual meeting.

CONNECT WITH US



2022 SRT Directory Coming Soon

The 2022 SRT Phone Directory is coming soon! Be on the lookout for directory delivery starting mid October. Need additional phone books? 2022 SRT Phone Directories will be available at these locations, free of charge:



- AFB - Minot North Star Community Credit Union
- Berthold. State Bank & Trust of Kenmare
- Bottineau.....First National Bank & Trust Company
of Bottineau
State Bank of Bottineau
- BurlingtonUnited Community Bank
- ButteHeritage Insurance Services
- Drake.....United Community Bank
- Glenburn.....City Hall
- Harvey First International Bank & Trust
First State Bank of Harvey
Dakota Heritage Bank
- Kenmare State Bank & Trust of Kenmare
- Max.Max Farm Services / C-Store
- Minot..... SRT Headquarters
MarketPlace Foods
- Mohall Gate City Bank
- Newburg Peoples State Bank / Newburg Station
- Sawyer.....Sawyer City Hall
- Towner.....Merchants Bank
- Velva..Peoples State Bank of Velva
- Westhope.....Peoples State Bank

**SRT Directory Recycling –
October 11th through November 12th.**



PO Box 2027
Minot, ND 58702-2027

701.858.1200
800.737.9130
SRT.COM  

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Check Out What's Inside



SRT'S 70TH ANNUAL MEETING



HJELMSTAD NAMED CEO/GENERAL MANAGER



MYRE NAMED DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING



STOP TELEMARKETING CALLS



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!

