

SRT DIRECTOR EARNS NTCA LIFE ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Ardel Rice, a Director on SRT's Board since 2000, was selected as a 2021 recipient of the NTCA James L. Bass Director Life Achievement Award in the Excellence Awards program.

The Excellence Awards of NTCA – The Rural Broadband Association – recognize NTCA members who have shown exceptional commitment to their communities and the rural broadband industry.

Ardel notably served as SRT's Board President from 2010-2012, an unprecedented time when a historic flood devastated the Minot area right as SRT's rural fiber project began. As President, he also led the Board through SRT's evolution from a telephone to a broadband company. When leading the Board's 2012 strategic planning, Ardel identified key priorities such as anticipating area growth and significant broadband and Fiber to the Home projects. "Many of these priorities are still relevant today, which speaks volumes about the sustainability of Ardel's vision for our cooperative," said Cassidy Hjelmstad, SRT CEO/General Manager.

During his more-than-two decades on the Board, Ardel has served on several subcommittees. Currently he is a member of the SRT Strategic Planning, Building, Board Retreat, Board Policy, and Compensation Committees.

"Whether running his farming business, raising a family with his wife, or supporting his community, Ardel has been a man of exceptional character and attitude," said fellow Director and previous Board President Allan Engh. "As his son Jay once told me, 'He's a man to look up to.' SRT is privileged to have Ardel on the Board and has benefited immensely from his wisdom and leadership."



Ardel and other winners were announced at the Rural Telecom Industry Meeting & EXPO (RTIME) in February. "We are very fortunate to be surrounded by such talented and accomplished individuals in the telecommunications industry, and I am honored to be able to present them with the 2021 Excellence Awards," said NTCA Chief Executive Officer Shirley Bloomfield. "The winners exemplify the values of dedication, service and innovation in the work and in their communities. I want to congratulate and thank Ardel for his contributions to our industry."

Continued on next page

SAVE THE DATE
SRT ANNUAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 12, 2022

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!

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Continued from front cover

A retired farmer, Ardel resides in Mohall with his wife, Deanna. They have three sons and eight grandchildren.

NTCA—The Rural Broadband Association is the premier association representing nearly 850 independent, community-based telecommunications companies that are leading innovative change in smart rural communities across America. In an era of transformative technological developments, regulatory challenges and marketplace competition, NTCA members are advancing efforts to close the digital divide by delivering robust and high-quality services over future-proof networks. Their commitment to building sustainable networks makes rural communities fertile ground for innovation in economic development, e-commerce, health care, agriculture and education, and it contributes billions of dollars to the U.S. economy each year. Visit www.ntca.org.



NTCA Chief Executive Officer Shirley Bloomfield presented the James L. Bass Life Achievement Award to Ardel Rice at RTIME in February.

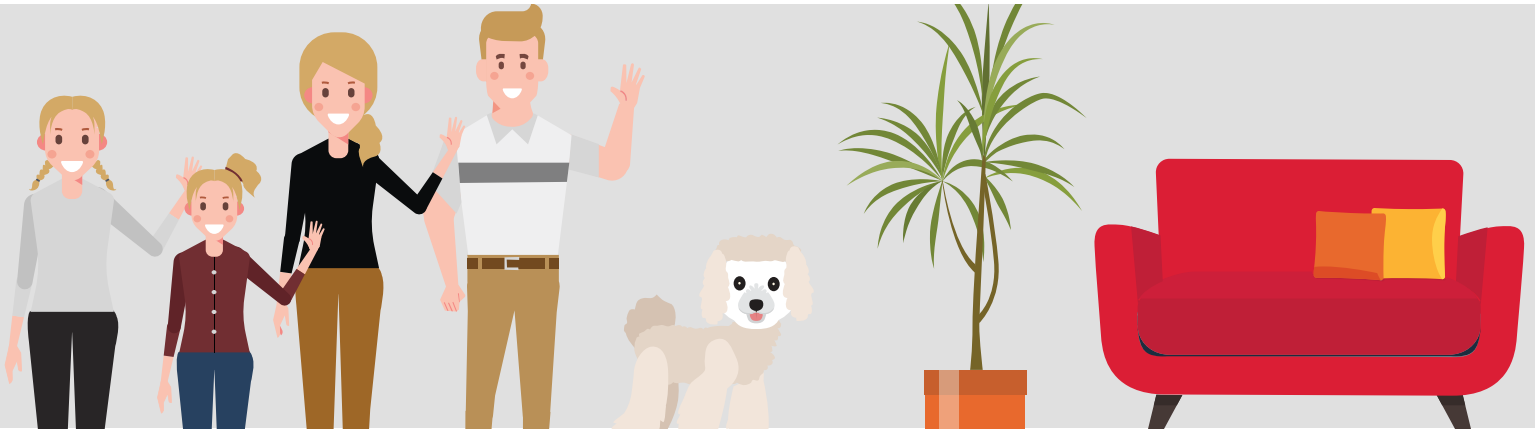
PROCEDURE FOR THE NOMINATION OF DIRECTORS

The purpose of the SRT Annual Meeting is to elect Directors to the Board of Directors and hold a business meeting of the cooperative. Directors are elected to serve a three-year term. SRT's twelve-member Board of Directors represents our service area throughout the year by attending monthly Board meetings, serving on state associations, attending community events, and representing SRT on national telecommunications issues. Beginning August 15, 2022, the following steps must be taken if you are interested in becoming a candidate for election as an SRT Director.

PROCEDURE STEPS:

1. A Nomination of Directors Petition Form indicating the Director district must be obtained from SRT Headquarters (principal office of the Cooperative) located at 3615 North Broadway in Minot.
2. Fifteen (15) or more members from the same district from which the nomination is being made must sign the written petition. Important Note: A husband and wife constitute one membership. Either spouse may sign this petition as a member. However, the signature of a husband and wife on this petition may only be counted as one of the fifteen (15) members necessary to nominate a Director.
3. All nominations by petition must be received at SRT Headquarters located at 3615 North Broadway in Minot no earlier than August 15, 2022 nor later than September 12, 2022 by 5:00 PM. Petitions postmarked before September 12, 2022 but arriving by mail after September 12, 2022 cannot be accepted.
4. All nominations by petition are subject to verification of membership of signatories. Once verification is complete, the candidate will be notified and their name will appear on the ballot at SRT's Annual Membership Meeting. Nominations for Director candidates will not be accepted from the floor at the annual meeting.

PROTECT WHAT — AND WHO — YOU LOVE



You've met the new neighbors and hung the basketball hoop in the driveway. The kids have picked their bedrooms (perhaps with a few fights along the way) and you've flipped through seemingly endless paint samples and carpet swatches. You've worked hard to build a home and a life that you love, and now it is finally time to sit back, relax, and enjoy it.

Moving into a new home is one of the most exciting moments in any family's life. But amidst all the milestones, it's easy to lose sight of one of the less enjoyable, yet most important decisions.

As a new homeowner, investing in a home security system should be one of the first items on your to-do list—because when it comes to protecting your loved ones, you can never be too careful.

Here are the top five ways that a security system from SRT can keep your home, family, and possessions safe:

1. Stop break-ins before they happen.

Of the estimated 2.5 million burglaries that are committed every year in the United States, more than half are home invasions. With a security system from SRT, if someone tries to break into your home, their movements will set off door and window sensors, glass break detectors, and motion detectors—scaring them off with a screeching alarm and dispatching the proper authorities to your home.

2. Never forget to lock up again.

Have you ever gotten halfway to work, only to wonder if you'd locked the door behind you? You don't want to leave your home wide open to intruders, but you don't have the time to turn around and double-check. With smart locks, you can ensure that your home is secure right from your phone.

3. Protect your family from fires and carbon monoxide.

Criminals aren't the only threat to home security. A complete security system can instantly alert you to the presence of smoke or carbon monoxide, giving you time to get yourself and your family to safety.

But what if no one is home to hear the alarm? Your detectors can be monitored 24/7, so even if you are away, firefighters can immediately be alerted and dispatched to your house.

4. Conserve energy and save money.

In addition to protecting your family from harm, a smart home security system can save you money on your energy bill. With smart home devices, you can turn off lights and adjust your thermostat while you're away, preventing you from wasting unnecessary energy when you're not home to enjoy it.

5. Monitor your home at any time, from anywhere.

Whether you want to check in on the dog, keep an eye on the kids, or just make sure that everything's where it should be, with surveillance cameras, you can monitor your home 24/7. With just the tap of an app, you can view live video, receive notifications, and access video clips on your smart device.

As a new homeowner, the last thing you need is one more box to check. That's why, at SRT, we make securing your home simple. All you need to do is complete a free security assessment to determine which products are right for you. From there, we'll take care of installation and maintenance, leaving you time to focus on all the fun parts of home ownership.

And because we are a local provider, if you run into any issues, simply give us a call and one of our technicians will be there right away to ensure your system is running smoothly.

If you're on the fence about investing in a home security system, remember: you can't put a price on protecting what—and who—you love. Call SRT at 701.852.8888 to find a package that's right for your family.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE GRADUATING SENIORS

“SRT awards scholarships to recognize our area students’ exceptional achievements and support their promising college goals,” said Cassidy Hjelmstad, SRT’s CEO/General Manager. “As always, we received many impressive applications. It’s been an honor to see how much this scholarship program impacts area youth and we are happy to play a small role in their success.”

Applicants for the SRT Scholarship Program were judged on their scholastic performance and achievements, as well as volunteerism and community involvement. Students were required to write an essay discussing how technology has impacted their experience as a student, whether positively or negatively, during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The SRT Technical Scholarship also required students to submit their volunteerism and community involvement, scholastic performance, and an essay describing how they can use their education and technology to reach rural and underserved populations. Additionally, a letter of recommendation from a community member or educator was required. This scholarship is unique in that it can be awarded to a graduating high school senior or an undergraduate student currently enrolled in a two-year or four-year college.

SRT congratulates the winners and wishes all seniors the best in their future endeavors.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS / \$1500 Scholarship



Jersey Johnson

Minot High School

Daughter of Duane & Stacy
Johnson / Minot



Madison Moberg

MLS Mohall High School

Daughter of Brad & Shannon
Moberg / Mohall



Jadyndy Sandy

Velva High School

Daughter of Larry & Kim
Sandy / Velva



Niah Wollenzien

TGU Towner High School

Daughter of Ben & Breanna
Wollenzien / Towner

TECHNICAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT / \$2500 Scholarship



Dylan McDonald

Glenburn Public School

Son of Doug & Kolette
McDonald / Deering

AREA STUDENTS HEADED TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

Three local students have been selected by their schools to represent SRT during the 2022 Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. These students include Lucas Beeter from Minot High School, and Kaitlin Kopplin and Samantha Burgin, both of Westhope High School.

The FRS Youth Tour will be held June 1-5, 2022. The students will learn about the telecommunications industry, tour our nation's capital, and meet with legislative leaders to discuss their experiences in rural North Dakota.



Lucas Beeter
Minot High School
Son of Kevin &
Renae Beeter / Minot



Kaitlin Kopplin
Westhope High School
Granddaughter of Don
& Darlene Cameron / Westhope



Samantha Burgin
Westhope High School
Daughter of Jeremy & Aimee
Burgin / Westhope



FOUNDATION FOR
RURAL SERVICE

CONGRATULATIONS, RETIREES!

Tracie Hansen

On June 1, Tracie will retire after 26 years with SRT. She began her career as the receptionist downtown, followed by accounting clerk, and her current role as executive secretary. She said she will miss all the great people she worked with, but looks forward to spending time with her parents and her grandchildren and helping with the family farm. We wish you all the best, Tracie!



Dennis Schaible

On April 1, Dennis retired after 12 years with SRT. Prior to joining SRT in 2010 he had a long career in the telecommunications industry. Thank you for your dedication to SRT; we wish you well in your well earned retirement!



Brian Reamann

On July 1, Brian will be retiring after 20 years with SRT. Since joining SRT in 2002, he worked as a wireless technician before becoming a network operations specialist. Many thanks for all your dedication, Brian. Enjoy your retirement!





Employees Brittany Armstrong and Brooke Yaschyshyn were recognized as workplace campaign leaders during the Souris Valley United Way annual campaign.



SRT Chief Technology Officer Shawn Grosz presented to community members on cybersecurity during the Minot Chamber EDC lunch and learn series.



SRT partnered with local Minot Best Buy to host an Earth Day technology recycling drive. SRT members brought forward more than 200 pounds of technology, which would have otherwise gone to landfills.



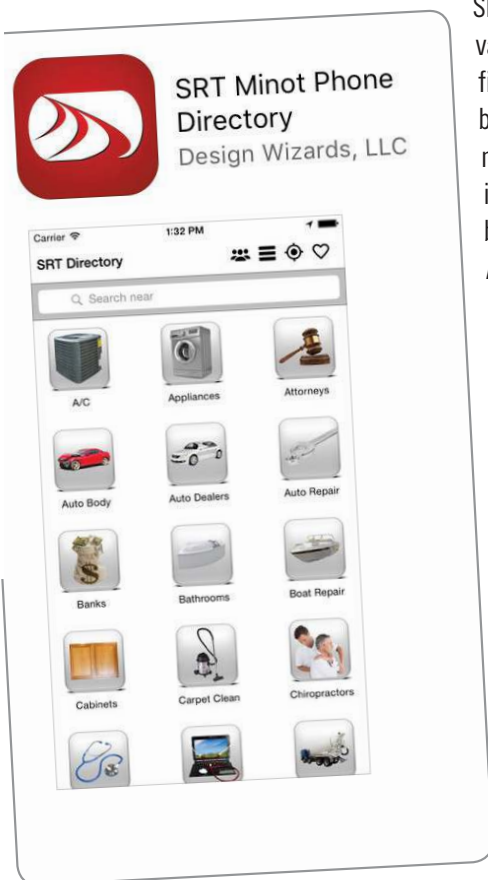
WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR OLD DEVICES

Technology is rapidly evolving and the desire to keep up with the latest tech trends is strong. But what should you do with your old devices? Here are a few options that are much more beneficial alternatives to simply tossing the device:

1. **Recycle or trade-in:** Best Buy is the nation's largest tech recycling retailer and offers a recycling and trade-in program. Their online trade-in calculator will let you know if your old device has residual value and offer credit for recycling it. If your device does not have a residual value, they will still accept it and recycle it properly. Not all Best Buy stores have recycling programs but do offer an online trade-in option.
2. **Donate them:** If you have a working cell phone or laptop that you are looking to donate, it is great to check with local shelters to see if someone could use it. Access to technology helps immensely with job searching, education, and communication with loved ones.
3. **Return to the manufacturer:** Some manufacturers of technology products offer buy-back and recycling programs for their items. Sony, Samsung, Dell, LG, and Xerox are all examples of companies who provide recycling programs for their products. A full list of companies and recycling locations is available at www.epa.gov/recycle.

When looking to recycle or donate old technology, always remember to wipe your device of any personal data. Factory resetting the device is also recommended.

PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS IN THE DIRECTORY!



SRT phone books are a valuable resource for finding information in the book's pages or on the mobile app. The directory is also a reliable tool for businesses to advertise. Ads help customers locate your business and help you reach over 70,000 people local to this area. The online directory and mobile app create a microsite and digital presence with links to your business's website and social media accounts. To download the directory app on your smartphone, search "SRT Minot Phone Directory" in the app store today. Ad sales are happening now, so call 1.800.510.9450 to be included in the 2023 SRT Directory!

STAY CONNECTED!

SRT Services for Individuals with Disabilities

SRT offers a variety of products and services for customers with disabilities. These include:

- Large-button telephones
- LifeSentry Home Safety Systems
- Possible bill discounts for meeting eligibility requirements through the Lifeline program

We continue to work to provide products and services to meet the needs of all of our customers, including those with disabilities.

Additional Resources

In addition to products and services from SRT, the following agencies and businesses offer devices to assist persons with disabilities with their telecommunications needs.

- Relay North Dakota: A free service that provides full telephone accessibility to people who are deaf, hard-of-hearing, deaf-blind, and speech-disabled. Dial 711 to access this service, or visit www.relaynorthdakota.com for more information.
- North Dakota Vision Services: Provides products and services for the visually impaired, including Adaptive Aids (e.g., CCTVs, magnifiers, Talking Books) and technology resources. Call 701.795.2724 or visit www.ndvisionservices.com.
- State of North Dakota Disability Services Division: Help with assistive technology, independent living services, and more. Call 701.328.8930 or visit www.nd.gov/dhs/services/disabilities.

CAPITAL CREDITS ARE COMING

Capital Credits are one of many benefits to cooperative membership. It's our chance to distribute money back to our valued members. We look forward to announcing capital credits to our members in June. Stay tuned!





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This institution is an equal
opportunity employer and provider.

Check Out What's Inside



Save the Date SRT Annual Meeting

Wednesday, October 12, 2022



Protect What — and Who — You Love



What To Do with Your Old Devices



Promote Your Business in the Directory!



Protect the people, places, and furry little faces you love with a customized security system from SRT. You can monitor your home from anywhere, anytime, using your smart devices.

FIND A SYSTEM THAT WORKS FOR YOU!

1. Visit srt.com/protectwhatyoulove to learn more about our custom security and surveillance systems.
2. Call SRT at 701.852.8888 to schedule a FREE assessment.
3. SRT will take care of installing, monitoring, and maintaining your system. Because when it comes to keeping an eye on what you love, we know you can never be too careful.

[SRT.COM/PROTECTWHATYOULOVE](https://srt.com/protectwhatyoulove)

