

## OFFICIAL NOTICE OF SRT'S 2022 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Wednesday, October 12, 2022 / ND State Fair Center

By action of the Board of Directors, the 2022 annual membership meeting of SRT Communications, Inc. will be held on Wednesday, October 12, 2022 at the North Dakota State Fair Center – 2005 Burdick Expy. East – Minot, ND.

Registration and voting will open at 5:30 p.m. and will close at 7:00 p.m. A complimentary meal will be served from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

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

Allan Engh from Sherwood, Incumbent

### District 2

Tom Jespersen from Velva, Incumbent

### District 3

Stuart Rothe from Newburg, Incumbent

### District 4

Benjamin Robertson from Minot, Incumbent

Jason Sanders from Minot

Dated this 19th day of September, 2022.

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

More information will be available on the SRT Facebook page and at [srt.com/annualmeeting](http://srt.com/annualmeeting).

## *Streaming* MADE SIMPLE CLASSES

HELPING CUSTOMERS GET COMFORTABLE WITH TECHNOLOGY

Streaming is the fastest growing option for people to watch TV and other kinds of video content. But the variety of options can seem overwhelming.

To demystify streaming and help customers get comfortable with the latest technology, SRT launched a Streaming Made Simple educational tour this summer.



All events were free and open to the public. The sessions began with a meal, followed by a presentation on the basics of how to stream content through an internet connection. SRT technical and customer service experts were also on hand to answer questions or address attendees' specific situations.

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*Customer Service Rep., Kristi H. was able to help look up customer accounts on-site and upgrade them if they wanted.*

# Streaming **MADE SIMPLE CLASSES**

HELPING CUSTOMERS GET COMFORTABLE WITH TECHNOLOGY

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*Continued from front page*

June classes were held at Velva City Hall, The Gallows in Towner, Mohall Community Center, and Backdraft Café & BBQ in Berthold. July sessions took place at The Gateway in Westhope, the Sherwood Senior Center, the Newburg Senior Center, and Butte American Legion Hall. Nearly 250 people attended in total.

SRT partnered with local eateries to provide a delicious meal at each class. Many thanks



*Stuart Rothe, Director, takes a moment to show a customer some streaming options.*

to the following restaurants and caterers for participating: Velva Fresh Foods, Henry's 90 in Towner, The Prairie Bistro and Gardens in Mohall, Backdraft Café & BBQ, Shawna's Place in Westhope, The River's Edge Café in Sherwood, 11th Frame Bar and Grill in Newburg, and Dog Den Steakhouse & Saloon in Butte.

If you were not able to attend or if you want a refresher, visit [srt.com/TV](http://srt.com/TV) for a video of the Streaming Made Simple session.

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## CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR RETIREMENT



**Ignatz "Iggy" Dorscher** recently retired after 23 years with SRT. Iggy hired on as a summer temp before starting full-time in 1999. He worked as a TV technician and then an outside plant installer before becoming a combination technician for the last 13 years. Thank you for serving our customers with great care and congratulations on your retirement, Iggy!



In July **Brian Reamann** retired after almost 20 years at SRT. Brian joined SRT in 2002. He spent several years as a wireless technician until 2018, when Brian became a network operations specialist. Thank you for your dedication to SRT, Brian. We wish you the best in your retirement!

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## NATIONAL COOP MONTH IS IN THE AIR

Every October, as the daylight wanes and nights grow chilly, SRT reflects with gratitude on the cooperative philosophy that inspired our beginnings. We look forward to celebrating and honoring our membership during 2022 National Coop Month.





◀ **Coop Day at the North Dakota State Fair - July 27** - SRT Board members served fair-goers at the pancake breakfast and ice cream social in celebration of Coop Day.



◀ **Renville County Fair - June 28** - SRT joined the Renville County 4-H for the County Fair. There was plenty of sunshine for the coin hunt and kids' tractor pull.

▶ **National Night Out - August 2** - SRT encouraged summer safety at this year's National Night Out, offering prizes to kids and adults of all ages.



▶ **Towner Crazy Days - August 5** - SRT employees and Board members served up banana splits during Towner's community summer celebration.



## SRT COMMUNICATIONS DONATES \$500,000 TO TRINITY HEALTH

SRT Communications has donated \$500,000 to Trinity Health Foundation's Capital Campaign in support of Trinity's new regional healthcare campus and medical district.

The morning of June 30, SRT officials joined Trinity Health on the new campus grounds and presented a ceremonial check for the construction project, currently underway. The hospital and adjoining medical office building stood tall in the background.

"Access to quality health services is crucial to any thriving community, and we are fortunate to have this new regional healthcare campus and medical district in our area," said Cassidy Hjelmstad, CEO and General Manager of SRT. "Like Trinity Health, SRT is committed to providing state-of-the-art services for communities throughout north central North Dakota. We are proud to support this capital campaign and, more importantly, to partner with Trinity for the future of healthcare in the region."



SRT's fiber network forms the foundation of complex critical infrastructure, not only for Trinity's impressive new regional healthcare campus, but also for government, financial institutions, and two legs of the US Military's defense triad.

Kristi Miller, SRT Board President, added the perspective of a telecommunications cooperative: "One of the core principles of cooperatives is Concern for Community. We live by this principle every day as we serve the people of North Dakota, and we see this principle in Trinity Health. This significant construction project truly demonstrates Trinity's drive and commitment to our communities."

Trinity Health Foundation has committed to raising \$15 million through corporate and private donations toward the total estimated construction cost of \$500 million. The regional healthcare campus and medical district is projected to open Spring 2023.

# SRT DISTRIBUTES NEARLY \$2.4 MILLION IN CAPITAL CREDITS TO ITS MEMBERS

SRT Communications distributed nearly \$2.4 million in credits back to its members in 2022.

In a decision made by SRT's Board of Directors, the cooperative issued checks that included a portion of the 2000 allocation and a portion of the 2021 allocation. Checks were mailed out in early June.

A core benefit of belonging to a cooperative, capital credits represent its members' ownership equity.

"Capital credits are one of the many ways we can provide real value to our membership. SRT looks forward to this opportunity to share in the cooperative's financial stability and give back to our members. We are sincerely grateful to them for helping to fulfill our mission and investing in a company they own," said Kristi Miller, SRT Board President.

## HOW SRT CAPITAL CREDITS WORK

1. At the end of the fiscal year, it is determined whether there are excess revenues, called margins.
2. The margins are allocated to members as capital credits based upon the amount spent by the member during the year.
3. The Board of Directors decides to retire, or pay, the capital credits when the cooperative's financial condition allows.
4. Members are notified how and when they will receive their capital credit distribution.

Members should inform SRT of changes to their current mailing address to ensure they receive any future capital credit retirements.

For more information on capital credits, visit [srt.com/capitalcredits](http://srt.com/capitalcredits) or call 701-858-1200.



## 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, for projects that bring economic development to the area.

The program is not meant to compete with local banks; instead it is meant as a supplement to other financing options and SRT cannot be a lender of last resort. SRT offers a pre-application at [www.srt.com/srtcares](http://www.srt.com/srtcares) or by contacting Teal Myre at 701-858-5183.



# OFFICIAL NOTICES

## CUSTOMER PROPRIETARY NETWORK INFORMATION

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In the course of providing service to telephone customers, SRT collects information concerning the telephone services you purchase and how you use them. This information is known as “customer proprietary network information,” or “CPNI.” CPNI includes any information on the quantity, technical configuration, type, destination, location, and amount of use of your service that we obtain because we are your telephone carrier. CPNI does not include the names and telephone numbers published in telephone directories or information we obtain as a result of providing your other SRT services. We use CPNI to monitor the quality of the service we provide and to prepare your bills.

You have a right, and we have a duty, under federal law to protect the confidentiality of CPNI. We have the right under federal law to use your CPNI to provide telephone service, to bill you, to market services related to services you already buy from us, and to protect our facilities and property. You have the right to disapprove of our use of CPNI for marketing services other than those that are related

to services you already buy from us and to withdraw access to CPNI at any time. Withdrawing access to CPNI will not affect our ability to provide telephone services to you, or the quality of the service we provide.

If you want to restrict use of your CPNI, you must contact SRT at 701-858-1200 within 30 days of receipt of this notice. Your denial or approval for SRT to use this data will not affect the provision of any services to which you subscribe. You may change your decision at any time and your decision will remain valid until you tell us otherwise. Again, we will only use your account information to market other telecommunications services and products SRT offers, and no action is required unless you wish to restrict our use of your CPNI. You will still receive monthly bill inserts, newsletters, and other publications that are sent to all customers so that you are kept up to date on what is happening at SRT.

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## STOP TELEMARKETING CALLS

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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](http://www.donotcall.gov) and click on Register Now. If you register online, you will receive an email from [www.donotcall.gov](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.fcc.gov) and search for Lifeline.

### Is Lifeline the same as Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)?

Lifeline is the FCC's permanent program to support affordable access to essential communications services such as broadband Internet access. The ACP is a new program designed to provide additional support to make broadband more affordable for certain low-income households.

### ACP and Lifeline Are Separate Programs

Customer may have one ACP and one Lifeline benefit per household. You Lifeline benefit and ACP can be combined and applied to the same service plan or applied to different service plans. You are not required to opt-in to the ACP, and you can continue to receive your Lifeline service without enrolling in the ACP. You may choose to take ACP benefits from a service provider other than your existing Lifeline provider.

# SRT 2022 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 12, 2022 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 Wednesday, October 12, 2022, an authorized representative must present this completed form to the credentials registration desk at the annual meeting.

## CONNECT WITH US



# 2023 SRT Directory Coming Soon

The 2023 SRT Phone Directory is coming soon! Be on the lookout for directory delivery starting mid October. Need additional phone books? 2023 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  
Burlington .....United Community Bank  
Butte .....Heritage Insurance Services  
Drake.....United Community Bank  
Glenburn.....City Hall  
Harvey ..... 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 3rd through November 4th.**



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## Check Out What's Inside



**SRT'S 71ST  
ANNUAL MEETING**



**STREAMING MADE  
SIMPLE CLASSES**



**SRT COMMUNICATIONS  
DONATES \$500,000 TO  
TRINITY HEALTH**



**STOP TELEMARKETING  
CALLS**

# WiFi That Keeps Up With Life

**SRT.COM/INTERNET**

