

SRT NEWSletter

BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

Broadband is the backbone of any thriving community. But many parts of rural America don't have access to high-speed internet and miss out on its benefits.



At SRT we believe all people should have access to the same level of telecommunications service regardless of where they live. Our roots as a telecommunications cooperative inspired us to connect rural communities throughout our area with high-speed fiber.

SRT's network brings new opportunity to our region while preserving all the reasons we love living and working here. It attracts businesses, bringing jobs and stimulating the economy. Companies can sell their goods and services globally while operating locally. Residents can raise their families in friendly towns with affordable housing and access to top-notch education and healthcare.

What is the digital divide and how is SRT leading the way for the communities of north central North Dakota? Visit srt.com/BridgingTheDigitalDivide to watch our video and learn more.

JOHN REISER RETIREMENT

John Reiser, SRT Chief Operating Officer and Assistant General Manager, retired November 30th after 26 years with the organization.



John joined SRT as Controller in 1996, then progressed to Director of Accounting before becoming COO/Assistant General Manager in 2003. As COO he led SRT through several pivotal milestones for the cooperative. While SRT was transitioning from a landline phone company to a broadband company, John oversaw day-to-day operations while managing key projects that helped SRT build its state-of-the-art fiber optic network. He also negotiated with national wireless carriers when SRT exited the retail wireless business in 2017, as well as ongoing tower lease agreements.

"We all hold John in high regard for his impressive knowledge of telecommunications, from policy and insurance to contracts and many other aspects of the industry," said Cassidy Hjelmstad, SRT Chief Executive Officer and General Manager. "His ability to view situations with the big picture in mind will be greatly missed."

A respected voice in the industry, Reiser served nationally on NTCA-The Rural Broadband Association's Retirement & Security Program and Savings Plan Trust Committee. His legal background and human resources expertise were assets to the national committee and an invaluable resource for SRT employees.

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SAVE THE DATE

SRT ANNUAL MEETING

THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 2023

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

Hello, summer! SRT's 2023 Annual Meeting has moved back to June (and to Thursday). Visit srt.com/annualmeeting and watch our Facebook page for updates. Looking forward to seeing you June 15th!

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 supporting SRT in the national telecommunications space. Beginning April 17, 2023, 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. A married couple constitutes one membership. Either spouse may sign this petition as a member. However, the signature of married spouses 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 April 17, 2023, nor later than May 16, 2023, by 5:00 p.m. Petitions postmarked before May 16, 2023 but arriving by mail after May 16, 2023 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 Meeting. Nominations for director candidates will not be accepted from the floor at the Annual Meeting.

2022 SRT ANNUAL MEETING



The 2022 SRT Annual Meeting was held Wednesday, October 12, 2022, at the North Dakota State Fair Center in Minot. Nominations of directors' petitions were distributed and accepted at SRT's headquarters from August 14, 2022, through September 13, 2022. Five petitions were qualified and verified, which authorized the names to be placed on the official election ballots that were distributed at the meeting.

Four 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. Members also voted to approve the 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes as presented.

2022 ELECTION RESULTS

District 1: (34 total votes)

Allan Engh 33
 Spoiled ballots 1

District 2: (73 total votes)

Tom Jespersen 70
 Spoiled ballots 3

District 3: (33 total votes)

Stuart Rothe 30
 Spoiled ballots 3

District 4: (448 total votes)

Benjamin Roberston 236
 Jason Sanders 198
 Spoiled Ballots 14

2023 Board of Director officer positions are as follows:
 Kristi Miller, President; Stanley Vangness, Vice President;
 Stacey Diehl, Secretary/Treasurer; Tom Jespersen, Assistant
 Secretary/Treasurer.

Thank you for attending and for your membership.
 SRT's 2023 Annual Meeting will be held Thursday,
 June 15, 2023.

SRT SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The 2023 SRT College Scholarship Program applications are now available!



The SRT College Scholarship program awards four \$1,500 scholarships. The program evaluates community involvement, school activities, an essay response, and grade point average.

The SRT Technical Scholarship will award \$2,500 to one student. This scholarship is open to graduating high school seniors or undergraduate students studying telecommunications or other computer-technology-related fields.

Applications are available online at srt.com/srtcares and are due March 3. Scholarship recipients will be announced in April and an awards luncheon will be held for the winners.

THANK YOU

Minot Daily News Readers

We are humbled that you've voted
 SRT Best Internet Provider for
 18 years running!



RETIREMENTS

SRT WISHES YOU ALL THE BEST OF LUCK IN RETIREMENT!



ANNETTE BORUD

Annette retired in November after 31 years at SRT. She joined SRT in 1991 and held several positions such as Business Service Representative, Network Administration Specialist, and Senior Network Provisioning Specialist.



CARLA D.

Carla recently retired after 29 years of service. She started in November 1993 and was Service Center Supervisor from 2011 up until her retirement. She previously worked in the DirecTV department and the Connections Store.



BOB MEAGHER

Bob retired after 38 years at SRT. Since joining SRT in 1984, Bob worked as the Communications Systems Technician Foreman and Network Engineer, and most recently served as Sales Engineering Supervisor.



RON NORBURY

Ron retired in December after 29 years at SRT. Ron started in May 1993 and was a Combination Technician for 10 years up until his retirement. He previously was an Outside Plant Installer and a TV Technician.



SCOTT PFENNING

Scott recently retired after 22 years at SRT and 34 years in the telecommunications industry. During his years of service he worked as Wireless Supervisor and Network Engineer.



WADE TILLEMA

Wade retired at the end of November after 28 years at SRT. Wade started at SRT in 1994 and wore several hats during his tenure. These included the roles of CAD Engineer and most recently OSP Engineering Manager.

SRT CARES



NORSK HØSTFEST – SRT hosted our famous Scandinavian Snapshot photo booth every day at the festival, complete with a beautiful scenic background and fun Viking props!



HOMECOMING PARADES – SRT was pleased to join several homecoming parades this summer and fall, including Granville, Mohall, Towner, Velva, and Westhope. We always enjoy visiting the communities we serve. Thank you to all the schools; we had a great time!



RENVILLE CEMETERY – Renville Cemetery unveiled newly planted trees and other improvements partially funded by an RDFC grant matched by SRT Communications. In 2021, the Rural Development Finance Corporation awarded a \$500 grant to Renville Cemetery, which SRT matched with an additional \$500 donation. The cemetery used the funds to plant rows of spruce trees along the adjacent farmland and replace the white chain fencing around the cemetery borders.



MOUSE RIVER PARK ALL FAITHS CHAPEL
The Rural Development Finance Corporation (RDFC) awarded a \$500 grant to Mouse River Park All Faiths Chapel in 2021, which SRT matched with an additional \$500 donation. The chapel used the funds to install new replacement windows – an upgrade that enhances the building’s appearance and helps to insulate it against North Dakota weather.



VELVA FOOTBALL TAILGATING – SRT and Verendrye Electric Cooperative co-hosted a free tailgating meal of knoephla soup and chili before the Velva vs. Bishop Ryan football game as a fun way to kick off National Co-op Month.



VELVA CO-OP MONTH LUNCH – SRT had fun visiting with customers and giving away prizes at the free Velva Co-op Lunch, along with other area cooperatives.



EMPLOYEE ORGANIZED FOOD DRIVE – Employees Darin J. and Je-Mario J. hosted a successful month-long food drive at SRT in October. The food collected went toward their Community Leadership Institute (CLI) group project, a program through the Minot Area Chamber EDC.

CONNECT WITH US



SRT CARES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5



NODAKON – As a sponsor of Minot State University’s Nodakon event, SRT employees were invited to attend sessions on Information Technology, a Raspberry Pi demo, and E-Sports, as well as participate in a Lunch-and-Learn event and Cyber Security panel.



DOWNTOWN TREE DECORATING – SRT technicians helped the Minot Downtown Business and Professional Association decorate the big Christmas tree on Main Street to get it all ready for the Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony!



SHOWCASE OF BUSINESS – We stepped back in time with our 80s selfie station at Minot Area Chamber EDC’s Showcase of Business. People loved seeing the 80s technology we used for photo props!

FULL STEAM AHEAD DONATIONS – SRT recently presented a check totaling the company’s support of Full STEAM Ahead’s Lego League Explore program. Since 2019, SRT has donated \$14,000 to the program, opening the door for hundreds of kids ages 6-14 to participate for free.

FIRST® LEGO® League is a branch of an international program that encourages kids to develop an early interest in fields related to science and technology.

“It’s been really great for the kids, working through new challenges by building and programming LEGO. They really enjoy it, and the

opportunity is available thanks to SRT,” said Ali Auch, Full STEAM Ahead Executive Director and Founder.



STEAM Teams Powered by SRT learn through exploratory research, hands-on construction, and use of LEGO elements.

“SRT believes in technology’s potential to improve life for people in our region,” said Cassidy Hjelmstad, SRT Chief Executive Officer and General Manager. “When young students pursue knowledge in this discipline, they are on the way to an exciting future and a meaningful education. We see the importance of STEAM in our business daily, and we are proud to support this program for local kids.”

OFFICIAL NOTICES

988 SUICIDE AND CRISIS LIFELINE: HELP IS ONLY THREE DIGITS AWAY.

“988” is the three-digit, nationwide phone number to connect directly to the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, formerly known as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

Simply calling or texting 988 will connect you to compassionate mental health professionals who can provide care and support, or help you support a friend in need.

AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM

The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) is a federal program designed to assist low-income households in paying for broadband internet service. ACP is under the authority of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and is administered by USAC. ACP replaced the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program (EBBP).

Eligible households can receive up to a \$30 monthly discount on broadband internet service.

The ACP benefit is non-transferable and limited to one monthly internet discount per household. ACP is available for all service offerings (includes broadband internet access service or a bundle of broadband internet service along with voice telephone service). You may obtain ACP-supported broadband internet service from any participating provider of your choosing and may change providers at any time.

In the event the program ends or when a household is no longer eligible, customers will be subject to SRT's regular rates, terms, and conditions.

You can get ACP if you (or someone in your household): (a) already receive a Lifeline Benefit; (b) received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year; (c) participate in certain Federal Assistance Programs (National School Lunch Program, WIC, SNAP, Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) Program (Section 8 Vouchers), Project-Based Rental Assistance (PBRA)/202/811, Federal Public Housing Assistance, Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit); or (d) if your household income is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Apply for ACP with USAC at AffordableConnectivity.gov. After USAC determines you are eligible, call SRT to enroll in the ACP program.

For more information, please call SRT customer service at 701-858-1200 or visit www.fcc.gov/acp or www.usac.org/about/affordable-connectivity-program/.

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.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.), should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a program discrimination complaint, you may obtain a complaint form by sending an email to OAC@usda.gov. You or your authorized representative must sign the complaint form. You are not required to use the complaint form. You may write a letter instead. If you write a letter, it must contain all the information requested in the form and be signed by you or your authorized representative. Incomplete information will delay the processing of your complaint. Employment civil rights complaints will not be accepted through this email address.

(1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Director, Center for Civil Rights Enforcement
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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This institution is an equal
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BOOST YOUR INTERNET AND GET ON WITH LIFE!

SRT fiber lets you download and upload equally fast. You can browse, stream, post, game, videoconference, update, and back up – all with ease.

And our everyday pricing gives you a lot of speed for a low rate that won't go up after you sign up:

Fiber 350

350 x 350 Mbps

\$49.95/month

Fiber 700

700 x 700 Mbps

\$69.95/month

Fiber GIG

1000 x 1000 Mbps

New price!

\$89.95/month

Sign Up or Upgrade

by March 31, 2023 and

Get 3 MONTHS FREE!

Enjoy work, play, and every day with internet so good, you won't even notice it.

Offer valid for new and upgrading residential customers. Offer expires on March 31, 2023. Offer subject to change. Actual speeds dependent on technical limits, customer equipment performance and configuration, and/ or greater Internet traffic. Internet service speeds are founded on a wired customer device. Customer devices may connect slower over WiFi. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Call 701-858-1200 or visit srt.com/internet.

