

# **SRT NEWS**letter

## **OFFICIAL NOTICE OF SRT'S 2023 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**June 15, 2023  
ND State Fair Center  
MINOT, ND**

By action of the Board of Directors, the 2023 Annual Membership Meeting of SRT Communications, Inc. will be held on Thursday, June 15, 2023 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 catered meal will be served to guests from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and entertainment will be provided by Dakota Dixie.

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:

### **DISTRICT 1**

Stanley Vangness from Berthold, Incumbent

### **DISTRICT 2**

Kristi Miller from Maxbass, Incumbent

### **DISTRICT 3**

John Marshall from Towner, Incumbent

### **DISTRICT 4**

Kriss J. Allard from Minot  
Deanna Klein from Minot, Incumbent  
Steve Pinnow from Minot

Dated this 30th day of May, 2023.

**Voter designation form** for churches, schools, corporations, cooperatives, partnerships, public golf courses, and associations is on page 7.

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

## **CASSIDY HJELMSTAD AMONG TOP 25 WOMEN IN BUSINESS FOR 2023**

Cassidy Hjelmstad, CEO and General Manager of SRT, was named one of 2023's Top 25 Women in Business in Prairie Business Magazine's March 2023 issue.

The 25 recipients were selected through a nomination process that emphasized professional achievement, community contributions, and volunteerism.

*You can read the full March issue online at [grandforksherald.com/prairie-business](http://grandforksherald.com/prairie-business).*



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# 2023 YOUTH AWARDS

## SCHOLARSHIPS

Congratulations to our 2023 Scholarship recipients! This year, SRT awarded four \$1,500 Scholarships and one \$2,500 Technical Scholarship.

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 advancements in technology will change how students learn in the future.

The SRT Technical Scholarship is awarded to a graduating high school senior or an undergraduate student working toward a degree in telecommunications or other technical field.

Applicants were required 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. A letter of recommendation from a community member or educator was also required.

“Every year, we look forward to rewarding area students for their hard work and their accomplishments, both in academics and in the community,” said Kristi Miller, SRT Board President. “These scholarship winners have bright futures ahead of them and SRT is proud to support their goals.”



**Isabell Buynak**  
MLS Mohall High School  
Daughter of Norman and Sarah Buynak



**Preston Kraft**  
Velva High School  
Son of Ryan and Kylene Kraft



**Javin Mattern**  
MLS Mohall High School  
Son of Sean and Margaret Mattern



**Magee Rovig**  
Bishop Ryan Catholic School  
Daughter of Thomas and Donna Rovig

TECHNICAL



**Ryker Pederson**  
Minot High School  
Son of Steven and Jodi Pederson

## FOUNDATION FOR RURAL SERVICE YOUTH TOUR

Braden Savelkoul of MLS Mohall High School will represent SRT during the 2023 Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., May 31 through June 4. Braden will learn about the telecommunications industry, tour our nation’s capital, and meet with legislative leaders to discuss his experiences in rural North Dakota.



**Braden Savelkoul**  
MLS Mohall High School  
Son of Terry and Laura Savelkoul

# PROTECT YOUR DIGITAL PRIVACY

As more of our data becomes digitized and we share more personal information online, it is more important than ever to safeguard that information. You don't want your private data getting in the wrong hands. But do you know how to properly protect your privacy online?

Here are five helpful tips to keep your online data and privacy protected from the bad guys who try to steal your information:

## 1. Don't Use Repeat Passwords

Avoid using the same password for every site in which you have an account. This way, if one password is comprised, the bad actors won't be able to access your information on other sites.

## 2. Manage Your Passwords

Using a secure password manager app can help protect your data and provide added convenience. You only need to remember one main password or PIN to access your other passwords within the password manager.

## 3. Secure Accounts with Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA)

This simple additional step can make a huge difference when protecting yourself online. Multi-factor authentication can require a text or email to be sent to registered contact information and acts as a second layer of defense.

## 4. Avoid Social Media Quizzes

While these personality quizzes can be fun and the results can be easily shared with your social media friends, some of these



quizzes lead you to another website by hackers as a way to steal your personal information. Not all online quizzes do this, but sometimes it can be hard to tell which quizzes are safe. When in doubt, avoid social media quizzes altogether.

## 5. Clear Your Cookies

Cookies are small amounts of data generated by a website and saved by your web browser to remember information about you. While cookies are not always bad, it's a good idea to regularly clear them from your browser. This is especially the case for unencrypted web sites or sites with suspicious cookies you may not know are there. Cookies also take up space, albeit a small amount, but this can add up over time and slow down your computer. Each browser, such as Chrome, Firefox, or Edge, has a slightly different settings layout. Make sure to look up how to clear cookies for your specific browser.

# SRT PARTICIPATES IN LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE, CONGRESSIONAL VISITS



*SRT met with Senator Kevin Cramer in Washington, D.C., to discuss rural broadband. SRT CEO/General Manager Cassidy Hjelmstad and several Board members attended, including Allan Engh, Tom Jespersen, Dennis Schott, Benjamin Robertson, and Board President Kristi Miller.*

In April, SRT leadership joined other Broadband Association of North Dakota members to visit with Senators John Hoeven and Kevin Cramer, and Congressman Kelly Armstrong, about broadband infrastructure needs of rural North Dakotans.

Nearly 500 representatives of rural broadband cooperatives from around the country gathered in Washington, D.C., for the NTCA - The Rural Broadband Association Legislative & Policy conference. NTCA members highlighted their successes in connecting local communities, while underscoring the need for continued support from Congress, the Federal Communications Commission, and other federal agencies.

# SRT CARES



**WESTHOPE STUDENT JOB SHADOW** – Brady Tofteland, a sophomore at Westhope Public School, spent March 8 outside the classroom and inside the day-to-day of SRT with CEO and General Manager, Cassidy Hjelmstad. Westhope students had the opportunity to job shadow area professionals of their choice, thanks to the Choice Ready Grant provided by the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction.



**MSU CAREER EXPO**— On March 2, SRT participated in the Minot State University Career Expo. Our team enjoyed visiting with college students about careers and providing first-hand knowledge about the world of tech and telecom.



**MINOT HOME AND GARDEN SHOW** – Once again, SRT was an exhibitor at the Minot Home and Garden Show, presented by the Minot Association of Builders, March 3-4. SRT staff were available to answer questions about our Internet, Security, and Phone services.



**KMOT AG EXPO** – SRT set up shop for all things Security and Internet at the KMOT Ag Expo, January 25-26. We provided specialized information on how Video Surveillance and Security can safeguard farms and ranches.

## CONNECT WITH US





## MOHALL SPLASH PAD

SRT presented \$25,000 to the Mohall Park District, supporting the city's capital campaign to replace Mohall's baby pool with a 1,900 square foot Family Fun Splash Pad.

A popular attraction for residents of Mohall and surrounding communities, the baby pool fell into disrepair after years of use. The pool was removed in

October 2022 to make way for the new splash pad.

SRT's gift goes toward the splash pad's estimated \$199,300 total cost.

Splash pad construction is projected to begin in May 2023 and to open this summer.



## MAGIC CITY DISCOVERY CENTER

SRT presented a \$100,000 ceremonial check to the Magic City Discovery Center in honor of its 2021 pledge to the new facility. SRT also designed and configured the WiFi and Gig Internet network system throughout the building and installed several WiFi access points. The in-kind labor, equipment, and maintenance work are valued at an additional \$50,000.

The STEAM-focused education center, located on Minot's North Hill, serves as a destination for play, learning, and inspiration.

Construction on the Discovery Center facility began in May 2021. It features 12 galleries and more than 150 interactive exhibits, and opened May 5.

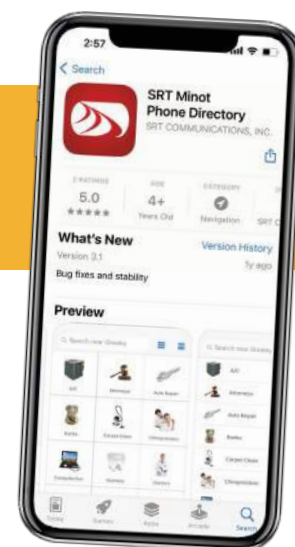
## LET SRT DIRECTORIES PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS

SRT phone books provide handy information at your fingertips. They also double as a reliable tool where your business can advertise.

Ads help customers locate your business and help you reach more than 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 2024 SRT Directory!





## **JULIE TROXEL RETIRES**

Julie Troxel retired March 1, after more than 25 years with SRT. Julie served as Business Service Representative since she joined SRT in December 1997. We appreciate her dedication to our business members and wish her the best in retirement!

## **JULIE LIZOTTE RETIRES AS DIRECTOR OF REGULATORY AFFAIRS**

Julie Lizotte, Director of Regulatory Affairs, retired March 1 after more than 34 years with the organization.

Julie joined SRT as an Accounting Clerk in 1989. She progressed to Carrier Services Specialist in 1996 and to Director of Regulatory Affairs in 2004 – the role she held until her retirement.

“Julie navigated every kind of regulatory change imaginable during her tenure with SRT. From voice to broadband regulations, she ensured SRT remained compliant in our business practices,” said Cassidy Hjelmstad, CEO and General Manager. “We appreciate her contribution to SRT and wish her the best in her retirement.”

Julie previously served on the Minot Area Chamber EDC Board of Directors. She has also served as Chairperson of the City of Minot Housing Authority Committee since 2014.



## **SRT PROMOTES DAN ROBERTS TO DIRECTOR OF SALES**



Dan Roberts was promoted to Director of Sales in February. Dan most recently served as Network Operations Manager and brings 30 years of progressively responsible telecommunications and broadband experience to his new role.

He joined SRT in 1992 and worked in sales, provisioning, and translations prior to managing network operations. As Director of Sales, Dan leads the business department, including business and security sales, product management, and sales engineering.

“Dan brings a wealth of industry experience, as well as expertise across many areas of SRT. We value his insights and leadership as we explore new offerings for our business customers and position SRT for continued growth,” said Cassidy Hjelmstad, CEO and General Manager.

Dan is a life-long resident of Minot. For the past 15 years he has represented SRT nationally in the industry on the National Information Solutions Cooperative (NISC) Advisory Committee, including four years as chairperson.

## 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.nd.gov/dhs/services/disabilities).

## SRT 2023 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 June 15, 2023 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, June 15, 2023, an authorized representative must present this completed form to the credentials registration desk at the annual meeting.

## SRT DISTRIBUTES \$1.8 MILLION IN CAPITAL CREDITS TO MEMBERS

SRT is pleased to be giving \$1,824,596 in credits back to our members!

Our Board of Directors approved SRT to issue checks that include a portion of the 2000 allocation and a portion of the 2022 allocation.

“Capital credits are a core benefit of belonging to a cooperative,” said Kristi Miller, SRT Board President. “SRT values our membership and enjoys sharing the good news of our financial health with them. These capital credits represent our members’ ownership equity.”

### SRT Capital Credits in Four Steps

1. At the end of the fiscal year, SRT determines whether there are excess revenues, called margins.
2. The margins are allocated to members as capital credits based on 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.



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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:

<p><b>Fiber 350</b> 350 x 350 Mbps  <b>\$49.95/month</b></p>	<p><b>Fiber 700</b> 700 x 700 Mbps  <b>\$69.95/month</b></p>	<p><b>Fiber GIG</b> 1000 x 1000 Mbps New price! <b>\$89.95/month</b></p>	<p><b>Sign Up or Upgrade</b> by June 30, 2023 and <b>Get 3 MONTHS FREE!</b></p>
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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 June 30, 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](http://srt.com/internet).

