

SRT NEWSletter

FCC COMMISSIONER VISITS SRT FOR INFORMATIONAL DAY ON CRITICAL COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE

Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Commissioner Olivia Trusty and Senior Legal Advisor Marcus Maher visited Minot in August to tour critical communications systems and engage in roundtable discussion with Minot area leaders.

SRT CEO/General Manager Cassidy Hjelmstad, FCC Commissioner Trusty, and FCC Senior Legal Advisor Maher began the day with a tour from officials of the Minot Air Force Base. They followed the MAFB tour with an afternoon at SRT's facilities, getting a full picture of the broadband provider and the communities it serves.

OSP Engineering Manager Scott Senger kicked off the afternoon program by presenting an introductory overview of SRT, from its establishment 75 years ago to its current impact as North Dakota's largest telecommunications cooperative. Highlighting the vast rural nature of its service area and advanced technology behind its services, the SRT team illustrated the importance of high-speed internet with real case studies. These stories ranged from remote rural communities using broadband for telehealth and agriculture, to projects based in Minot that advance regional sports, to the intermodal Logistics Park hub driving international commerce. The presentation underscored SRT's commitment to deliver high-speed internet to everyone in its service area, regardless of distance,



land area, or population. Scott noted that SRT provides the same service to Antler, with a population of 19, that it offers in the city of Minot.

Cassidy and Carissa Swenson, Executive Director of the Broadband Association of North America (BAND), described North Dakota's fiber optic network – a collaboration of DCN owners and BAND members that provides seamless broadband connection

across the state and out to the global internet.

When discussion turned to SRT's designation as a Smart Rural CommunitySM (SRC) provider by NTCA-The Rural Broadband Association, Commissioner Trusty noted SRC as a positive initiative

that recognizes the work local broadband providers are doing for their communities.

To see the technology behind SRT's broadband network first-hand, the FCC visitors then explored SRT's host facility. Jordan Kelly, SRT Network Operations Manager, led an informational tour of the systems that support and deliver broadband throughout SRT's service area. Commissioner Trusty met employees from operations, engineering, and IT disciplines and had the opportunity to ask questions about SRT's fiber network.

The day concluded with a roundtable discussion involving area leaders of major service sectors, such as Michael Frye, Chief of Police for the City of Minot; Kevin Harmon, Vice President for Student

Continued on page 2

WHAT'S INSIDE

FCC COMMISSIONER
SRT DIRECTORY

PG 2

ANNUAL MEETING RESULTS
USDA PROGRAMS

PG 3

75TH ANNIVERSARY
COMMUNITY TOUR

PG 4

UNCLAIMED CAPITAL
CREDITS

PG 5

OFFICIAL NOTICES

PG 6-7

FCC COMMISSIONER VISITS SRT FOR INFORMATIONAL DAY ON CRITICAL COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE

Continued from front page

Affairs and Intercollegiate Athletics at Minot State University; Brekka Kramer, President/CEO of the Minot Area Chamber EDC; and Christopher Van Gels, Vice President, Facilities Management of Trinity Health.

The informational day in Minot demonstrated how telecommunications function across an integrated system that keeps North Dakota moving, productive, and safe. During discussions, Commissioner Trusty indicated a greater appreciation of what SRT is doing and its impact on the state and beyond. She also noted how broadband supports essential, mission-critical services integral to life safety and economic prosperity. For example, North Dakota’s energy and agriculture sectors produce food and fuel that benefit Americans across the country, while the Minot Air Force Base is a key military installation critical to the nation’s deterrence strategy.

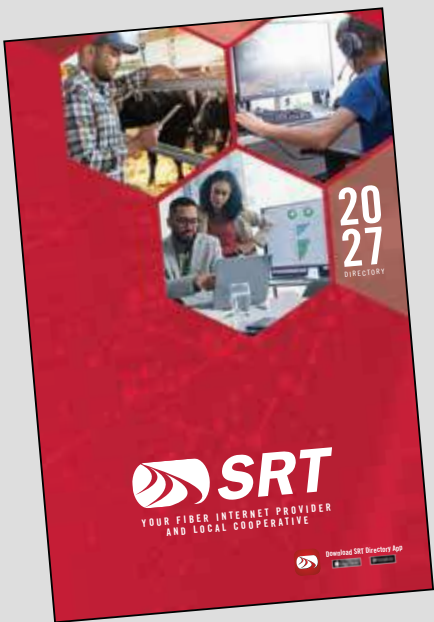


“SRT appreciates Commissioner Trusty and Senior Advisor Maher visiting Minot to learn about our telecommunications services and engage in meaningful dialogue with our leadership partners about the vital implications of broadband,” said Cassidy. “We were honored to demonstrate how SRT and other telecommunications cooperatives work to bridge the digital divide across North Dakota and advance economic vitality and quality of life indicators, both statewide and nationally.”

Cassidy continued, “We hope the day provided a comprehensive look at SRT’s role in delivering telecommunications that national defense, regional healthcare, the City of Minot, and our entire service area rely on. We also hope it illuminated real benefits of Universal Service investment and broadband connectivity – not just for every person across north-central North Dakota as they live their best lives in their own communities, but for the strength of our nation as a whole.”

2027 SRT DIRECTORY COMING SOON

Be on the lookout for 2027 SRT Phone Directory delivery starting mid-October.



Phone Directories will be available at these locations, free of charge:

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

2026 SRT ANNUAL MEETING

The 2026 SRT Annual Meeting occurred Thursday, June 18, 2026, at the North Dakota State Fair Center in Minot. Nominations of directors' petitions were distributed and accepted at SRT's headquarters from April 20, 2026, through May 19, 2026. Six petitions were qualified and verified, which authorized the names to be placed on the official election ballots distributed at the meeting. Four directors were elected to serve a three-year term on SRT's Board of Directors: District 1: Stanley Vangsness, Berthold/Carpio; District 2: Kristi Miller, Maxbass; District 3: John Marshall, Towner; and District 4: Deanna Klein, Minot. Members also voted to approve the 2025 Annual Meeting Minutes as presented.

Save the Date for
2027 Annual Meeting
Thursday, June 17, 2027

2026 Election Results

District 1:	
Stanley Vangsness	39
Spoiled ballots.....	0
District 2:	
Kristi Miller.....	60
Spoiled ballots.....	0
District 3:	
John Marshall	21
Spoiled ballots.....	0
District 4:	
Colton Bourquin.....	107
Dr. Jason Bradley	148
Deanna Klein	234
Spoiled ballots.....	9
2026 Board of Director officer positions are as follows:	
Stanley Vangsness, President	
Cheryl Overby, Vice President	
Bruce Degenstein, Secretary/Treasurer	
Stuart Rothe, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer	



USDA Programs Encourage Rural Development in Partnership with SRT

SRT brings economic development opportunities to our service area through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant program (REDLG). In partnership with USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS), REDLG allows SRT to pass funds through to qualifying rural organizations so they can create jobs and retain employment.

Recipients of the SRT REDLG program include the Mohall Ambulance Service, United Rural Ambulance District in Berthold, Precision Farm Parts in Sherwood, and most recently, Border H Veterinary Clinic in Sherwood.

SRT is proud to serve as an economic development catalyst with this assistance program 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.

This program is not meant to compete with local banks. It is designed to be a supplement to other financing options. Among other eligibility criteria, SRT cannot be a lender of last resort. A pre-application is available at www.srt.com/srtcares. Those interested are welcome to contact Becky Towery at 701-858-5168.



Anniversary Community Tour



SRT's employees and board members live alongside our membership in the communities we serve — which is why the height of summer marked the height of our 75th anniversary celebration.



THANK YOU TO THESE COMMUNITIES!

Antler
Berthold
Burlington
Butte
Carpio
Glenburn
Granville
Lake Metigoshe

Lansford
Loraine
Minot
Mohall
Newburg
Ruthville
Sawyer
Sherwood

Strawberry Lake
Surrey
Towner
Upham
Velva
Westhope

A HISTORY OF INNOVATION | A SUMMER OF CONNECTIONS



We gathered with members in ways unique to each special community setting. Thank you, SRT members, for coming out to visit, celebrate, and enjoy summer together. It was a season of making memories and taking in reminders of why SRT was formed 75 years ago.



UNCLAIMED CAPITAL CREDITS

Is your name on the list? Find out at **SRT.COM/UnclaimedCapitalCredits**

Do you have money waiting for you from SRT capital credit retirements? Visit SRT.COM/UnclaimedCapitalCredits to find out.

If your name is listed, that means a check was returned to us by the Post Office when originally mailed. You may even recognize someone

else's name; if so, feel free to encourage them to contact us about their unclaimed credits.

Individuals or their lawful heirs may claim their checks by contacting SRT at 858-1200 by May 15, 2027.

OFFICIAL NOTICES

LIFELINE

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 Based on Your Income

You can get Lifeline if your income is 135% or less than the Federal Poverty Guidelines. The guideline is based on your household size and state.

Based on If You Use SNAP, Medicaid, or Other Federal Assistance Programs

You can get Lifeline if you (or someone in your household) participate in one of these programs:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as Food Stamps Medicaid
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)
- Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit

You may have to show proof of participation, like a benefit letter or official document, when you apply for Lifeline.

Tribal Assistance Programs

If you live on Tribal lands, you can get Lifeline if your household income is at or below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, or if you (or someone in your household) participate in:

- Any of the federal assistance programs listed above
- Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance
- Head Start (only households meeting the income qualifying standard)
- Tribal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (Tribal TANF)
- Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations

You may have to show proof of participation, like a benefit letter or official document, when you apply for Lifeline.

Qualify Through Your Child or Dependent

You can get Lifeline if your child or dependent participates in any of the programs listed above.

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 <https://www.lifelinesupport.org>.

Important Notes for Eligible Consumers Nationwide

Lifeline is available for SRT broadband and phone 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: Enhanced Tribal Benefit

Low-income consumers on Tribal lands can receive a Lifeline discount of up to \$34.25 per month, and up to a \$100 reduction for first-time connection charges for Lifeline service at their primary residence.

Enhanced Monthly Support: Low-income consumers who qualify for enhanced Lifeline support can receive a discount of up to \$25 per month in addition to the standard federal benefit of up to \$9.25 if they live on Tribal lands.

Tribal Link-Up: Link-Up provides a 100% reduction (up to \$100) of the charge for starting telecommunications service at a Tribal Lifeline subscriber's primary residence. Link-Up is available to subscribers who reside on Tribal lands and is a one-time benefit per address; subscribers can request Link-Up once for each change of primary residential address.

For service initiation charges of up to \$200, Link-Up also provides a deferred, no-interest payment plan to the subscriber for up to one year.

Minimum Service Standards

Broadband – speed of 25x3 Mbps, and usage allowance to 1280 GB. If 25x3 Mbps is not offered, any generally available residential package that meets the minimum service standard qualifies for Lifeline.

Two Steps to Get Lifeline

- 1. Qualify:** Apply now to confirm you qualify for the Lifeline program. You may be eligible to get Lifeline based on your income or participation in a government assistance program.
- 2. Sign Up to Get Lifeline:** After you qualify, choose a phone or internet company near you and sign up for service with them. You can also ask your current company to apply your Lifeline benefit to a service you are already getting.

For more details, visit: <https://www.lifelinesupport.org/>

OFFICIAL NOTICES

CUSTOMER PROPRIETARY NETWORK INFORMATION

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.

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: log on 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.



PO Box 2027
Minot, ND 58702-2027

701.858.1200
800.737.9130
SRT.COM

"SRT.news" is published three times
per year from SRT, Minot, ND
Teal Myre, Editor

This institution is an equal
opportunity employer and provider.



Explore with Confidence

WHEN YOU NEED TO KNOW SOMETHING NOW, YOUR INTERNET NEEDS TO FIND IT NOW.

SRT delivers superior fiber Internet to connect you to the answer. And we back it with 24/7 local support and a 75-year legacy as your community's telecommunications cooperative.

With Internet service that shows up every time, you can look up recipes, DIY videos, or vacation rentals with confidence.

- Area's fastest internet - up to 2 Gig
- Same speed for downloads AND uploads
- Fiber to your home or business for the most reliable connection
- Free professional installation
- Local people, local company

GET THE PLAN THAT TAKES YOU THERE.

701.858.1200 • SRT.COM/CONNECTWITHCONFIDENCE

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

