



Connected



July 2020

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Board of Directors Allocates More Than \$2 Million to Members

Auditors have finalized the review of fiscal year 2019 and based upon their recommendation, your Santel Board of Directors has approved a capital credit allocation of \$2,098,318.00.

Each member that did business with the cooperative in 2019 will receive an allocation statement that explains how they have been allocated their percentage of the profits.

Statements will be sent in early July. Santel provides FiberMaxx Broadband Internet, telephone and digital TV. We are your local coop with local employees and all profits earned come back to you, our owners. Remember...the more business you do with Santel, the more you earn, and you will receive those dollars in the future!



PO Box 67, Woonsocket, SD 57385

Office Hours: 8am-5pm Mon-Fri

www.santel.coop

Email: info@santel.coop 796-4411

Santel is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

2020 Annual Meeting Planned Board of Director Positions Open

Santel Communications Cooperative, Inc. will hold our 68th Annual Meeting on Monday, September 14, 2020. You will hear from the General Manager and our Board President, and the Board Treasurer will present the 2019 audited financial statements.

There are two Board of Director seats which are up for election: the Central District seat currently held by Pam Moore of Artesian and the At-Large seat currently held by Kent Swenson. To serve on the board for the Central District, you must be an active Santel member from Forestburg, Artesian, Letcher or Mount Vernon exchanges. For the At-Large position, any active Santel member from any exchange is eligible to run. The recent Coronavirus pandemic has proven how critical Santel services are to our members whether they work from home, take online classes, keep in touch with friends and family, or stay entertained with streaming or gaming. The Santel Board provides support and direction in this technological era. **We encourage you to consider if our board would be a good fit for your talents and interests.**

To run for the Santel Board of Directors, a candidate must obtain at least 15 petition signatures from active coop members residing in the district for which they would serve. An executed Conflict of Interest Disclosure and Qualified Certification Statement must be presented at the Santel office, along with the signed petition, by no later than 20 days in advance of the Annual Meeting date. Petitions and other paperwork will be available at 308 S Dumont Ave in Woonsocket or by calling 796-4411. You may also email to info@santel.coop to receive a copy of the petition or to learn more about the roles and responsibilities that come with being a member of the Santel Board of Directors.



Mark your calendars...more details to come regarding the time and venue for the meeting and election. Appropriate steps will be taken to ensure social distancing and safety for all members who wish to participate!

Summer Interns Gain Experience



Brayden Leischner (above left) and Abiah Plastow (above right) are both MTI students majoring in Telecommunications. They are interning this summer with Santel combo techs in our Central and South districts.

Emily Johnson is a senior at SDSU where she'll soon graduate with a degree in Advertising with a minor in Social Media. She is interning with Santel's Marketing Department.



Isaac Kolousek (left) is attending SD School of Mines & Technology with a major in Computer Science, minor in Math. Kyle Zoss is a Letcher native attending DSU. Both are interning as Computer Technicians at Tech Solutions.



Internet Services are Tax-Free as of July

The Internet Tax Freedom Act becomes effective in South Dakota on July 1, 2020 which means that Santel customers will no longer pay city or state sales tax on Internet services. The Act, first passed in 1998, defines Internet Service as the service that enables customers to connect to the Internet and it also includes charges for a homepage and electronic mail. You will still see sales tax on your telephone service, digital TV service and your Whole Home Wi-Fi.

Telecommunication

Relay Service

Relay South Dakota enables deaf, hard-of-hearing, or speech disabled persons to communicate via telephone. The service is available 24 hours per day, 365 days per year with no restrictions on length or number of calls placed. All calls are strictly confidential and no records of conversations are ever kept. There is no charge to persons who use this service. It is funded by the \$.15 per line fee you see on your bill each month.

To use TRS:

1. Dial 7-1-1 from anywhere in South Dakota or 1-800-544-1113 from anywhere outside the state.
2. Ask the communication assistant to dial the number you're calling.
3. The assistant will type the spoken words to the TTY user and voice the typed words back to your standard phone.
4. Speak slowly and clearly to the person you are calling, not the assistant.
5. Remember to say "go ahead" each time you finish speaking to let the other party know it's their turn.



Scott Beekman
5 yrs svc



Joe Geppert
20 yrs svc

Santel Anniversaries

THANK YOU for all you do!

