



Connected



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2022 Annual Meeting is in the Books



The 70th Annual Meeting of the members of Santel Communications Cooperative was held on Monday, September 19th at the Woonsocket Community Center. A small crowd made up the quorum and received \$20 bill credits for attending. They enjoyed delicious roast beef sandwiches, baked beans and potato salad catered by Shooters of Wolsey before they heard reports from the board president, treasurer and general manager. Those in attendance also voted to approve recommended changes to the cooperative By-Laws as proposed in the invitation/ mailing that went out to all cooperative members.

As stated in the By-Laws, all Santel customers are valued patrons, but only those in the traditional cooperative territory are eligible to become members when purchasing telecom services. Some terms of membership were edited and election deadlines were changed to ensure sufficient administration of future elections.

The evening wrapped up with 1 in every 3 members receiving a door prize. Prizes included \$50 and \$100 gift cards, coolers, many golfing accessories, a 43" TV, \$100 Santel bill credits, and the grand prize of \$50 per month bill discount for the next 12 months (a total of \$600 to one lucky winner).



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Santel is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

Cooperatives
BUILD
A BETTER WORLD

What is a co-op? A cooperative is a private business organization that is owned and controlled by the people who use its products and services. Although they can vary in size and type, all cooperatives were formed to meet the specific objectives of its members and they are structured to adapt to member's changing needs.

Sanborn Telephone Cooperative (now Santel Communications Cooperative, Inc.) was formed in 1952 by a group of forward-thinking business persons who knew that good telecommunication services would be critical to survival in rural South Dakota.

Today Santel is governed by a board of directors who are chosen by the membership and who are dedicated to continuing the tradition of serving our members and advancing our quality of life through telecommunications.

Kramer and Neuharth to Continue as Directors



Dr. Jeff Kramer of Tripp and Cindy Neuharth of Alpena will continue as board directors for Santel Communications. Each of their three-year terms had expired and theirs were the only petitions to be submitted, so they will both serve another three years.

Dr. Kramer was honored at the Annual Meeting for 20 years of service to the Santel Board of Directors. He is currently the Treasurer of the board and represents the South district which consists of the Ethan, Parkston and Tripp exchanges. When asked why he wants to remain a member of Santel's board, Jeff said "I want to continue to be part of the ever-changing telecom landscape and help bring those technologies back to Santel and the people we serve."

Jeff and his wife Teri operate their chiropractic practice on Main Street in Tripp and in 2019 they opened a second practice in Parkston. Jeff's interests include computers, hunting and fishing, but most of all he enjoys following his son Kolter's football, wrestling, track and baseball teams.

Cindy joined the Santel Board of Directors in 2020 to represent the North district which consists of the Wolsey, Alpena and Woonsocket exchanges. Cindy is currently self-employed, but previously worked as VP for a wealth planning firm and she has a health/life insurance license. Cindy and her husband Stuart have three children and seven grandchildren. She loves the outdoors and spending time at grandkids' activities.

When asked why she wanted to remain on the Santel board, Cindy said "I have only been on the board for a few years. I feel like I am just now knowledgeable enough to add quality conversation with other members and telcos. I have a desire to continue to learn more as it is a fascinating field. I am so thankful for technology and all that it has done to help with education, telehealth, streaming services, agriculture, remote/hybrid work and smart homes among many other things.



Santel proudly supports all of our local schools. Catch all the action on Santel TV channels 90 - 91 and 101 - 108.

**Mt Vernon * Parkston
Mitchell * Sanborn Central
Tripp-Delmont * Woonsocket
Ethan * Wolsey-Wessington
Wessington Springs**

**Watch Santel's on-screen
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broadcast schedules!**

