



Connected



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Board of Director Petitions Due in August

Santel Communications Cooperative, Inc. will hold the 70th Annual Meeting on Monday, September 18, 2023. You will hear from the General Manager and our Board President as they report on the state of the cooperative and the telecom industry. The Board Treasurer will present the 2022 audited financial statements.

There are two Board of Director seats that will be up for election due to expiration of current terms: the Central District seat currently held by Pam Moore of Artesian and the At-Large seat currently held by Kent Swenson of Woonsocket. To serve on the board for the Central District, you must be an active Santel member from Artesian, Forestburg, Letcher, or Mount Vernon exchanges. For the At-Large seat, you must be an active member from anywhere within the ten cooperative exchanges.



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 a Qualified Certification Statement must both be presented at the Santel office, along with the signed petition, by no later than 30 days in advance of the Annual Meeting date.

Petitions and other applicable forms will be available at 308 S Dumont Ave in Woonsocket or by calling 605-796-4411. You may also reach us at info@santel.coop to receive emailed copies. We encourage any interested members to contact our office if you'd like to learn more about the roles and responsibilities that come with being a member of the Santel Board of Directors.

Mark your calendars...a meal will be served from 5-6pm with the business meeting to start at 6pm at the Woonsocket Community Center. Petitions and forms for board candidates must be returned to the Santel office by no later than 5pm on Friday, August 18, 2023.



PO Box 67, Woonsocket, SD 57385

Office Hours: 8am-5pm Mon-Fri

www.santel.coop

Email: info@santel.coop 605-796-4411

Santel is an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

Better Router.
Better App.
Better Wi-Fi Experience.

Get the Whole Home Wi-Fi System from Santel Communications

TV News & Changes

There's lots of activity here with Santel TV and we want to be sure our subscribers know what's happening.

- ◆ We launched Santel Smart Stream in late 2022 and began offering it to our customers in Spring 2023. Going forward, Smart Stream will be our primary TV product as we implement technological and cost-saving upgrades. Santel Smart Stream looks like our traditional Santel TV, but the app-based service can also be watched on your smart phones, tablets, Roku, Apple, and Amazon Fire devices. With the shift to using other devices, Santel can keep your monthly charges down by eliminating rather than replacing our aging settop boxes. Learn more at <https://santel.coop/residential/smartstream/>

Effective September 1, Santel will not automatically replace failing boxes. The price of new boxes has increased tremendously, supply is limited, and they are more costly to support. Our helpful technicians will install one FREE Amazon 4K Firestick and assist with loading the Santel Smart Stream app on that device as well as your smart phone/tablet. Customers will have the option to pay an additional monthly fee for a streaming settop box or switch to the Santel Smart Stream app.

- ◆ It seems that Bally Sports has reached an agreement to continue broadcasting the Twins games that they were originally scheduled to air, but we will keep an eye on the situation going forward.
- ◆ DVR content has traditionally been kept on your virtual DVR forever; however, going forward all **DVR content will be automatically deleted after 12 months unless it is specifically saved**. To protect/save any recordings that you want to be sure are not deleted: go into your DVR recordings, select the item in question, and where you have options to watch or delete you also have an icon giving you the option to save your recording...select that option to protect the recording. The automatic cleansing of old content will not apply to recordings on traditional DVR boxes; however all of those traditional DVR boxes are reaching end of life and we recommend customers upgrade to the virtual DVR at your earliest convenience to avoid the inconvenience of a failed box.
- ◆ As of August 30th, the Stingray Music Channels will no longer be part of the Santel TV lineup. Customers can continue to access this content at music.stingray.com or on the Stingray Mobile App. For Santel Smart Stream customers, there are many other streaming apps such as Spotify, Amazon Music, SiriusXM or Pandora.



Directory Additions

CAVOUR

Burma, Lyle-Joyce 605-599-2392

ETHAN

Aragon, Kala 605-227-3826

HURON

Baum, Ronald-Linda 605-352-5800



Santel's Thompson Re-elected To SDN Board

The SDN Communications Board of Managers elected Santel Communications General Manager/CEO Ryan Thompson to serve a one-year term during its recent annual meeting.

Thompson has been the General Manager and CEO of Woonsocket-based Santel Communications since 2006.

The nine members on the Board of Managers oversee SDN Communications, which is owned by 17 rural broadband companies serving more than 80% of South Dakota's geography.

SDN Communications interconnects all 17 companies, creating a statewide fiber optic network of more than 50,000 miles that spans eight states: South Dakota, Minnesota, North Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Montana, Wyoming and Colorado. Together SDN and its member companies serve businesses needing managed services along with broadband connectivity among office locations.



See every touchdown, every Sunday...call Santel at 605-796-4411 to subscribe