



Connected



July 2023

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Board of Directors Allocates More Than \$5 Million to Members

Based upon the completed audit of Santel's 2022 financial statements, your Santel Board of Directors has approved a capital credit allocation of \$5,195,546.

Each fully vested owner-member that did business with the cooperative in 2022 will receive a mailed allocation statement that explains how they have been allocated their percentage of the profits. Statements were sent in late June.

Santel provides fiber Internet, telephone and streaming TV services. We are your local coop with local employees, and all profits earned come back to our owners. Not all customers are owners; if you have questions, please call our office at 605-796-4411. Remember...**the more business you do with Santel, the more you earn.**



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 and employer.

2023 Annual Meeting Planned Board of Director Positions Open



Santel Communications Cooperative, Inc. will hold our 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.

MN Twins vs Bally Sports

You may have heard that Diamond Sports Group (DBA Bally Sports North) has filed for bankruptcy protection, and recently a federal bankruptcy judge has ordered Diamond/Bally's to pay the Minnesota Twins the full contractually obligated sum for 2023 broadcasting rights. If the Twins do not receive the payment due by July 1, 2023, according to Twin Cities Business Magazine, "Major League Baseball will take over the production and distribution of the games." (<https://tcbmag.com/twins-mlb-prevail-in-legal-claim-against-bally-sports/>)



Santel is actively monitoring the situation and we anticipate that we will broadcast the Twins games for all of the 2023 season regardless of whether we receive the broadcast from Bally's or the alternative MLB offering. We will continue to update customers as we learn more.



Directory Additions

MOUNT VERNON

Holcomb, Debbie 605-236-5587

TRIPP

Finck, Conrad 605-935-6191

WOONSOCKET

Wolter, Joel 605-796-4961

Let's Save the Trees...Plus Time & Money!



Paying bills is never fun, but we've got ways to make it easier. Some of our customers call us monthly to pay by phone, but if all representatives are busy then it can be frustrating to hold or call back. And also, did you know, when you use Bank-Pay through your bank, they are printing and mailing a check to Santel? It isn't an electronic transfer and it isn't mailed from your local bank...some of them are coming from several states away. They often hold your payment until closer to the due date so they can mail us multiple payments in the same envelope. We frequently see the checks take more than a week to arrive and sometimes customers incur late fees as a result. Santel has several options that avoid phone calls or check writing and the whole mail process.

- ◆ Santel autopay applies directly to your Santel account on a pre-determined date and we electronically handle the bank deduct on our end, so it is more efficient and cost effective for both Santel and your bank.
- ◆ You can initiate your payment each month at www.santel.coop rather than through your bank...simply click on My Account, login to your eBill, choose the Pay button, and authorize instant payment. You can save your bank info for easy payment in future months.
- ◆ You can download the Santel eBill Mobile App to your smartphone or tablet (download from Apple Store or Google Play). After you sign in the first time, all subsequent months you can simply open the app, click Pay, and you're good to go!



Stay Connected

The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) is a U.S. government program that helps many low income households pay for broadband service and internet connected devices.

Eligible households can receive up to \$30 per month credit towards Internet services.

To see if you qualify, visit www.affordableconnectivity.gov