October 2025 Volume 31, Issue 10

73rd Annual Meeting: Not an open seat to be had!

Monday September 22nd, we could not have asked for a better night in Woonsocket for the 73rd Annual Meeting! Over 250 Meals served. So many of you attended we had to make a midmeal dash to the grocery store to find more food! All attendees received a $20 service credit for attending.

Members heard reports from Board President Jerry Jenssen and General Manager Ryan Thompson as well as reviewed the 2024 financial statements presented by Board Treasurer Dr. Jeff Kramer.

There was no director election this year. Northern District Director **Cindy Neuharth** and Southern District Director **Dr. Jeff Kramer**, both incumbents, were the only members to submit petitions for their respective seats.

Members voted on a proposed bylaw addition. After volunteers gathered to tally the ballots, the results showed the addition did not pass.

The evening finished with door prizes drawn. These prizes were provided either by Santel Vendors, or Santel itself! Ranging from pickle ball sets, and air pods, to cash, and even $50 per month credit for the next 12 months of service! Anderson Underground, the construction company that was awarded the bid for the Yankton and Clay County expansion project, gifted the top prize of a 13" Apple iPad Air, a value of $800! We thank everyone for coming, our hard working staff, the directors, and special thanks to Pam, Randy and Weston for planning the entire event!

SANTEL COMMUNICATIONS

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Santel is an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

National CO-OP month

Why Local Ownership Still Matters

Santel was formed in 1952 because rural South Dakotans knew the big providers weren't coming. So neighbors banded together, built it themselves, and made sure service was designed for the people who actually lived here. That's what a cooperative is: member-owned, locally controlled, and rooted in community.

What "Member-Owner" Means

- **Local decisions:** Choices are made here, not in a corporate tower.
- **Reinvestment:** Profits go back into stronger networks and services.
- **Capital credits:** Members share in the margin. Simple and fair.
- **Neighbors** We know your gravel roads, and we live next door.

Why It Still Works

Technology changes fast. Co-ops keep pace without losing sight of why we exist: to make life better for the people who live here. That means fiber that lasts, Wi-Fi that works everywhere, and service backed by neighbors, not strangers.

The Co-op Difference

- Real people answer the phone.
- Service built to last, not just "good enough for now."
- Growth guided by trust, not Wall Street.

This October, celebrate National Co-op Month by remembering the quiet advantage of local ownership: **decisions that stay close to home and benefits that circle back to you.**

New Telephone Lines:

Ethan

Fulton, Sherry – 605-227-5719

Mitchell

Hohn, Wayne-Wanda – 605-996-8849

Parkston

Murtha, David – 605-928-3480

Catch all the action on Santel TV channels 90 - 91 and 101 - 108.

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

Mid-September Santel & Tech Solutions participated in the FRS 5K. The Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) 5K Rural Run/Walk is a virtual fundraiser that supports and strengthens rural communities across the country. Staff turned out and tuned in from all across our region, not only to raise money, but to promote wellness among our own rank and file! We're proud to report a 100% participation for this event! We'd like to thank Tech Solutions Nichole for putting it all together!