August, 2026 Volume 32, Issue 8

SAVE THE DATE: ANNUAL MEETING WED. SEPT. 16th • WOONSOCKET GYM

Santel's Annual Meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, September 16, 2026. After the wonderful attendance in 2025, this years meeting will be held at the Woonsocket School Gym.

Eligible members will receive official invitations in early September with additional meeting details.

This year, there will be two eligible seats opening on the Santel Board of Directors.

Central District Seat: This seat is currently held by Pam Moore. Any active Santel member in the Artesian, Forestburg, Letcher, or Mount Vernon exchanges is eligible to run for this seat.

At-Large Seat: This seat is currently held by Kent Swenson. Any active Santel member from any Santel exchange is eligible to run for this seat.

Members interested in running for a seat on the Santel Board of Directors should contact the Santel office at 605-796-4411 or info@santel.coop to obtain a petition.

Petitions must be signed by at least 15 active members of the territory the candidate would serve. Completed petitions must be turned in to the Santel billing office, located at 308 S Dumont Ave, Woonsocket, SD, no later than 5:00 PM on August 17, 2026.

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

Woonsocket - Aug. 19th
Sanborn Central - Aug. 19th
Wolsey-Wess. - Aug. 17th
Huron - Aug. 19th
Mount Vernon - Aug. 19th
Mitchell - Aug. 19th
Ethan - Aug. 18th
Parkston - Aug. 19th
Tripp-Delmont- Aug. 19th
Yankton - Aug. 17th
Vermillion - Aug. 19th

NFL REDZONE From NFL NETWORK

NFL REDZONE sign-up and renewals are now open!

NFL REDZONE brings you every touchdown from every game, every Sunday!

★ Launching the Next 250 Years of Connection ★
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.

Don't have time for a phone call?
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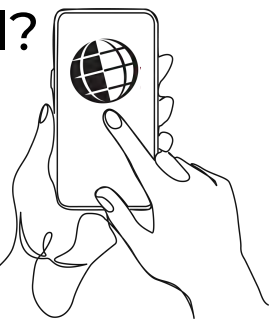

Pam Kopfmann Celebrates 30 Years at Santel

Pam Kopfmann officially pinned 30 years in her hat at Santel.

Pam began her career in accounting before eventually taking over as Customer Service Manager. Over the years, she has had a hand in the operations of nearly every department and has become one of the driving forces behind Santel's day-to-day operations.

You may remember last month's story about Mark Hohn retiring after 30 years. Pam and Mark started at Santel around the same time, although Pam is quick to point out that she had seniority by a few weeks.

Like Mark, Pam has witnessed a mountain of change in the telecommunications industry during the past three decades. One memory that stands out from the early years of her career is the amount of time the customer service department spent manually reviewing long-distance charges for billing and helping customers who called with questions. It was a much different world from the one we work in today.

It might be easy to coast after 30 years, but that is far from the case with Pam. She is often working even when she is not technically working, I have the late-night email receipts to prove it.

Thirty years naturally brings up the question of retirement. I have not asked Pam about her plans, but I feel confident saying she still has plenty of good work left to do. Besides, finding someone to fill her shoes could take a while, so she may just have to stick around for another 15 or 20 years.

Congratulations, Pam, and thank you for 30 years of hard work, leadership, and dedication to Santel and its members.

Important Santel Webmail Update

Some santel.net users received an email from us in July. If you received that message, your email settings need to be updated. If you did not receive an email from us about your santel.net account, no changes are needed.

As part of an email system upgrade, Santel email users will be required to use their full email address when signing in.

Beginning August 1, 2026, you must use your complete email address, including @santel.net, or your device may no longer be able to send or receive email.

For example:

Current username: username

Required username: username@santel.net

You may need to update the incoming and outgoing mail settings on each phone, tablet, computer, or email program where you access your Santel email.

For assistance updating your settings, contact the Santel Help Desk:
Email: helpdesk@santel.coop
Call or Text: 605-796-4411

Our staff will be happy to walk you through the update.