

**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
LIFELINE/LINK UP ADVERTISING/OUTREACH  
ANNUAL REPORT  
JUNE 1, 2008**

Company: Santel Communications

Address: Po Box 67

Woonsocket, SD 57385

Telephone number: 605-796-4411

Company contact: Pamela Kopfmann

Study Area Code: 605

Lifeline/Link Up Advertising/Outreach Activities:



Advertise in media of general distribution.\* (See attached advertisement(s).)



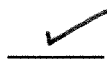
Letter to existing and new customers regarding the availability of Lifeline/Link Up.\* (See attached letter.)



Company's Lifeline/Link Up information in directory.



Company's Lifeline/Link Up information available on Company website.  
([www.companywebsiteaddress.com](http://www.companywebsiteaddress.com))



Company's information posted on USAC website.



Other (describe): Info. included on new service  
applications.

\*Required

## Unclaimed Capital Credit Checks

Below is a partial list of past members who have an unclaimed capital credit check in the Santel office. If you have an address or know where we might locate anyone on the list, please call our office by dialing 777, 796-4411, 1-888-978-7777 or e-mail [info@santel.net](mailto:info@santel.net).

Asetoyer, David  
Baker, Sandy (Collins)  
Boster, Mary  
Byrd, Blaine-Terri  
Davis, Steven  
Dummer, Heath-Joann  
Dunham Construction  
Espanata, Victoria  
Gates, Bonnie  
Grosz, Michael-Karen  
Larson, Blaine-Heather  
Moschell, Daniel-Jeralee  
Mulliner, Robert  
Myers, Cheryle-Royce  
Nelson, Wade-Becky  
Patterson, JR  
Perez, Jesus

Peta, Jerry  
Phinney, John-Marna  
Phonetel Technologies  
Pirner, Randy-Crystal  
Richards, Randy  
Safar, Kristine  
Schrank, Michael  
Stolz, Wm  
Stults, Susan Escudore  
Townsend, Jane  
Valero, LP  
Vallen, Myrtle  
Vilhauer, Michele  
Welk, Art  
White, Chris-Kim  
Willett, Dani & Roach, Cheryl  
Wyld, Edwin

## Yes, You Can Afford Telephone Service

Federal Law and state lawmakers believe that every person in America should have access to quality, affordable telecommunications service. In fact, they've created a system to do just that.

If you participate in programs such as: Medicaid, Food Stamps, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Federal Public Housing Assistance, The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP), Temporary Aid for Needy Families (TANF), Headstart (meeting income qualifying standards), or National School Lunch Free Lunch Program or if your household income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines, you may qualify for a discount on your telephone bill.

This discount includes:

- ◆ Lifeline assistance that provides discounts for basic monthly local service - You can save at least \$8.25 on your monthly phone bill for basic local telephone service in the home where you live.
- ◆ Link Up that reduces the cost of initiating new telephone service - Eligible consumers can receive up to 50% off the initial charges to hook up basic local telephone services.
- ◆ Toll Limitation Service that allows you to control your long-distance charges

How to obtain telephone assistance

- ◆ Anyone wishing to participate in Lifeline and Link Up is required to sign a certificate indicating, under oath, that they qualify to participate because they meet a least one of the program eligibility requirements.

What if my benefits stop?

- ◆ If you no longer qualify for any economic program, you no longer qualify for Link Up or Lifeline.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SIGN-UP FOR LIFELINE OR LINK UP SERVICES,  
CALL THE SANTEL OFFICE  
BY DIALING 777 FROM ANY EXCHANGE OR 796-4411 OR 1-888-978-7777

## Juniors, Apply for Free Summer Trip

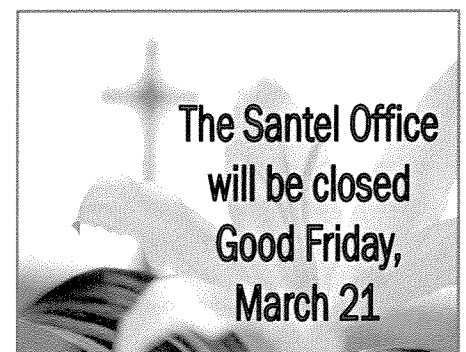
Current juniors in high school are encouraged to apply for the 2008 National Institute of Cooperative Education (NICE) trip. The NICE seminar will be held July 27-30 in Asheville, NC, on the campus of the University of North Carolina. This annual institute is made available by the National Council of Farmers Cooperatives and Santel Communications Cooperative is one of the sponsoring cooperatives who provide an all-expense paid trip to NICE.

To be eligible to win an all-expense paid trip to NICE from Santel Communications, the following requirements must be met:

- Currently be a junior in high school
- Your parent or guardian must be a cooperative member of Santel Communications
- Complete the 2008 CO-OP QUIZ
- Write a short paragraph on how cooperatives benefit your community.
- List the cooperatives in your area.

The quiz and paragraph must be returned to Santel by April 15, 2008, and winners will be selected by the end of April. There is no set limit on the number of winners Santel will sponsor, so be sure to apply for the trip.

The quiz is available from your high school counselor or our office by dialing 777 with any questions you might have.



## Santel Annual Meeting is Thursday, May 1

The 55th Annual Meeting of Santel Communications Cooperative will be held Thursday, May 1, in the Woonsocket gym. Santel Cooperative members are encouraged to attend the annual meeting to see and hear the business of the local cooperative.

Registration and meal begin at 6:30 and the business meeting is at 7:00.

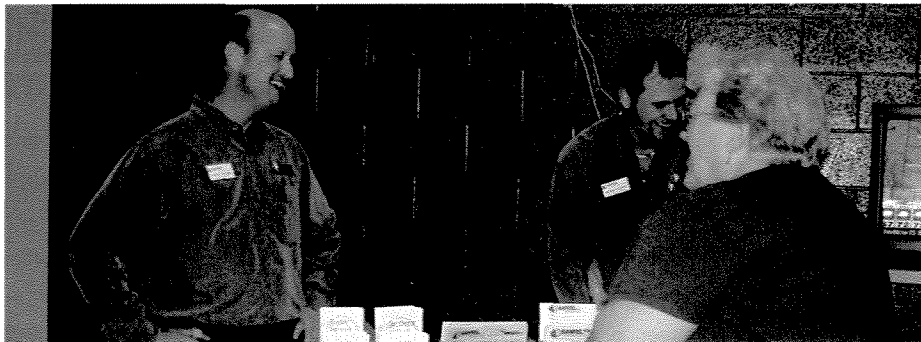
The Nominating Committee has announced that the following persons have been nominated for the open positions on the Board of Directors: Alpena Exchange, Tommy Baruth; Ethan Exchange, Gerald Koch; Wolsey Exchange, Ruth Brodtkorb; Director At Large, Harry Everhart and Kent Swenson.

Nominations are still open. Any member of Santel Communications Cooperative is eligible to run for the Board of Directors and no age restrictions apply. Members have the right to run if a petition is signed by 15 members who reside in the same exchange area and is filed with the Secretary of the Board not less than 20 days before the meeting.

At the Annual Meeting there will be live demonstrations of Santel services and the opportunity to visit with Santel employees and Board Directors. Several door prizes will be given away and you will receive a gift and Santel statement credit just for registering.

Keep the registration card that will arrive in April and bring it with you to the meeting.

**BELOW:** Santel employees Kregg Krueger and Morrey Overby enjoy visiting with one of Santel's Cooperative members at the 2007 Annual Meeting.



## March 28 Deadline for Memorial Scholarship

The March 28 deadline is near for seniors who plan to submit an application for the Ray Judy Memorial Scholarship.

In May, Santel will announce ten recipients of the Scholarship. The \$500 scholarships are awarded to graduating seniors whose parents or guardians have Santel telephone service and who will attend a college or vocational school in South Dakota within six months of high school graduation.

Applications are available from our office, your school, or online at our website: <http://www.santel.net/~info/>.

The deadline to submit applications is Friday, March 28, 2008.

## Digital TV Transition - Have No Fear

Santel has received questions about the Digital TV Transition that is to take place in February 2009.

First of all, if you have Santel Video you have no need to be concerned. You won't even know a transition took place! And it isn't necessary to buy a new TV set of any kind.

The transition to digital TV will only affect those of you who watch TV with an antenna. If this applies to you, you will need to purchase a converter box for each TV you use. When the converter boxes become available, you may apply for a government coupon to defray the cost. Each coupon will be valued at \$40.00 towards a \$60.00 converter box, and there will be two coupons allowed per household. Verification of antenna use is mandatory to receive the coupons.

Eligible households will be able to receive coupons from the NTIA (National Telecommunications and Information Association) either through a website or over the phone from January 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009. If you have Internet access, log-on to this website: <http://www.ntia.doc.gov./dtvcoupon> to order your coupons or dial this toll-free number: 1-888-388-2009.

To make things simpler, you could also subscribe to Santel Digital TV, which is available in 10 of our exchange towns. Our service works with any type of TV, old or new. Call our office to see what package meets your TV needs.

And Santel Video is packaged with high-speed Jetnet Internet, giving you a lower price for taking multiple Santel services.



**Lifeline, Link Up, and Toll Limitation Service Support** provide discounts to eligible low-income consumers to help them establish and maintain telephone service. **Note:** Telecommunications carriers cannot charge a Lifeline customer federal USF fees on the local service portion of their telephone bill.

### ***What type of discount is available?***

**Lifeline** assistance lowers the cost of basic, monthly local telephone service. Eligible consumers can receive up to \$8.25 per month in discounts.

**Link Up** reduces the cost of initiating new telephone service. Eligible consumers can receive a 50% discount off of the one-time costs associated with initiating telephone service, up to a maximum of \$30. Eligible consumers also qualify for a deferred payment schedule for remaining costs of up to \$200.

**Toll Limitation Service (TLS)** support allows eligible consumers who wish to avoid incurring large long distance fees to choose toll blocking or toll control at no cost.

### ***Are there any restrictions?***

Lifeline can only be used for the main telephone line in a household. Lifeline customers may purchase all services offered to non-Lifeline customers. The name on your phone bill must match the name of the participant who is eligible for the program.

### ***How do I know whether I am eligible?***

Eligibility for Lifeline, Link Up, and TLS support varies by state. In states that do not provide state support, such as South Dakota, the federal guidelines are used. An individual is eligible if he or she participates in one of the following programs:

- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance or Section 8
- Medicaid
- Food Stamps
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- National School Lunch Program's free lunch program

In addition, a consumer may be eligible if his or her household income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines which are on the reverse side.



## **2008 Estimated Income Requirements for a Household at or Below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines**

A consumer may qualify if they participate in any of the programs listed on the previous page, or have a household income that is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines:

<b>Persons in Family Unit</b>	<b>48 Contiguous States and D.C.</b>
1	\$14,040
2	\$18,900
3	\$23,760
4	\$28,620
5	\$33,480
6	\$38,340
7	\$43,200
8	\$48,060
For each additional person, add	\$4,860

### ***How do I apply to receive Lifeline, Link Up, and TLS support discounts?***

To apply for Lifeline, Link Up, and TLS discounts, or if you have any questions, please contact our billing office by dialing 777 from your home phone or 1-888-978-7777 from outside of our service area.

### ***Notice of DTV Transition***

After February 17, 2009, a television receiver with only an analog broadcast tuner will require a converter box to receive over-the-air broadcasts with an antenna because of the Nation's transition to digital broadcasting. Analog-only TVs should continue to work as before with cable and satellite TV services, gaming consoles, VCRs, DVD players, and similar products. Santel Communications Cable TV customers will continue to work as before. Information about the DTV transition is available from [www.DTV.gov](http://www.DTV.gov) and from [www.dtv2009.gov](http://www.dtv2009.gov) or 1-888-DTV-2009 for information about subsidized coupons for digital-to-analog converter boxes.