## SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION LIFELINE/TRIBAL LINK UP ADVERTISING/OUTREACH **ANNUAL REPORT JULY 1, 2013**

Company:

Company:	Santel Communications Cooperative, Inc.					
Address:	PO Box 67					
	Woonsocket, SD 57385					
Telephone ni	umber: 605-796-4411					
Company co	Pam Kopfmann					
Study Area C	Code: 1676					
Lifeline/Triba	I Link Up Advertising/Outreach Activities:					
<u>X</u>	Advertise in media of general distribution.* (See attached advertisement(s).)					
X	Letter to existing and new customers regarding the availability of Lifeline/ Tribal Link Up.* (See attached letter.)					
X	Company's Lifeline/Tribal Link Up information in directory.					
<u>X</u>	Company's Lifeline/Tribal Link Up information available on Company website ( <a href="www.companywebsiteaddress.com">www.companywebsiteaddress.com</a> )					
X	Company's information posted on USAC website.					
X	Other (describe): Newsletter articles; Lifeline info distributed at county nurse offices, senior citizen centers and school lunch offices.					
*Required						

(phone 352-0760). Worship at Forestburg Lutheran Church 9 a.m. with communion and coffee

cup coins.

Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Rev. Michael Bagnall. Services to be held in Mt. Zion Lutheran, Church, Wessington Springs. March 28: Maundy Thursday worship 7 p.m. Good Friday services 7 p.m. Easter Sunday services 7 a.m. Pancake breakfast to follow services.

Storla-Trinity-Salem Lutheran parishes, Rev. Mindy Ehrke. March 28: Maundy Thursday worship at Salem 7 p.m. March 29: Good Friday worship at Storla 7 p.m. March 31: Easter Sunday worship at Salem 9 a.m. Worship at Trinity 10:30 a.m.

Fedora Presbyterian Church, Rev. Richard Poppen. Worship 9:45 a.m. Sunday school 10:30 a.m.

Prairie Community Baptist Church, Rev. Don Holmes. Worship 11 a.m. Sunday school10 a.m.

St. Wilfrid Catholic Church, Fr. Jim Friedrich. Saturday Mass 8 p.m.

St. Charles Catolic Church, Fr. Jim Fr. Friedrich. Sunday Mass 7:30 a.m.

Letcher Community Church, Rev. Garry Swagger. Worship service 10:15 a.m. Sunday school 11:15 a.m.

Loomis Congregational Church, Rev. Garry Swagger. Worship service

First Lutheran Church, Aresian. Rev. LeShea Avery (605-772-4146).

Brought to you by...



out All-Star Basketball game this Saturday, March 30 in Salem.

This is the 26th year of the Shoot-out, which showcases the talent of the best players in the state in each class. Moore's Class B All-Star team will play at 3:30 p.m. versus the winner of the Class A vs. AA game to be played at 2 p.m.

That game will be followed by the boys Class B vs. A All-Stars and a dunk contest. The last game is the winner of the first boys game versus the Class AA team.

Moore's team will be coached by Todd Schlimgen of Mt. Marty College.

ter area by the USDA, giving Baysinger the opportunity to place two \$2,500 donations. He selected the Woonsocket Volunteer Fire Department and Sanborn County 4-H to be the recipients.

The Woonsocket Volunteer Fire Department, Sanborn Communities is sport by the Monsanto Fur highlight the important ributions farmers may ery day to our society their them positively in their communities. This gram is part of the Mon Fund's overall effort to port rural America.

# Moore's team will be coached by Todd 3-28-2013 Sanborn Tournal Need help with your phone bill? Lifeline support available

Lifeline support is available to those who qualify and the credit will appear on your monthly bill. Those who qualify will receive a credit of \$9.25 on their monthly telephone bill.

To be eligible for Lifeline, Santel customers must participate in ONE of the following programs:

• Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LI-HEAP):

• Federal Public Housing Assistance or Section 8;

Medicaid;

• Supplemental Nutrition

Assistance Program (SNAP);
• 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 percent of the federal poverty guidelines.

Please contact Santel Communications to see if you qualify for Lifeline support. Just dial 777 from your home phone.

## Area firefighters complete fire school

## Trainees burn house as final test

Firemen from Woonsocket, Artesian, Letcher and Mt. Vernon completed their fire school Saturday, a requirement for serving as a volunteer fire and rescue worker.

The trainees spent Saturday going through live drills and ultimately performing a controlled burn on a vacant house in Woonsocket. The house burned was a block west of Lake Prior between Colleen Swenson's and Marc and Katy Olson's.

Trainees graduating the school (pictured below, not in order) are: Brandon Goergen, Derek Foos, Garret Foos, Joe Sandness and Neal Hiemstra of Woonsocket; Darin Amick, Shanna Jensen and Brandon Manchester of Letcher; Mike Kluth and Derek DeVries of Mt. Vernon; and Eric Eckman of Artesian.



## McKenzie Taxidermy acquires Jonas Supply

McKenzie Taxidermy, parent company of Van Dykes Taxidermy, has apparently brought another company under their wing.

It seems Jonas Brothers Supply of Colorado was recently acquired by McKenzie.

A number of truckloads were observed arriving and unloading at the Van Dyke's Taxidermy Woonsocket location over the weekend.

An Internet search brought up the following announcement said to be from McKenzie Taxidermy regarding the acquisition:

Jonas Supply is now part of the McKenzie family of companies. Jonas is one of the oldest names in the industry with a rich heritage dating back to 1908 when Coleman Jonas and his brother John founded Jonas Brothers Taxidermy Studio. During the last 100 plus years, Jonas has grown to be an industry leader in both taxidermy and taxidermy supplies.... McKenzie will manufacture and ship the Jonas products from our Van Dyke's facility in Woonsocket, South Dakota."

We were unable to obtain





Welcome to Santel Communications. As a customer, you are now a cooperative member/owner and you will accrue patronage capital credits which will be paid out to you in the future allowing you to share in the profits of the company.

A few things to know about Santel Communications:

- We were incorporated in 1952 and have been bringing our members the latest telecommunications services since that time.
- You can find more detailed information about Santel Communications at our website www.santel.net
- We offer local and long distance telephone service as well as voice mail and approximately 30 other calling features which are listed on our website and in the telephone directory.
- We offer high speed broadband access to all customers. Packages include multiple email addresses and free personal web space.
- We offer business website hosting.
- We offer digital television service to customers living in communities served by Santel TV as well
  as to rural customers served by Fiber to the Premises. Our TV service includes network and
  cable channels, digital music channels, Pay Per View, High Definition (HD), Digital Video
  Recording (DVR) and Whole Home DVR.
- We are proud to be the <u>only</u> TV provider giving you Local Content channels from area schools so that you can watch local sporting events, music concerts, parades and more.
- On our website you can also view/pay your monthly bill, contact us via email, access the portal for voice mail or DVR programming and much more.
- We sell laptop and desktop computers, printers, telephones, AVG (anti-virus software) and much more.
- We offer 10 scholarships annually to graduating high school seniors whose parents are active cooperative members of Santel Communications.
- To reach us from your home phone, simply dial 777 for Customer Service or 611 to report a trouble.

When new Central Connections telephone directories are printed, a copy is mailed to each Santel customer. If you'd like a directory now, or additional directories at any time, you can find them at the Santel office, Country Pumper in Forestburg, or the bank in your community. You can also access our online directory at <a href="https://ebill.santel.net/EBILL/login">https://ebill.santel.net/EBILL/login</a> once you've created your online account.

**Lifeline** is a program designed to provide discounts to eligible low-income consumers to help them establish or maintain telephone service. The basic monthly credit is \$9.25 and lifeline consumers also do not pay USF charges. To see if you qualify for the Lifeline program, see the enclosed documentation.

Thank you for choosing Santel Communications. We are here to help you with all of your telecommunications needs.

Your Santel Team



www.santel.net



### What type of discount is available?

**Lifeline** assistance lowers the cost of basic, monthly local telephone service. Eligible consumers can receive up to \$9.25 per month in discounts and also do not pay USF charges. **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 and can be claimed on only ONE residence or 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 and TLS support in South Dakota is based upon the federal guidelines. 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
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (formerly 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 as shown below.

#### 2013 Federal Poverty Guidelines

Number in Residence	135% Guideline (Annual)	135% Guideline (Monthly)	Number in Residence	1	35% Guideline (Annual)	1	35% Guideline (Monthly)
1	\$15,512	\$1,292.67	5	\$	37,220	\$	3,101.67
2	\$20,939	\$1,744.92	6	\$	42,647	\$	3,553.92
3	\$26,366	\$2,197.17	7	\$	48,074	\$	4,006.17
4	\$31,793	\$2649.42	8	\$	53,501	\$	4,458.42

For each additional person after 8, add \$5427 to the annual guideline or \$452.25 to the monthly guideline.

#### • How do I apply to receive Lifeline or TLS support discounts?

To apply for Lifeline and/or 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.



www.santel.net

## eneral Rules & Regulations

## **Directory Accuracy**

The Company does not assume liability because of errors or omissions in compiling this directory. Directory listings are carefully handled in order to insure directory accuracy, but in spite of this care and attention errors occasionally occur. If your listing is incorrect in any way, please call the Business Office promptly so that our information records and future issues of the directory may be corrected. Also, please promptly advise the Company of any other desired changes in your listing, such as a change of your house number or street, name, etc.

## Responsibility For Advertising

Neither the Telephone Company nor the Directory Company will assume any liability for damages arising from errors or omissions in free listings. Its liability in the case of paid listings shall not exceed the charge for such listings during the life of this directory. Its liability in the case of advertising shall not exceed the charge for such advertising during the life of the directory.

### Teach Your Children To Dial "0" or "911" In Emergencies

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Show your children how to use the phone in an emergency by teaching them how to dial "0" for the operator or "911" for the authorities. Also, make sure they know their home phone number and encourage them to always call home if they're going to be late. Give them change to carry for emergency calls.

## General Rules & Regulations





#### Customer-Provided Equipment

Customer-provided equipment may not be attached to or connected with telephone facilities unless (1) it is registered or otherwise approved by the Federal Communications Commission (2) it meets the conditions set forth in the company's tariffs, and (3) advance notification is given to the telephone company, by the customer, of the type of equipment to be connected and the type of telephone company facility required to make the connections. These rules and tariffs are designed to meet the convenience of the customer and at the same time protect the telephone network against any possible hazards to customers and company employees.

The telephone companies will not maintain and may not be able to repair customer-provided equipment. A service charge may apply if the telephone company visits the premises of the customer and the service difficulty or trouble is found to have been caused by the customer-provided equipment or facilities.

If you have any questions concerning the use of customer-provided equipment, please contact your Business Office.

#### Public Utilities Commission (PUC)

If the problem cannot be solved to your satisfaction, you may refer your complaint to the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (SDPUC) at 500 East Capitol Ave, Pierre, South Dakota 57501-5070 or telephone 605-773-3201 or toll free 1-800-332-1782.

#### **Taxes**

Federal law requires a 3 percent excise tax on telephone rental and long distance charges. These taxes are billed to all telephone users not specifically exempt by law. All taxes collected are remitted to the proper federal and state agencies.

## Allowance For Failure Of Service

The Telephone Companies do not guarantee uninterrupted working of its ines or equipment. In case service is interrupted otherwise than by the negligence or willful act of the subscriber, an adjustment will, upon application by a subscriber, be made in the amount of charges for such service, equipment, and scillities furnished as are rendered usessor inoperative. Any adjustment shall

apply only to the period the interruption continues beyond 24 hours after notice of the interruption is received by the Telephone Companies. No other liability shall in any case attach to the Telephone Companies.

### Billing And Payment For Service

If you desire assistance or explanation regarding your bill, please call the Business Office.

### National Do Not Call Registry

The federal government created the National Do Not Call Registry to make it easier and more efficient for you to stop getting most telemarketing sales calls you don't want. You can register online at www.donotcall.gov if you have an active email address, or you can call toll-free, 1-888-382-1222 (TTY 1-866-290-4236), from the number you wish to register. Registration is free and your number will stay in the registry until it is disconnected, or until you delete it from the registry.

If you receive telemarketing calls after you have registered your telephone number and it has been in the registry for three months, you can file a complaint at www.donotcall.gov or by calling 1-888-382-1222 (TTY 1-866-290-4236). You will have to know the company's name or phone number to file a "do not call" complaint.

#### Annoying, Obscene, And Threatening Calls

If you get an annoying, obscene, or threatening call, hang up immediately. See page 23 for instructions on using Customer Originated Trace. Threatening calls should be reported immediately to the police. Obscene or harassing calls are prohibited by federal and state laws. A person who makes or permits such calls to be made over a telephone under his/her control may be fined or imprisoned, or both.

### Telephone Assistance Programs

Low Income Assistance Available to Telephone Subscribers

Santel Communications and Midstate Communications/Midstate Telecom are authorized to offer Lifeline to our customers. Lifeline is a federal telephone assistance programs. To be eligible for this program, the applicant must participate in at least one of the following public assistance programs: Free Reduced School Lunch Program, Food Stamps, Federal Public Housing Assistance, Low-Income Home Energy Assistance, Medicaid, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), or meet poverty level income guidelines.

Lifeline provides eligible subscribers with a credit of \$9.25 each month on the basic service portion of their telephone bill. The discount applies on the main home telephone line listed in the name of the eligible telephone company subscriber. Lifeline subscribers may also receive blocking of long distance calls on their telephone line at no charge.

Tribal Lifeline/Link-Up

The Tribal Lifeline program provides a reduction in monthly charges to telephone customers who live on tribal lands and are currently receiving benefits from a qualifying public assistance program.

The Tribal Link-Up program provides a reduction in connection charges to telephone customers who live on tribal lands and are currently receiving benefits from a qualifying public assistance program.

For more information, call Midstate Customer Service at:

605-778-6221, 605-234-8000, or 1-888-214-1431

Email: midstate@midstatesd.net

OR

Santel Communications Customer Service

1-888-978-7777, 605-796-4411, or 777 from any Santel Exchange Email: info@santel.net

For more information, you may also contact: www.lifelinesupport.org

NOTE: All rules & regulations in effect at time of printing are subject to change without notice.



## >CUSTOMER SUPPORT

Tech Care Basic

Broadband Internet Support

Email Set Up and Support

Wireless Internet Device Set Up

Phone Support

Smart Phone Email Set Up

Voice Mail User Guide

Calling Feature Instructions

Digital Cable TV Support

TV Remote Control Support

Internet and Email Hoaxes and Myths

Lifeline Support





#### Click Here for the Lifeline Application

#### Was This Helpful?

7 19

**Lifeline** is a government program that offers qualified low income households a discount on their monthly local telephone bill.

**Toll Limitation Service (TLS)** allows consumers to avoid large long distance bills by choosing either toll blocking or toll limitation at no charge.

Click Here to Visit the South Dakota PUC Website to Learn More

#### Lifeline

**How much can I save?** You will save \$9.25 on your basic monthly bill. These benefits apply to your local telephone service charges that you purchase as flat rate service and also cover your subscriber line charge.

Lifeline credits are only available one time per customer/household and cannot be claimed from more than one telecommunications provider at a time.

How do I know if I am eligible? Enrollment in one of the following programs is required.

- Federal Public Housing Assistance / Section 8
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Medicaid
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- · Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- National School Lunch (free program only)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
   OR

Are there any restrictions? Lifeline can only be used for the primary telephone line in a household. You may purchase additional services available to a non-Lifeline customer. You must establish phone service prior to applying for the Lifeline discount.

**How do I apply?** To apply for Lifeline, call Santel Communications directly at 888-978-7777 or 777. An application can be obtained via phone, or from the Santel Communications office in Woonsocket, SD.

What proof of eligibility do I need to provide? You will be asked to sign a form stating, under penalty of perjury, that you receive benefits from at least one of the qualifying programs listed above; and to submit a copy of any dated document which verifies your participation in one of the qualifying programs listed above. You may be asked to submit proof of continuing eligibility on an annual basis. Proof of total household income may be required for incomebased qualification. The following documents are acceptable as proof of income:

- · Last year's federal tax return
- Three consecutive months of payroll statements or paycheck stubs for the current year
- · A Social Security statement of benefits
- · A Veterans' Administration statement of benefits
- · A retirement/pension statement of benefits
- · Unemployment/Workers Compensation statement of benefits
- A divorce decree, child support statement or any other official document showing proof of your income.

Your Lifeline benefits will take effect when proof of eligibility is received.

How do I continue to receive Lifeline benefits? Eligibility is reviewed periodically. Your benefits will be discontinued when you no longer meet the eligibility requirements or when proof of eligibility is not received. Customers who are no longer eligible for Lifeline benefits must notify their service provider.

## Toll Limitation Service (TLS)

**How much will I save?** You can add Toll Deny or Allow Selective Calling at no charge each month. We may also waive the required deposits when a customer adds a toll limitation service.

**How do I know if I am eligible?** If you qualify for Lifeline you also qualify for Toll Limitation Service (TLS).

Being a Lifeline customer does not protect you from being disconnected if you fail to pay your telephone bill.

Lifeline can only be applied to one telephone line per household.



Lifeline and
Toll Limitation Service
provide discounts to
eligible low-income
consumers to help them
establish and maintain
telephone service.

## Note:

Telecommunications
carriers do not charge a
Lifeline customer Federal
Universal Service Charge
(FUSC) fees on the
local service portion of
their telephone bill.

## What type of discounts are available?

There are two discounts available.

Lifeline assistance lowers the cost of basic, monthly local telephone service. Eligible consumers can receive up to \$9.25 per month in discounts.

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.

## How do I apply to receive Lifeline and TLS support discounts?

To apply for Lifeline 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.

## 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 if I qualify?

Eligibility for Lifeline 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
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (Formerly Food Stamps)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- National School Lunch 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.



## 2013 Estimated Income Requirements for a Household at or Below 135% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines

Persons in	Annual
Family Unit	Family Income
1 2 3 4 5	\$15,512 \$20,939 \$26,366 \$31,793 \$37,220 \$42,647
7	\$48,074
8	\$53,501

For each additional person, add \$5,427.
Consumers may qualify for Lifeline and TLS 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.

To learn more, visit:

www.usac.org www.lifelinesupport.org



## Telephone Support



Call: 777, 1-888-978-7777, or email: info@santel.net



## Help with Your Phone Bill? <u>Lifeline Support May Be Available</u>



Lifeline support is available to those who qualify and a monthly credit of \$9.25 is applied to your phone bill.

To be eligible for Lifeline, Santel customers must participate in ONE of the following programs:

- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Federal Public Housing Assistance or Section 8
- Medicaid
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- 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.

Please contact Santel Communications if you qualify for Lifeline support. Just dial 777 from your home phone.

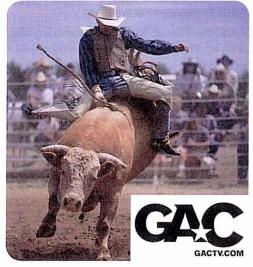
## **Have You Ever Watched GAC?**

GAC - Great American Country is a channel to watch, if you haven't been already.

Country music is a staple of GAC, but there's more:

- Road to the Wrangler NFR series will bring exciting rodeo events and highlights all year long
- Gaither Gospel Hour is pure entertainment, with a variety of gospel styles
- Paula's Home Cooking with Paula Deen brings you uncomplicated and delicious home cooking

Visit gactv.com for complete listings.



## **Locking Channels and Editing the Guide**

Santel's TV system gives parents the ability to lock entire channels from viewing and to prevent the locked channels from showing in the channel guide. All this is done by the Parental Control option.

First, access the parental controls:

- Main Menu
- My Settings, arrow to the right:
- Parental Controls
- Change PIN change to a PIN your children don't know. For now the default PIN is 0000.

 Edit Locked Channels - Lock-out channels from your children's viewing and set other limitations as well

To delete locked channels from the Channel Guide:

- Menu
- Settings
- Parental Controls
- Option
- PIN
- Choose "No" to show locked channels

## **Directory Additions**

#### ETHAN

Boehmer, Jared 227-4462

#### LETCHER

Mathis, Nolan 248-2537

#### **PARKSTON**

Freidel, Violet 928-4529 Neugebauer, Darin-Michelle 928-7139

#### WOLSEY

Frank, Ethan-Danielle 883-4457

#### WOONSOCKET

Mitzel, Thomas-Evelyn 796-4235 Prondzinski, Sarah 796-4214

## **April PPV Movies**

Santel's Pay-Per-View stations offer some of the latest movies.

Why not rent movies for your whole family and save the cost of an expensive theater trip while enjoying the comfort of your own home.









ALWAYS CALL BEFORE YOU DIG



PO Box 67, Woonsocket, SD 57385 Office Hours: 8am-5pm Mon-Fri www.santel.net

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

April 2013 Volume 19, Issue 4

#### **Go Green Promotion**

New credit card laws allow a business to pass on processing fees. Santel has not yet chosen to pass that cost on to our customers, but instead is working to decrease the number of current card users. To do so, Santel has a "Go Green" promotion in effect.

We encourage the use of automatic pay-by-bank and are offering a \$10 bill credit during the month of April for customers who switch to automatic Pay-by-Bank.

Call 777 for more information.

## Directories Delivered in April



The 2013 Central Connections Directory will be delivered in early April. Extra copies will be at: CorTrust Bank in Artesian, Letcher and Mt. Vernon; Country Pumper, Forest-

burg; Agland Co-op, Ethan; Farmers State and First Dakota National banks, Parkston; First State Bank, Tripp; American Bank & Trust, Alpena and Wolsey and the Santel office.

#### It's Baseball Season Again! Minnesota Twins on FSN



Fox Sports North and the Minnesota Twins start a 150-game telecast schedule April 1.

FSN is Channel 26 or 632HD in the Santel Channel Guide.

Check the schedule and learn more at <a href="https://www.foxsportsnorth.com">www.foxsportsnorth.com</a>.

## Santel's 61st Annual Meeting Set

Santel Communications will host its 61st Annual Meeting on Monday, May 13, at the Woonsocket School gym.

Registration will begin at 6:00pm with the business meeting following at 7:00. Serving of a sandwich meal will be from 6 to 7pm. Several doorprizes will be given during the business meeting.

Board of Director elections will be held and the 2013 elections will bring the board to the completion of its five-year plan to reduce to seven directors and three districts of representation.

Any member is eligible for the Board of Directors. To run for a position on the Board, a member (including incumbents) needs to take out a petition which must be signed by at least 15 members from the district in which he or she is seeking a seat. The petition needs to be turned in to the Santel office no later than 20 days prior to the Annual Meeting; therefore, the petition must be in the Santel Office by April 23, 2013.

If you are interested in running for a director position you may request a petition at our office by calling 796-4411 or emailing <a href="mailto:info@santel.net">info@santel.net</a>.

## **Three Districts of Representation**

The five-year process of bringing the Santel Communications Board of Directors to seven directors will be complete at the 2013 Annual Meeting. Elections at the May meeting will fill two director seats in each of the two newly-formed districts. Each district will have a director elected to a two-year and a three-year term.

Ethan, Parkston, and Tripp will become one district and will be represented by two directors. Incumbants Jeff Kramer of Tripp and Darren Bigge of Parkston must both run for re-election, if they so choose. Two directors will be chosen from the field of candidates that take out petitions.

Alpena, Wolsey and Woonsocket will make up a second district. Each of the three exchanges is now represented by a director: Tommy Baruth, Alpena; Ruth Brodkorb, Wolsey; and Lindy Peterson, Woonsocket. At the 2013 Annual Meeting, the three exchanges will become one district and will have just two directors. One will be elected for a two year term and the other for a three-year term.

The third district was made complete at the 2012 annual meeting. Artesian, Forestburg and Letcher make up the district and the Directors are Pam Moore, who holds the two-year term and Richard Alt who was elected to a three-year term.

The seventh director is an At-Large position, currently held by Kent Swenson, Woonsocket.