



**SANTEL COMMUNICATIONS**

# THE PRIVATE LINE

*We've Perfected Connected!*

March 2012

Volume 18, Issue 3

## **PUC warns of deceitful billing scheme**

PIERRE, S.D. – South Dakota businesses are being targeted in a billing scheme by an out-of-state company that attempts to elicit payment for telecommunications services and/or products that have not been ordered or received, warns the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission. Businesses have reported receiving a document that appears to be an invoice for “telecom maintenance agreement” from an unfamiliar company. The document instructs the recipient to remit payment of several hundred dollars to an address in California. The PUC has learned that school districts and other public agencies have received the billing.

Businesses that have contacted the PUC confirmed that they have not ordered such services and did not send money to the company. The billing entity did not respond to inquiries made by the PUC.

The PUC advises businesses and individuals to carefully review all invoices and billing statements they receive and to question any that are from companies not familiar to the recipient.

Businesses or consumers may contact the PUC for assistance by calling 1-800-332-1782 or by emailing [PUC@state.sd.us](mailto:PUC@state.sd.us).

## **Find Santel on FACEBOOK**

Santel has gone Social! Take a minute to LIKE us on Facebook.

Our page was created to keep you more informed and up-to-date on Santel products and services. Santel's Facebook page will contain updates about our local TV channels from Parkston (101), Wolsey (102), Tripp (103) and Woonsocket (104) and links to our monthly newsletters.

You may even find a special deal or discount just for our friends on Facebook!



*Find Santel on FACEBOOK!*

**facebook**

## **Reminder - Scholarship Applications Due March 23**

Applications for the Ray Judy Memorial Scholarship are due March 23, 2012. Current high school seniors whose parents live in the Santel exchanges are encouraged to apply.

The scholarship money must be used at a post-secondary school in South Dakota.

Applications are available at [www.santel.net](http://www.santel.net) and from area high school counselors. You may also call the Santel office or email [info@santel.net](mailto:info@santel.net) to receive a copy of the scholarship application guidelines.



## Annual Meeting Date Set for May 14th

The 60th annual meeting of Santel Communications Cooperative will be held Monday, May 14, at the Woonsocket School Gym.

Board of Director elections will be held. Beginning with the 2010 Annual Meeting election, the Board implemented a plan to decrease the number of directors for Santel from eleven to seven over five years. This will be done by changing from individual exchange representation to district representation.



The first step of this plan was to combine the Forestburg and Letcher exchanges in 2010, bringing the number of directors to ten. The second step of the plan was to combine the Ethan and Parkston Exchanges in 2011.

During the 2012 annual meeting, elections will be held to combine the exchanges of Mt. Vernon, Artesian, Forestburg and Letcher. Two directors will be elected to serve this area; one for a three year term and one for a two year term.

Incumbent directors in these exchanges are: Richard Alt (Forestburg), LeRoy Dodd (Mt. Vernon), and Pam Moore (Artesian).

In order to run for an open board position, a member (including incumbents) needs to take out a petition which must be signed by at least 15 members from the exchange(s) 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 24, 2012.

If you are interested in running for a director position you may request a petition at our office, calling 796-4411 or by emailing [info@santel.net](mailto:info@santel.net).

Annual Meeting registration of members and meal will begin at 6:00pm. The business meeting will follow at 7:00pm.

Each member attending will receive a credit on his or her June Santel billing statement.

## Directory Additions

### ALPENA

Howes, Cindy 849-3548  
Spivey, Miranda 849-3268

### ARTESIAN

Seehafer, Brad 527-2456

### ETHAN

Duba, Dan 227-4307

### PARKSTON

Hargens, Tim-Sheila 928-3741  
Kleinsasser, Linda 928-3126

### WOLSEY

Brandt, Troy 883-4988  
Brown, Terry 883-4230  
Eichstadt, Mike-Ashley 883-4229  
Jungemann, Corey 883-4667

### WOONSOCKET

Berg, Ruth 796-4866  
Brewer, Charlotte 796-4455  
Klich, Stanley 796-4219  
Moody, Darlene 796-4361  
Werly, Phyllis 796-4203

## STATE BASKETBALL AND ALL-STATE BAND LIVE ON SANTEL TV

### GIRLS STATE BASKETBALL MARCH 8-10

AA Girls Live from Brookings on Channel 6

A Girls LIVE from Spearfish on Channel 4

B Girls LIVE from Huron on Channel 3

### BOYS STATE BASKETBALL MARCH 15-17

AA Boys LIVE from Rapid City on Channel 6

A Boys LIVE from Sioux Falls on Channel 4

B Boys LIVE from Aberdeen on Channel 3

## ALL-STATE BAND BROOKINGS MARCH 22-24 CHANNEL 6