

October 2021 New Directory Listings:

Faulkton

Cameron Pudwill Agency . . . 598-6727



Surma Wins Directory Photo Contest!

Venture Communications recently held the annual photo contest to select the cover photo for the telephone directory. We received a host of exceptional pictures from our customers this year.

The 2021-2022 cover photograph captures the tranquil beauty of a frost covered country road lined by glistening trees. Stuart Surma of Java submitted the winning picture and will receive a \$50 cash prize. Congratulations Stuart!

We would like to thank everyone who took time to submit pictures for this year's contest. As always, we look forward to seeing next year's contest photos and encourage others to participate.

**venture
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Venture Communications is an
equal opportunity provider and employer.

PO Box 157 ■ Highmore, SD 57345

605-852-2224 ■ venture@venturecomm.net ■ www.venturecomm.net
Office Hours: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. ■ Monday - Friday



VETERAN'S DAY

The Venture Communications office will be closed on Thursday, November 11th to observe Veteran's Day. Please join us in honoring our Veterans who have shown heroism and love of country. We are grateful for the noble sacrifices made by these Veterans who continue to inspire those who defend America today.

Tune in to these *Entertaining* Events!

- Venture Communications in cooperation with SDN (South Dakota Network) is pleased to be airing the **State Soccer Tournament** on October 16th on Venture Vision Digital TV channel 399.
- The **State Cheer & Dance Championships** will be broadcast on October 22nd & 23rd on Venture Digital TV channel 399.
- We are pleased to announce we will be broadcasting the **All State Chorus & Orchestra Concert** on October 29th & 30th on Venture Digital TV channel 399.

New VOD Releases!

VIDEO ON DEMAND



*Happy Halloween on
Sunday, October 31st!*

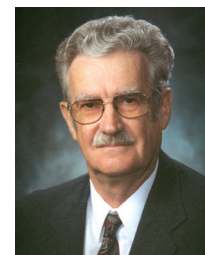


KEEPING YOU...



In Touch

October 2019 ■ Volume 43 ■ Number 471



Charles Birkholt

**Directors Birkholt
and Thomas
Inducted into
South Dakota
Cooperative
Hall of Fame**



Harry Thomas

Two members of the Venture Communications Board of Directors were recently honored as inductees into the South Dakota Cooperative Hall of Fame. Charles Birkholt of Selby, SD and Harry Thomas of Harrold, SD received their awards at the 2021 Induction Banquet on September 22nd.

Charles Birkholt's 60-plus years of service to the cooperative community in South Dakota distinguishes him among his cooperative peers. Chuck joined the Venture Communications Board of Directors in 2000 becoming the first director from the Selby & Bowdle exchanges. Prior to joining the Venture Board, Chuck served the members of Cam Wal Electric for 45 years – serving as manager of the cooperative for nearly 8 years.

Harry Thomas has served as a board member of Venture Communications since 1982. Along with serving locally, Harry served as the president of both the South Dakota Association of Telephone Cooperatives and the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association. His commitment to the telecom industry over the years is exemplary.

Both Chuck and Harry have a cooperative spirit that is portrayed through their commitment to the members of the cooperative. As members of the Venture Board, both always put the members first while seeking ways to better serve the members.

Our congratulations to Chuck Birkholt and Harry Thomas on being honored as inductees to the South Dakota Cooperative Hall of Fame. In addition, we congratulate Venture Communications member, Paul Symens of Amherst, SD, as he was also inducted to the Hall of Fame on September 22nd.

\$4,000,000 in *Patronage* Credit to be Paid Out!

Venture Communications is proud to announce that \$4,000,000 will be paid back to the cooperative members from outstanding capital credit patronage balances. A portion of the total amount returned to members comes from the 2006, 2007 and 2020 allocations. Members who were customers of Venture Communications during those years were mailed their patronage checks in early October. Patronage checks for amounts less than \$50.00 will not be written and the amounts will be applied as a credit to the member's monthly Venture bill.

Customers who had service with Venture Communications Cooperative in 2020 recently received an allocation statement on their May 2021 bill. The amount shown on the allocation statement will NOT be equal to the amount of the check received. The allocation statement shows total accumulated earned patronage through the year 2020. The retirement check that customers will receive is a portion of the statement amount.

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64th Cooperative Annual Meeting Held!

The members of Venture Communications gathered together on Wednesday, September 29, 2021 in Highmore, SD for the 64th annual meeting of the cooperative. Nearly 260 members and guests enjoyed a noon meal prepared by the members of Our Savior Lutheran Church.

President John Langer called the 2021 annual meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and led the membership in prayer. The members approved the notices as read along with the minutes of the 2020 annual meeting. Craig McQuarie of Hoven, Dwight Wookey of Britton, and John Langer of Gettysburg were seated to three-year terms on the Venture Communications Board of Directors.

President Langer commented on the 2021 general retirement and the proposed amendments to the articles of incorporation & bylaws of the cooperative. He also thanked the membership for their loyal support to Venture Communications.

Attorney Darla Rogers provided an explanation of the proposed amendments followed by the members casting their ballots. Member tellers during the counting of ballots were Betty McDonnell, Vickie Day, and Leann Hoffman.

Manager Houdek updated the members in regards to the rural Hand County project; and expressed his sincere appreciation to the members, directors, and employees for their continued dedication and service to the cooperative.

The membership approved the financials as presented in the annual meeting booklet. A cooperative legal report was given by Attorney Rogers. There was no old or new business brought before the membership. It was reported that the amendments to the articles of incorporation & bylaws were approved by the membership.

After adjournment, prizes were drawn with Chester & Michelle Gibson being named the winner of the \$350.00 grand prize.



Kusser Retires with 46 Years of Employment!

Our sincerest appreciation and heartfelt thanks to Sheila Kusser for her many years of service to Venture Communications. After 46-plus years of dedication to the cooperative, Sheila Kusser has moved on to the retirement chapter of her life.

Sheila began her duties with Sully Buttes Telephone Cooperative in February of 1975. She served the cooperative as a part-time clerk and billing clerk during her earlier years of employment. In 1987 Sheila was promoted to bookkeeper, a position she held for 34 years.

With over 46 years of reporting to work at Venture each morning, Sheila saw many changes in the cooperative and the industry. She experienced firsthand the cooperative's transformation from 4000 customers with basic phone service to a full-service communications company providing services to 12,400 customers. Sheila has found the door to retirement taking a wealth of cooperative history with her.

Our congratulations to Sheila on her retirement!

Tax Funds Distributed to Area Schools!

Venture Communications recently paid gross receipts tax for the year 2020 to schools in the areas where Venture serves. The taxes are paid annually in August to the South Dakota Department of Revenue, who then disburses the taxes to state-funded school districts, based on the revenue generated by customers in each school district.

The following schools received the amount shown below. Some Venture customers live in school districts other than those shown below. Consequently, some funds were disbursed to schools outside of our service area.

Agar-Blunt-Onida	\$60,919
Bowdle	\$27,109
Britton-Hecla	\$95,297
Edmunds Central	\$17,383
Faulkton Area	\$52,595
Gettysburg.....	\$63,806
Highmore-Harrold	\$81,827
Hitchcock-Tulare	\$24,261
Hoven	\$39,100
Langford Area	\$34,738
Miller Area	\$28,545
Northwestern Area	\$5,248
Pierre	\$5,077
Rosholt	\$26,980
Selby Area	\$41,923
Sisseton Public	\$183,609
Webster Area	\$20,372
Wessington Springs	\$52,439
Wolsey-Wessington	\$13,260

October is Cooperative Month!

2, 4, 6, 8

WHO DO WE APPRECIATE?

Our Co-op Members!

Venture Communications is Celebrating Co-op Month in October

You make Venture Communications successful. As a member of the Venture Co-op you have helped blaze a trail to provide Venture customers with the most advanced communications services available.

Thanks for being part of our co-op's team.

Like us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/venturecommunicationscooperative

Remember to turn your clocks back one hour on Sunday, November 7th. It's also a good time to check all smoke detectors in your home for maintenance.