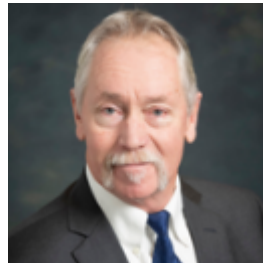


BOARD CONNECTIONS

A quarterly update from the NTCA Board of Directors



May 2023



The Leader for Rural Broadband: A Message from the Board of Directors

It has already been a very active spring for many of us, with different industry meetings almost every week, given the breakneck speed at which we are all trying to make plans for the unique broadband moment in which we find ourselves.

So, you might be thinking, what else could I possibly fit in?

Well, we are here to tell you there is one event this summer you truly cannot afford to miss, and this one is unlike any other NTCA event you or your team will attend this year. **[The Smart Rural Community Live Summit](#)**, June 26-28 in Fort Lauderdale, will bring together voices from across the rural ecosystem — communications, hospitals, libraries, schools, agriculture and more — to showcase the amazing things that can happen when community leaders work together to leverage broadband-enabled applications in creative ways and how rural communities are

coming together to address challenges and continue building momentum of the Rural Renaissance.

The agenda is chock full of discussions vital to the future prosperity of our rural communities, including public health and safety (or as the NTCA team refers to it, “How technology is being used to address the things we don’t like to talk about”), where esports and education meet, virtual reality solutions in telehealth, smart ag, economic development, broadband funding and more. At this dynamic, discussion-based summit, NTCA is building on the energy we have achieved through our [Smart Communities platform](#) by focusing on partnerships, collaborations and learning from one another. The meeting comes just as state broadband offices are setting a priority on the public-private partnerships that providers are creating and will show how to help move historic broadband funding programs forward.

With this heavy focus on funding and rural communities, companies that are eager to grow their networks or amplify how their communities are utilizing their already robust networks will find this gathering to be an ideal opportunity to exchange ideas with others. And the best news is, in the spirit of building new partnerships, you can bring a buddy from your community! NTCA will pick up the cost of registration for a community partner who will benefit from hearing how broadband connectivity has changed lives in other small towns. Some of the partners who are expected to attend include school and hospital administrators, state government representatives and local economic developers. We challenge you to think, who is your community partner who can also be your biggest supporter when it comes to expansion and innovation?

While we know this is an incredibly busy time for our companies and communities, we encourage you to take a good look at this opportunity. Community engagement is what we do by nature as community-based, locally operated companies. But even those of us who do it very well can learn from each other to support our

neighbors and friends even better. Anyone at the company who plays a leadership role in your success will gain insight and ideas, so please be generous in your sharing of this summit with your team.

We wish you and yours a warm and productive spring season. See you soon!

Sincerely,

Roxie Jorgenson, Northwest Region Cooperative

Dale Merten, Northwest Region Commercial

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