

The Connection

OCTOBER 2022



National Internet Day Celebrates the Start

On October 29, 1969, a young grad student on the UCLA campus sent the first Internet message "LOGIN," to his colleague at Stanford. National Internet Day on October 29 recognizes this humble beginning to the infinite possibilities we all enjoy today.

Runestone Telecom is proud to provide fast and reliable Internet service to keep you connected.

Contact Us

100 Runestone Drive / PO Box 336
Hoffman, MN 56339
Phone: 320-986-2013

Office Hours: M-F 8 am to 4:30 pm

Email: rtaoffice@runestone.net

Visit Us: www.runestone.net

Find Us:   

Review Us: 

Office Closure

Our Office will be closed on October 10th due to a Staff Meeting. Trouble calls will be handled by our on-call technicians.



HAUNTED BY INTERNET TROUBLES?

SLEEP EASIER WITH AN INTERNET UPGRADE

If Internet troubles from your past have you spooked, that's understandable. It's frightening when your connection slows down from too many users or stops completely at the worst possible time —like when you need to work from home.

Upgrade your Internet for more peaceful days. We offer speeds up to 1 Gig to keep your whole family happy, and our fiber network provides unmatched reliability.

**CALL
320-986-2013
TODAY AND
HAVE A HAPPY
HALLOWEEN**

Speed availability varies depending on location. Contact us for details.



Applications to be Accepted for Discounted Capital Credit Buyout

As a member-owned, not-for-profit cooperative, Runestone Telecom Association works hard to provide affordable and reliable service. Each year, a portion of the revenues that exceed expenses (margins) is returned to members in the form of capital credits, and each year the Board of Directors reviews the financial condition of the cooperative to determine if a retirement of capital credits can be made to its members.

“First Come, First Served” Voluntary Offer

The Board has approved a Discounted Capital Credit Buyout offer, under which the Cooperative will pay to each present and former member, on a voluntary basis, the discounted present value of the member’s capital credit account for the years of 2004 to 2021, inclusive. A total of \$2,500,000 in capital credits will be returned to eligible Cooperative members on a “First Come, First Served” basis following the application process.

The discounted amount being offered is a flat rate of 50% of the total balance of a member’s unretired capital credits. Only capital credit accounts with a current balance of more than \$100 will be considered for this offer.

Reasons to Apply and Detailed Instructions

Participation in the Discounted Capital Credit Buyout offer allows members to receive one single payment at a lower face value, as opposed to a series of smaller payments at some point in the future. This also allows newer members to be eligible to receive a capital credit refund earlier than the typical retirement cycle.

To apply for this offer:

- Complete the Discounted Capital Credit Buyout application online at www.runestone.net/capitalcredits or submit the application enclosed with the letter that will be mailed out on October 3rd. Again, funds will be paid out on a “First Come, First Served” basis, so applying online is strongly recommended.
- **Applications will only be accepted between Monday, October 24th at 8:00 a.m. and Friday, October 28th at 4:30 p.m.** Applications received outside of that timeframe will not be accepted.
- Proper taxpayer identification must be included with all applications.
- Application for joint memberships must be signed by both members.



- Capital credit refunds will first be applied to any delinquent balance on a member’s account before calculating the discount amount. Any remaining capital credits will then be discounted and refunded to the member.
- Incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Applications will be processed in the order in which they are received. Members whose applications are received prior to the depletion of the \$2.5 million cap will receive their discounted capital credits in the form of a check, which will be mailed at the beginning of December of this year.

Members may contact our office with questions regarding the Discounted Capital Credit Buyout by calling 320-986-2013 or emailing capitalcredits@runestone.com.

Be on Alert for Phishing Scams

Runestone Telecom works hard to keep our customers' private information secure, but we know scammers use phishing scams to try to trick people into giving out personal or financial data. Since we care about you, we're sharing tips on how to recognize these scams and avoid identity theft.

Below is an example of an email you may have seen come through your inbox. It fraudulently claims to be from Runestone Telecom. Look carefully to see the telltale signs of a phishing scam.

Scammers may try to steal your passwords, banking and credit card information, or Social Security numbers—anything they can get to tap into your identity. They typically present themselves as a company you know and trust, then ask for this private information. When successful, scammers may infect your computer with malware, steal your money, and wreak havoc on your credit standing. Phishing emails will tell you a story to get you to click on a link or open an attachment. They may claim there's a problem with your account, demand confirmation, include a fake invoice, require payment,

or offer a coupon to get your attention. DO NOT click or open anything in an email like this. Delete it immediately, then delete it from your trash. Clicking on links even after it's in your trash will not protect you.

If you accidentally respond to a phishing email and think a scammer has your information, change your password as soon as possible and contact the institution involved (such as your bank, credit card company, or Runestone Telecom). Go to IdentityTheft.org for further help. Also update your computer's security software and run a scan, then report it to reportphishing@apwg.org. If you get a phishing text message, forward it to SPAM (7726).

From: Runestone Telecom Association Webmail Team <gfjackson147@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 7, 2022 7:23 AM
Subject: DEAR RUNESTONE.NET USER, **Notice the odd looking From address**

DEAR RUNESTONE.NET USER, **Generic greeting**

Due to the congestion in all runestone.net users and removal of all runestone.net Accounts, Runestone Telecom Association WEBMAIL TEAM would be shutting down all unused Accounts.

We will be conducting our regularly scheduled maintenance, to ensure that we provide the highest quality in Internet connectivity and services to customers. Your connectivity and services with us may be interrupted for short periods during the maintenance window. We will also ensure minimal disruption to services where possible.

In order to enable us perform quality maintenance on your Internet access and e-mail service, please you must reply to this e-mail message confirming your runestone.net account details with us.

Do confirm your account details below. **May have weird sentences, misspelled words, or bad grammar**

1. First Name & Last Name:
2. Full Login Email Address:
3. Username:
4. Password:
5. Retype Password:
6. Alternative Email Address:
7. Password:
8. Date Of Birth:

We will NEVER contact you asking for these personal details in an email.

NOTE: Failure to respond to this e-mail message may result to technical problems on your Internet access and e-mail service. **DO NOT REPLY or follow any links!**

YOU ARE REQUIRED TO CONFIRM YOUR WEBMAIL IDENTITY WITH THE WEBMAIL TEAM BY SIMPLY REPLYING TO THIS EMAIL WITH THE REQUESTED DETAILS.

Warning ! Account owners who fails to update his or her account on receiving this notice might loose his or her account.

Thank you for using runestone.net. **Bad grammar**

Runestone.net Support.
RUNESTONE.NET WEBMAIL TEAM
©2022 All rights reserved **Very generic signature**

New Members

Alexandria

Gades, Kevin.....320-886-2924
Petersen, Joan
& Philip.....320-763-6763

Barrett

Lee, Ruby.....320-528-2007

Elbow Lake

Beckman, Jinny.....218-685-3220

Hoffman

Chewy's Coop.....320-986-2404
The Hoffman Market.....320-986-6200

Kensington

Nutrien Ag Solutions.....320-965-2243
Nutrien Ag Solutions.....320-965-2688

FUSC Rate Change

The FUSC (Federal Universal Service Contribution) has decreased from 33.0% to 28.9% effective October 1, 2022.



Happy Co-op Month from us all at your local cooperative, Runestone Telecom! As a customer, you earn capital credits each year from the service(s) you subscribe to from us such as phone, Internet, and/or cable TV. Capital credits accumulate each year that you have active service(s) from Runestone Telecom. Our Board of Directors meets annually to decide on paying out certain portions of capital credits to our customers. Remember — not only are you a Runestone Telecom customer, you're also a cooperative member and part owner of the company, which means you benefit from our success!

We thank you for choosing Runestone Telecom and warmly welcome our new members listed to the left. We look forward to serving you.

Notice on Phone Directory Advertising

We're working on the 2023 Vikingland Regional Telephone Directory, which will be mailed in February 2023. Sales representatives from the Pinnacle Marketing Group are now contacting businesses. If you're interested in advertising in the directory for the first time, please call our office at 320-986-2013.

Check Your Phone Book Listing

It's time to check how your listing appears in our phone book. We're working on updating listings for the upcoming 2023 Vikingland Regional Telephone Directory. Your 911 address (street address) is automatically listed, but you may also list a mailing address.

Take a careful look at your listing in the current phone book. If you'd like us to make any changes, complete this form and return it to Runestone Telecom.

Please list my name as:

This is my telephone number:

Add this mailing address to my listing:

