

BEACON

BEK COMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE MAR/APR 2020

NOMINATIONS FOR DIRECTOR

The 2020 Nominating Committee of BEK Communications Cooperative met Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2020, to nominate members of the cooperative to run for the Board of Directors. BEK Communications Cooperative member-owners residing in Districts I, II and III will elect one director from each district to serve a three-year term.

The election of directors is an integral part of the BEK Communications Cooperative's Annual Meeting.

District I

*Regan, Sterling, McKenzie,
Wilton, Wing*



Sanford Williams, Wing (incumbent)

District II

*Pettibone, Tappen, Robinson,
Tuttle, Steele*



Bob Subart, Robinson (incumbent)

District III

*Kintyre, Strasburg,
Hazelton, Linton*



Kevin Bernhardt, Linton (incumbent)

Serving on the 2020 Nominating Committee of BEK Communications Cooperative are Christ Gerr, Tuttle; Sarah Gratton, Wilton; Holly Will, Hazelton; Randy Kapp, Medina; Ronald Volk, Strasburg; MaryAnn Gefroh, Linton; Burnell Paul, Wing.

There are two ways to be nominated for Director; nomination by the nominating committee or by petition as provided in the Cooperative's bylaws (Article IV, Section 4) which are printed in the BEK/West River Missouri Slope Telephone Directory.

BEK Communications ANNUAL MEETING

Thu, June 11, 2020

**Kidder County
School Gymnasium
in Steele, ND**

DATES TO REMEMBER

BEK BILL PAYMENTS ARE DUE ON
THE 20TH OF EACH MONTH

MARCH 25

NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR DAY

MARCH 31

NATIONAL FARM WORKERS DAY

MARCH 31

WORLD BACKUP DAY

APRIL 1

APRIL FOOLS' DAY

APRIL 10

GOOD FRIDAY
(BEK OFFICES CLOSED)

APRIL 12

EASTER

APRIL 22

EARTH DAY

APRIL 25

NATIONAL TELEPHONE DAY

MAY 5

CINCO DE MAYO

MAY 7

WORLD PASSWORD DAY

MAY 10

MOTHER'S DAY

MAY 16

ARMED FORCES DAY

MAY 25

MEMORIAL DAY
(BEK OFFICES CLOSED)

JUNE 11

BEK ANNUAL MEETING

JUNE 14

FLAG DAY



PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE OF BEK

DERRICK BULAWA
Chief Executive Officer

In 1952, the founders of BEK Communications came together with one simple goal – to establish a viable, reliable phone service comparable to their urban neighbors. Back then, communication in central North Dakota was limited to meeting in-person or using the postal service. Neither were efficient for reaching family or doing business. BEK's founding members knew something had to be done to allow rural families and businesses to communicate on their terms!

Today, we find the goal has not changed. What has changed is how and where we provide connections. BEK continues to build and maintain a state-of-the-art, nationally recognized fiber network that is future-proofed. In the last 20 years, BEK has more than doubled its customers as well as its service area. We now serve over 11,000 households! Our growth, exceptional and widespread, has been rooted in the same, locally-driven cooperative spirit.

Your board of directors had the vision and courage to push BEK in directions few cooperatives dare to go. In 2004, we were one of the first in North Dakota to install fiber-based internet. We are the only provider in North Dakota to offer 500 Mbps as our lowest tier plan. BEK Sports has brought local hometown sports into living rooms all over the state for 13 years. Our cloud-based business phones and surveillance solutions show remarkable growth year over year.

The BEK board of directors is seeking bylaw modifications to support and protect your cooperative by continuing to expand its communication service offerings and areas. As you know, BEK's services are central to the economic viability of our region. Similar to 1952, rural consumers and businesses need reliable communication to compete and connect. Unlike 1952, our customers now have at least three providers other than BEK for internet, phone, television, security and surveillance.

As the BEK board of directors looks at our future, they know we must continue to outpace technology advancements, population changes and competition. Our continued expansion of the BEK Fiber Network and diversification of our products is how our cooperative succeeds. It is important to state that the customers around Valley City, Bismarck and Mandan enabled the continued retirement of our construction loans, furthered the investment in our fiber network, and provided the keys to our future. The proposed bylaw modification ensures that BEK has the required tools for rural families and businesses to thrive and for our cooperative to survive.

Please vote for the bylaw modification—our community is counting on you. Thanks for your support.



MAR/APR 2020

The BEK Beacon is a bimonthly newsletter published by BEK Communications, © 2020. It is distributed without charge to all customers.

BEK COMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE

was founded in 1952 as a local telecommunications cooperative serving Burleigh, Emmons and Kidder Counties. Since then, we've invested in state-of-the-art infrastructure, developed new products and services, and expanded to also serve Morton, Oliver, McLean, Logan, McIntosh, Barnes, Griggs, Cass, and Steele counties. BEK has changed quite a bit in 68 years, but we're still a small-town cooperative at heart.

BEK COMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE

888-475-2361

P.O. Box 230
200 East Broadway
Steele, ND 58482

325 2nd St. NW
Valley City, ND 58072

923 East Interstate Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58501

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DISTRICT I

Secretary/Treasurer Shane Morris
Regan
Sanford Williams
Wing

DISTRICT II

Bob Subart
Robinson
President Brett Stroh
Tappen

DISTRICT III

Vice President Kevin Bernhardt
Linton
Vickie Martin
Linton
Leo Meier
Hague

DISTRICT IV

William (Bill) Becker
Wishek
Gerald Burlack
Wishek

PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENTS

At the 2020 Annual Membership Meeting, June 11, 2020 at 7:00 p.m., the Members of the Cooperative will be asked to consider the following amendments to the Bylaws of the Cooperative. The complete text of the proposed amendments is as follows:

Proposed Amendment #1

Article I, Section 1.

Authorization for Designation of Service Area

Shall this section be amended to permit the Cooperative's Board of Directors the authority to establish the designated area of the Cooperative for purposes of defining the geographic area for membership.

ART. I, SECTION 1. REQUIREMENTS FOR

MEMBERSHIP. Any person, firm, partnership, association, corporation or body politic or sub-division thereof who or which reside in the service area certified to BEK COMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE (hereinafter called the "Co-op") by the North Dakota Public Service Commission **and which has been designated by the board as being part of the Co-op area** shall automatically become a member of the Co-op by:

Proposed Amendment # 2.

Article III, Section 3 (new) and Amendments to Article III, Sections 4 and 5 (renumbered 5 and 6), Article V, Section 1.

Authorization to Allow Concurrent, Real-time Electronic Participation in Member Meetings Through the Internet or Other Electronic Communications Technology.

Shall the procedures for conducting meetings of the Members of the Cooperative be amended to authorize the Cooperative's Board of Directors to allow concurrent, real-time participation in meetings of the Members of the Cooperative through the Internet or other electronic communications technology.

SECTION 3 Electronic Participation. To the extent authorized by the board and subject to guidelines and procedures adopted by the board, members may participate in the annual meeting or any special meeting through the internet or other electronic communications technology. In all cases, the procedures utilized shall: (1) permit the Co-op to verify that each person participating in the meeting is a member; and (2) permit members the opportunity to read or hear the proceedings substantially current with their occurrence, vote on matters submitted to the members, ask questions, and make comments. If the board authorizes participation through electronic communication, then the notice of the meetings must describe the means of remote or electronic communication to be used.

(Remaining Sections renumbered accordingly).

ART. III, SECTION 5. QUORUM. SECTION 5. QUORUM. As long as the total number of members does not exceed five hundred, ten percentum of the total number of members present **or participating electronically** shall constitute a quorum. In case the total number of members shall exceed five hundred, fifty members or two percentum of the membership, whichever shall be the larger, shall constitute a quorum. If less than a quorum is present at any meeting, a majority of those present in person **or participating electronically** may adjourn the meeting from time to time without further notice. The minutes of each meeting shall contain a list of the members present in person.

ART. III, SECTION 6. VOTING. [Insert from Bylaws 3]

- (a) Each member shall be entitled to only one vote upon each matter submitted to a vote at a meeting of the members. All questions shall be decided by a vote of a majority of the members voting thereon in person **or participating electronically** except as otherwise provided by law, the articles of incorporation or these Bylaws. If a husband and wife hold a joint membership, they shall jointly be entitled to one vote and no more upon each matter submitted to a vote at a meeting of the members. Signed votes shall be valid and entitled to the same force and effect as a vote in person if the member has been previously notified in writing of the exact motion or resolution upon which the vote is taken. Signed votes shall be used only when specifically authorized by resolution or vote of the Board of Directors. An individual may represent more than one member who is other than a natural person, and may also vote as an individual if he is a member. If a member who is other than a natural person is not represented by any of its principal officers, that member may designate an individual to represent it by giving the Co-op a written notice at or before the member meeting, which shows that the designated individual has been authorized by the managing board of such member to represent it at the meeting of this Co-op. An individual person may vote that person's individual membership and may represent more than one member that is not a natural person.
- (b) All questions, except those involving multiple choice issues or determinations, shall be decided by a vote of a majority of the members voting thereon except as otherwise provided by law, the Articles of Incorporation, or these Bylaws. Multiple choice issues or determinations shall be decided by a plurality vote. In the election of directors, a voice vote of the members present may be permitted if there is no competition for the seat or seats to be filled. All mail and electronic votes shall also be considered.
- (c) Except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws or by the board, a member may vote by mail or by electronic

transmission in conjunction with a member meeting, but only in a manner prescribed by the board.

- i. A member may vote by mail or act by electronic transmission on any matter, or as otherwise provided by the directors, in conjunction with a member meeting by the Co-op delivering or providing access to a written or electronic mail ballot ("Mail Ballot") to each member entitled to vote on the matter and from whom the Co-op received a written request for a Mail Ballot at least 10 days before the member meeting. A member submitting a completed ballot may revoke the ballot and vote at the member meeting regarding a matter described in the ballot in a manner prescribed by the board. The Co-op must count completed Mail Ballots received before the member meeting in determining whether a member quorum exists at the member meeting as to the matters included in the ballot. The Co-op must count as a member's vote a properly completed Mail Ballot received on or before the time and date stated in the ballot.
 - ii. Mail or Electronic Ballot. A Mail Ballot must; (1) set forth and describe a proposed action, identify a candidate, and include the language of a motion, resolution, bylaw amendment, or other written statement, upon which a member is asked to vote or act; (2) state the date of a member meeting at which members are scheduled to vote or act on the matter; (3) provide an opportunity to vote for or against or to abstain from voting on the matter; (4) instruct the member how to complete, return, or cast a mail or electronic ballot, and (5) state the time and date by which the Co-op must receive the completed mail or electronic ballot.
- (d) A member's failure to receive a mail or electronic ballot does not affect a vote or action taken by Mail Ballot.
- (e) Material soliciting approval of a matter by Mail Ballot, must; (1) contain or be accompanied by, a

copy or summary of the matter; (2) state the member quorum required to vote on the matter; (3) for all matters other than the election of directors, state the percentage of approval necessary to approve the matter; and (4) state the time and date by which the Co-op must receive a completed mail or electronic ballot.

- (f) A Mail Ballot may not be procured or cast through fraud or other improper means. As determined by the Co-op, a Mail Ballot procured or cast through fraud or other improper means is invalid.

Proposed Amendment #3

Authorization for Setting Location of the Board's Annual Reorganization Meeting.

Shall this section be amended to authorize the Cooperative's Board of Directors to conduct the Board's annual organizational meeting at a location different from the location of the annual meeting.

ART. 5, SECTION 1. REGULAR MEETINGS. A regular meeting of the board shall be held without notice immediately after, ~~and at the same place as~~, the annual meeting of the members ~~at a location chosen by the board~~. A regular meeting of the board shall also be held monthly at such time and place as the board may provide by resolution. Such regular monthly meetings may be held without notice other than such resolution fixing the time and place thereof.

JUCE TV NOTICE



The producers of JUCE TV recently notified BEK Communications that JUCE TV has left traditional television and will no longer be on the air. Their new focus is producing digital on-demand YouTube content that can be accessed anywhere, anytime, from smartphones and computers.

This new content can be accessed at www.youtube.com/user/jctv

NEW PHONE LISTINGS

NAME	PHONE	CITY	NAME	PHONE	CITY
Ampride	336-7786	Strasburg	Kruetsberg Randi	490-3552	Valley City
Beastrom Oil Company	782-6227	Hazleton	Lifeways	204-7772	Wilton
Beckler Brenton	415-0326	Mandan	Volk Ray & Rose	336-2408	Strasburg
Dakota Country Realty	475-4752	Steele	Wolhart Doris	845-3021	Valley City
District 24 Democrats	490-3243	Valley City			

2020 APPOINTMENT OF VOTING REPRESENTATIVE

If you are attending the Annual Meeting of BEK Communications Cooperative as the Voting Representative of a church, school district, cooperative or other organization, the following "Appointment of Voting Representative" form must be completed. This form may be submitted to BEK Communications Cooperative **anytime before 12:00 noon on June 11, 2020** (the day of the Annual Meeting).

This is not a Proxy Statement. Residential and sole proprietorship business customers cannot use this form. They must vote in person at the Annual Meeting.

Completed forms may be dropped off at the BEK headquarters office in Steele by noon on June 11, 2020. Forms may also be mailed to the following address:

BEK Annual Meeting
BEK Communications Cooperative
PO Box 230
Steele, ND 58482-0230

Be sure to mail your forms early.

Submit Appointment of Voting Representative Form anytime before noon - June 11, 2020!

2020 Appointment of Voting Representative

2020 Appointment of Voting Representative Form

A membership in the BEK Communications Cooperative may be held in the name of a church, school district or other political subdivision, corporation, cooperative, association or other organization. If your organization is to be represented at the Annual Meeting, complete this form and deliver to BEK Communications Cooperative **anytime before 12:00 noon the day of the Annual Meeting.**

This certifies that _____ is appointed the voting representative for the following organization _____ at the June 11, 2020 BEK Communications Cooperative Annual Meeting.

Said voting representative is authorized to cast the vote of, and otherwise represent this organization in all matters at the Annual Meeting of the members of BEK Communications Cooperative or any adjournment thereof. **Only ONE Appointment of Voting Representative Form per organization is allowed.**



BEK Annual Meeting
BEK Communications Cooperative
PO Box 230
Steele, ND 58482

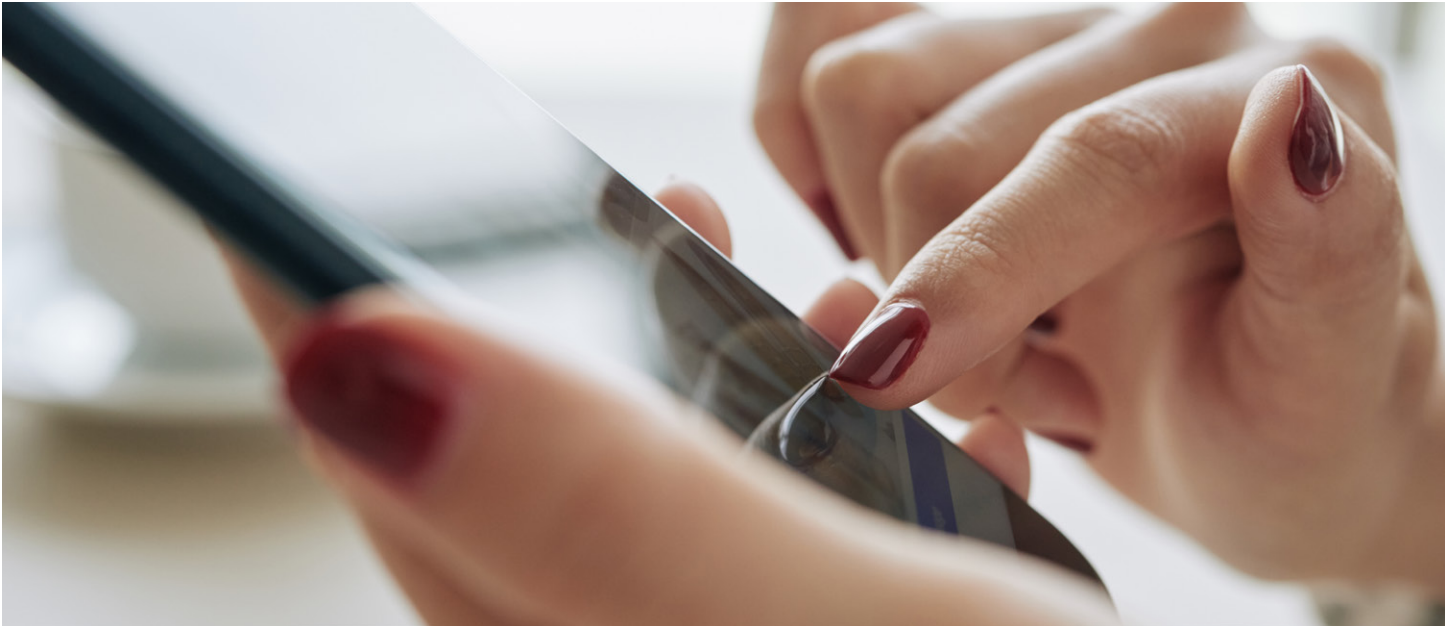
Signed: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Organization's Business Phone No. : _____

PRIVACY POLICY AND STATEMENT



The FCC requires cable operators to provide a written statement regarding their subscriber privacy policy. The following is our policy which can also be found in Section 20 of our Terms and Conditions at www.bek.coop.

- (a) **Customer Privacy.** Protecting the privacy of our customers is important to us. Any contact information you provide in an information request will be used only for purposes of selling, distributing, fulfilling or settlement of the Services or Products. Without your express authorization, we will not divulge any information to a third party for purposes other than the sales, distribution, fulfillment or settlement of Services and Products except as otherwise provided herein.
- (b) **Use of Customer Information.** The privacy of your information is important to us. The privacy policy and statement in Section 20 tells you how we collect information from you and how we use it.
 - (i) **BEK Partners.** BEK sells various “co-branded” services on its website, in newspapers, via phone sales and other mass media. Although BEK requests all partners to have a privacy policy consistent with the policy listed below, it is recommended that

you view the privacy policy adopted by the BEK partners when taking their services.

- (ii) **Customer Information.** It is a fact of modern life that companies, including BEK, must collect information about their customers in order to carry out business and offer services. Privacy concerns focus on protecting customer information that an individual expects to be kept private. Such information is information associated with a specific individual or entity, including, for instance, email address, Services offered and information about that customer’s usage activities.
- (iii) **Customer Proprietary Information.** From time to time, BEK Communications changes its Service and Product offerings and makes available additional features and Services and Products, which may enhance and augment the Service or Product to which you are already subscribed. In order for us to determine which customers may benefit from the new Services and Products, we will use information about your account from our databases, legally referred to as Customer Proprietary Network Information (“CPNI”) unless you restrict

that use in the manner described below. CPNI includes information such as the long-distance carrier and calling plan to which you are subscribed, calling features and plans to which you are subscribed, calling patterns and usage of various features, and charges associated with the Services you subscribe to. Use of this data will allow BEK to identify Service and Product offerings to meet your individual needs. For this purpose, CPNI data will be used by BEK only. This data will not be shared by BEK with any other outside source except as necessary to provide the Services and Products to which you are already subscribed and when we are legally compelled to do so.

- (iv) **Restricting CPNI Usage.** You have the right under federal law to protect the confidentiality of your account information and restrict the use of CPNI data, and we have a responsibility to protect your data. To restrict the use of your CPNI data, you must call the business office toll free at 1-888-475-2361 during regular business hours, or email us at bekcomm@bektel.com within 30 days of your receipt of this notice to request that we not utilize your CPNI data. Your denial or approval for BEK to use this data will not affect the provision of any Services or Products to which you subscribe. You may change your decision at any time and your decision will remain valid until you tell us otherwise. Again, we will only use your account information to market other communications Services and Products BEK offers and no action is required unless you wish to restrict our use of your CPNI. You will still receive monthly bill inserts, newsletters and other publications that are sent to all customers at the same time, so that you are kept up to date on what is happening at BEK.
- (v) **Non-CPNI Collected Automatically.** In some cases, we may collect information about you that is not personally identifiable such as the type of Internet browser you

are using, the type of computer operating system you are using, the domain name of the website and/or Internet Service Provider from which you linked to our site, advertisements and the like.

- (vi) **“Cookies”.** Pieces of information that a website transfers to a customer’s hard drive are called “Cookies.” When you view our website or advertisements, we store some information on your computer. This information will be in the form of a “Cookie” or similar file and will be used to determine ways to improve our website, advertisements, Products or Services. For example, Cookies allow us to tailor a website to better match your interests and preferences.
- (vii) **Information Security and Data Retention.** BEK maintains strict customer information privacy policies and uses current technology to safeguard customer information from unauthorized disclosure. Employees are trained on the importance of protecting privacy and on the proper access to, use and disclosure of customer information. Personally identifiable and other sensitive records are retained only as long as reasonably necessary for business accounting, tax, or legal purposes. If during the provision of services for the customer, private information provided to the customer by third-parties, as part of customer’s business activities, is unintentionally or unavoidably disclosed to BEK, BEK will not copy, tamper with, remove from the place where found, retain, disclose or use in any way the information. Although we work hard to protect the personal information that we collect and store, no program is 100% secure and we cannot guarantee that our safeguards will prevent every unauthorized attempt to access, use, or disclose personal information.



BEK COMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE
200 East Broadway, PO Box 230, Steele, ND 58482

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CUSTOMER

BEACON TRIVIA

- 1 What year did BEK begin installing fiber-based internet?
- 2 Who are the three nominees for the BEK Board of Directors in 2020?
- 3 How many trivia winners were there from the last BEK Beacon?

TRIVIA ENTRY

ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY APR 30, 2020.

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Town: _____

Clip and send to BEK at:
PO Box 230, Steele, ND 58482.

You can also email answers to bekcomm@bektel.com.
We will be drawing for five \$5.00 credits to be applied to the winners' bill.

CONGRATS! TO OUR BEACON JANUARY/FEBRUARY WINNERS.

Dale Neumiller, Wilton
Dorothy Langer, Alice
Arlene Olson, Wing
Russell Fliflet, Hannaford
Harold Thompson, Kintyre
Sally Bernhardt, Linton
Vicky Erickson, Page
Lynette & Scott Simons, Baldwin
Aubrey LaRocque, Sanborn
Clarilyn Riedinger, Steele
Agnes Ketterling, Wishek
Ruth Triebold, Oriska
Janet Brown, Valley City
Everett Walker, Valley City
Marvin Heyne, Linton
William Foster, Napoleon
Beverly Bergquist, Wilton
Heidi Kalberer, Hazelton
Larry Knecht, Napoleon
Linda Kapp, Tappen