

A New Director for District IV

Napoleon native Bill Becker was recently elected to the BEK Communications Cooperative Board of Directors to represent District IV which consists of Lehr, Napoleon, Wishek and Zeeland.

committees in his community. He is President of Logan County Farmers Union, served six years as a director for South Central Grain, 18 years on the Tri-County Fair Board and is a 4th Degree Knight in the Knights of Columbus.

A cooperative member for several years, Bill took a good look at BEK, seeing a company that is devoted to community involvement and offering its members the newest technology. "I decided to run for the Board because I like this coop's philosophy," says Bill. "As a director I would like to work towards delivering the highest standard of new products to patrons and maintaining a good financial status for future generations."

Educated at the home of the Imperials, Napoleon High School, Bill now serves on various



District IV Director William (Bill) Becker, representing Lehr, Napoleon, Wishek and Zeeland.

Farming and ranching are Bill's areas of expertise. He raises various crops and feed, beef cattle and backgrounds yearlings. He and his wife Alicia have also raised five children on the family farm with three still at home. Juggling a farm/ranch operation and several civic jobs, Bill occasionally takes time to enjoy hunting, fishing and restoring Oliver tractors.

For members in District IV, Bill invites you to contact him with your questions and concerns at 701-452-2928 or 701-321-2322. He looks forward to representing his district and visiting with coop customers.

Dates to Remember

- | August 1
Calendar Photo Contest Ends
- | August 1
August Telephone Bills Mailed
- | August 8
Disconnect Day
- | August 20
Reminder Notices Mailed

Congratulations Sterling on the success of your 125th celebration!

Statement of Nondiscrimination

BEK Communications Cooperative is the recipient of federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Services, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Derrick Bulawa, Chief Executive Officer of BEK Communications Cooperative. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination may obtain further information about the statues and regulations listed above from and/or file a written complaint with this organization; or the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250; or the Administration, Rural Utilities Services, Washington, D.C. 20250. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.

Recipe for a Successful Kuchen Contest

Take one Easterner, BEK CEO/GM, Derrick Bulawa; add his wife Brenda and daughter Tyler. Stir. Add one original Fair goer, June Kemmet, and mix. Give these four judges six varieties of kuchen, donated by five contestants, to view the appearance, inhale the aroma, and delight in the taste (of each and every one). Process one hour. Tally the scores. Announce the winners when done.

The Annual Tri-County Fair Kuchen Contest is sponsored by BEK Communications. There were 23 entries in this year's contest. It was reported that all the kuchen were delicious. Mr. Bulawa and his family had a great time judging the contest and visiting with all the Fair goers Saturday, July 7th. After the contest, the leftover kuchen was packaged and given to the Fair to use for their fundraising efforts.

Congratulations to the 2007 Tri-County Fair Kuchen Contest Winners:

Apple	Cheryl Wald.....	\$25
Cheese	Dianna Woehl.....	\$25
Peach	Dianna Woehl.....	\$25
Prune	Dianna Woehl.....	\$25
Rhubarb.....	Cheryl Wald.....	\$25
Wedding	Karen Just.....	\$25

And the 2007 Overall Grand Champion is Dianna Woehl, winning \$50.

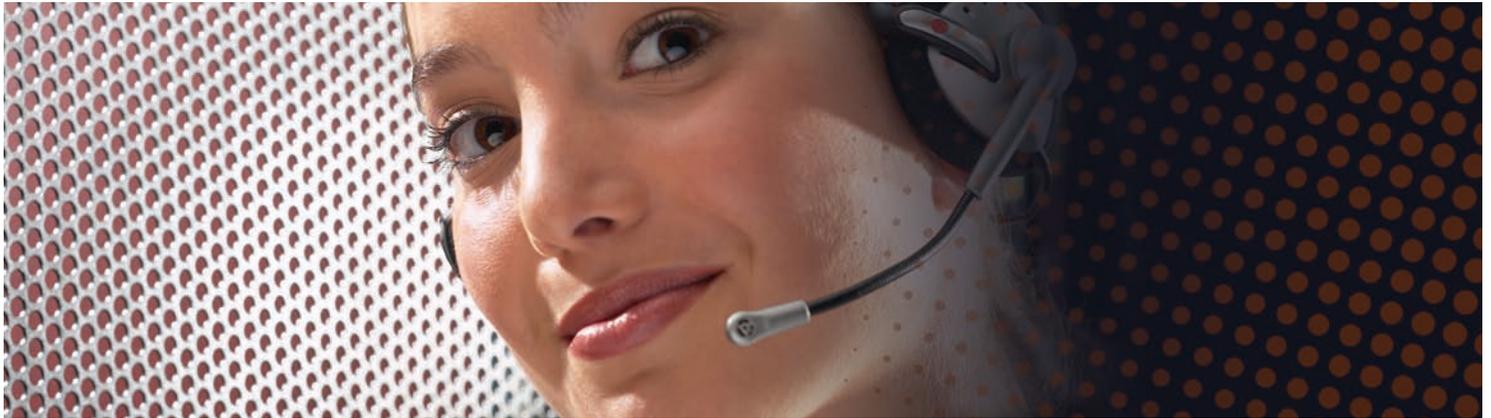
Thanks to Millie Wald and Julie Spitzer for helping organize this event and a huge thanks to all the contestants for sharing their baking skills and contributing to the success of the contest and the Tri-County Fair.



Kuchen judges hungry for the taste testing:
L to R:
Tyler Bulawa,
Derrick Bulawa,
BEK CEO/GM,
June Kemmet,
and Brenda Bulawa.

Microsoft ends support for Windows 98/ME:

July 11, 2006 brought a close to Extended Support for Windows 98, Windows 98 SE and Windows ME as part of the Microsoft Lifecycle Policy. Microsoft has retired public and technical support, including security updates. Existing support documents and content, however, will continue to be available through the Microsoft Support Product Solution Center Web site. This Web site will continue to host a wealth of previous How-to, Troubleshooting, and Configuration content for anyone who may need self-service.



Microsoft is retiring support for these products because they are outdated and can expose customers to security risk. They recommend that customers who are still running Windows 98 or Windows ME upgrade to a newer, more secure Microsoft operating system, such as Windows XP, as soon as possible. Customers who upgrade to Windows XP report improved security, richer functionality, and increased productivity.

(Above taken from <http://www.microsoft.com/windows/support/endsupport.msp>)

Many companies that make anti-spyware, antivirus and software firewall programs are phasing out support for Windows 98 and ME, although some older versions of those products will still run on them. With Microsoft closing its support doors on Windows 98, Windows 98 SE and Windows ME, BEK's support of these products is limited. The BEK Internet Team is your local Internet support desk and remains committed to offering tech support to its customers to every

extent possible. Tech support of outdated products can not be guaranteed to fix Internet problems. BEK recommends that customers upgrade to a newer more secure operating system as support for older operating systems will be phased out in the near future. BEK strongly suggests that you get professional advice or support before purchasing and installing a newer operating system for your current computer.

Wire Maintenance Plan Expanded

Wire maintenance was introduced long ago to help defer repair bills to customers on their telephone wiring. Now a new communications wiring maintenance plan is being implemented for BEK customers. With expanded services, the new "PROTECTION PLUS PLAN" includes maintenance coverage for your BEK phone, Internet and future TV communications wiring.

How much does it cost to subscribe to the Protection Plus Plan? Good News: There is

no increase in price! Just \$1.50 per month per line takes the worry out of maintenance coverage for your BEK services. Customers who have an existing wire maintenance account do not need to contact BEK; their services will be covered under the new *PROTECTION PLUS PLAN* automatically. A new description of this plan will be on the August 1, 2007 bill statement.

The *PROTECTION PLUS PLAN* provides line testing, trouble isolation, wiring repair, jack or connection repair, single jack additions, jack relocations, basic phone, router, PC or TV configurations and connections*.

An employee will isolate the telephone, Internet or TV trouble for you. Once the trouble has been isolated, the service technician will tell you about your options to repair the trouble. If the trouble is found in the customer premise and you do not have Protection Plus, you will be responsible for charges that may include premise visits plus costs to fix the trouble.

Call BEK today at 1-888-475-4278 to sign up for the *PROTECTION PLUS PLAN*.

*Exclusions and restrictions may apply.

Electronic/Telecommunications Academy Announces HMB Scholarship Winner

Following Kaleb Thorp's footsteps of 2006, Jamie Schlittenhart, also of HMB High School, takes home a \$1000 scholarship from the Electronic/Telecommunications Academy held at Bismarck State College (BSC), June 3 – 8, 2007.

Jamie was among six students (up from three last year) receiving a \$1000 scholarship from the BSC Foundation. The scholarships were awarded to students who completed the academy, placed high on their test scores and classroom participation. The scholarships can be used for the following programs: Electronics, Telecommunications, Computer Science or Computer Support Specialist.

The 7th Annual Electronic/Telecommunications Academy was a great success with eleven

high school students from across ND and one student from Montana selected to participate. Under the instruction of Lee Gillingrud, Bismarck Public Schools and Robert Arso, BSC, these students had the opportunity to learn about the Electronics/Telecommunications industry and explore the possibility of seeking a career in the industry.

BEK Communications Cooperative, an academy sponsor, congratulates Jamie Schlittenhart of HMB and Laura Nieuwsma of Strasburg High School for completing the academy this year. Each of these students received a \$125 stipend from BEK. Jamie is the son of David and Teresa Schlittenhart of Hazelton and Laura is the daughter of Kenny and Cheryl Nieuwsma of Strasburg.

Students receive certificates of completion.



Robert Arso (*Instructor, BSC*),
 Jamie Schlittenhart,
 HMB High School Student,
 Dale Hoerauf
 (*Director, Career and Technical Ed.,
 Bismarck Public Schools*),
 Lee Gullingsrud
 (*Instructor, Bismarck Public Schools*)



Robert Arso (*Instructor, BSC*),
 Laura Nieuwsma, Strasburg High School
 Student, Dale Hoerauf (*Director, Career
 and Technical Ed., Bismarck Public
 Schools*), Lee Gullingsrud (*Instructor,
 Bismarck Public Schools*)

NEW MEMBERS

- | Kintyre - Braddock
 Preszler, Joel..... 332-6619
- | Linton
 Jagne, Angela..... 254-4401
- | Regan
 Kassian, Tom & Katy 286-6494
- | Robinson
 Palm, Scarlet..... 392-5197
 Rembleski, James & Robyn. 392-5180
- | Steele
 Biggs Ternes, Cassandra 475-2943
 Rode, Josh 475-2944
 Stangland, Crystal & Duane 475-2956
 Tosseth, Russell & Judith.... 475-2927
 Trudeau, Amanda..... 475-2926
- | Sterling - Driscoll - Moffit
 Kinzler, Deb 387-4532
 Rabenberg, Michael & Jane 387-4481
- | Strasburg - Hague
 Maley, Marcia..... 336-7715
 Muhlhauser, Mark & Cindy . 336-7701
 TJ Foods 336-7364
- | Tappen - Dawson
 Crystal Springs - Lake Isabel
 Bodvig, Korey 327-4290
 Klein, Charles & Ramona 327-8253
- | Tuttle
 Witt, Courtney & Renae 867-2706
- | Wishek
 Barondeau, Dora 452-2888
 Graber, S. 452-2421
 Janke, Wayne..... 452-2881
 Pinke, Nathan & Kathryn.... 452-2387
 Tri-County Exhibitors Assn. 452-2465
 Wiest, Helmond 452-2951
- | Zeeland
 Michna, D..... 423-5459



Lasting Impressions

Five Employees Retire

When I was young, I remember watching a cartoon that began with two dogs “punching in” at work for the day. They courteously said “Good Morning” to each other and then their work day began. They literally spent the day undermining each other in a effort to be the first one to beat the tar out of the other one. At the end of the day, they “punched out” and politely said “Good Night”.

Apparently this cartoon left an impression on me about the work world....and when I entered the doors of BEK in 1991 as an employee, I found among many, five good people who, unlike the description above, showed me how professionals really work. Now they are earning their rewards, officially soaking up their retirement years:

Shirley Brusven joined the company in 1966 as receptionist secretary; the woman on the front line. Naturally after putting 41 years into the company, Shirley learned a few more things along the way besides answering the phone and dictation; like taking and dispatching troubles, account record keeping, deposits, CSR work, historical records and lastly, any and all work falling under the title of Executive Secretary/Administrative Assistant. Shirley says one of the biggest pleasures during her BEK history was being able to offer the customers 1-party service in 1972. Ahhh....the end of “rubber necking.”

I asked Shirley what’s in her plans for retirement and she replied, “I will be able to spend limitless time with my family and grandkids, spend more time outdoors, read, scrapbook, work on my own cookbook, travel and of course keeping in touch with family and friends.”

With thirty-five years behind him, **Kenneth Albrecht** says goodbye as well. Kenny

says he did just about everything in the plant department from burying cable to installing phones, wiring houses and installing equipment. “There are constant changes of equipment and products,” says Kenny. “It was a good job and special customers make it memorable; the ones that remember the extra mile done for them, especially if you helped them out after hours, holidays and weekends.” Kenny understands the definition of retirement. He plans to slow down and do things more orderly. He will relax, read more, golf and spend time with friends.

From 1979 – 1993, **Verlyn Nelson** worked for BEK on a part-time basis in the plant side of the company while keeping his own income tax service going strong. Since then he dedicated his full time status working with right-of-way, easements, permits, crop settlements and plow inspection. From Verlyn’s viewpoint, BEK’s biggest hurdle was moving into the fiber optic era. Verlyn’s retirement plans include camping, fishing and travel.

When BEK hired **Chad Olson** in 1973 they got youth, personality and a guy not afraid to dig in, literally! Whether behind a shovel or behind a desk, Chad dedicated 34 years to the company doing a little bit of everything. From the early days of pole climbing to construction and installation, and on to management and member services, he has worn many hats. When asked what memory stands out, Chad shared this story: “I was working 16 hour days at Wing and Regan after a sleet storm in ’75 or ’76. Plant Manager Lawrence Hayden and



At the retirement open house held June 27, 2007, BEK and friends say goodbye to five BEK employees: L to R: Kenny Albrecht , Chad Olson , Shirley Brusven, Verlyn Nelson, and Jerry Schiele.

I were on the butt of a pole we were trying to reset. The pole got away on us and we fell into the wet snow. I fell on top of Lawrence and broke his glasses. Everyone began to laugh at the expression on Lawrence’s face as his glasses were hanging from his ears. We laughed until everyone was laying in the snow. We were all so tired and sick of the thought of all the poles yet to fix (300-400); we needed the laugh to break the spell.” Chad’s plans for retirement are quite naturally, to stay busy!

Gerald Schiele, aka Jerry, traded in his coaching whistle and teaching career for an accounting position at BEK in 1979. Jerry worked most of his 28 years in the Finance department of the company maintaining accounting records, accounts receivable, billing and computer data processing. Most recently Jerry’s job of Material Clerk kept the company accountable for inventory items. It’s hard to imagine that Jerry’s retirement days are here, but that doesn’t mean he’s loafing. His work at BEK was over one day and the next week he joined the cattle circuit of round up, vaccinating and branding for family and friends. He’s in high demand, but he is in control of the hours! What more could a guy ask for!

All of us at BEK wish these retirees well and would like to thank them for their years of dedication.



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- Leo Meier, President Hague336-7258
- Doug Kalianoff, Vice President Steele475-2839
- Sanford Williams, Secretary/Treasurer Wing943-2474
- William (Bill) Becker Wishek452-2928
- Anton Braun..... Napoleon754-4440
- Richard Hausauer Wilton734-6116
- Virgil Horner Strasburg336-7208
- Brett Stroh Tappen327-8201
- Michael Wickenheiser..... Linton254-4949

- Derrick Bulawa, CEO/General Manager,
Manager Feedback..... 701-475-1234
managerfeedback@bektel.com

June Trivia Winners:

Mary Ann Gefroh, Linton; Robert Kiefer, Hague; Karen Lang, Napoleon; William Goldammer, Wing; and Christina Schumacher, Linton.



Beacon Trivia Questions

- | Jamie Schlittenhart of HMB High School is the recipient of a \$1000 scholarship from the _____ Academy.
- | _____ is the winner of the Wedding Kuchen category at the Kuchen Contest held at the Tri-County Fair in Wishek, July 7th.
- | The Wire Maintenance Plan, now called the Protection Plus Plan, includes maintenance coverage for phone, _____ and _____ communications wiring.

Entries must be received by September 7, 2007.

Name _____

Phone Number _____

Clip and send to the BEK office with your phone payment. You can also email at bekcomm@bektel.com. We will be drawing for five \$5.00 credits to be applied to the winners' phone bill.