

BEK beacon

VOLUME 50 | FEBRUARY 2008

Nominating Committee Appointed

The BEK Communications Cooperative Board of Directors has appointed seven Cooperative members to the Nominating Committee. The committee is scheduled to meet on February 27, 2008 to nominate members from three districts as candidates for election to the Board of Directors. The election is to be held during the BEK Communications Cooperative 56th Annual Meeting on June 12, 2008 (There will not be an election in District IV this year.)

The following Nominating Committee Members were appointed to their respective districts holding elections at the 2008 Annual Meeting:

District I

(Regan, Sterling, McKenzie, Wilton, Wing)

Laverne Rachel, Wing, 943-2437

Quirina Schmidt, Menoken, 673-3179

District II

(Pettibone, Tappen, Robinson, Tuttle, Steele)

Randy Kapp, Medina, 327-4403

Wayne Moen, Steele, 475-2447



District III

(Kintyre, Strasburg, Hazelton, Linton)

Wes Mastel, Hague, 336-7487

MaryAnn Gefroh, Linton, 254-4528

Ronald Volk, Strasburg, 336-7218

District IV

(Lehr, Zeeland, Wishek, Napoleon)

No election in 2008

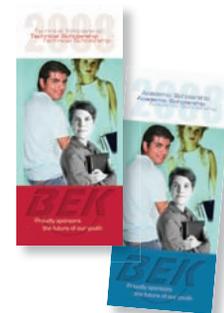
Are You Interested in Being a Candidate for Director?

BEK Communications Cooperative members may participate in the nominations of candidates for Director by contacting the committee members in your district, by nomination from the floor at the Annual Meeting, or by petition as provided in the Cooperative's bylaws which are printed in the BEK/West River Missouri Slope Telephone Directory. If you are personally interested in being a candidate for Director, please contact a committee member. Director elections will be held at the Annual Meeting of BEK Communications Cooperative on Thursday, June 12, 2008.

Dates to Remember

- | January 31
Directory Cover Photo Contest Ends
- | February 1
February Bills Mailed
- | February 11
Disconnect Day
- | February 14
Valentines Day
- | February 18
Presidents' Day
- | February 20
Reminder Notices Mailed

Scholarship Applications Due:



March 1,
2008
Foundation for
Rural Service

March 15,
2008
BEK-Academic
& Technical

Capital Credits and Taxes

On June 1, 2007, BEK Communications Cooperative issued 2301 capital credit checks to their members totalling \$472,049.23.

The 2007 General Retirement consisted of 100% of capital credits earned in 1994. BEK capital credit payments are normally not taxable unless the phone service that produced the capital credits was deducted as a business expense.

If phone services were claimed as business expenses, the cash received should be reported as income in the year it was paid out. However, it should only be reported in the same proportion as the phone service expense had been deducted.

Consult with your tax preparer for further information. BEK Communications Cooperative will be issuing 1099's for capital credit refunds of \$600 or more paid in 2007.



Apply Today for the Telecommunications Academy

Not sure what you want to do after high school? You can make things happen! Challenging, highly skilled careers in Electronics and Telecommunications are waiting for you. Explore the world of telecommunications at the Telecommunications Academy to be held at Bismarck State College June 1-6, 2008. BEK Communications Cooperative will sponsor two area high school students. The Academy is FREE and this opportunity is available to students who are presently high school sophomores or juniors and will be at least 16 years of age by May 31, 2008.

Students will discover an open door to the world of telecommunications with instruction and activities focusing on hands-on and interactive sessions.

Don't miss out on the additional benefits of attending the Telecommunications Academy:

- * Students completing the Academy will earn one-fourth school credit.
- * BEK sponsored students completing the Academy will be awarded a \$125 stipend from BEK Communications Cooperative.
- * Bismarck State College Foundation will be offering \$1,000 scholarships to three (3) students attending the Academy that are interested in a Electronic/Telecommunications Technology program. The scholarships will be awarded at the graduation ceremony on June 6, 2008.

Deadline for all applications is April 11, 2008. For more information regarding the Telecommunications Academy, contact your school counselor, or Tammy Heick, Telecommunications Academy Coordinator at (701) 250-7911 (Telephone AT&S Program).



The 2008 Telecommunications Academy is sponsored by Telephone Apprenticeship Training and Safety, Bismarck State College, Bismarck Public Schools, BEK Communications, and several local independent telephone companies throughout the region.

Questions and Answers

New technology offers new challenges; exciting challenges! Come and explore the BEKTV challenges and solutions that customers and BEK have experienced and shared together.

In the past few months, we have had the opportunity to speak with hundreds of our new BEKTV subscribers. They have had excellent questions regarding their new services. In this newsletter and future newsletters, we will print the most common questions and answers as shared during our training classes in December. More training classes will be provided in the future for those who were unable to attend the previous classes. Always remember, you are welcome to call or visit the office if you have any questions about any BEK service. We hope that the following information will help you understand your new digital TV service better and make your BEKTV experience more enjoyable.

Q: What does Channel Temporarily Unavailable mean?

A: The message “This Channel is Temporarily Unavailable” has several meanings; some are related to the BEKTV system and others are related to the program providers. If you see this message frequently or for a long duration, please call the BEK office and speak with a Customer Service Representative. This message means that the connection between the

BEKTV system, the set-top box in your home and the program provider is unstable. BEK may dispatch a technician to your home to resolve the problem in our network or with the program provider.

Q: Why does the picture Freeze or Stop for a second?

A: A momentary freezing or stopping of the TV image is referred to as “Freeze Frame”. A Freeze Frame is caused by the disruption of the connection between the program source (which could be in LA or NY) and the set-top box in your home. The set-top will hold the last image in place until it receives the information to construct the next image. This may cause freezing or a stuttering effect on the video image. If this occurs frequently or has long pauses between images contact the BEK office and speak with a Customer Service Representative.

Q: Why do squares sometimes appear on the Screen and ruin the picture?

A: Little squares appearing on the screen mean that the transmission between the program provider, BEK, and your set-top box is less than perfect. You can expect to see this occasionally, but if it occurs frequently please give us a call. These artifacts or errors are referred to as Macro Block Errors. In most cases it happens during live sporting events and is caused by error at the stadium or venue of the event.



In some rare cases it is caused by a faulty piece of equipment or bad weather.

The deployment of digital technology, internet technology and digital television is critical to the long term viability of your cooperative. BEK needs to compete for your patronage and provide the advanced services that attract people to live, develop businesses and raise their families in rural North Dakota. Our services must be competitive to those provided in major cities around the country.

We do understand that the technology is new to the BEK members and we are here to support the learning process as each member needs support. Please don't be afraid to experiment with your new technology, refer to your BEKTV Users Guide as necessary and always feel free to ask any question to any BEK employee, we are here to serve our members.



Don't Let the Credits Roll Without You!

Hey You! High School Student!

Are you interested in fun and excitement? Why not explore the world of television broadcasting?

Join our BEK Broadcasting team NOW!

Learn the broadcasting business from experienced professionals. Whether it's running a camera, announcing, or creating graphics, you can be a part of the action! If you are a high school student in South Central North Dakota, contact the BEK Broadcasting team at 1-888-475-2361 to help broadcast the next high school game or special event in your hometown.



Directory Deadline: March 25th, 2008

Pinnacle Publishing, publisher of the BEK / West River Missouri Slope Telephone Directory, will distribute the 2008/2009 telephone directory in June 2008.

March 25, 2008 is the deadline for making changes or additions to the 2008/2009 directory. Requests for directory advertising will also be accepted until March 25, 2008. *Changes or additions to directory listings are only accepted from the person whose name appears on the account or an authorized account contact.*

Our goal is to improve each issue of the BEK / West River Missouri Slope Telephone Directory and to eliminate all errors. Occasionally, however, errors will be found. After you have had an opportunity to check your own listing in the directory, we would appreciate you advising us of any corrections or additions that need to be made.

BEK Communications Cooperative and the publishers of the directory do not assume any liability because of errors and omissions that may occur in the telephone directory.

If you have any listings you would like to add to the directory, or need to make any corrections or changes to your present listing, please contact BEK Communications toll free at 1-888-475-2361.

Introducing Jordan Tripp

Jordan Tripp joined BEK Communications August 1, 2007. This Plant Tech 1 employee does a lot of everything! He installs and repairs Internet, TV and phone services. What makes his job interesting is he likes new and upcoming technology.

Jordan has a one year degree in the telecommunications field from Minnesota Technical College of Wadena, MN. "The telecommunications field is a good field to be in," says Jordan, "and working for BEK is also a plus because I am close to my hometown."



Hometown for Jordan is Pettibone, ND – BEK Country! He can do all he loves to do from hunting and fishing to snowmobiling and 4-wheeling. He is the youngest of four, with two older sisters and one older brother. He likes to have fun, but he also knows responsibility; he is a volunteer for the Pettibone Fire Department.

Say hello to Jordan Tripp!

NEW MEMBERS

- | Hazelton-Temvik
Activities For Learning782-2000
Ryckman, Dan & Sandy782-6823
- | Lehr
Erbele, Elda.....378-2551
- | Linton
Baumstarck, Adam A.254-4491
Fisher's Small Engine
Repair.....254-4372
Schumacher, Dennis.....254-4590
- | Napoleon
Hoffman, Peter.....754-2520
Moser, Brian S. & Heather754-2241
Total Life Chiropractic754-2345
Wentz, Jerome & Norma754-2525
- | Steele
Kapp, Alexis.....475-2928
Nerby, David.....475-2769
Wachter, Michael475-2965
- | Sterling-Driscoll-Moffit
Vetter, Donald.....387-4729
- | Strasburg - Hague
King, B. L.336-7849
McKay (Koester), Carol336-4619
- | Tappen - Dawson
Crystal Springs - Lake Isabel
Weber, Kathryn327-4275
- | Wilton
Jenkins, Lisa.....734-6706
Racine, Geri & Justin734-6200
Sundquist, L.734-6375
Theurer, James & Char.....734-6562
- | Wishek
Bertsch, Daniel.....452-4410
Holzer, Eugene J.452-4403
Nitschke, Rudolph452-4450
Schmidt, Isabella452-2977
Schnabel, Harley452-4420
Wald, Linda.....452-4438
- | Zeeland
Sanchez, Melissa423-5693

Annual Meeting Chef Search

BEK ANNUAL MEETING MENU



For Hire: Someone who likes to cook and values a good meal. **Requirements:** A good cook with the ability to prepare a large quantity of food by a specific time for BEK Communications Cooperative's Annual Meeting Thursday, June 12, 2008.

- Shredded Beef
- Buns
- Beans
- Coleslaw
- Raw Veggies

Servings: appr. 1200

If you or your fund raising group is interested in preparing the BEK Annual Meeting meal, please contact BEK for more information at 1-888-475-2361 by Friday, February 15, 2008.

Meet A Guy

Who Knows TV



For a guy interested in advancing in television and media delivery, BEK Communications is the place to work.

Joining the BEK staff November 1, 2007, Jeff Croy brings three years of television installation experience to the company.

Jeff earned his academic honors in the Bismarck School system. He attended Bismarck High School and then Bismarck State College, where he got a degree in Power Plant Technology.

Helping to deliver BEKTV gives Jeff the opportunity to do what he likes: He says, "I like to interact with the customers and provide them with their television entertainment."

Jeff makes his home in Bismarck where he has one son, his parents and a sister. He is a member of the Bismarck Elks Club and he enjoys the wind in his face riding his motorcycle. In his free time, Jeff likes to work on his dune buggy.

Welcome Jeff Croy!



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December Trivia Winners:

Tony & Janine Goldade, Hague;
Karen Allmer, Robinson; Barbara
Malaski, Wishek; Patricia Shimek,
Bismarck; and Walter Lloyd, Tuttle.



Board of Directors

- 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

Beacon Trivia Questions

- | If you are interested in being a candidate for Director, contact a member of the Nominating Committee listed on page _____ of this newsletter.
- | The deadline to apply for the Telecommunications Academy is _____.
- | (Circle) True or False: You have to be a real chef to inquire about cooking the Annual Meeting meal in June.
- | We recognize _____ on February 18, 2008.

Entries must be received by March 6, 2008.

Name _____

Phone Number _____

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