

BEK beacon

VOLUME 51 | FEBRUARY 2009

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 25, 2009 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 57th Annual Meeting on June 11, 2009. (There will not be an election in District I this year.)

The following Nominating Committee Members were appointed to their respective districts that will hold elections at the 2009 Annual Meeting:

District I

(Regan, Sterling, McKenzie, Wilton, Wing)
No election in 2009

District II

(Pettibone, Tappen, Robinson, Tuttle, Steele)
Randy Kapp, Medina, 327-4403
Kenneth Fischer, Driscoll, 475-2734

District III

(Kintyre, Strasburg, Hazelton, Linton)
Ronald Volk, Strasburg, 336-7218
Mary Ann Gefroh, Linton, 254-4528
Wes Mastel, Hague, 336-7487

District IV

(Lehr, Zeeland, Wishek, Napoleon)
Steve Fettig, Wishek, 452-2813
Michael Welder, Napoleon, 754-2814

Are You Interested in Being a Candidate for Director or Taking Part in the Process to Select a Candidate?

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 11, 2009.

Dates to Remember

- February 1
Super Bowl XLIII
- February 2
February Bills Mailed
Groundhog Day
Directory Cover Photo Contest Deadline
- February 11
Disconnect Day
- February 14
Valentine's Day
- February 16
Presidents' Day
- February 20
Reminder Notices Mailed
- February 25
Ash Wednesday
BEK Nominating Committee Meets

Scholarship Applications Due:

March 1, 2009
Foundation for Rural Service

March 13, 2009
BEK – Academic, Technical & Broadcasting





Are you the brains of your business operation? Well, you can be...

One of BEK’s brainy employees impressed us with an astute sense of conversion skills. He knows how to convert one form of measurement to another...instantly! Wanna know his secret?

He found a link that will interest everyone. Tap into your computer and type the following link to get an amazing tool that will help you convert just about anything you can imagine...

OnlineConversion.com

Here you’ll find an impressive list of conversion possibilities that you can use in your business operations as well as at home. To begin, check out these options: Length, Temperature, Speed, Volume, Weight, Cooking, Area, Fuel, Economy and Currency.

Under “Miscellaneous,” several choices are available, including:

- Computers & Electronics
- Tip Calculator
- Gauge (including wire & sheet metal)
- Automotive
- Horse Height
- Nails (including common, roofing, finishing and box)
- Typography

Don’t stop there. Click on “Fun Stuff” to figure out your retirement date, world population and driving distances between major cities.

You can find other sites that do the same types of calculations; this one is quick and easy. See for yourself; you won’t be disappointed.

Electronics Telecommunications Academy

GREAT OPPORTUNITY OFFERED TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS!

Ever wonder how your local telephone company provides you telephone and Internet service? Ever think about a challenging, high skilled career in the electronics and telecommunications industry?

Here is your chance to find out if this career path is something that interests you. Join many other students with the same interests at the 2009 Electronics Telecommunications Academy in Bismarck, N.D. during the first week of June.

The Electronics Telecommunications Academy will be held in the Technical Center on the campus of Bismarck State College, Sunday, May 31 – Friday, June 5, 2009.

Those attending the Academy will explore basic telecommunications skills and gain insight into many different career positions in the electronic telecommunications industry. Classroom activities will focus on activities and tours designed to build insight into telecommunications skills and knowledge.

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 in related studies to three (3) students attending the Academy. The scholarships will be awarded at the graduation ceremony on June 5, 2009.

Deadline for all applications is April 3, 2009. For more information regarding the Telecommunications Academy, contact Tammy Heick, Telecommunications Academy Coordinator at (701) 250-7911 (Telephone AT&S Program).

Several agencies have partnered together to offer this great opportunity to current high school sophomores and juniors. The 2009 Telecommunications Academy is sponsored by Bismarck Public Schools, Bismarck State College, North Dakota Department of Career & Technical Education, Telephone Apprenticeship Training and Safety Program, BEK Communications Cooperative and several local independent telephone companies throughout the region.



Join us at the

2009 KFYZ Radio Agri-International Trade Show

It's been a long winter and we have an idea to help you avoid cabin fever. Meet your friends and neighbors for some fun activities at the upcoming 2009 KFYZ Radio Agri-International Trade Show.

The KFYZ Radio Agri-International Trade Show is scheduled for February 17th from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and February 18th from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Bismarck Civic Center. BEK invites you to visit us at our booth for these two days in February. BEK is among the 400 exhibit booths that will pack the Bismarck Civic Center for seminars, educational programs and various activities.

Join thousands of farm and ranch families at this annual mid-winter event that is a marketplace for farmers, ranchers and agri-businesses to meet.

For more information on this year's event, go to www.kfyz.com/pages/agri.html

Way BEK When...

"If you want to give me a present, give me a good life. That's something I can value." (East of Eden - 1955)



At the close of 1954, the December headlines of the Steele Ozone announced "\$1,499,000 Govt. Loan Granted BEK Telephone." This procured a vision of a good life ahead for many rural people.

The same year Walt Disney opens a \$17 million amusement park in Anaheim, California, BEK enters 1955 with money in the bank and construction plans of connecting 1,764 subscribers and building 1,330 miles of new line. The first McDonalds opens in Des Plaines, IL as construction begins in Dawson, Hazelton, Kintyre, Moffit, Pettibone, Robinson, Tuttle, Wing and an area between Menoken and McKenzie.

As plant construction proceeded, a lot was going on behind the scenes for the Cooperative. A large part of the early work of the Cooperative involved negotiating for the purchase of other exchanges, purchasing office equipment and telephones, building lines, securing easements and billing. There were setbacks such as the ice storm in November of '56 causing lines to sag and some to break. Meanwhile another construction crew was given their work

orders by Congress (with the Federal Highway Act) to lay 41,000 miles of interstate highways. There was new construction going on all across the country as Dwight D. Eisenhower was re-elected President.

Everywhere you looked, there was construction and exploration; it was crazy; you might say it was "out of this world." The Soviets launched their first man-made satellite, Sputnik I into orbit around the Earth in 1957. The same year, Sputnik II was launched with a canine passenger named Laika. Not to be outdone, the United States launched its first satellite, Explorer I in 1958 and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) was established to direct nonmilitary space activities. The "doors" were left wide open to space exploration as BEK held Open House ceremonies to dedicate its new headquarters building in Steele.

So much was happening at the close of the "nifty" 50's. Our country grew as Alaska and Hawaii (the 49th and 50th states) entered the Union. Communications were rapidly changing. People kept abreast of current affairs through newspaper, radio and the increasingly popular television. In an effort to keep its Cooperative members informed of company affairs, new listings and profiles of employees and board members, BEK sent out its first newsletter, the "BEK Beacon" in 1959 and it became a monthly publication.

Til' next time, as Roy and Dale would sing, "Happy trails to you, until we meet again."

Directory Listings Deadline: March 13, 2009

Pinnacle Publishing, publisher of the BEK / West River Missouri Slope Telephone Directory, will distribute the 2009/2010 telephone directory in June 2009.

March 13, 2009 is the deadline for making changes or additions to the 2009/2010 directory. Requests for directory advertising will also be accepted until Friday, March 13, 2009. 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.

REMINDER

On February 17, 2009, local off-air TV stations will cease broadcasting in analog and switch to digital signals.

'Analog' TV sets not connected to cable, satellite or other pay TV service (in other words, TVs that use an antenna or rabbit ears for over-the-air TV) will need a digital converter box after Feb. 17.

The federal government is offering discount coupons for viewers who need to purchase converter boxes for analog TV sets. Currently, coupon requests are being taken, but put on a waiting list until more funding becomes available. More information about the DTV transition is available at www.DTV.gov or by contacting BEK at 1-888-475-2361. For discount coupons, visit www.dtv2009.gov or call 1-888-DTV-2009 (1-888-388-2009).

Capital Credits and Taxes

On June 2, 2008, BEK Communications Cooperative issued over 2,320 capital credit checks to their members for over \$701,634. The 2008 General Retirement consisted of 100% of 1995 capital credits.

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.

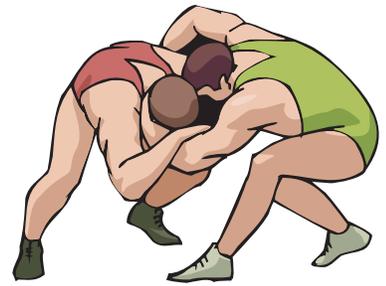
BEK Communications Cooperative will be issuing 1099's for capital credit refunds of \$600 or more paid in 2008.

NEW MEMBERS

- | Hazelton - Temvik
Curtis Jeremy & Jennie..... 782-4404
Goldade Paul..... 782-6832
- | Linton
Dotson Terry & Sharon 254-5807
Feist Nancy..... 254-5805
Pollman Jennifer..... 254-4280
Schemel Roberto..... 254-5808
Scherr Tiffany..... 254-5810
- | McKenzie - Menoken
Garlie Stephen & Jennifer..... 673-3445
- | Napoleon
Heinrich Gottfried..... 754-2019
- | Steele
Benson Janna..... 475-2013
Binder Jared & Melissa..... 475-2233
Schumaker Robert..... 475-2099
Stevens Travis..... 475-2250
- | Strasburg - Hague
Kramer Josephine 336-7129
May Ronald 336-7150
- | Tappen - Dawson
Crystal Springs - Lake Isabel
Schultz Jonathan & Vanessa.... 327-8326
- | Wilton
Bethke Bryce 734-6022
Brost W..... 734-6110
Clausen Jeremy & Mandi.... 734-6018
Clement Dustin & Michelle 734-6114
Dengel Shaun & Stacey.... 734-6105
Ehli Janice 734-6137
Hochhalter N..... 734-6219
Hutzenbiler Robert & Emily ... 734-6166
Johnson Craig & Tamara 734-6013
Keney Jarvis & Sarah 734-6203
Landis Zach 734-6109
Tolbert Jeramie & Seamus..... 734-6117
Walcker Jeffrey & Lori..... 734-6217
Welder Tom G..... 734-6575
- | Wishek
Bridger Wade..... 452-2148
Kamletz Jay & Marcy 452-2738

2009 North Dakota State Class "B" Wrestling Tournament

LIVE from the FARGODOME February 19 -21, 2009



BEK Sports will be broadcasting the 2009 North Dakota State Class "B" Wrestling Tournament to more than 18,000 N.D. households.

Eight telephone cooperatives/companies are collaborating with BEK Sports to deliver television coverage of the State Class "B" Wrestling tournament.

BEK Communications Cooperative, Dakota Central Telecommunications, Dickey Rural Networks, Halstad Telephone Company, Polar Communications, Reservation Telephone Cooperative, SRT and United Telephone Mutual Aid Corporation are proud to bring the 2009 North Dakota State Class "B" Wrestling Tournament to their customers – live from the FARGODOME February 19 – 21, 2009.



February 19th – 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.* - Watch a one hour special of day one action. It will include interviews with coaches, highlights, special guests and a preview of day two.

February 20th – 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.* - Day two is LIVE coverage of the Class "B" dual finals. Watch the top two teams in Class "B" square off for the dual championship.

February 21st – 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.* - Day three of Class "B" wrestling will be LIVE coverage of the individual finals. The top two wrestlers from 14 weight classes will square off for the individual championship.

Veteran sportscaster Jordan Hassler will be mat side delivering all the intense tournament action. He will be joined by Jon Gums who is the author of "Dakota Grappler" and the foremost North Dakota wrestling authority. Jon will share his colorful insight gleaned from years of wrestling experience.

**Check your local listings for announcements or changes.*

10 Scholarships Available to 2009 High School Graduates

In support of continuing education for rural youth, BEK Communications is proud to sponsor four scholarship programs for graduating seniors. To qualify, the applicants' parents must be subscribers of BEK Communications.

Applications for the following scholarships may be obtained from your school counselor, online at www.bektel.com or requested from BEK Communications at 1-888-475-2361.

- Up to three - **\$500 Academic Scholarships** to students who enroll in an accredited college or university.
- Up to three - **\$500 Technical Scholarships** for students interested in pursuing a post-secondary education in a vocational or technical field.
- Up to three - **\$500 Broadcasting Scholarships** for students who have completed training in BEK's broadcasting program, have participated in at least one live event and are enrolled in an accredited college, vocational or technical post secondary education school.

These scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors graduating in 2009 and will be applied to their first year as a college student. Applications must be post-marked or delivered to the BEK office **no later than March 13, 2009.**

- **The Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) Scholarships.** There are 30 national scholarships available. Should a student from our service area be selected, BEK will contribute an additional \$500 to the scholarship, for a total one-time scholarship award of \$2,500. It should be noted that preference will be given to individuals expressing an interest in returning to a rural area to work following graduation. Applications are available from your Guidance Counselor or can be downloaded from the FRS web site at <http://www.frs.org>. Completed applications should be sent directly to FRS, postmarked **no later than March 1, 2009***. Applications postmarked after March 1st will not be accepted.

** BEK would advise applicants to have their FRS Scholarship applications postmarked by Friday, February 27, 2009, as rural post offices have shorter hours on Saturdays.*



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Steele, North Dakota 58482

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BEK beacon

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December Trivia Winners:

Margaret Wald, Kintyre;
Betty Bachmeier, Strasburg;
Diane Zimmerman, Sterling;
Mitch Leier, Kintyre
and Marilyn Ryberg, Arena.



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

- | The first “BEK Beacon” was printed in what year?

- | If you are interested in running for the BEK Board of Directors, you should contact someone on the _____ committee from your district.
- | BEK Sports will be covering the State Class _____ tournament in February.

Entries must be received by March 6, 2009.

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.