



VOLUME 57 | JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2015

BEACON

DATES TO REMEMBER

BEK bill payments are due on the 20th of each month.

- February 14 Valentine's Day
- February 16 Presidents' Day
- February 18 Ash Wednesday
- February 25 BEK Cooperative - Nominating Committee Meets

- March 8 Daylight Savings Time Begins
- March 17 St. Patrick's Day
- March 20 First Day of Spring

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DUE DATES

- February 15 BEK Technology Scholarship - VCSU
- March 1 BEK Technology Scholarship - U of Mary
- March 2 FRS Scholarships
- March 12 BEK - Academic, Vocational/Technical, BEK Broadcasting

FARMERS, RANCHERS, HOMEBUILDERS & NEIGHBORS

JOIN US FOR THESE TWO EVENTS:

38TH ANNUAL KFYR RADIO AGRI INTERNATIONAL

FEBRUARY 10 & 11, 2015
FREE PARKING AND FREE ADMISSION

BISMARCK MANDAN HOME BUILDERS SHOW

MARCH 13 – 15, 2015
FREE FAMILY NIGHT ON FRIDAY, MARCH 13TH

BISMARCK CIVIC CENTER – EVENTS CENTER



UPDATED



MEMBER NEWS

Welcome to the BEK Communications Cooperative News Page. The information and notices provided here are directed to members of the cooperative – patrons receiving services in the telephone exchanges of Hazelton, Kintyre, Linton, Lehr, McKenzie, Napoleon, Pettibone, Regan, Robinson, Steele, Sterling, Strasburg, Tappen, Tuttle, Wilton, Wing, Wishek and Zeeland.

Nominations for BEK Board of Director Seats Now Open

The 2015 Nominating Committee is now accepting nominations for BEK director in three Districts.

Seven cooperative members have been chosen by the BEK Communications Cooperative Board of Directors to serve on the 2015 Nominating Committee. The committee is scheduled to meet on Wednesday, February 25, 2015 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 63rd Annual Meeting on June 11, 2015.
(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 2015 Annual Meeting:

District I

(Regan, Sterling, McKenzie, Wilton, Wing)

There will be no election in District I in 2015

District II

(Pettibone, Tappen, Robinson, Tuttle, Steele)

Wayne Moen, Steele • 475-2447

Randy Kapp, Medina • 327-4403

District III

(Kintyre, Strasburg, Hazelton, Linton)

Peggy Bosch, Linton • 254-4757

Mary Ann Gefroh, Linton • 254-4528

Ronald Volk, Strasburg • 336-7218

District IV

(Lehr, Zeeland, Wishek, Napoleon)

Michael Welder, Napoleon • 754-2814

Steve Fettig, Wishek • 452-2813

If you have any questions, or would like to make a nomination for director from your district, please contact the committee member from your district before February 25, 2015.

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

The Nominating Committee (listed on the left) will make their nominations in February 2015 for director candidates. From these candidates, the member/owners will elect directors from District II, District III and District IV at the BEK Communications Cooperative Annual Meeting on June 11, 2015.

How to Choose a Good Director Candidate:

- Members should nominate and elect directors who have sound business sense and vision. Their vision to shape the cooperative's future five, ten and twenty years ahead is a road map for the general manager who is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the cooperative.
- If you want to help make your cooperative the best that it can be, consider a director position for yourself. If you think you might be interested in guiding the success of BEK as a director, now is the time to submit your name for candidacy.

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 (Article IV, Section 4) which are printed in the BEK/West River Missouri Slope Telephone Directory.

BEK Communications Cooperative Director/Nominee Qualifications*

- Nominee must be a cooperative member and have telephone service in their name.
- Nominee must reside in the district from which he/she is nominated.
- Nominee cannot be employed or financially involved in a competing business.
- Nominee must recognize the need for cooperatives to serve rural America.
- Nominee must be willing to work to further the cooperative.
- Nominee must be willing to spend at least 20 days a year and up to 35 days per year away from personal business to conduct cooperative business.
- Nominee must be willing to be responsible for directing the assets of the cooperative.
- Nominee must be a good communicator.

*See Article IV, Section 3 of the BEK bylaws for additional qualifications that must be met in order to serve on the BEK Communications Cooperative Board of Directors.

MEMBER NEWS CONTINUED...

Notice to All Customers of BEK Communications Cooperative Telecommunications Service

The Public Service commission of North Dakota designated BEK Communications Cooperative the "Eligible Telecommunications Carrier" for its service area for universal service purposes. The goal of universal service is to provide all citizens access to essential telecommunications services.

BEK Communications provides the supported service – voice telephony service – throughout its designated service area at rates which start at \$15.95 per month for residential customers and \$22.95 per month for business customers. This supported service includes:

- Minutes of use for local service provided at no additional charge.
- Access to emergency services provided by local government or other public safety organizations, such as 911 and enhanced 911, to the extent the local government in BEK Communication's service area has implemented 911 or enhanced 911 systems.
- Toll limitation for qualifying low-income consumers (toll blocking).

BEK Communications would be pleased to provide you with specific rates for your area upon request. Call 1-888-475-2361. BEK Communications offers qualified customers Lifeline Service. If you are a low income customer you may qualify for BEK Communications' Lifeline Program. This means you may receive a monthly discount for your basic phone charges. This service also includes free toll blocking for qualifying customers.

BEK Christmas Open House

On Thursday, December 18th, BEK opened its doors for a Christmas open house welcoming many guests to food, fun and games. Coffee and treats were also offered to walk-ins at our Valley City location.

At our Steele location, BEK and other Steele Area Betterment businesses hosted Christmas open houses from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. offering attendees a progressive holiday celebration of eats, treats, games and prizes.

Each BEK guest had an opportunity to participate in the Steele Area Betterment's fourth annual Christmas poker run*. Even though only one person could win for best hand, BEK open house attendees were awarded surprise gifts if the card they drew had a colored sticker attached. Many great prizes were given away.

Additionally, our grand prize winner of a \$150 Visa gift card was Sandra Hegwood of Driscoll – Congratulations Sandra! Thank you to all who attended – It's always great to visit with you!

* Paulette Fischer was the progressive poker run winner of \$55 in Steele Bucks donated by the Steele Area Betterment Open House businesses.



New Employees – Here to Serve You



April Rutledge came to BEK in January of 2014. Although a year has already passed, it seems like just yesterday. April works in BEK's Finance Department as an Accounts Payable Specialist. She assists in various financial tasks as well as helping with the preparation for documentation of grant applications. She is a very organized and detail-oriented individual which makes

her well suited for a position in this department.

April and her husband Jason moved from Nashville, Tennessee to find employment at BEK. They live in Steele with two active boys - 2 ½ year old Kingston and 6 month old Wyatt.

April attended Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson, Tennessee earning a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Child and Family Studies. She worked as an Office Assistant in the Cardiology Department of Vanderbilt Medical Center in Nashville and prior in Murray, Kentucky (a place dear to her heart) at West Kentucky Gastroenterology. "There is a good group of people to work with here at BEK," says April. "The company offers great services; it's a great company to work for."

Hobbies? Did we mention she has two boys under three years of age?! She loves to spend time with her family, reading and doing some travelling. She hopes her next adventure is to the beach in South Carolina.



For **Caleb Kruger** to say he "jumps around to whoever needs help" is an understatement. Caleb joined the BEK team in May of 2014 as an IP Surveillance Technician in the Central Office department. Since he began, he hasn't stopped moving and he says he is still learning all that he can while maintaining and adding customers to BEK's SpyderWatch (surveillance)

server. His pet project is a relatively new service offered by BEK called SpyderProtect. Caleb has been instrumental in developing and introducing this service to customers as well as training employees on this home automation/security system.

If there was ever anyone who chose a profession that fits, it's Caleb. He attended Montana State University in Billings, MT earning an AAS degree in Computer Systems Technology. "Almost everything is interesting to me here," says Caleb. "Learning how the fundamentals of an ISP works and how we support all of our customers with fiber to the home is awesome!" From previous warehouse work experience to high tech is very exciting to Caleb. Joining the BEK team has given him the opportunity to use what he studied in college and further expand his knowledge of networks and networking technology. Win, win for BEK too!

Caleb is originally from Bismarck and although the mountains of Montana were captivating, he chose to move back to Bismarck. Caleb enjoys snowboarding, the company of good friends and hanging out on the river.



Napoleon native, **Ashley Moser** accepted a full time position at BEK in May 2014 as a Graphic Designer. She is instrumental in designing marketing materials for ads, promotions, events, social media and much, much more. Ashley enjoys the creative aspects of her job and she excels in the opportunity to create new artwork and design for new and existing materials and campaigns.

Ashley attended Bismarck State College to earn an Associate Degree in Graphic Design and Communications. She "got her feet wet" at BEK in the summer of 2013 when she worked as a graphic design intern which helped not only in her studies, but BEK as well. She received a positive experience and BEK gained a very talented professional.

Upon completion of college, Ashley returned to live in Napoleon where she enjoys spending time with family and friends, photography and cooking.



Richard (Rick) Williams accepted the Finance and Accounting, Chief Financial Officer position at BEK on June 16, 2014. Rick says he was drawn to BEK and this position because he felt he possessed the experience, education and skills necessary to align his new job with BEK's involvement in a number of market leading opportunities.

As you can imagine, his job duties are endless. Rick manages a staff of six who ensure that all financial matters and compliances are met for the company. From regulated to non-regulated accounting, Rick understands and maintains the financial operations of all aspects of BEK. The communications industry is complicated and Rick's responsibilities are many. Some of his duties include the management of cost studies, regulatory requirements, risk analysis, insurance coverage for the company's assets and liability, preparing and filing Federal and State tax returns, maintaining and establishing the appropriate registration and compliance requirements with all of the applicable jurisdictions and assisting in the development of the Annual Financial Plan for approval by the Board of Directors. Rick thrives on this kind of work. He says, "My job duties interest me because they are directly attributable capital activities and these are the activities that produce growth and stability."

Rick is from southwest Washington. He attended Seattle University earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting and Computer Science. He now calls Steele home. He and his wife Angela have four grown children, all attending college. Rick enjoys downhill skiing, scuba diving and farming in the Northwest.

Welcome April, Ashley, Caleb and Rick!



About BEKTV

BEK's digital television packages represent a much better value than satellite services and other competitors. We appreciate the opportunity to provide our digital TV service to you. As always, if you have any questions about changes or would like to explore other packages, please contact us at 701-475-2361.

Channel Changes

NBCUniversal terminated G4, (BEKTV Channels #164 and #1164) on December 31, 2014.

Effective January 1, 2015 - Shop Now TV moved from CH #16 to CH #14.

Effective January 15, 2015 - Discovery Fit and Health (CH #158) was rebranded as Discovery Life

New Channel Additions

FSN Plus HD (CH #1078) has been added to the following packages: Expanded, Business Basic, Business Core, Government, Tavern FSN ala carte.

North Dakota Legislature Channels are now available on BEKTV:

ND Senate - CH #36
ND House - CH #37

BEK Bulletin Board goes from one channel to four:

CH #21 - Burleigh County Area Events for Wilton, Wing, Baldwin, Bismarck

CH #21 - BEK Cooperative West Area Events for Linton, Strasburg, Hague, Hazelton, Zeeland

CH #23 - BEK Cooperative East Area Events for Wishek, Napoleon, Steele, Driscoll, Lehr

CH #24 - Barnes County Area Events for Valley City, Valley City State University, Valley City Chamber of Commerce, Valley City Public Schools

BEKTV Tips & Tricks

As more and more customers are adding BEKTV services, we would like to remind you that if you have any questions about how to navigate through our TV system or would just like to review some helpful hints - go to our BEK Local Videos to learn more.

Here's How:

1. Find "On Demand" on your remote control to access the VOD menu items. If that does not work for your type of setting, choose Menu on your remote and then select "On Demand".
2. Navigate through your VOD options from the top menu using the cursor arrows (NOT the DVD control arrows) on your remote control and select an option by choosing OK. Images and descriptions of the available content will appear below. Choose BEK Local Videos to learn even more about your service features.

Bridging the Gap in Valley City Several Customers at a Time

The new year is well under way for BEK Communications. The company has powered up the delivery of services for Barnes County and Valley City customers. There will be a lot of BEK activity seen throughout the community as more and more customers are hooked up each day.

Doug and Ann Kelly are among some of the first customers to receive BEK services in Barnes County and so far, so very good! Doug and Ann were looking to avoid Internet bandwidth limits and were disappointed with weather-related service interruptions. BEK's fiber technology addressed both of those concerns and the Kelly's signed up for BEK services earlier in 2014.

On December 5th, BEK installers arrived at their home. Ann tells us the installers were courteous and professional, each step of the way and BEK trainers showed them how the new technology and devices work. As part of BEK's quality assurance commitment, BEK staff stayed until all of their questions were answered and Doug and Ann were comfortable with their BEK services.

"It is great to be hooked up to fiber optics," Ann said. The Kelly's had previously owned a satellite dish and their first impression with BEKTV has been very positive. "There are no weather interruptions in our television service and no Internet limits costing us money if we go over. We can now stream movies and shows worry-free."

BEK prides itself on delivering quality services and unmatched customer service. We are happy to welcome the Kelly's and all of our new customers in rural Barnes County and Valley City. Thank you for trusting BEK to build and bring fiber-quality services to your communities and your lives.

AGWEEK TV

Agweek TV is a new 30-minute weekly television show that will focus on agricultural issues and developments important to the Upper Midwest.

Agweek TV will be shown every Sunday as listed below*:
5:30 a.m. on WDAY, WDAZ, KBMY, KMCY
6:30 a.m. on WDAY'Z XTRA
11:05 p.m. on WDAY, WDAZ
11:30 p.m. on KBMY, KMCY

*check your subscribed channels on your BEKTV guide to select this programming in the time slots listed.

Non-Discrimination Statement

BEK Communications Cooperative is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The USDA prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

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 statutes and regulations listed above from and/or file a written complaint with this organization or write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue S. W., Washington, D. C. 20250-0703, or call (800) 787-8821 (voice) and select Option 2, or (202) 692-0107 (TDD). "USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender".

Protecting Your Privacy

As mandated by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), BEK protects its customers' personal information and Customer Proprietary Network Information (CPNI). As a BEK customer, it is important that you set up authorized account contacts and a password in order to manage your account.

Without this information on file, to confirm your account and ensure your privacy, BEK is not able to discuss specific information with you regarding your account. We realize this may cause some frustration and we would like to avoid any inconvenience to you. We ask that you manage your account now so that when you contact BEK with questions or changes to your account, we are able to quickly assist you.

BEK's Privacy Policy:

- When you, or an authorized contact, stop by our office or call to discuss information on your account, BEK personnel will ask for a photo ID or the password previously supplied by you or other authorized contacts for your account.
- If you are the only person listed on your account, you are the only one who can call to discuss or change your information with BEK. For example, your spouse will not be able to receive information unless he/she is an authorized contact on the account.
- Each time a change is made to your record or account information is accessed (i.e., address changes, password changes, security questions utilized, etc.), you will receive a letter in the mail notifying you of such changes or access.

If you have any questions about CPNI, authorized account contacts or account passwords, please call our office at 1-888-475-2361 and we will be happy to assist you.

Say "Do-Not-Call" to Unwanted Telemarketers

The National Do-Not-Call Registry gives you a choice about whether or not to receive telemarketing calls at home.

The registry applies to all telemarketers with the exception of businesses with whom you have an existing relationship and certain non-profit and political organizations. Commercial telemarketers are not allowed to call you if your number is listed on the registry.

Consumers may register their residential telephone number, including wireless numbers, on the National Do-Not-Call Registry at no cost, either by telephone or via the Internet. To register by telephone, call 1-888-382-1222. For TTY, call 1-866-290-4236. You must call from the telephone number you wish to register. To obtain additional information or register online, please go to www.donotcall.gov.

Inclusion of your telephone number on the National Do-Not-Call Registry is effective 31 days following registration. You may remove your number from the list at any time.

BEK Communications is happy to provide you with this information each year as required by the Federal Communications Commission.

New Listings

BISMARCK-MANDAN-BALDWIN AREA

Artic Glacier Ice.....	223-5350
Buckman Douglas.....	204-7390
Burman Eric.....	255-2845
Chouinard Matt.....	258-5433
Dakota Line Contractors Inc.....	224-8654
Earth Systems.....	751-4868
Frink Jessica.....	204-7388
Graner Martin.....	204-7384
H A Thompson & Sons.....	223-3393
* Thompson H A & Sons.....	223-3393
Jacobson Roy.....	255-1917
Jaszkowiak Edward.....	223-1411
Lindbert Frank.....	204-7392
Mihulka Roland.....	222-1477
Pritschet B & D.....	223-2941
Reynolds Craig.....	255-1936
Superior Homes Solutions.....	204-7382
Spilde Jared.....	204-7393
Thompson Seth.....	204-7385
Zimmerman Law.....	224-1519

HAZELTON-TEMVIK

KINTYRE-BRADDOK

Kron Nathan.....	332-6416
Preszler Joel.....	332-6442
Weigel Jenna.....	332-6443

LINTON

Dion Tanya.....	254-4332
Leier Emmalee.....	254-5559
Parman Nita.....	254-5743
Perman Engineering Co, LLC.....	254-5775
Schirado Michael.....	254-5789
Sehn Darrel.....	254-5530

MCKENZIE-MENOKE

Menards Inc.....	673-2700
Seibel Ronald.....	673-3597
Stein Jerry T.....	673-3596
Wahlgren Jon.....	673-3360
Walford Jakob.....	673-3599

NAPOLEON

Erhart Vernon.....	754-4182
Haugen Marian.....	754-2924
Hins Reuben.....	754-4136
Schwab Donna M.....	754-2019
Whitman Irene.....	754-4139

REGAN

Clayton Steven.....	286-6258
---------------------	----------

STEELE

Berreth Gerald.....	475-4795
Lubbers Bryce.....	475-4763
Nolan Leigh.....	475-4521
Weiss Dylan.....	475-4752

STERLING-DRISCOLL-MOFFIT

Hager Brad.....	387-4888
Seibel Manure Hauling.....	387-4880
Seibel Matthew.....	387-4880
Watson Casey.....	387-4203

STRASBURG-HAGUE

Bauman Florian.....	336-2432
Gross Steven Jr.....	336-2424
Rod's Painting and Drywall.....	336-7980
Wald Bill.....	336-7912

TAPPEN-DAWSON

CRYSTAL SPRINGS-LAKE ISABEL	
Kambeitz Mike.....	327-2277
Roehrich Joseph.....	327-4231

TUTTLE

Flanders Merrill K.....	867-2913
Sathre Adam.....	867-2597
Borg Barry.....	845-3460
Crooks Gary.....	845-4522
Lawn Realty Inc.....	845-0782
Offner Alfred.....	490-3201
Sheyenne Valley Spc Education.....	845-3402

WILTON

Hochhalter Myrna.....	734-6195
Schacher Kristi.....	734-2204

WING-ARENA

Dunbar Chad.....	943-2595
------------------	----------

WISHEK

Clayton Steven.....	286-6258
Brown Eve.....	452-4692
Coffee Grind and More.....	452-4491
Forsman Jessica.....	452-4493
Hausmann Steven.....	452-4486
Schulz Dennis R.....	452-4668

ZEELAND

Brandner David.....	423-5599
Fischer Victoria.....	423-5301

OTHER AREAS

H A Thompson & Sons, Fargo.....	234-9889
---------------------------------	----------

BEK Directory Cover Photo Contest

ATTENTION PHOTOGRAPHERS:

Go to BEK's Facebook page and enter 2 of your best photos that depict North Dakota by **March 1st** for a chance to have one of them displayed on the cover of the **2015-2016 Missouri Slope Telephone Directory!**

*Voting begins March 4th. BEK will choose the top 5 photos, then it will be up to our facebook followers to vote for the winning photo(s).



Enter at:

www.facebook.com/BEKCommunications





200 East Broadway • PO Box 230
Steele, North Dakota 58482

PRSRD STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 256
BISMARCK, ND

BEK Beacon

Published by BEK Communications

200 East Broadway • PO Box 230
Steele, North Dakota 58482
P (701) 475-2361 • F (701) 475-2100
www.bektel.com

November/December Trivia Winners:

Delores Hanwell, Wilton, N.D., David Kalberer, Hazelton, N.D.
Renee Leier, Linton, N.D., Jane Schneider, Napoleon, N.D.
Delores Thurn, Wishek, N.D.

BEK Communications Cooperative Board of Directors

The Board of Directors are the elected officials who meet monthly to guide the progress of the Cooperative and its subsidiaries. They provide strategic vision, keep abreast of changes in the industry and continue to influence national policy ensuring that rural North Dakota will always have access to emergent telecom services at affordable rates. The BEK Board is comprised of nine directors serving four districts as listed below:

Brett Stroh, President.....	Tappen	327-8201
District II		
Leo Meier, Vice President	Hague	336-7258
District III		
Billie Becker, Secretary/Treasurer	Wishek.....	452-2928
District IV		
Kevin Bernhardt.....	Linton	782-4213
District III		
Gerald Burlack.....	Wishek.....	452-4337
District IV		
Doug Kalianoff.....	Steele	475-2839
District II		
Vickie Martin.....	Linton	254-4577
District III		
Shane Morris.....	Regan.....	286-6311
District I		
Sanford Williams.....	Wing.....	943-2474
District I		
Derrick Bulawa, CEO/General Manager	701-475-1234	
Manager Feedback.....	managerfeedback@bektel.com	

BEACON Trivia Questions

1. You can enter a photo in BEK's Directory Photo contest by entering up to two photos on BEK's _____ page.

2. You can view North Dakota Legislative Session content on BEKTV. True or False? _____

3. _____ was hired as a graphic designer for BEK in May 2014.

Entries must be received by March 5, 2015.

Name _____

Phone Number _____

Clip and send to the BEK office at P.O. Box 230, Steele, ND 58482 You can also email answers to bekcomm@bektel.com. BEK will draw for five \$5.00 credits to be applied to the winners' bill.