

BEK beacon

VOLUME 50 | JANUARY 2008

CONGRATULATIONS!

Terry & Bonnie Kooker

Winners of 42" Plasma TV from BEK Communications



Pictured Left to Right: BEK Board President Leo Meier, Director Michael Wickenheiser, Bonnie and Terry Kooker and BEK Network Manager Tom Steinolfson.

Dates to Remember

- | January 1
Happy New Year
BEK Office Closed
- | January 2
January Bills Mailed
- | January 9
Disconnect Day
- | January 15
Common Cents Grant
Applications Due
- | January 21
Reminder Notices Mailed
Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- | January 31
Directory Cover Photo Contest Ends

Please Note: The total you paid on your account(s) in 2007 will be posted in the Message Center portion of your telephone bill statements for January, February, March and April of 2008.



Claim Your Cash

Listed below are the names of BEK Communications Cooperative members or former members who had capital credit checks mailed to them in June 2007. These capital credits have been retired, but the checks have not been cashed.

Maybe the check was set aside to cash at a later date, or it was forgotten. Perhaps you simply did not receive a check issued to you. If your name appears on the list below, you have some extra cash coming to you! Please call BEK today at 1-888-475-4277 to claim your money.

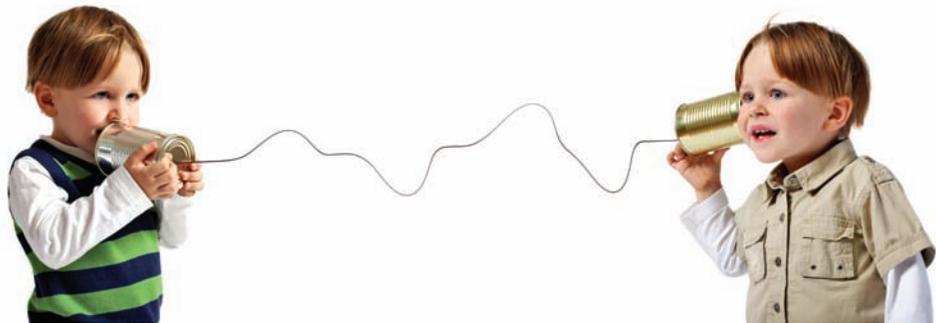
Bar The, C/O Anne Ianniciello
Barth, Jeff and Vickie
Becker, Wendelin G
Burrer, Dennis and Wanda
Campbell, Stacy
Clark, Duane
Commnet Cellular, Inc
Coyle, Robert
Duckstad, Lee and Lisa
Erdmann, Joe
Guse', Joseph and Susan
Kemmet, Craig and Leslie
Korner Kettle Kafe The, c/o Jeanne Morrison
Lengowski, Thomas and Karen
Mycogen Plant Sciences, c/o Allen Soderfelt
Nicholson, William R
Rambough, Rassen and Rosalie
Sabot, Wendy
Sauter, Clinton
Scallon, Ryan and Michelle
Schneider, Martha
Schwab, Loran C. and Julie
Spencer, Jeralyn M.
Tucker, Gale
Veis, Andrew and Mary
Whitman, Dennis M.
Wickens, Tom
Wing Rural Fire Protection Dis.

Universal Service and You

Did you know that no matter where you live, one of your legally protected rights as an American is access to affordable telecommunications?

Our nation's telecommunications laws embrace the philosophy that all Americans, both urban and rural, are entitled to quality telecommunications services that are comparable in price and scope. A cornerstone of achieving this goal and delivering on this promise to the American people is the Universal Service Fund.

Our telephone company uses universal service funds received from the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) to build, maintain and upgrade our telephone networks to provide you with the latest technologies available at affordable rates. Supporting the principles of universal service ensure that all communities can connect to the rest of the world.



Legislators are looking to reform universal service and intercarrier compensation which is vital to ensuring rural America has access to comparable telecommunications services at comparable rates as required by the Communications Act of 1934. In the course of updating communication/telecommunication policies, definitions of information and telecommunications services may be updated. Debates are likely regarding issues such as regulating everyone the same way; new carriers getting a free ride verses them having the same requirements as existing carriers; or telcos receiving a break in the video market as cable companies have received a break in the telephone market. The debate of telecommunications issues continues.

As Congress faces the task of rewriting the nation's telecommunications laws, our company will advocate to ensure the goal of universal service is protected. You, our subscribers, reap the benefits of universal service and have a voice in the debate. To learn more and find out how you can make your voice heard, visit www.keepamericaconnected.org

Nine Scholarships

Available to 2008 High School Graduates

In support of continuing education for rural youth, BEK Communications is proud to sponsor three 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 or requested from BEK Communications at 1-888-475-2361.

* Four - \$500 Academic Scholarships for academic performance in conjunction with community involvement.

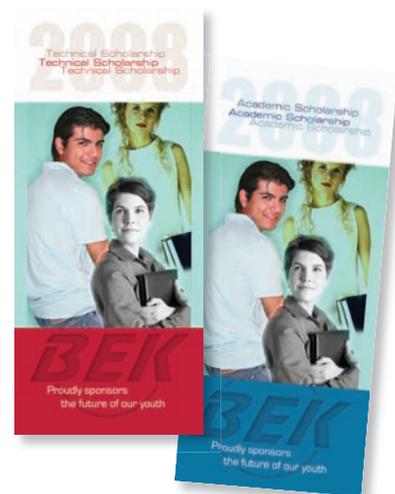
* Four - \$500 Technical Scholarships for students interested in pursuing a post-secondary education in a vocational or technical field.

These scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors graduating in 2008 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 15, 2008.

* The Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) Scholarships. There are 25 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, 2008*. Applications postmarked after March 1st will not be accepted.

* BEK would advise applicants to have their FRS Scholarship applications postmarked by Friday, February 29, 2008, as rural post offices have shorter hours on Saturdays.



Important Reminder

Please Return Your Privacy Forms

BEK began implementing its new Privacy Practice rules for Customer Proprietary Network Information (CPNI) on December 8, 2007. A letter from BEK Communications, dated December 3, 2007, was mailed to all members explaining the mandate from the FCC to increase security measures to protect the customer's personal information or CPNI. In the letter, BEK requested that all members complete the two forms enclosed. One form is to set up authorized account contacts and the other form is to set up a password for your account.

So, what's the big deal? Without this

information, we will not be able to discuss specific information with you regarding your account. No doubt this will cause frustration. BEK would like to avoid any inconvenience to you, so we ask that you take control over how your account will be handled when you contact BEK with questions or changes to your account.

Since December 8, 2007, here is how BEK began answering calls and personal contacts:

When you, or an authorized contact, stops by our office or calls us to receive or discuss information on your account, we ask for a photo ID or a password that has been previously supplied by you or other authorized contacts listed on your account. If you are the only person listed on your account, you are

the only one that can call to discuss or change your information with BEK. For example, your spouse will not be able to receive information unless they are listed on the account. Also, every time a change is made to your records or certain information is accessed (i.e., address changes, password changes, security questions utilized, etc.), you will receive a letter in the mail to notify you of such changes or access to your account.

If you have any questions about CPNI, the Authorized Account Contacts form or the Account Password Setup form, please call our office at 1-888-475-4278 and we will be happy to assist you.

Completed forms may be returned to BEK Communications, PO Box 230, Steele, ND. 58482.

Introducing Brandon Balvitsch

After walking a mile in Shawn Harpole's shoes, Brandon Balvitsch recently took over the reins in the service area of Wishek, Lehr and Zeeland as Combination Tech. Brandon is one of the newest additions to the staff at BEK Communications bringing his plant technician experience from Dickey Rural Networks.



Brandon is headquartered in Wishek. As a Combination Technician, he will be troubleshooting all segments of BEK's services including telephone, Internet and TV, as well as assisting in installation. Brandon's roots are in Carrington, where he excelled in basketball and earned academic acclaim. After turning in his Cardinal uniform, he attended college at Minnesota State Community Technical College in Wadena, MN where he earned a degree in

Telecommunications Installation and Service Technology.

Brandon knows rural North Dakota, he understands the needs of BEK's customers and he is a good fit for BEK and the area assigned to him. Brandon says, "I enjoy working with advanced technology and also with other people. It is fun to work for a company that is pressing forward in this technology driven world."

Brandon's parents are Mike and Rita Balvitsch and he has two sisters, Tanya and Brenda. Brandon hasn't left the athletic arena; he enjoys playing basketball, baseball, softball, golf, football, pool and darts. He is a welcome addition to the BEK Team; perhaps you can persuade him to be on one of your teams as well!

Welcome Nancy Hruby

A lot of material and inventory pass through the doors of BEK Communications and keeping track of these items is a full time job for a Material Clerk. Filling this position is Nancy Hruby. Nancy started with BEK in June as a temporary employee and will begin full time employment with BEK January 1, 2008. She will be responsible for handling the material and inventory for various departments. Nancy has numerous years of experience in freight operations and logistics planning, including warehouse management.

Nancy is a native North Dakotan, born and raised in Hazen. She and her husband



Gary reside in Bismarck and they have five children.

Nancy says, "I am excited about my career with BEK Communications!" Join us in welcoming the lady who keeps things in order, Nancy Hruby.

NEW MEMBERS

- | Hazelton-Temvik
Gunia, Michel L.....782-4169
Peterson, Jerry.....782-6268
- | Linton
Heidrich, Dewayne254-4414
Huizenga, C. & K254-4699
Zippel, Adrien254-5476
- | McKenzie-Menoken
Knoll, David673-3204
- | Napoleon
Klein, Mary.....754-2615
Knapp, George & Sharon754-2934
Reflections By Jenny754-2580
- | Steele
Biggs, John.....475-2924
North Dakota One Call.....475-2942
- | Sterling-Driscoll-Moffit
Hagel, Fran.....387-4474
Nelson, Harvey387-4544
- | Strasburg - Hague
Burchett, Iva336-7842
Deringer, Leo.....336-7680
Volk, Bruce & Vicki336-7892
- | Wilton
Hintz, Stan & Muriel.....734-6539
Hirchert, Earl & Mary.....734-6142
Martin, Travis & Kayla.....734-6547
Vesey, Terry734-6993
- | Wing
Sailing, Paul943-2394
- | Wishek
Balvitsch, Brandon452-4409
Braun, Sahlenia & Daniel.....452-4404
Contreras, Ashley452-4417
Hackman, LaDonna452-4408
Sanders, Eric.....452-4441
Schaffer, Jack Sr.....452-4700
Wald, Kasmier M. & Annie452-2997
Wald, Linda.....452-4438



Nominations for Director:

Are you a potential candidate?

BEK Communications Cooperative is a business owned and governed by its primary users, the member-owners. In a cooperative, directors are democratically elected by members whose votes are equal. (one-member, one-vote.)

Cooperatives have a 5,000 year history, dating back to the ancient Egyptian craftsman associations and BEK Communications Cooperative has been a part of this rich democratic heritage for 55 years. BEK operates much the same way as legislatures of democratic governments in that the cooperative's elected board is responsible to the members.

Member-owners of BEK rely on the Board of Directors to safeguard the cooperative's resources, which include plant facilities and equipment, financial assets and human resources. In setting board policies for telco management, the directors serve as a vital link between the cooperative, member-owners/consumers, employees and the community at large. Member-owners can expect and have the right to information about the status of the telco's resources and the use of these resources to provide services to the community.

If you think you might be interested in guiding the success of BEK as a director, now is the time to make your decision. The nominating committee will be selected in December and make their nominations (in February 2008) for director candidates to be elected at the June 2008 Annual Meeting.

Do you meet these qualifications to be nominated as a director?

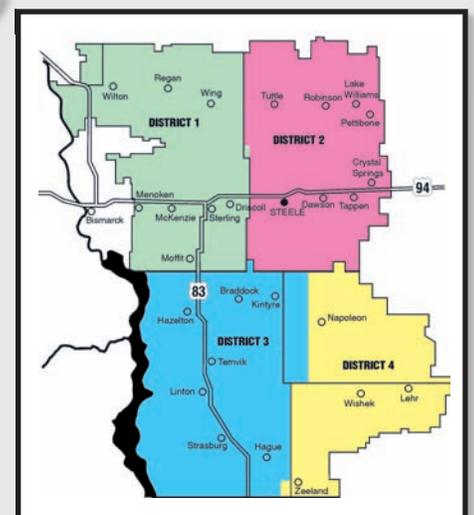
- ✓ **You are a coop member and have telephone service in your name.**
- ✓ **You reside in the district from which you are nominated.**
- ✓ **You are not employed or financially involved in a competing business.**
- ✓ **You recognize the need for cooperatives to serve rural America.**
- ✓ **You are willing to work to further the cooperative.**
- ✓ **You are willing to spend at least 12 days a year and up to 20-30 days per year away from personal business to conduct cooperative business.**
- ✓ **You are willing to be responsible for directing \$50,000,000 in assets of the cooperative.**
- ✓ **You are a good communicator.**

To accomplish our cooperative mission, BEK needs your involvement. We rely on members to nominate and elect directors with sound business sense and vision. Their vision to shape the telco'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.

BEK has had the privilege of being governed by hard-working, dedicated directors who have given years of service to the cooperative and we must plan for the continued succession of directors. Providing for a cross-section of community interest on the board can help ensure sound leadership for the cooperative into a new generation.

In 2008, Director elections will be held in District I, District II and District III. (These districts are outlined below.)

This is your cooperative and we want to hear from you. Do you want to help make your cooperative the best that it can be? Be sure to express your interest in being nominated for director for District I, District II or District III to one of the Nominating Committee members after the committee has been selected in December.





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

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BEK beacon

Published by BEK Communications

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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

November Trivia Winners:

Karen Hager, Linton; Myrna Hochhalter, Regan; Laura Goldade, Hague; Harvey Erbele, Lehr; and Leo P. Mastel, Zeeland.



Beacon Trivia Questions

- | Brandon Balvitsch is the new combination technician serving the areas of _____, _____ and _____.
- | The _____ _____ will meet in _____ to make nominations for director candidates.
- | BEK is urging members to return two forms to protect their _____.
- | High School students may apply for BEK Scholarships as long as they do so by _____.

Entries must be received by February 7, 2008.

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.