

BEK beacon

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BEK Invites Children's Choir to Annual Meeting



The musical reputation of the Steele-Dawson School is phenomenal. The school's gymnasium stage has an incredible history of great performances, loved by many different audiences. BEK Communications keeps the tempo going strong as...

The Central Dakota Children's Choir takes the stage June 12, 2008 to kick off the 56th Annual Meeting of BEK Communications Cooperative.

Central Dakota Children's Choir is a non profit organization founded in 1998. It's purpose is to encourage children to perform fine choral music for a lifetime of enjoyment.

The organization has grown from one choir

of 65 boys and girls to five choirs with over 250 youth in grades 3 – 12 from 37 schools. Performing at community, state and regional events, the choir is very busy. They collectively have 30 to 40 performances a year, entertaining 15,000 – 20,000 people. Two formal concerts are held each year in December and May.

BEK is honored to have these inspiring young voices grace the stage at our Annual Meeting. Come and be a part of the audience, and join us in applauding this fine group of musical performers!

Open the Beacon to learn more about BEK's 56th Annual Meeting coming soon...



Dates to Remember

- June 2
June Bills Mailed
- June 10
Disconnect Day
- June 12
BEK Coop Annual Meeting
BEK Office Closes at 3:00 p.m.
- June 14
Flag Day
- June 15
Father's Day
- June 20
Reminder Notices Mailed
- June 21
Summer Begins

**Congratulations to
Menoken, N.D.**

Celebrating 125 years

June 21, 2008!





Secure Your Wireless Network

Wireless is a great choice for your network. Physically awkward or nearly impossible connections between computers are simplified through a wireless network.

However, wireless comes with its own brand of security issues. Wireless computers and routers use radio waves to communicate. Those waves are sometimes strong enough to carry outside your building. If your network is unprotected, your information is begging to be hacked. Many intruders already know this. Some drive around searching for stray signals with radio equipment. With the right information, they could access your networked computers and files. They could even borrow your Internet connection.

Hackers search for people who use default factory settings. Those settings usually include low or no security.

Start protecting your network by reconfiguring your wireless router. If you do not have an IT person on staff and do not know how to change the router's configuration, you will need to take the following steps:

1. Find your router's settings.
2. Change your router's settings.
3. Change your computers' settings.

For more information on how to do these steps, refer to the April 2007 publication of "Internet Insights." You can access and retrieve this publication from BEK's website at www.bektel.com.

1. Click on Internet from the homepage.
2. Click on Internet Insights Newsletter.
3. Click on Internet Insights Archive.
4. Click on April 2007.

This information pertains to business and home wireless networks.

For all your business communications needs, contact BEK today: 1-888-475-2361

Deadline for Commons Cents Grant Applications

Tax-exempt, nonprofit, community organizations or groups in BEK Communications Cooperative's serving area are eligible to apply to the Commons Cents Community Grant Program. Funding is awarded twice each year for Community Outreach grants and Economic Development grants. The next application deadline is July 15, 2008. For more information or to request an application, call the BEK office at 1-888-475-2361.

Nominations for Director

The election of directors is an important part of the BEK Communications Cooperative Annual Meeting. It gives the members a voice in the operations of the cooperative. The following candidates have been nominated for directors:

District 1: Regan, Sterling, McKenzie, Wilton and Wing

Sanford Williams, Wing (incumbent)

District II: Pettibone, Tappen, Robinson, Tuttle and Steele

Doug Kalianoff, Steele (incumbent)

District III: Kintyre, Strasburg, Hazelton and Linton

Virgil Horner, Strasburg (incumbent)
Ronald Bauman, Strasburg

District IV: Lehr, Zeeland, Wishek and Napoleon

No election in 2008

Vote for your district representatives at the Annual Meeting of BEK Communications Cooperative, June 12, 2008. The meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the auditorium of the Steele School in Steele, N.D.



New Faces at BEK

As sure as the sun comes up each day, employment opportunities arise. Such is the case for three new employees at BEK.



Jennifer Raab began at BEK Communications, February 28, 2008, as Marketing Supervisor. She will direct and ensure the quality of all activities of BEK's Marketing Department and collaborate with all

company departments to plan, organize and execute assigned advertising, marketing and public relations projects. She is excited about her role in assisting in the development of overall company branding to BEK's members and communities.

"I heard that BEK was a great company to work for," says Jen "and after reading the job description and interviewing, I knew the job was for me and that this is the direction I want to take my career."

Jennifer earned a B.A. in Communication (with emphasis in Advertising) with Minors in Visual Art and Sociology from the University of North Dakota. She worked at Anchor Marketing in Grand Forks prior to devoting three years as Marketing Director for the N.D. Army National Guard in Bismarck. She is a member of Bismarck-Mandan Young Professionals, North Dakota Young Professionals and Bismarck-Mandan Advertising Federation.

Jennifer and her husband Chandler live in Bismarck. They are responsible for the care of Murray and Elvis, their pet cat and alligator! Her hobbies are dictated by weather; whether she chooses snowboarding, ATV-ing, camping, white-water rafting, water skiing, tubing or delving in a little art.

"Hello" from Jen to all her family in the BEK service area, including Grandma Slagh from Strasburg, N.D.



James Larson began work at BEK as an Outside Plant Technician on April 1, 2008. He joined the construction crew in plowing cable for new and

existing services. This is a new role for James at BEK. In the late fall of 2007, James was hired as a temp to help launch TV services with installation and troubleshooting.

From farm labor to well drilling; small grains to row crops, dairy to feed cattle; welding and working for an implement dealer, James has worn many hats throughout his years of employment. He welcomes the opportunity to work at BEK. James shares his thoughts on his new position, " BEK is a good company to work for. I like the local communities and the people in the area."

The area is not new to James. He is originally from Twin Valley, M.N. but he and his wife Kim have lived in rural Tappen for several years. They have two children who have left the nest; Maggie and Tony.

It's evident that James enjoys the local area and its people. It's not uncommon to see James and Kim at your local schools; they are avid sports fans and support the kids whole heartedly.

Hunting and fishing are his passions and he says he also enjoys fixing things. Now that's a dangerous thing to admit; he may have to go to an unlisted number!

Welcome James Larson.



BEK's Plant Department added **Ryan Zink** to their employee list April 8, 2008. Ryan relocated to Linton, N.D. from Bismarck to serve as a Combination

Tech primarily for the Linton / Strasburg area. So what does a combination tech do? Ryan is responsible for installing and maintaining telephone, Internet and TV services in his area. It's a given that job descriptions are often evasive, which may account for the following statement from Ryan, "What interests me about my job at BEK is the great variety of situations that may be encountered on any given day."

Ryan comes to BEK with a strong telecommunications background. He graduated from Northwest Technical College with an Associates Degree in Telecommunications Engineering. He built his experience as a Combination Tech at Itegra Telecom and Ideaone Telecommunications as well as holding a Central Office Tech position at Ideaone. Most recently Ryan was a Support Consultant at NISC in Mandan, N.D.

Ryan and his wife Liz have three active boys: 12 year old Houston, five year old Ethan and three year old Garret. Ryan enjoys hunting and fishing; good sports to keep dad on his toes and three boys busy.

Welcome Ryan Zink.

New Telephone Directories

Available in June

Look for the 2008-2009 telephone directory from BEK Communications coming at the end of May. This year's directory cover features a stunning sunrise photo by Jean Schoenhard of Steele. Jean is a local photographer whose photo was chosen from BEK's directory cover photo contest. Jean got a 35mm camera over 20 years ago and now she seldom leaves the house without her digital camera. She likes taking all kinds of pictures, especially flowers. "It was so exciting to learn my picture was chosen for the directory cover, thank you so much," says Jean. Congratulations on your winning photo entry Jean; hundreds of people will enjoy your beautiful picture all year long!



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One free, easy call gets your utility lines marked AND helps protect you from injury and expense.

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Know what's below. Always call 811 before you dig.
Visit call811.com for more information.

**Call North Dakota One-Call Before You Dig
811 or 1-800-795-0555**

The BEK telephone directory is an attractive and useful phone book including many special features:

- * Easy to Use Index
- * A Large Print Section for BEK Combined Listings
- * Surrounding Area Listings
- * Yellow Page Advertising
- * Informational Pages including:
 - Calling Feature Descriptions
 - Internet and TV Service Information
- * Government Pages
- * Area Codes
- * Zip Codes

The BEK directory is never out of reach, you will receive one regular size directory for your home, a midi size directory for your vehicle and you can access BEK's online directory from anywhere by clicking on our website at www.bektel.com.

NEW MEMBERS

- | Linton
Engel, Jaimelynn 254-4094
Grenz, Edna J..... 254-4248
- | McKenzie-Menoken
Slater, LeRoy & Kristi..... 673-3388
- | Nepoleon
Christmann, Frances 754-2274
Howard, Dale & Linda..... 754-2517
Just Wind LLC 754-3000
Fax Line 754-3001
- | Pettibone-Lake Williams
American Outdoor Trails and Tails
.....273-7777
- | Steele
Hins, Reuben 475-2005
Kensmoe, Diane 475-2004
- | Strasburg - Hague
Hehn, Emma..... 336-2682
Vander Vorst, Gerald & Tess ..336-7113
- | Tappen - Dawson
Crystal Springs - Lake Isabel
Araujo, C..... 327-4385
Harsma, Mark 327-4234
Minton, Finn..... 327-4329
- | Tuttle
Holm, Morris & Doreen 867-2521
- | Wilton
Falkenstein, David 734-6598
Gorden, Cheryl 734-6461
Hruby, Jesse 734-6224
Pond Solutions LLC 734-7663
Warren, Douglas..... 734-6191
- | Wing-Arena
Shippen, James..... 943-2358
- | Wishek
Greff, Louis 452-4422



Watch your mail for...



The 2007 Annual Report of BEK Communications Cooperative will be mailed to Cooperative members the week of May 26th. The official notice of the 56th Annual Meeting, to be held on Thursday, June 12th, appears on the first page of the report booklet. BEK's Annual Report contains the 2007 financial reports, officers' reports and much more, including the nominees for directorship.

The evening begins with a delicious beef supper for you and your family served in the Steele High School lunchroom beginning at 5:30 p.m. The Annual Meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the gymnasium. For your convenience, free child care will be available during the meeting.

We have a wonderful evening planned for you.

We'll begin with registration and a great meal. Those attending the meal will enter the Steele-Dawson High School office entrance for registration and will then be directed into the lunchroom for your meal where you may sit inside or outside, whichever you prefer. When you get to the school, signs will be posted giving you directions to the registration and meal.

After your meal, please go into the gymnasium to enjoy the music of our featured performers, members of the Central Dakota Children's Choir. The choir performs at community, state and regional events. They will also assist in the opening of the 56th Annual Meeting of BEK Communications Cooperative with the National Anthem, following the presentation of flags from the American Legion – Napoleon, Post #72.

Your cooperative has had an exciting year. Come and share in our year in review to learn first hand what changes have taken place and what to expect in your coop's future to "Live Better in Your Hometown."

Please join us for the 56th Annual Meeting and get ready for an evening complete with a delicious meal, entertainment and prizes, followed by the business meeting of your cooperative and election of directors; remember, your vote counts. We look forward to seeing you on June 12th!

Annual Meeting Tellers Needed

BEK is looking for volunteers to help count election ballots at the Annual Meeting on June 12, 2008. As a member of the cooperative, you have the opportunity to assist in the election process at the Annual Meeting. The duties of an election teller are to collect the ballots, count them, certify the accuracy of the count and choose a spokesperson to report the election results. If you are interested in serving as an election teller, please call the BEK office by June 6th at 1-888-475-2361.



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April Trivia Winners:

Duane Mehlhoff, Driscoll;
Larry Wald, Wishek;
Verine Reimann, Wilton;
Kathy Fitzgerald, Napoleon;
and Dennis Weber, Linton.



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

- BEK is looking for volunteers to count _____ at the Annual Meeting.
- True or False. (please circle)
There will be elections in five districts at BEK Communications Cooperative's Annual Meeting in June.
- Jean Schoenhard's winning photo is on the cover of BEK's 2008/2009 _____.

Entries must be received by July 9, 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.