

BEACON

BEK COMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE



MEMBER STRONG

The importance of updating your membership information.

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BEK GIVES BACK

BEK's Community Partnership Grant applications are open. Learn how you can apply.

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PICTURE PERFECT

Submit your photo for the 2023 calendar.

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888.475.2361



bek.coop

2022 BEK Annual Meeting Recap

Honoring the Past, Building the Future

BEK Communications Cooperative's 70th Annual Meeting was held on June 9 at the Kidder County School in Steele, ND. "Honoring the Past, Building the Future" was this year's theme. The meeting was broadcast live statewide by BEK TV.

A beef supper was prepared by Kari Stroh. Victor Wald provided live polka music on the piano prior to President Brett Stroh calling the meeting to order.

Mandan Knights of Columbus, Fourth Degree, presented the flags, and Stacey Svanes sang the National Anthem. The invocation was given by Father Peter Sharpe, St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church, Steele, Tappen, and Medina, ND.

The meeting featured a "2021 Year in Review" video, Auditor's Report from Chris Skidmore of Moss Adams, annual



report from Derrick Bulawa, CEO/General Manager, and elections for directors in District I, District III, and District IV.

Following the audit report, officers' report, election, and guest introductions, President Brett Stroh asked for old business of which there was none. He then asked for new business of which there was none. The meeting was then adjourned.

Election Results

Tellers for this election were: Jim Porter from District I, Gary Juergens from District II, Sandy Baumgartner from District III, and Joan Saylor from District IV.

Members voted to re-elect Shane Morris to District I. Holly Will was elected the new director in District III, and Bill Becker was re-elected to District IV.

At the reorganization meeting following the annual membership meeting, the Board of Directors elected Brett Stroh to continue to serve as President and Bill Becker to serve as Vice President. The Board of Directors elected Kevin Bernhardt to serve as Secretary/Treasurer.

Following the adjournment of the Annual Meeting, a drawing was held for BEK door prize winners. The winners were:

Kid Prizes

- Baseball Basket – Levi Erdelt
- Water Gun Package – Chase Mittleider
- Golf Package – Asher Kallenbach

Adult Prizes

- \$300 Cash – John Trzynka
- \$200 Cash – Milton Weippert
- \$100 Cash – Lawrence Enzminger

BEK would like to thank Finley Engineering and Border States Electric for donating additional door prizes. The winners were:

- Leslie Moch, Scott Mittleider, Carmen Essig, Paul Erdelt, Ron Krous & Kay Janke



WATCH OUR 2021 YEAR IN REVIEW VIDEO

1. Point your smartphone camera at QR Code.
2. Tap the YouTube banner that appears.

<https://youtu.be/963TFy0duPw>

FROM THE CEO



BEK Members

The Backbone of Our Business

DERRICK BULAWA
Chief Executive Officer

Thanks to our members, BEK Communications Cooperative has been connecting and serving North Dakota communities for 70 years. Members aren't just customers of our services, they're owners of the Cooperative, and their focus is membership and service... not profit.

All members have an opportunity to engage their director on their views of how their cooperative operates and moves forward. Each year, members of the nominating committee get to nominate candidates for director, which are elected by the membership as their representative on the board for their district. At the end of the year, BEK members are allocated capital credits on their service consumption.

Just like any business, BEK is required to keep updated records on our members. This information is necessary to provide service, evaluate credit and pay out any potential capital credits to members. As the years have passed, many members have changed addresses, been divorced and/or remarried or lost a spouse. Some may have had a joint membership but now only need a single membership, or vice versa.

In the coming weeks, you will be receiving information by mail requesting you to either verify or update your personal information with BEK. You will be asked to verify or provide your social security number, birthdate, marital status, address, and contact information. We will do our part in making sure that this information is kept confidential and used only to ensure our records are accurate and complete.

We thank you for being a BEK member, and we value you playing an active role in the way your communications services are managed and community is served.



JULY/AUG 2022

The BEK Beacon is a bimonthly newsletter published by BEK Communications, © 2022. It is distributed without charge to all customers.

BEK COMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE was founded in 1952 as a local telecommunications cooperative serving Burleigh, Emmons and Kidder Counties. Since then, we've invested in state-of-the-art infrastructure, developed new products and services, and expanded to also serve Morton, Oliver, McLean, Logan, McIntosh, Barnes, Griggs, Cass, and Steele counties. BEK has changed quite a bit in 70 years, but we're still a small-town cooperative at heart.

BEK COMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE

888-475-2361

P.O. Box 230
200 East Broadway
Steele, ND 58482

220 4th Street Northeast
Valley City, ND 58072

923 East Interstate Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58503

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DISTRICT I

Shane Morris
Regan

Sanford Williams
Wing

DISTRICT II

Bob Subart
Robinson

President Brett Stroh
Tappen

DISTRICT III

Secretary/Treasurer Kevin Bernhardt
Linton

Holly Will
Hazelton

DISTRICT IV

Vice President William (Bill) Becker
Wishek

Gerald Burlack
Wishek



SUNDAYS
AT 7:00PM CT



BEK 2023 Calendar Contest

Calling all Amateur Photographers

It's that time of year again! BEK is beginning work on its 2023 Community Calendar and we need some photos to represent each month. If you've taken a photo that you're proud of, consider sharing it with us for use in our calendar! Photos must illustrate nature, farming or the farming culture, or anything that represents North Dakota.

Photo Entry Requirements

Photos must be:

- In color
- In high resolution
- Taken in North Dakota
- Taken by someone who receives at least one BEK service: internet, phone, security, or EPIC IPTV.



To Submit a Photo

Email Photo Entries To: marketing@bektel.coop

Subject Line: *Photo Contest 2022*

Submission Deadline: *September 15, 2022*

**Please Note: When emailing photos, please attach them to the email. If you have photos in cloud storage, download the individual photos and send as an attachment in an email.*

BEK Gives Back to Communities

Apply for a BEK Community Partnership Grant

BEK Communications Cooperative is seeking applications for our Community Partnership Program grants. Applications will be received through the end of September. At that time, the BEK Board of Directors will make their selections, and recipients will be announced in October.

Who Can Apply?

- Community-Owned Businesses
- Community Facilities
- Community-Based or Nonprofit Projects

To Apply, You Must:

- Be tax-exempt
- Be a nonprofit organization or group
- Be located within the BEK service area OR receive BEK services through BEK Fiber

Additionally, BEK has received \$2,000 from the Rural Development Finance Corporation (RDFC) to be used to support community-owned entities, non-profits and community-based projects. RDFC grant applications are due October 31.

For more information on BEK grant opportunities, visit bek.coop, and click on Resources.



BEK Communications Privacy Policy

Privacy Policy and Statement

(a) Customer Privacy

Protecting the privacy of our customers is important to us. Any contact information you provide in an information request will be used only for purposes of selling, distributing, fulfilling or settlement of the Services or Products. Without your express authorization, we will not divulge any information to third party for purposes other than the sales, distribution, fulfillment or settlement of Services and Products except as otherwise provided herein.

(b) Use of Customer Information

The privacy of your information is important to us. The privacy policy and statement in this Section 20 tells you how we collect information from you and how we use it.

(i) BEK Partners

BEK sells various “co-branded” services on its website, in newspapers, via phone sales and other mass media. Although BEK requests all partners to have a privacy policy consistent with the policy listed below, it is recommended that you view the privacy policy adopted by the BEK partners when taking their services.

(ii) Customer Information

It is a fact of modern life that companies, including BEK, must collect information about their customers in order to carry out business and offer services. Privacy concerns focus on protecting customer information that an individual expects to be kept private. Such information is information associated with a specific individual or entity, including, for instance, email address, Services offered and information about that customer’s usage activities. You consent to BEK’s collection of such information from you.

(iii) Customer Proprietary Information

From time to time, BEK Communications changes its Service and Product offerings and makes available additional features and Services and Products, which may enhance and augment the Service or Product to which you are already subscribed. For us to determine which customers may benefit from the new Services and Products, we will use information about your account from our databases, legally referred to as Customer

Proprietary Network Information (“CPNI”) unless you restrict that use in the manner described below. CPNI includes information such as the long-distance carrier and calling plan to which you are subscribed, calling features and plans to which you are subscribed, calling patterns and usage of various features, and charges associated with the Services you subscribe to. Use of this data will allow BEK to identify Service and Product offerings to meet your individual needs. For this purpose, CPNI data will be used by BEK only. This data will not be shared by BEK with any other outside source except as necessary to provide the Services and Products to which you are already subscribed and when we are legally compelled to do so.

(iv) Restricting CPNI Usage

You have the right under federal law to protect the confidentiality of your account information and restrict the use of CPNI data, and we have a responsibility to protect your data. To restrict the use of your CPNI data, you must call the business office toll free at 1-888-475-2361 during regular business hours or email us at bekcomm@bektel.com within 30 days of your receipt of this notice to request that we not utilize your CPNI data. Your denial or approval for BEK to use this data will not affect the provision of any Services or Products to which you subscribe. You may change your decision at any time and your decision will remain valid until you tell us otherwise. Again, we will only use your account information to market other communications Services and Products BEK offers, and no action is required unless you wish to restrict our use of your CPNI. You will still receive monthly bill inserts, newsletters and other publications that are sent to all customers at the same time, so that you are kept up to date on what is happening at BEK.

(v) Non-CPNI Collected Automatically

In some cases, we may collect information about you that is not personally identifiable such as the type of Internet browser you are using, the type of computer operating system you are using, the domain name of the website and/or Internet Service Provider from which you linked to our site, advertisements, and the like. You consent to BEK’s collection of such information from you. (vi) “Cookies”. Pieces of information that a



website transfers to a customer's hard drive are called "Cookies." When you view our website or advertisements, we store some information on your computer. This information will be in the form of a "Cookie" or similar file and will be used to determine ways to improve our website, advertisements, Products or Services. For example, Cookies allow us to tailor a website to better match your interests and preferences. You consent to BEK's storage of "Cookies" or similar files on your hard drive

(vii) BEK Freedom App

BEK collects and processes information provided directly by you when you install the BEK Freedom App on any device and register for an account to use the BEK Freedom App, including: (a) your name, email address, location, user's phone or contact book data, user's inventory of installed apps, and user's screen recording; (b) browser information and session cookies related to your access and use of the BEK Freedom App; (c) data insights BEK attains based on correlation and analytics of your information collected in providing the BEK Freedom App, which may be used in aggregated and dis-aggregated formats or to obtain trend analytics, to provide the BEK Freedom App; and (d) use of the above-described collected information in aggregated and dis-aggregated formats to enhance BEK's current BEK Freedom App or to provide BEK Freedom App features. BEK uses the information collected as described in this Section 20, including personal information, to: (a) provide you with the BEK Freedom App; (b) implement improve and/or enhance the BEK

Freedom App, including to make future releases available to you; (c) carry out BEK's obligations as described or authorized in any applicable Service Order and these Terms and Conditions; (d) enforce BEK's rights arising from any applicable Service Order and these Terms and Conditions; and (e) fulfill any other purpose authorized by you and reasonably required for the BEK Freedom App. You consent to BEK's collection, processing, and use of the information collected and processed as described in this Section 20.

(viii) Information Security and Data Retention

BEK maintains strict customer information privacy policies and uses current technology to safeguard customer information from unauthorized disclosure. Employees are trained on the importance of protecting privacy and on the proper access to, use and disclosure of customer information. Personally identifiable and other sensitive records are retained only as long as reasonably necessary for business accounting, tax, or legal purposes. If during the provision of services for customer, private information provided to customer by third parties, as part of customer's business activities, is unintentionally or unavoidably disclosed to BEK, BEK will not copy, tamper with, remove from the place where found, retain, disclose or use in any way the information. Although we work hard to protect personal information that we collect and store, no program is 100% secure and we cannot guarantee that our safeguards will prevent every unauthorized attempt to access, use, or disclose personal information.

Dakota TABLE

In just about every culture in the world, food is the communal and binding factor when friends and family come together. We launch this new segment of our Beacon publication to help inspire the cooks in all of us!

Grilled BBQ Drumsticks

SUBMITTED BY: TOSH HAGER

INGREDIENTS:

2 c. barbecue sauce

1 lime

2 tbsp honey

1 tbsp hot sauce

Salt to taste

Fresh ground black pepper

1 lb chicken drumsticks or wings

Vegetable oil, for grill

DIRECTIONS:

1. In a large bowl, whisk together barbecue sauce, lime juice, honey and hot sauce, and season with salt and pepper. Set aside ½ cup for basting.
2. Add chicken to bowl and toss until coated.
3. Heat grill to high. Oil grates and grill chicken, basting with reserved marinade, until charred. About 10 to 12 minutes per side for drumsticks, or until done.

Submit your favorite recipe to Dakota Table by mailing it to:
PO Box 230, Steele, ND 58482 or email bekcomm@bektel.com
Recipes will be randomly drawn for a chance to be published in the Beacon.



**NORTH DAKOTA COWBOY
HALL OF FAME**

RANCHING, RODEO, & WESTERN HERITAGE

SUNDAYS AT 7:00PM CT



Hosted by Bill Palanuk

Stream live on bek.news

Common Carrier Notice

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 telephone service throughout its designated service area at rates which start at \$18.95 per month for residential customers and \$27.95 per month for business line customers.



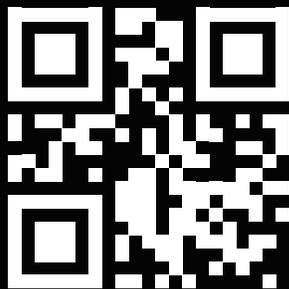
- Minutes of use for local service provided at no additional charge.
- Access to emergency services provided by local government or other public safety organizations, such as 911 and enhanced 911, to the extent the local government in BEK Communication’s Cooperative service area(s) has implemented 911 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 the Lifeline Program. This means you may receive a monthly discount for your basic phone or internet charges. This service also includes free toll blocking for qualifying customers.



Text **753** to **701-922-9260**
to vote **BEK TV** for
Best Local TV Station!
VOTE DAILY!



1. Point your smartphone camera at QR Code.
2. Tap the phone number that appears below.

Visit bek.tv

NEW PHONE LISTINGS

NAME	PHONE	CITY
Anderson, Mike	668-2135	Erie
Dazey Sod Buster Club	733-7637	Dazey
Demaray, Darnell & Becky	475-2144	Steele
Duttons Properties	845-3393	Valley City
Emmons County Insurance Agency	254-5168	Linton
Knopik, Emmily	595-7649	Baldwin
Lang, Deanna	749-2385	Tower City
Larson, Irma	336-7994	Strasburg
Marlin’s Quick Stop	327-9211	Tappen
Quam, Jerry & Ardyce	663-3732	Mandan
Sannes Feist Family Funeral Home LLC	254-5350	Linton
Smith, Christy & Christopher	877-1144	Mandan



BEK COMMUNICATIONS COOPERATIVE
200 East Broadway, PO Box 230, Steele, ND 58482

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LOCAL POSTAL
CUSTOMER

BEACON TRIVIA

- 1 Who performed the pre-meeting entertainment at the 2022 BEK Communications Annual Meeting?
- 2 What day of the week does Made Local air on BEK TV?
- 3 Who hosts Dakota Cowboy?

TRIVIA ENTRY

ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY AUGUST 26, 2022

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Town: _____

Clip and send to BEK at:
PO Box 230, Steele, ND 58482

You can also email answers to bekcomm@bektel.com.
We will be drawing for twenty \$5.00 credits to be applied to the winners' bill.

CONGRATS!

TO OUR BEACON MAY/JUNE WINNERS

Delores Becker | Napoleon
Yvonne Mehlhaff | Wishek
Valerie Eli | Binford
Sandra Schmidt | Steele
Bernie Marquart | Napoleon
Diane Kinnischtzke | Tappen
Paul Geringer | Robinson
Irene Brindle | Hazelton
Juleen Johnson | Steele
Debra Harrison | Napoleon
Deb Abbott | Dawson
Clay Jacob | Linton
Kaneia Kinney | Valley City
Alan Hebert | Bismarck
James Fleck | Mandan
Deb Sorsen | Grandin
Rosann Boschee | Valley City
Teresa & Shawn Cole | Valley City
Greg Owen | Baldwin
Shelley Yantzer | Mandan