BEK held its 67th Annual Meeting on Thursday, June 13th. This year’s theme was COOP STRONG, reflecting the vision, determination and community-centered efforts of the past and current members and founders.

Necessary road improvements in Steele made parking more adventurous than previous years. The City of Steele and Kidder County School helped BEK employees keep traffic flowing and walkways available. BEK employees were also on hand with golf carts to help members get to and from their vehicles.

Kari’s Kitchen catered the meeting, serving homemade roast beef sandwiches with sides. And as tradition demands, there was ice cream!

Prior to the meeting, attendees were treated to live piano music by Grady White. The flags were presented by the Knights of Columbus, Fourth Degree, Assembly 785 of Mandan and Assembly 791 of Bismarck. Our National Anthem was sung by the St. Philip’s Men’s Choir from Napoleon, which included Director Bill Becker. The Invocation was given by BEK Communications Cooperative Board of Directors President Brett Stroh.

Serving on the BEK Communications Cooperative Board of Directors takes commitment. Directors are expected to have a sound base of business knowledge, keen interest in the success of the cooperative, and at least 20 days of time annually to spend on cooperative business and community outreach.

At the Annual Meeting, Doug Kalianoff retired after serving on the Board of Directors for 18 years. He was recognized for his loyal service and contributions to the cooperative. President Brett Stroh presented him with a commemorative clock.
BEK Communications Cooperative spent over $1 Million dollars last year on fiber optic maintenance. A significant amount of that spending is due to preventable fiber cuts.

Consider this case:

It's a typical summer day, so you decide it's a good time to invest in future shade for your front yard. You dig a hole, plant the tree, then drive a couple stakes into the ground to help protect the sapling against North Dakota weather. Afterward, you head inside to watch the game on BEK Sports.

Turn on the television and . . . no signal? You check your Lightband internet and BEK Protect home security system, but still no connection. Like any frustrated customer in this situation, you give BEK and call and ask, “Why isn’t my service working?”

We troubleshoot and notice the fiber optic light signal isn’t getting to your home, so we send a tech to locate the cable. The orange paint lines in your yard go right to the new tree stakes. Oops. Not only are you without service, but now you have to wait while a specialized technician repairs the fiber line you cut with your landscaping project.

Orange paint designating where fiber line was laid leading right to the freshly planted tree.

Even a small cut like this ends up costing your cooperative almost $2,000 to fix.
First, we want to thank the guests who donated prizes for the annual meeting. Donations came from NISC, Border States Electric, Finley Engineering, Jon Jennings, and Farmers Union Insurance. Thank you for your contributions!

Winners of these donated door prizes were Richard Erickson, Clarilyn Riedinger, Gerald Schiele, Michael J. Welder, Marvin Mittleider, Reva Palmer, Steven A. Huizenga Jr., Johanna Horner, Eldon Nelson, Michael Horner, Duane Mehlhoff, Robert Subart, Stuart Blotter, Elroy Haadem, Bonney Stroh, Merle Johnson, and David E. Koble.

**Grand Prize Winners:**

Kid’s grand prizes and winners were:
- Voltron Legos – Paul Vetter, Menoken
- Bicycle – Mirthala Pruneda, Dawson
- Bluetooth speaker – Micah Gamel, Steele

**Adult grand prize winners:**
- $100 Cash – Jean Swanson, Kintyre
- $200 Cash – Carol Johnson, Steele
- $300 Cash – Greg K. Bender, Hazelton

This situation happens more often than you think. Homeowners, farmers and ranchers sometimes forget that even a small digging project can damage utility lines. The result is expensive repairs that delay the project.

The fix is simple.

Always call 811 or file a free online ticket at ndonecall.com before you dig. It’s the only way to know precise locations of all utility lines near your project. Damaging a line could be dangerous and cost you and your cooperative a lot of money.

CALL 811 OR 800.795.0555 BEFORE YOU DIG!
THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Following a “2018 Year in Review” video, Derrick Bulawa, CEO/General Manager, gave his annual report to the members. Mr. Bulawa underscored the Board’s forward-thinking strategies in building for the future needs of cooperative members and customers. The presentation centered around the new broadband and cloud-based products overtaking legacy phone products, in part due to BEK’s expanded service territories, and also because BEK invests in creating and serving new markets. Finally, Mr. Bulawa highlighted the awards won by BEK over the course of 2019. Two notable awards were the sweep of the Eric Sevareid awards by BEK Sports, and BEK being named the #1 Fastest Fiber Provider in North Dakota.

Board Officers

Following the Annual Meeting, the board met to elect officers for the next year. Brett Stroh will remain President, Kevin Bernhardt will continue to serve as Vice President, and Shane Morris will step in as Secretary/Treasurer.

Voting Results

Up for election this year were incumbent directors, Shane Morris, Regan (District I), Vickie Martin, Linton (District III), and Bill Becker, Wishek (District IV). All three were re-elected by unanimous voice vote at the meeting and they will each serve another three-year term on the Board of Directors.

District II held a special election to fill the remaining year of Director Doug Kalianoff’s term due to his retirement. The runoff was between Corey Fanta of Steele and Bob Subart of Robinson. Mr. Subart was elected by the members to serve District II for the next year.

District I

(Regan, Sterling, McKenzie, Wilton and Wing)

Shane Morris, Regan (incumbent), was re-elected by unanimous voice vote.

District II

(Pettibone, Tappen, Robinson, Steele and Tuttle)

Corey Fanta, Steele 35
Bob Subart, Robinson 57
Spoiled Ballots 0
Total Ballots Cast 92

District III

(Linton, Kintyre, Strasburg and Hazelton)

Vickie Martin, Linton (incumbent), was re-elected by unanimous voice vote.

District IV

(Lehr, Zeeland, Wishek and Napoleon)

Bill Becker, Wishek (incumbent), was re-elected by unanimous voice vote.

BEK Communications BroadbandNow Awards

Your cooperative was recently recognized by BroadbandNow® with two regional awards and one national award. The awards highlight BEK’s commitment to providing fast, reliable, and future-proof internet service to its rural communities.
BEK Lightband gigabit internet, which runs on the BEK Fiber network, was recognized in three small market categories for 2019:

- Top Internet Speeds Nationwide
- Top Three Fastest Internet Providers in North Dakota
- #1 Fastest Fiber Provider in North Dakota

**BEK Communications Cooperative Awards**

This isn’t the first time BEK Communications Cooperative has been in the national spotlight since building the BEK Fiber network in 2004. Along with the 2019 BroadbandNow awards, the company has received:

- 2008 Broadband Communities Cornerstone Award for ingenuity in planning and deployment
- 2008 TelcoTV Vision Award for innovative local content
- 2011 Calix Innovation award for original local content delivery through BEK Sports
- 2016 NTCA GIG Certification, certifying that BEK deployed 100% Gig capable infrastructure

**BEK Sports Sweeps the Sevareid Awards**

The BEK Sports name is synonymous with local North Dakota sports events. BEK Sports broadcasts Class B, Class A, collegiate sports, and professional indoor football statewide. They also travel around the country broadcasting the Bismarck Bucks away games.

This year BEK Sports again swept the Eric Sevareid play-by-play category with Corey Brooks taking first, and Noah Reed and Jordan Hassler each earning Awards of Merit. Last year Noah Reed took first, with Brooks and Hassler each receiving Awards of Merit. Since 2006, BEK Sports has collected a total of 17 Eric Sevareid awards, and has swept the play-by-play category for the last five years.

BEK Sports now broadcasts up to 400 events each year, including many of the North Dakota regional and state NDHSAA tournaments. You can find the upcoming game schedule at beksports.com.

**Capital Credits Report for 2018**

BEK Communications continues to advance its mission of giving back to the members of the cooperative by providing capital credits. Last year, $3,755,438 of patronage was allocated back to the members. Estate retirements for 2018 totaled $720,507.55. General retirements, consisting of allocations from 1998, totaled $500,000. In total, BEK Communications retired $1,220,507.55 in 2018.
BEK COMMUNICATIONS

4 Seasons Services  734-6215  Wilton
Belling, Sarah     668-2142  Erie
Bosch, Theresia   336-2418  Strasburg
Bryn, Terry       733-2292  Dazey
Bryn, Terry - Farm 733-2188  Dazey
Everson, Lawrence 769-4588  Hannaford
Holgerson, Juanita 490-3555  Valley City
Jorissen, Richard 733-2264  Dazey
Kapp, Carrie      327-2379  Medina
Keller, Wally & Sandy 224-1898  Baldwin
Kirschenmann, D & L. 646-4128  Sanborn

Meier, Leonhard    423-5624  Zeeland
Nelson, Kathy     646-6955  Sanborn
Nodak Insurance   475-2792  Steele
Noga, Dorothy     945-4979  Hope
Pautz, Dennis     749-2587  Tower City
Roof-to-Deck Renew 845-3450  Valley City
Satrom, Galen      668-2725  Page
Satrom, Greg       668-2730  Page
Sierra Two Industries 425-0710  Bismarck
Silverston, Connie 490-3554  Valley City
Weller, Rick & Cheryl 733-2208  Dazey

1 FREE VOD MOVIE

BEK Communications is excited to offer you Video on Demand (VOD), where you can find all the new release movies, shows and even some free stuff too!

- Go to menu, arrow over to “On Demand” and start browsing around.
- To rent movies, enter your personal identification number (PIN) - the Default PIN is “0000.”
- Searching by “New Releases” and “By Category” are the most popular searches.

Discount will be applied to your FOLLOWING month’s bill.

COUPON CODE: ENJOY

3 Easy Ways To Redeem Your Coupon
1. Email us at bekcomm@bektel.com
2. Message us on facebook @BEKCommunications
3. Fill out name and address, return to BEK Communications: PO Box 230, Steele, ND 58482

*All contact methods must contain name & address of account holder.

FUSC RATE CHANGE

The Federal Universal Service Charge (FUSC) contribution factor is a regulatory fee designed to help keep telecommunications rates affordable for all customers, regardless of where they live in the U.S., as well as assisting schools, libraries and rural healthcare providers obtain leading edge telecommunications services.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) reviews the FUSC contribution factor each quarter and adjusts the rates from time-to-time. In a recent order, the FCC changed the FUSC contribution factor from 18.8% to 24.4% effective July 2, 2019.

This will result in a nominal increase on your bill. Please know this is not a fee from BEK. As a telecommunications provider, we are required by FCC rules to pass this money directly to the federal government.

BEK CALENDAR CONTEST

We’re looking for awesome photos of nature, farming culture, or images that represent North Dakota to use in our 2020 BEK Community Calendar.
To learn more information on the contest, please go to bektel.com/calendarcontest.
BEK Missouri Slope phonebooks are here! Stop into our office locations at Bismarck, Valley City, or Steele and grab yours today!

**BEACON TRIVIA**

1. What phone number should you call before starting a project that involves digging? __________

2. Who was voted in to replace Director Kalianoff after his retirement? __________

3. What date is the World’s Best Kuchen Contest? __________

**ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY SEPT 1, 2019.**

Name: __________________________________________

Phone Number: __________________________________

Town: ___________________________________________

Clip and send to BEK at PO Box 230, Steele, ND 58482. You can also email answers to marketing@bektel.coop. We will be drawing for five $15.00 credits to be applied to the winners’ bill.

**CONGRATS! BEACON MAY/JUNE WINNERS.**

Myron Weigel – Zeeland  Charlene Shrock – Nome
Vangie Mueller – Wishek  Corbley J. Ogren – Linton
Delores Becker – Napoleon

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