



## **Press Release**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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### **BEK Holds 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**

June 14, 2019 – Steele, N.D. – BEK Communications held its 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting on Thursday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019, at the Kidder County Steele School gymnasium in Steele. The theme was COOP STRONG, reflecting the vision, determination and community-centered ethics of the past and current members and founders.

Members, their families and guests were treated to a homemade meal prepared by Kari's Kitchen and served by BEK employees.

There were 241 qualified voters in attendance, and 496 meals were served.

Live musical entertainment before the Call to Order was provided by Grady White. The Knights of Columbus, Fourth Degree, Assembly 785 of Mandan and Assembly 791 of Bismarck presented the flags. The National Anthem was sung by the St. Philips Men's Choir, Napoleon. The Invocation was given by BEK Communications Cooperative Board of Directors President Brett Stroh.

Director Doug Kalianoff of District II was recognized for his 18 years of loyal service to the BEK Communications Cooperative and presented with a commemorative clock. We thank Mr. Kalianoff for his hard work and wish him all the best in his future adventures.

### **Election:**

Tellers for this election were: Sarah Gratton, Wilton; MaryAnn Gefroh, Linton; Ronald Volk, Strasburg; Burnell Paul, Wing; Randy Kapp, Medina; Holly Will, Hazelton; Michael Welder, Napoleon; Jolene Dewitz, Steele; Rene Otto, Wishek.

Incumbent directors, Shane Morris, Regan (District I), Vickie Martin, Linton (District III), and Bill Becker, Wishek (District IV) were re-elected by unanimous voice vote to serve another three-year term on the Board of Directors.



District II had a special election to fill the remaining year of Director Doug Kalianoff's term due to his retirement. Bob Subart of Robinson 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.

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.

Following the audit report, officers' reports, 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.



**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

We would like to thank these companies who also donated numerous prizes: NISC, Border States Electric, Finley Engineering, Jon Jennings, and Farmers Union Insurance.

Winners of the donated 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.

The 67<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of BEK Communications Cooperative was televised LIVE by the BEK Sports Network.

At the reorganization meeting following the annual membership meeting, the Board of Directors re-elected Brett Stroh to serve as President and Kevin Bernhardt to serve as Vice President. The Board of Directors elected Shane Morris to serve as Secretary/Treasurer.

**About BEK Communications Cooperative**

BEK Communications Cooperative, founded in 1952, is a communications services company headquartered in Steele, North Dakota. In the last 67 years, the company has grown to include branch offices in Bismarck and Valley City and now serves nearly 11,000 customers. BEK provides fiber-based voice, Gigabit broadband, and IP television services; cloud-based security, automation, surveillance, voice, and storage services; and hospital and business communications solutions in North Dakota. The company also provides statewide sports broadcasting on the BEK Sports Network, and television content across North Dakota through KNDM, KNDB, KRDK.

BEK emphasizes their fast, friendly, local service experience and a broad portfolio of high-quality communications, broadcasting, and advertising services.

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