

summer 2012

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# THE DCT link

LIFE'S CONNECTIONS DAKOTA CENTRAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS



Keith Larson, CEO/GM of Dakota Central.

## Largest Fiber-to-the-Home Region in North America Completed

**On April 11th,** Dakota Central Telecommunications and our sister company Dickey Rural Networks, held an event in Jamestown celebrating our 100% fiber-to-the-home projects. Below is the press release announcing the event:

Jamestown, North Dakota – April 11, 2012 – Governor Jack Dalrymple announced today the completion of the largest fiber-to-the-home network in North America, and possibly the world. All homes and businesses within a 10,000 square-mile region in South Central North Dakota (approximately the size of the state of New Jersey) have been upgraded to a fiber-optic connection.



Governor Jack Dalrymple announcing completion of the largest fiber-to-the-home network in North America, and possibly the world.

Speaking from the Reiland Center at Jamestown College, the governor was joined by the Under Secretary for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Dallas Tonsager, and the North Dakota State Director of Rural Development, Jasper Schneider. Nationwide, less than 5% of homes are connected directly to fiber, versus the 100% of homes and businesses in this region. The project was undertaken by Dakota Central Telecommunications (DCT) and Dickey Rural Networks (DRN), two independent telecom cooperatives with contiguous service areas. Both companies began their fiber overbuilds more than eight years ago and have invested more than \$50 million in the upgrades.

North Dakota – a state known for its low unemployment, economic vitality and high quality of life – can now add the distinction of having the largest fiber-to-the-home region in *(cont. pg 5)*



## Letter from the General Manager

Keith A. Larson, CEO/GM

For nearly ten years, I have included articles in the company newsletter to update our subscribers on our outside plant construction project of building an all-fiber network throughout our service area. With this issue of the newsletter, I am pleased to report that a milestone has been reached, as the construction project has been completed and Dakota Central has an all-fiber network. This accomplishment was achieved by the commitment, dedication and the hard work of many.

With the construction project behind us, we now shift our focus on ways to improve the existing services utilizing the fiber, as well as implementing new advanced broadband services to benefit our subscribers. In order to meet our subscribers' increasing demands for Internet bandwidth, we are upgrading the capacity of our network to 10 gigabits, which can be further increased to 40 gigabits as necessary. The demand for Internet bandwidth increased 100% over this past year with approximately 60% of the network utilized for video streaming. In addition to upgrading our internal network, we continue to purchase additional bandwidth from Internet backbone providers in order to minimize any potential bottlenecks in the network.

Recently, we began the conversion of our video middleware. The new middleware provides for whole-home DVR service which allows our video subscribers to record programming on their DVR and subsequently view the programming on all the televisions throughout the subscriber's home at any time. In addition, the middleware includes a new programming guide which incorporates weather-related information into it.

The FCC's Order released in November reflects many changes associated with the Universal Service Fund and Intercarrier Compensation. In order to keep rural rates and services comparable to urban areas, Dakota Central receives a substantial amount of revenue from the Universal Service Fund to offset the high cost of providing service to a sparsely populated area. The Order contains provisions which would reduce the amount of funding DCT receives through cost containment and also shifts more of the cost burden to the end-user customers.

In order to receive the full of amount of universal service funding available to us, the FCC requires an Access Recovery Charge (ARC) to be added to every residential and single line business customer's bill effective July 1, 2012. An additional \$0.50 charge is to be added every July 1 for a period of five additional years for a total ARC of \$3.00. Multiline business customers will see an increase of \$1.00 per line effective July 1, 2012, and an additional \$1.00 each year for two additional years for a total ARC of \$3.00. The ARC is not applicable to lifeline customers.

We anticipate the FCC will be issuing additional directives over the next few months. Our national and state associations are working diligently to minimize the monetary effects of the order on our subscribers. We will continue to keep you posted as to the ramifications of future developments associated with the Order.

I encourage you to attend Dakota Central's annual meeting to be held on June 13, 2012, at the Foster County Fairgrounds in Carrington. Registration begins at 3:30 pm with the annual meeting following at 4:30 pm. A walleye dinner will be served immediately following the adjournment of the annual meeting.

Hope to see you all there!



# Kulsrud Brothers Benefit June 9th, Carrington



*Ty, Tanner and Lane Kulsrud*

In the last issue of the *DCT LINK* we told you about Lane Kulsrud, the 11-year-old son of DCT employee Laura Kulsrud and her husband Jay. Lane had recently been diagnosed with PKAN which is a form of NBIA (Neurodegeneration with Brain Iron Accumulation). NBIA develops when iron accumulates in the brain resulting in nerve damage and several other debilitating symptoms. Because PKAN is a genetic disease, Jay and Laura also had their other two sons (Tanner, 9 and Ty, 6) tested. The results proved to be a parent's worst nightmare... all three of the boys have PKAN. While there is no cure at this time, there is an experimental drug trial that will be starting soon at the Children's Hospital & Research Center in Oakland, CA. Jay and Laura are hopeful that all three boys will be accepted into the trial.

Because of existing and ongoing medical expenses, a benefit fundraiser is being planned to help the brothers. The event will be held Saturday, June 9th, at the Foster County Fairgrounds beginning with a meal in the afternoon followed by a silent and live auction and topped off with a Dueling Piano Show.

We are asking individuals and businesses to help this family out by donating an auction item. Some items that have already been donated include: 46" Smart TV, laptop computer, a half of beef, a hunting excursion, golf cart, signed 'game played' Travis Hafner baseball jersey, a signed 'game played' Jim Kleinsasser football jersey, a signed CC Sabathia jersey, an NDSU football signed by the national champion team, a UND hockey stick signed by the team, along with several other items! For more benefit information and photos of items, go to [www.facebook.com/kulsrudbrothers](http://www.facebook.com/kulsrudbrothers).

*Grandparents of Lane, Tanner and Ty are Myron & Leona Kulsrud of Grace City, Steve & Karen Bubach of Bismarck, and Todd & Vickie Lasher of McClusky.*

## YOU CAN HELP

### DUELING PIANO SHOW

Advance tickets are available for \$20.

Stop by Dakota Central, Midkota Schools or Bremer Bank to purchase.

### SILICONE BRACELETS

Bracelets are available for \$5.00.

Contact:

Becky Zink [dnbzink@daktel.com](mailto:dnbzink@daktel.com)

701.652.3272

Vonnie VanRay [vonnie.vanray@gmail.com](mailto:vonnie.vanray@gmail.com)

701.285.3544

You can also pick up bracelets at Dakota Central or Midkota Schools.

### SILENT AUCTION

Items can be dropped off at Dakota

Central offices in Carrington or

Jamestown or Midkota Schools in

Glenfield or Binford. Cash donations

can be sent to Bremer Bank, c/o Kulsrud

Brothers Benefit Fund, 807 Main Street,

PO Box 108, Carrington, ND 58421.

# Fiber-to-the-Home Cont.

North America. Federal Communications Commission recently adopted a plan to bring high-speed Internet to the 100 million Americans without fiber. DRN and Dakota Central have superseded this federal initiative.

Keith Larson, general manager of DCT, stated, "Broadband over a fiber-optic connection is far superior to any other technology, including wireless. It provides the bandwidth, security and reliability critical to rural economic development."

DRN General Manager Jeff Wilson said, "The completion of the North Dakota fiber-to-the-home project is a testament to the

cooperative model. Our member-owned companies strive to bring the latest in technologies to rural North Dakota at fair, sustainable prices. Fiber will allow us to support the innovations that come next."

Dakota Central Telecommunications serves 13 exchanges in rural North Dakota and is headquartered in Carrington. Dickey Rural Networks serves 17 telephone exchanges in rural North Dakota and South Dakota and is headquartered in Ellendale.

For more information and access to our customer interviews, go to [www.thisislivingwellconnected.com](http://www.thisislivingwellconnected.com).

## Director Nominations

Nominations for the Dakota Central Board of Directors were recently made to elect board members for the Grace City, Medina, and Windsor Exchanges. In accordance with the cooperative's bylaws, nominations for board members were made via petition to represent the members of their respective districts. Following are the members who were nominated and whose names will appear on the ballot at the annual meeting on June 13th.



Grace City Exchange  
Kathleen Davis



Medina Exchange  
Gerald Eissinger



Windsor Exchange  
Rodney Suko

### GRACE CITY

**Kathleen Davis** is employed with Foster County Farm Service Agency and is the director for the Grace City Exchange. Kathleen is active in her small country church, Kvernes Lutheran, and helped start a local quilt guild several years ago, Peacemakers Quilt Guild. She loves spending time with family including her wonderful grandchildren, quilting, and reading.

*Length of time on DCT Board: 3.5 years*

### MEDINA

**Gerald Eissinger** is the director for Dakota Central representing the Medina Exchange. In addition to the DCT Board of Directors, Gerald serves on the township board and is a director for North Dakota Telephone Company Board. Jerry is married to Sandra and is the proud father of seven kids and grandfather of 19 grandchildren. He is active with local United Church of Christ, and loves to golf.

*Length of time on DCT Board: 33 years*

### WINDSOR

**Rodney Suko** is a farmer and represents the Windsor Exchange on the Dakota Central Board. Rodney is a director at the Country Grains Cooperative, a member of the Jamestown Lions Club, and serves on the North Dakota Association of Telecommunications Cooperative Board.

*Length of time on DCT Board: 30 years*





# Middleware Update

As reported in our Spring *DCT Link*, Dakota Central recently signed an agreement with Innovative Systems of Mitchell, SD, to migrate to their IPTV Middleware platform. We have been busy testing with our employee base and are happy to report that we are very close to deploying it to all of our customers. Equipment continues to come in to replace the existing HD/DVR boxes and we expect to begin rolling them out in the next couple of weeks.



Initially, we had hoped to flash cut all of our standard definition customers to the new code at once. However, in the process, we have found it will work best to transition by exchange. For our existing HD/DVR customers who will require a truck-roll to replace current equipment, we will be contacting you for an appointment as soon as we are ready to begin in your area!

A couple reminders: if you have content saved on your current DVR, you may want to watch it as once we change out your equipment the content will be lost. Additionally, if you have any standard definition Amino 110 boxes (see image), please be sure they are connected to power prior to the time we 'cut-over' your exchange or they will not receive the code needed to run the new middleware.

If you have any questions, please call 1.800.771.0974. Thank you in advance for your patience as we work to offer you the very best in television service.

# FCC Establishes Access Recovery Charge (ARC)

In their November Order regarding Universal Service Fund (USF) reform, the FCC established an Access Recovery Charge (ARC) in order to transition a portion of the costs of providing service in high cost areas to the end user customer. The FCC believes that more of the cost of providing service in rural areas should be borne by the customer rather than supported by the Universal Service Fund. Implementation of the ARC is to be billed to customers beginning July 1, 2012.

As outlined in the FCC Order, the ARC is applicable to both residential and business customers. Residential and single line business customers will incur a \$0.50 per month/line ARC effective July 1, 2012, and an additional \$0.50 increase each July 1 for an additional five years, until the ARC equals \$3.00. Multiline business customers will incur a \$1.00 per month/line ARC also effective July 1, 2012, and an additional \$1.00 increase each July 1 for an additional two years, until the ARC equals \$3.00. The ARC is not applicable to lifeline customers.



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"LIKE" US! 

**Dakota Central Telecommunications is on Facebook, and we encourage you to visit our page and "Like" us. By doing so, you'll be able to take advantage of special fan-only promotions and events. You'll also be the first to know what's happening at DCT including:**

- Addition of new products and services
- Company developments
- Contests and voting
- Upcoming promotions
- Customer alerts

To join our Facebook community, go to [www.facebook.com/daktel](http://www.facebook.com/daktel) or click on the Facebook link on our home page at [www.daktel.com](http://www.daktel.com). Once you're there, simply click on the "Like" button at the top of the screen.

Not on Facebook yet? Give it a try. Facebook can help you more easily stay in touch with family and friends, share photos, get support when life is a challenge, and celebrate big accomplishments!

# Official Notice of the Annual Meeting of Dakota Central Telecommunications Cooperative

Notice is hereby given, that the 2012 annual meeting of the members of Dakota Central Telecommunications Cooperative, Carrington, North Dakota, will be held at the Foster County Fairgrounds on Wednesday, June 13th, 2012, at 4:30 pm, to take action on the following matters:

1. To elect board members in the districts of Grace City, Medina and Windsor.
2. To present reports for the 2011 fiscal year.
3. Transacting such other business as may come before the meeting.

Individuals were nominated by petition to represent the members in their respective districts. Following are the candidates nominated:

Grace City Exchange – Kathleen Davis  
Medina Exchange – Gerald Eissinger  
Windsor Exchange – Rodney Suko

Each member of the cooperative present at the meeting shall be entitled to vote for one candidate from each district. The candidate from each district receiving the highest number of votes at the meeting shall be considered elected as a board member.

The business meeting will precede a Walleye Supper with member and guest registration beginning at 3:30 p.m. The 4:30 p.m. meeting will conclude with the election of Directors and a drawing for door prizes.

Additionally, all in attendance of the business meeting will receive a complimentary gift. Games Galore will be on hand again this year with Air Games for the kids from 4-7 p.m.

Door prizes include a TV, grilling set, gas cards, garden supplies, gift baskets, floral arrangements and more!

We hope to see you on the 13th!

## CBS Sports Network Partners with Professional Bull Riders

CBS Sports Network has reached a multi-year agreement with Professional Bull Riders (PBR). The agreement makes CBS Sports Network the primary television partner with 30 live events televised throughout the year while CBS Television Network will broadcast an additional eight, representing almost 60 percent of the BFTS schedule.

The BFTS season opened on Jan. 6-8 with capacity crowds at Madison Square Garden in New York. The BFTS will make 28 stops in 23 states before the Built Ford Tough World Finals in Las Vegas on Oct. 24-28. The World Finals are where the PBR World Champion will be crowned and awarded the coveted championship buckle and a \$1 million bonus. The richest bull riding event in the world, the World Finals has a total purse of more than \$2 million.

**CBS Sports Network is available in the DCTV Sports Package on Channel 38 for just \$5.95/month. To add the Sports Package contact DCT at 1.800.771.0974.**



### 2012 PBR SCHEDULE

<b>Mon 7/2 – Sun 7/15</b> PBR Stunt Weeks – A look back at the best bulls, best stories, and more	<b>Fri 9/14 10:00 PM ET</b> Springfield Invitational
<b>Fri 8/10 10:00 PM ET</b> Tulsa Invitational	<b>Fri 9/21 10:00 PM ET</b> Tampa Invitational
<b>Fri 8/17 10:00 PM ET</b> San Antonio Invitational	<b>Fri 9/28 10:00 PM ET</b> Greensboro Invitational
<b>Fri 8/24 10:00 PM ET</b> Location TBD	<b>Fri 10/5 10:00 PM ET</b> Philadelphia Invitational
<b>Fri 8/31 10:00 PM ET</b> Winstar World Casino Invitational	<b>Fri 10/12 10:00 PM ET</b> Columbus Invitational
<b>Fri 9/7 10:00 PM ET</b> The Jack Daniel's Invitational	<b>Wed 10/24 9:00 PM ET</b> Built Ford Tough World Finals
	<b>Thurs 10/25 9:00 PM ET</b> Built Ford Tough World Finals



# 2012

## Dakota Central Awards \$5000 in Scholarships

Dakota Central is proud to announce the 2012 Dakota Central Scholarship winners.

Ten \$500.00 scholarships have been awarded to outstanding graduating seniors whose parents or guardians are customers of Dakota Central. Twenty-nine students applied for the ten scholarships. Applicants were judged on community activities, school activities, financial need, grades and achievement. Consideration was also given to those looking to pursue a career in the telecommunications industry.

This marks the 12th year of the scholarship program having awarded \$60,000 to date. Dakota Central is proud to offer the program and continue to show its commitment to the youth in its service area. Hats off to this year's Dakota Central Scholarship winners and to the entire class of 2012!



**Emily Albrecht**  
Rick & Kay Albrecht  
Wimbledon



**Eric Allmaras**  
Kevin & Conni Allmaras  
Carrington



**Daniel Fischer**  
Kathi Fischer  
Jamestown



**Christopher Heinrich**  
Gene & Tammy Heinrich  
Medina Exchange



**Peter Henson**  
Soraia Henson  
Carrington



**Lea Johnson**  
Paul & Terri Johnson  
Jamestown



**Lauren McMillan**  
Jeffrey & Ruleen McMillan  
Wimbledon



**Ashlyn Riedesel**  
Jeff & Kristi Riedesel  
Carrington



**Sierra Rosenau**  
Gaylen & Bonnie Rosenau  
Carrington



**Kelly Vold**  
Bruce & Anne Vold  
Carrington

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**Win credit on  
your DCT bill!**

Win **\$25 credit** on your DCT bill. Just return this coupon by July 31, 2012, to be eligible for the drawing.

**Congratulations to last issue's winner:  
R.J. Ronholm, Jamestown.**

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NAME

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PHONE #

The DCT Link is published by Dakota Central Telecommunications.

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