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September 2019

Horizons
A Special Annual Meeting Edition

**From Cattle & Crops
to Communications**
Members Use the Internet
to Help Their Community

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Golden West
Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc.

From Cattle & Crops to Communications

Members Use the Internet to Help Their Community

These days, there are as many uses for Golden West services as there are members using them. In Golden West's 2019 Annual Report, we introduced you to a handful of these members. We are continually amazed by the ways our members use their advanced broadband connections.

In this issue of Horizons, we'll take a closer look at how three members use the Internet to improve animal care, educate their community and help reshape the way we farm.

Furry Family Care

From livestock to lap dogs, animals play a significant role in our lives. No one knows this better than veterinarians tasked with their care.

Dr. Erica Koller obtained her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Iowa State University before returning home to the rolling prairies of southwest South Dakota.

"My family ranch is in the Edgemont area," says Erica. "I enjoy working with people in the ranching lifestyle and have a desire to help other cattle producers."

Erica joined the Cheyenne River Animal Hospital (CRAH) in 2007 alongside Dr. Stephanie Stevens, her family's veterinarian. Dr. Stevens bought the practice in 1996 and built a new location. Dr. Olivia Lakatosh joined the pair in 2018.

CRAH serves a vast expanse of rangeland in southwest South Dakota, northwest Nebraska and eastern Wyoming. The biggest challenge the three vets face may be the remoteness of their clients.

"We know we may need to travel 60-plus miles to see a client," says Erica. "So we rely on our Internet a lot. We research and consult with experts from other areas and use email to communicate with clients as opposed to always making the trek to their location."

"My family ranch is in the Edgemont area. I enjoy working with people in the ranching lifestyle and have a desire to help other cattle producers."

■ **Dr. Erica Koller,**
Cheyenne River Animal Hospital, Edgemont



Drs. Olivia Lakatosh, Erica Koller and Stephanie Stevens (pictured left to right) can travel 60-plus miles to see a client.

The vets also use social media. CRAH's Facebook page shows the CRAH staff in action and shares plenty of great pet photos. The page also offers animal health tips and information about cattle workshops.

"We use Facebook posts to highlight outbreaks in nearby states and what symptoms to look for, as well as reminders about weather affecting cattle, pet treatments, etc.," says Erica.

Erica and her fellow vets understand the significant role they play for their clients.

"When you help pets, you help a member of people's families," says Erica. "Whether we take care of a big or small animal, we are making a difference in that family's life."

For more information on CRAH, visit EdgemontVet.com or follow [Cheyenne River Animal Hospital](#) on Facebook.



KILI Radio Station is located at Porcupine Butte on the Pine Ridge Reservation.

"Eyapaha make sure all their people have the correct information. At KILI, we help inform people so they can make better decisions for themselves."

■ **Arlo Iron Cloud,**
DJ and Podcaster, Porcupine

Voice of the Lakota Nation

Arlo Iron Cloud has been part of KILI radio since he was a student at Red Cloud High School in Pine Ridge. He started as a volunteer through the Voices of Youth program and was first hired part time. He now works for the station full time.

Arlo handles KILI's early morning programming, maintains the website and social media channels, and hosts podcasts. He says he's stayed with the station for 19 years, because he understands the vital role it plays for tribal members.

"My Dad has always been an advocate for a better life on Pine Ridge," explains Arlo. "He once told me that our biggest problem is no communication with one another. I thought that was smart, so I stuck with radio because I feel the same way."

Lakota culture respects the importance of communication, as well. Arlo and the other KILI DJ's say they want to be an "eyapaha," a Lakota word meaning something akin to 'town informer.'

"Eyapaha make sure all their people have the correct information," says Arlo.

"At KILI, we help inform people so they can make better decisions for themselves."



Steve and Ethan Schmeichel are the fifth and sixth generations operating their family's farm southeast of Freeman.



Arlo Iron Cloud has been with KILI Radio for almost two decades, because he understands the vital role it plays for tribal members.

This is especially important when people need safety information, such as during winter storms and power outages.

"KILI has generators, so we become the source for communications when the power goes out," Arlo says. "We are the main hub for information."

KILI has turned to the Internet to expand its audience beyond its 30,000-square-mile broadcast area. Listeners can visit KILI's website to live stream the station and hear podcasts of archived shows and one-on-one interviews. Social media also helps expand the reach, but most folks still listen over the airwaves.

"We started using radio the way it was created for - to get out information. It really helps us to be more informed and give our people more consensus," says Arlo.

Listen to Arlo's morning show Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays on 90.1 FM. You can also stream KILI online and find their podcasts at KILIRadio.org or follow them on Facebook at [KILI Radio 90.1 FM](#).

Future of Farming

Farmers may not be able to set prices for their products, but there are ways they can increase production and cut costs. Father and son farmers Steve and Ethan Schmeichel are passionate about helping farmers adapt to these new precision-based practices.

"Precision agriculture is important; it's how we lower the costs of the products we raise. Making the most of whatever we put in the ground, in the long run, will pay us back," explains Steve.

They would know, too, as Steve and Ethan are the fifth and sixth generation, respectively, to farm their family's land southeast of Freeman.

Continued on next page:



Ethan and Steve Schmeichel inspect a soybean field by Freeman.

“Precision agriculture is important; it’s how we lower the costs of the products we raise.”

■ Steve Schmeichel,
Farmer, Freeman

“Back in the day, the combine was the most important piece of equipment. Now it’s the planter,” says Steve.

S&S helps farmers by retrofitting existing planters with precision equipment, saving them from dropping big dollars on new equipment.

“A new, 24-row planter will cost you roughly \$400,000. We can outfit their old planters for much less,” adds Ethan.

With broadband-enabled technology providing information in seconds, farmers use connected devices to analyze and assess their work.

“I can watch real-time progress in the fields,” explains Steve. “If there is a change in the market, we can check online to see if what we’re planting/growing can be sold at a higher price. Precision ag provides more data so we can make better decisions quicker.”

To learn more about S&S Ag Supply and precision agriculture, visit ss-ag.com or follow S&S Ag. Supply LLC on Facebook.

From Cattle & Crops to Communications

Continued from previous page:

The Schmeichels have been working these same plots for the past 75 years, growing mostly corn, soybeans and alfalfa.

In addition to their family’s operation, Steve and Ethan operate S&S Ag Supply selling seed, lawnmowers, wood pellet grills and precision planting products.

Precision ag involves many moving parts and complexities and requires a fast, reliable Internet connection. The practice is the future of farming and changes how farmers approach their operation.

Enjoy Dakota BEAT

Dakota Beat will perform their musical comedy variety show at the Annual Meeting on Saturday, September 28 at the Wall Community Center.



Liz Knowles

Featuring country, rock and parody songs infused with comedy, Dakota Beat brings a fun-filled enjoyable experience wherever they go. Let’s meet the band!

Bob Heller picked up a guitar in the fifth grade and has been playing music ever since. He also plays piano, banjo, clarinet, organ and synthesizer. For a long time, Bob was the national sales director for Yamaha’s Pro

Audio/Combo Division and Keyboard Division, traveling throughout the United States.

He is now happy to be back in South Dakota playing music with friends. Bob met Jack in 1978 and the two have been musical compatriots ever since.

Liz Knowles plays violin in the Black Hills Symphony Orchestra and fiddle for the Fort Hays Wranglers Chuckwagon Dinner Show. She brings a combination of classical violin and country fiddle to the group’s amazing medley of musical styles. When asked to explain the difference between violins and fiddles, Liz quipped, “Violins have strings, and fiddles got strangs!”

Jack Jensen, has performed with various bands including Custer’s Last Band and Spike & the Sputniks. As a solo artist, he’s performed at RV resorts and rallies from Florida to California and plenty of places in between. Currently, Jack can be found performing with the Fort Hays Wranglers Chuckwagon Dinner Show.



Bob Heller



Jack Jensen

2018 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

The Annual Meeting of the members of Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc. was called to order at 1:00 p.m., September 22, 2018 at the Wall Community Center, Wall, South Dakota, by President Jeff Nielsen. Said meeting was held pursuant to notice thereof as required by law. The Midnight Sun Band sang the National Anthem. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Nielsen.

President Nielsen called upon Darla Pollman Rogers, Attorney for the Cooperative, who gave the Credential Report. A motion was made and seconded to approve a quorum. Motion carried.

Next, President Nielsen called upon Kenneth Tonsager, Jr., Secretary, to read the Notice of Meeting and the Proof of Mailing, after which a certified copy of each was duly filed as part of the Minutes of this meeting.

President Nielsen introduced the special guests in attendance at the meeting.

President Nielsen welcomed the Cooperative members and asked that the minutes of the 2017 Annual Meeting be approved, if there were no additions or corrections, as written. On a motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the President declared the minutes approved.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to approve the financial report.

President Nielsen then delivered his presidential report, starting with an introduction of the Golden West Board of Directors. He reported on his upbringing in Viborg, and how he knew he wanted to raise a family in small town South Dakota. Jeff noted how the friendly people in small towns are like family and that this family spirit extends to members of the cooperative.

Next, President Nielsen called on Denny Law, General Manager/CEO, to present his annual report. Mr. Law welcomed members and spoke of his background in South Dakota. He reported on how broadband is the backbone of society today and that Golden West is committed to expanding their fiber network for the cooperative. Denny also spoke of our need to work with Washington to maintain the policies that will help Golden West expand its network and provide affordable broadband to members. He then reported on Golden West investing in the communities it serves. This includes scholarships to High School graduates, economic grants, and employees who give to their communities by donating their time and talents to causes they believe in.

President Nielsen called on Darla Pollman Rogers, attorney, to report on the nominating petitions for the Board of Directors.

Vacancies on the Board of Directors were as follows:

District I - (four-year term) one vacancy with one candidate - Duane Wood

District II - (four-year term) one vacancy with two candidates - John Knutson and Gerald Sloat

District V - (four-year term) one vacancy with one candidate - Kenneth Tonsager, Jr.

District VIII - (four-year term) one vacancy with two candidates - Rodney Dally and Randy Koerner

A motion was made, seconded and carried to seat the unopposed incumbents:

District I: Duane Wood

District V: Kenneth Tonsager Jr.

Darla Pollman Rogers, attorney, introduced the director candidates for District II: John Knutson and Gerald Sloat. For District VIII: Rodney Dally and Randy Koerner. Each candidate was allotted three minutes to address the membership.

Next, Darla Pollman Rogers advised the membership of the balloting process and requested that the ballots for the election of directors be handed out. After the membership had the opportunity to vote, the ballots were collected. A three-member balloting committee was appointed by Darla Pollman Rogers to oversee the ballot counting and report to the membership. The members of the balloting committee were Donna Staben, Lori Goth and Clyde Johnson.

s There was none.

President Nielsen called for any new business. There was none.

Next, President Nielsen called on Member Services Manager Jody Bielmaier to introduce the entertainment for the afternoon, local country band, The Midnight Sun Band.

Following the entertainment, Darla Pollman Rogers announced the election results: John Knutson was elected director for District II (four-year term) and Randy Koerner was elected director for District VIII (four-year term).

During the course of the meeting, several drawings were held to award prizes. The grand prize of \$500 went to Donald Poss of Philip.

President Nielsen adjourned the meeting.

Kenneth Tonsager, Jr. - Secretary

Please Join Us for the
67th Annual Meeting
Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc.

Photo of rural Dell Rapids by Greg Latza

Saturday, September 28, 2019
Wall Community Center, Wall, SD

Registration: 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Free Lunch: 11 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.
Meeting Called to Order: 1 p.m.

Register for the \$500 grand prize plus numerous cash and merchandise prizes.
You must be present to win.

Entertainment by local band, Dakota Beat.

AUTHORIZATION TO VOTE

Non-individual members of Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc., such as school districts, towns, churches and corporations may vote at the annual meeting by completing this form and presenting it at the registration desk on September 28, 2019. Each member organization should designate a representative who is an officer, stock-holder or member of their organization.

This form must be signed by an officer or member of the governing body.

This is to certify that _____ is hereby designated the delegate to the Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative, Inc., Annual Meeting on September 28, 2019, from _____ whose phone number is _____.

Named delegate is authorized to vote on all issues that may come before the meeting including election of directors.

By: _____ Title: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

DIRECTOR ELECTIONS Four-Year Terms

Golden West Cooperative members will elect three members to the Board of Directors. Members present at the annual meeting on September 28 may vote in all board elections regardless of district of residence

Kenneth Bolzer, District IV - Incumbent



Kenneth (Buddy) Bolzer is a semi-retired farmer/rancher from Martin. He has served on Golden West's Board of Directors since 2000. Buddy has found his service on the board to be extremely rewarding and enlightening, and he thoroughly enjoys working with the dedicated and intelligent employees of Golden West.

Buddy is an active member of Our Redeemer's Evangelical Lutheran Church, where he has held positions in all offices of the church council. He has also held numerous offices in the American Legion Post 240 and was elected S.D. District 9 Legionnaire of the Year in 1999. Currently, Buddy serves as president of the Bennett County Conservation District Board.

Buddy has lived his entire life in the Martin area except for the two years he spent in the U.S. Army. He and his wife Roslyn have been married for 44 years. They have two children and four grandchildren.

David Assman, District IV - Challenger



Dave is a third-generation rancher and second-generation implement dealer from Mission. His wife Diana was one of the caring, confident and considerate voices answering the phone when members called Golden West, she retired in 2014 with 30 years of service.

Dave graduated from Todd County High School in 1973. He worked two years on the family ranch before attending two years of agriculture school at South Dakota State University. He has served three terms on the Farm Credit Services of America Board and is currently serving on the Cherry-Todd Electric Board. He was also appointed to finish out a term on the Todd County Board of Commissioners.

Dave and Diana have four grown children and 11 grandchildren. They are active in their grandchildren's lives and hope to help instill in them the same work ethic, faith and integrity as they did in their children.

Arnie Hill, District III - Unopposed



Arnie Hill operates Arnie's Repair, a windshield repair service in White River. He has served on Golden West's Board of Directors since 2011.

Arnie worked for the Country Pride Cooperative for 39 years. He started as a senior shop mechanic in 1969 and took over as general manager of the White River location in 1989. He then served as a contract postal mail carrier from 2006 until he retired in 2015.

Arnie served as a Mellette County Commissioner from 2007 to 2010. He has also been a member of the Mellette County Volunteer Fire Department for 49 years and is a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in White River.

Arnie and his wife of 49 years, Connie, have three children and five grandchildren. He enjoys camping, hunting, fishing and helping his nephew when needed through haying and calving seasons.

Ansel Wooden Knife, District VI - Unopposed



Ansel joined the Golden West Board of Directors in September 2011. He was born and raised in Corn Creek, on the Rosebud Reservation along with his 11 siblings. Ansel moved to Interior for his job with the Milwaukee Railroad, which is where he met his future wife, and has lived there ever since.

Ansel and his wife, Teresa, have owned and operated their family business in Interior for the past 40 years. He loves living in the Badlands.

Ansel and Teresa have four grown children and two grandchildren. He enjoys spending time in the outdoors, especially fishing and gardening, and getting together with his family.