

Bowar Receives National Special Achievement Award

Kennebec, SD, February 3, 2010

Rod Bowar, owner and CEO of Kennebec Telephone Company, Kennebec, South Dakota, received the Special Achievement Award during this week's National Telephone Cooperative Association (NTCA) Annual Meeting in Tampa, FL. Rod Bowar was selected for his tireless dedication to the success of his hometown telephone company, the betterment of the communities he serves, to the well-being of his employees and family, and to the strength of the rural telecommunications industry.

"Rod Bowar and Kennebec Telephone epitomize the type of individual and organizational efforts routinely made by rural telephone companies to sustain the good life in rural America," said Dan Caldwell of Consortia Consulting that nominated Bowar for the award. "We are proud to be associated with Rod, his family and the Kennebec Telephone Company and are thrilled that his efforts were recognized with this well deserved national honor. While the list of individual accomplishments and contributions that Rod has made to his company, community and industry during the past thirty years are impressive in their own right, the overall body of his efforts is staggering."

Bowar currently serves as the President of the South Dakota Telecommunications Association (SDTA) Board of Directors. Prior to his role as President, Bowar served as the Vice President of the SDTA Board of Directors. Bowar is also a current Board of Directors member and a former President of the Fiber Ring Revenue Pooling Association (FRRPA) established to provide an equity-owned network system for South Dakota local exchange carriers. Additionally, Bowar is an active member on the Local Exchange Carrier Association's (LECA) Board of Directors where he has diligently participated in negotiations with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission and interexchange carriers concerning intrastate access rates to ensure that the interexchange carriers would continue to provide toll calling services to South Dakota's rural customers. Bowar also serves on the Board of Directors for South Dakota Network (SDN), a centralized equal access service provider formed in 1992 by a group of South Dakota telecommunications cooperatives with the intent of providing rural telephone company's customers with state-of-the-art and consolidated telecommunications services. In 2004, Bowar was appointed by South Dakota Governor Mike Rounds to the South Dakota Legislative Research Council's State and Local Government Task Force and in 1995, the community of Kennebec and Kennebec Telephone Company were selected for a personal visit from FCC Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein and the South Dakota PUC Commissioners during their tour of South Dakota.

Bowar serves on the Kennebec Volunteer Fire Department as the Assistant Fire Chief fighting fires alongside his father and his two sons. In 2009, Bowar and his wife Donna and Kennebec Telephone Company were presented with the Community Service Award plaque by members of Kennebec's Town Board in appreciation for their continual support and service to the community of Kennebec. Additionally, Bowar serves on the Kennebec Housing Board where his charge is to ensure that community structures are maintained and do not become visually undesirable or safety hazards to community residents. Bowar is also an active member of the Presho Chamber of Commerce supporting community events in Presho. Bowar also serves on the Board of the Mid-Dakota Hospital, is actively involved with the Kennebec Town and Country Club and donates time and money to local libraries.

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