



CONNECTIONS

PUBLISHED BY POLAR COMMUNICATIONS AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES

newsletter

SUMMER | 2018

Holiday Hours

Polar will be closed:

Independence Day
Wednesday, July 4

Labor Day
Monday, September 3



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Park River, ND 58270
701.284.7221 / 800.284.7222
www.thinkpolar.com

Hours

Monday-Friday / 7:30AM-5:30PM
Saturday / 8:00AM-4:30PM (assistance by phone)

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Polar Holds 66th Annual Meeting

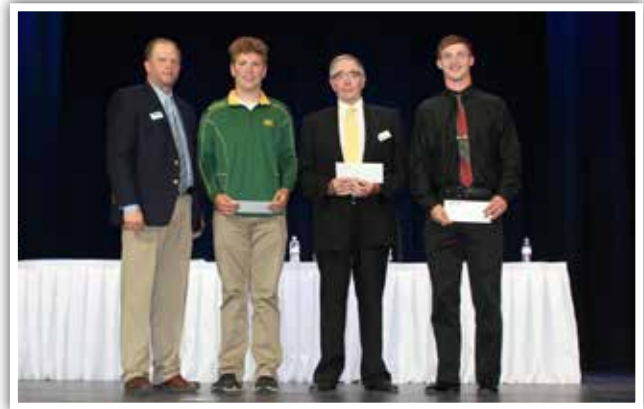
The Annual Members Meeting of Polar Communications was held on Thursday, June 7, 2018. A total of 162 members registered during the meeting. Members and guests were served a meal of BBQ pork, baked beans and coleslaw prior to the meeting.



Members enjoy a meal before the annual meeting.

Dan Stenvold, Mayor of Park River, welcomed the attendees to Park River and Brooke Apple gave the invocation. Matthew Leiphon of Senator Heitkamp's office and Randy Richards of Representative Cramer's office addressed the membership.

A mini film of members sharing their Polar experience was played for the audience.



CEO Karl Blake and President Ron Steinke with scholarship recipients Luke Newell and Austin Urlaub.

President Ron Steinke conducted the meeting. General Manager/CEO Karl Blake and President Ron Steinke gave a joint presentation to the members.

Four directors were elected to Polar Communications Board. Jim Longtin of Neche and Shari Hanson of Cavalier will represent District 1; Wes Welch of Park River will represent District 2; and Brian Udby will represent District 3.

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Polar Welcomes New Directors and Announces Return of Incumbents



Jim Longtin - District 1



Shari Hanson - District 1



Wes Welch - District 2



Brian Udby - District 3

Two new and two returning directors were elected to the Board of Directors at the Polar Communications Annual Meeting Thursday, June 7, 2018. Incumbents Jim Longtin of District 1 and Brian Udby of District 3 were elected to 3-year terms. Directors Ron Steinke and Joe Torgerson retired from the board due to term limits. New directors elected were Shari Hanson from District 1, who will serve a 2-year term and Wes Welch from District 2, who will serve a 3-year term.

Shari Hanson resides in Cavalier with her husband Barry. She is currently an interior decorator and her past service includes Cavalier Chamber of Commerce Director, Cavalier Park Board, Cavalier Economic Development Director, Cavalier School Facilities Committee, Growing Leaders, Cavalier Beautification Committee, Sunday School Superintendent, and Rendezvous Region Development Committee.

Wes Welch resides in Park River with his wife Sandra. Wes is an attorney and has been practicing in Park River since 1992. He currently also serves on the International Peace Garden Board and Park River Bible Camp Trust Fund. Previous service includes First Care Health Center Governing Board, Our Saviour's Lutheran Church Council, and Park River Good Samaritan Center Board.

The officers for Polar Communications Board of Directors include Amber Meyer, President; Jon McMillan, Vice President; Lori Dahl, Secretary/Treasurer; and Cindy Hejl, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer.

Notice Regarding Payments by Credit Card



Effective September 1, 2018, Polar Communications and its subsidiaries will be charging a 3% processing fee per transaction for any payment received by credit card. Please note this is for credit card payments only. Cash, check, and electronic payments through your bank will not have a fee associated.

There are no fees associated with paperless billing. If you currently have an automatic payment set up with a credit card and would like assistance changing this, please contact our office. We are here to help with any questions you have. Thank you!

A Fiber Connection Can Increase Home Value



A 2015 study commissioned by the Fiber to the Home Council Americas (FTTH) found that the impact of fiber on property values can be more than three percent. On a \$300,000 home, that's a \$9,000 boost.

A fiber connection has an impact on home prices similar to other home improvement projects. Many homeowners opt to renovate and upgrade their homes and properties. These improvements, like redoing the kitchen, putting in hardwood floors or investing in landscaping, can be attractive features to prospective homebuyers.

The increase calculated by the FTTH study was \$5,437, based on the value of an average US home. To put that boost in perspective,

it's equal to adding a fireplace, half of a bathroom or a quarter of a swimming pool. Not literally, of course; no one wants a quarter of a swimming pool.

Today, people are shopping for more than just curb appeal. They're looking for a quality Internet connection.

What makes fiber attractive?

How we value the Internet has shifted. It's not all that long ago the Internet was looked upon as new-fangled technology. Today, it's a utility that you probably can't imagine life at home without.

Fiber Internet benefits all the things that newcomers ask about when they're considering a new neighborhood like schools, hospitals, the local economy, opportunities for kids and overall quality of life. Increasingly, fast, reliable Internet service is one of the things on the homebuyer's checklist.

With the number of telecommuters and self-employed Americans ever on the rise, people are demanding better Internet at home. The fastest Internet around is the kind of thing that can tip the balance for a buyer.

Fiber access will play an increasingly important role in home sales. It's a great tool for families, business owners and telecommuters to use and enjoy. Today, the availability of fiber Internet is a major differentiator for communities. Fiber is an exciting utility for entrepreneurial, creative and techie types to invest in.

Fiber to your home is not only a utility that improves your quality of life today, it also brings significant value to one of your most significant assets — your home.

ATTENTION HOMEOWNERS

If you are planning any exterior home improvement projects this summer, please contact us to remove your Fiber Optic Enclosure on the side of your house before you begin. Our technicians will come out and temporarily remove and replace the enclosure on the outside of your home. This will save you time, money, and possibly an extended interruption of service.



Scholarships Awarded to Local Students

John G. Walters Scholarship

This year Polar awarded five \$1,000 scholarships in honor of former general manager John G. Walters. The awards are given to outstanding high school seniors whose parents or guardians are current voice or broadband Internet customers of Polar Communications or its subsidiaries. Applicants are judged on essay content, grammar, academic achievement and community involvement.



*Alan Gilbertson
Dakota Prairie High School*



*Austin Urlaub
Cavalier High School*



*Emily Kennelly
St. Thomas Public School*



*Kristen Larson
Park River Area School*



*Luke Newell
North Border Pembina School*



*Tobias Zikmund
Park River Area School*

Leadership Scholarship

The Leadership Scholarship is sponsored by Polar Communications, in cooperation with its retired employees. This scholarship is awarded to a student who is involved in their school, serves their community, achieves leadership roles in activities, functions or organizations, and strives to reach their highest potential. Consideration is also given to any work or internship experience outside of school. Applicants must be a senior in high school or freshman or sophomore in college, and their parents or guardians must be Polar customers.

The recipient of the 2018 Polar Leadership Scholarship in the amount of \$2,000 is being awarded to Tobias Zikmund of Pisek. Tobias is a senior at Park River Area School.



*Kristen Larson
Park River Area School*

Foundation for Rural Service Named Scholarship

The Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) offers an annual college scholarship program to students from rural America for their first year of college, university, or vocational-technical school. The program also includes several named scholarship opportunities. Each student is sponsored by an NTCA member company, of which Polar is a member.

One of the named scholarship programs is a \$1,000 NISC Community Leadership Scholarship. Kristen Larson of Hoople, North Dakota, is the recipient of this scholarship award. Kristen attends Park River Area School.

Local Students Attend FRS Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.



Alyssa Kemp and Karina Whaley in front of the US Capitol building.

Each year, in collaboration with NTCA member companies, FRS brings rural students from across the United States to Washington, D.C., for a four-day tour of some of the most historical sites in the nation. While there, students also learn about the telecommunications industry, as well as the regulatory and legislative processes.

This year's Youth Tour was held June 2-6. Polar was proud to sponsor Alyssa Kemp of Cavalier and Karina Whaley of Fordville for this trip.

Here is what Alyssa had to say about her experience: *"I would like to sincerely thank Polar Communications for providing me with opportunity to attend the Foundation for Rural Services Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. Not only was I able to explore the capitol, I was also given a first-hand look into telecommunications and the Federal Communications Commission. The visit with the FCC officials was very interesting to me as we discussed the repeal of net neutrality. Even though it was raining on Sunday, the visit to Arlington National Cemetery was very moving. The respect and honor given to the unknown soldiers, even during a downpour of rain, was especially moving for me. The opportunity to discuss the communication issues of rural America with other kids was one of my favorite parts of the trip. Polar Communications should be very proud of the services they provide to all of its rural customers as I learned that North Dakota leads the way in rural communication services. The Foundation for Rural Services Youth Tour is an event that opens your eyes to the world and makes you grateful for the places you call home. Thank you again to the board of Polar Communications for recognizing the value of the trip for the young people it serves."*

Here is what Karina had to say about her experience: *"I would like to thank Polar Communications for sponsoring me for the FRS Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C. It was an amazing experience meeting lots of new friends and touring our nation's capital. We saw many of the most popular monuments and memorials in a short amount of time. My favorites were Arlington National Cemetery and going on the night tour. I also learned a lot about the FRS and FCC after we attended the presentations. The trip was very well organized thanks to Carol LaHaise and other members of the FRS. This opportunity was memorable and I am grateful to Polar for choosing to sponsor me for this awesome trip!"*

**ATTENTION
STUDENTS!**

Be sure to check back in the fall for scholarship information. If you know a student, please encourage them to participate in these great opportunities. Applications and information regarding all of the scholarships can be found on Polar's website at www.thinkpolar.com.

For applications, details, or questions on any of the scholarships, please contact Carol LaHaise: 701-284-4361 or clahaise@polarintel.com.

Annual Meeting

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The 2018 John G. Walters Scholarship was presented to: Luke Newell of Neche and Austin Urlaub of Cavalier. Emily Kennelly of St. Thomas, Alan Gilbertson of Michigan, and Kristen Larson of Hoople were not present to receive their scholarships.

The 2018 Polar Leadership Scholarship was awarded to Tobias Zikmund of Pisek.

The 2018 Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) Named Scholarship was awarded to Kristen Larson of Hoople.

The 2018 Business of the Year Award was presented to Steve Rehovsky, President of First United Bank.

Secretary-Treasurer Lori Dahl reported to the members.

Several prize drawings were held throughout the meeting.

Adding a Sender to Your Whitelist in Webmail

If you use an email client such as Outlook, Live, iPhone, Android, or other device and you don't receive an email you were expecting in your email client inbox, you can check webmail to see if it is in the spam folder. To prevent this from happening in the future, you can add the email address to your whitelist.

Open your favorite web browser and type mail.polarcomm.com in the address bar. Login to webmail - type in your full email address and password.



If you see a message in your Spam folder and you want it delivered to your email client, click to open the message and then click Allow Sender.



The message will be delivered to your email client and will be added to your whitelist for future deliveries.

Expand Your WiFi Coverage with Mesh Extenders



WiFi is a part of daily life in most homes - it is a critical component of connectivity. Now you can expand that connection with mesh extenders. The quality of a WiFi connection can vary depending on your distance from and position around your WiFi router. A mesh extender expands that coverage so distance and direction doesn't matter, no matter where you are in the house, garage, porch or backyard.

Mesh extenders work seamlessly with GigaCenter to enlarge your network. With our GigaCenter and mesh extenders, now you can experience reliable whole-home WiFi in every corner of your home...and beyond.

Sign up for Managed WiFi with GigaCenter and/or Mesh Extender and receive FREE WiFi optimization - a \$150 value!

Promotional offer ends July 31, 2018. Some restrictions apply. Call for details. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Clip this page and keep it with your Polar directory

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Alexander Billy	204 Montana Ave E Galesburg.....	701-488-2276	Kachena Greg	res Park River.....	701-284-6449
Almen Ardell	810 Park St W Park River	701-284-6352	Klinefelter Elizabeth	res St Vincent.....	218-823-6230
Arens Jeff A	res Cavalier.....	701-265-4386	Latozke Larry L.	200 Bedrock Ln Cavalier.....	701-265-4776
Armstrong Ethan & Ariel	324 Scott Ave Gilby.....	701-869-2312	Letexier Tamera	res Cavalier.....	701-265-4773
Bakke Daryl & Debbie	res Park River.....	701-284-6986	Littlejohn Joan & Cheryl	508 2 Ave St Thomas	701-257-6616
Behm Bryce	108 Front Ave Niagara.....	701-397-5888	McBain Terry & Janet	203 Hill Ave N Park River.....	701-284-6358
Berg Elva	res Cavalier.....	701-265-4588	McFadden Adam	108 Bedrock Ln Cavalier.....	701-265-4538
Bernal Victoria	Park River.....	701-284-6679	McGregor Jim & Cheri	6852 County Road 12 Park River.....	701-284-6735
Bezuidenhout Simon & Ashley	res Park River	701-284-7166	Monette Mary E	312 Thayer Ave Aneta.....	701-326-4104
Bladow Chad	9348 138th Ave NE Cavalier	701-265-4452	Neuberger Jeffrey	312 Harris Ave S Park River	701-284-6506
Blair Cullen	12994 Highway 5 Cavalier.....	701-265-4010	Nies Deb	123 Winnefred St W Michigan.....	701-259-2160
Boe Paul & Pamela	11586 Highway 17 Adams	701-944-2281	On-Target Ag Services LLC	119 Main St W Cavalier.....	701-265-4146
Brown Amy	Res Drayton.....	701-454-3991	Park River Bible Camp Site Manager	131 Solid Rock Cir Park River	701-284-6107
Cameron Bruce	13274 Highway 66 Crystal.....	701-657-2304	Pic Joseph & Jessica	res Park River.....	701-284-7059
Casey & Kelli O'Toole	621 6 St Crystal.....	701-657-2174	Rost Abby	res Park River.....	701-284-6497
Clark Taylor	1765 170th St Wolverton.....	218-995-2285	Rudnik Doris	301 County Road 12b Park River	701-284-6191
Dickson David & Erin	farm Gilby.....	701-869-2344	Rush River Seed & Chemical	605 1 St W Hunter	701-874-2385
Douville Gale (Pat)	329 Madison Ave Neche.....	701-886-7462	Skavhaug Alice M	334 3 St Crystal.....	701-657-2260
Eales Betsy & Jake	12464 45 St NE Petersburg	701-345-8236	Sletten Meggan	res Aneta.....	701-326-4152
Eyford Ridge Seed Co	12885 Hwy 66 Edinburg.....	701-993-8120	Stanhope Brandon & Carmen	9403 140 Ave NE Cavalier.....	701-265-4486
Or Call Darren Mobile	701-521-0073	Stensland LeRoy & Betty	501 Busse Ln Cavalier.....	701-265-4420
Fail Joan M	res Park River	701-284-7111	Thompson Garrette	301 Hill Ave N Park River.....	701-284-6450
Gill George	223 5 Ave St Thomas	701-257-6484	Thompson Randy	4250 100 Ave NE Lakota.....	701-247-2240
Hall Beverley	res Park River	701-284-6650	Thorpe Josh & Kayla	res Cavalier.....	701-265-4286
Hanson Brandon & Jalcia	5959 104 Ave NE Brocket.....	701-655-3621	Troftgruben Mayvis	res Park River	701-284-6775
Herberg Evan & Anita	431 Atlantic Ave St Vincent.....	218-823-6218	Woinarowicz Chris	403 N 3 St Drayton	701-454-3574
Johnson Cartha & Laura	242 Pennsylvania Ave Neche	701-886-7424	Young Malia & Riaz Oosman	res Lakota	701-247-2516
Johnson James C	res Pembina.....	701-825-6208			



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Jon McMillan, Fordville
Lori Dahl, Lakota
Cynthia Hejl, Arthur
Brian Udby, Lankin
Chris Nelson, Edinburg
James Longtin, Neche
Wes Welch, Park River
Shari Hanson, Cavalier

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Karl Blake

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