Polar Board of Directors Appoint New CEO

Karl Blake as been hired as the new CEO/General Manager. Karl is the current Chief Operating Officer at the company and has been with Polar since 1996. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Management Information Systems from Valley City State University in 1997 and continued his education through industry accounting, technical, and leadership courses.

Since he began his career at Polar Communications, Karl has gained experience in several departments. He played a vital role in introducing and rolling out the first Internet service in 1996 and eventually the first broadband services. While leading the plant department for several years, Karl managed a fiber-to-the-home project from start to finish for over 10 years, finishing construction in 2015. He is very involved in the community, serving on the local fire and ambulance departments, and has served on the local city council.

“I am very excited about this opportunity and look forward to continuing my career with a progressive company and great employees,” said Karl Blake. “North Dakota is one of the most connected states and it’s a great place to be.”

Karl will begin his new role as CEO on July 1st, overseeing all day-to-day operations and guiding the board of directors on leading innovation, industry regulation, and company growth.

“Karl’s background in telecommunications and respect as a leader in the industry will make for an easy transition,” said Ron Steinke, Polar Communications Board Chairman.
Three directors were re-elected to serve on Polar’s board at the annual meeting on Thursday evening, June 2, 2016, at the Park River Area School. Representing District 1 is Amber Meyer of St. Thomas, representing District 2 is Jon McMillan of Fordville and representing District 3 is Cindy Hejl of Arthur. All three directors will serve a three-year term.

Attorney DuBois reported on the by-law amendment.

The 2016 John G. Walters Scholarships were presented to: Peyton Cole of Park River, Kylah Horsley of Neche, Erin Kovarik of Park River, and Emily Laaveg of Park River. Reece Johnson from the Niagara exchange was not present to receive his scholarship.

The 2016 Polar Leadership Scholarship was presented to Hayley Fingarson of Edinburg.

The 2016 Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) Scholarship recipient Jared Dullum of Arthur was not present to receive his FRS Scholarship.

The 2016 Business of the Year Award was presented to Everett Butler, Administrator of Pembina County Memorial Hospital.

Secretary-Treasurer Amber Meyer reported to the members.

Karl Blake and his family were introduced. Karl will be the CEO of Polar effective July 1, 2016.

Several prize drawings were held throughout the meeting.
Kyle Halvorson Named New Customer Service Supervisor

Kyle Halvorson has been selected as Polar’s new customer service supervisor. His duties will include directing the day-to-day activities of the customer service center and providing ongoing support and coaching for the customer service team. He will work to meet and deliver exceptional customer service to Polar’s customers.

Kyle came to Polar from Tharaldson Communications of Fargo in November of 2007. He was a network technician in Polar’s special services department working with business customers on enhanced services such as PBX phone and security systems. Congratulations Kyle!

Polar Welcomes New Employee

Jenny French began her employment with Polar in April, 2016, as an accounts payable clerk. Her duties include accounts payable, plant accounting and inventory control. Jenny resides in Grafton with her husband Jeremy and 5-year-old daughter, Kendra.

Polar Connects Last Fiber Customer

In 2015, Polar Communications plowed the last mile to complete its 100% fiber network. Cutting over customers is the final stage in the fiber-to-the-home project.

Business Solutions

Polar Communications is proud to offer the best in business network solutions. Call today to receive a customized needs analysis to determine the technology your business needs.

DATA: speeds up to 1 GB, virtual private network (VPN), managed services, online backup and more.

VOICE SYSTEMS: IP phone systems with advanced features, paging and public address systems.

VIDEO: digital TV for hospitality and individual businesses, with more than 100 high definition channels.

SECURITY: custom monitoring and security systems featuring IP video surveillance.

Contact us today to speak to a local expert!

701.284.7221
800.284.7222
sales@polarcomm.com

WWW.THINKPOLAR.COM
Scholarships and Youth Awards

**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 subscribers of Polar Communications or its subsidiaries. Applicants are judged on essay content, grammar, academic achievement and community involvement.

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 2016 Polar Leadership Scholarship in the amount of $2,000 is being awarded to Hayley Fingarson, Edinburg, North Dakota. Hayley is currently a sophomore at NDSU majoring in Family and Consumer Sciences Education.

Foundation for Rural Service 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. Each student is sponsored by an NTCA member company.

This year’s recipient is Jared Dullum of Arthur, North Dakota. Jared is receiving $2,500 with $2,000 coming from FRS and $500 from the sponsoring company, which is Polar in this case.

The FRS College Scholarship Program seeks to encourage students to return to their rural communities upon completing their education.
**Foundation for Rural Service Youth Tour**

The Foundation for Rural Service’s (FRS) annual Youth Tour is one of the most visible examples of the foundation’s involvement with, and commitment to, rural youth. Each year, in collaboration with NTCA member companies, FRS brings rural students from across the United States to Washington, DC, for a four-day tour of some of the most historical sites in the nation.

This year’s tour was June 4-8, 2016. While there, students also learned about the telecommunications industry, as well as the regulatory and legislative processes. Educational sessions on these topics were greatly enhanced by site visits to the U.S. Capitol and the FCC to meet with industry leaders and members of Congress. The students were also given ample time to explore the nation’s capital and its many attractions.

Polar was proud to sponsor Wesley Kemp of Cavalier this year. Here is what he had to say about his trip:

“I would like to thank Polar Communications for sponsoring my trip to the 2016 FRS Youth Tour in Washington, DC. I enjoy traveling and meeting people from around the United States so I was excited to embark on a trip to Washington, DC. My Snapchat and Instagram lists grew exponentially while in DC and I know I will continue to keep in contact with many of my new friends into the future. It sounds funny to say my favorite attraction was Arlington National Cemetery when you consider what the cemetery represents. It was a moving experience to be in a crowd of people watching the laying of the wreath and changing of the guard with only the whisper of the breeze for noise. Looking upon the rows and rows of tombstones perfectly aligned is a somber experience that makes me proud to be an American. I also enjoyed the time spent at the Smithsonian Museum and the Library of Congress. Learning about the FCC and being able to ask questions was also a great experience for me. I also would like to thank Carol LaHaise for chaperoning the group of students from the Midwest and the employees of Polar Communications for the tour of the Park River offices.”

---

**ATTENTION STUDENTS!**

In support of the continuing education for rural youth, Polar Communications and its subsidiaries offer scholarships and youth opportunities for high school and college students.

**Available Opportunities Include:**

- Polar’s John G. Walters Scholarship - $1,000
- Polar’s Leadership Scholarship - $2,000
- Foundation for Rural Services (FRS) Scholarship - $2,500
- FRS Starulakis Family Scholarships - $5,000
- Telecom Management Services - $1,500
- Everett Kneece Return to Rural America Scholarship - $2,500
- West Kentucky & Tennessee Telecommunications Cooperative Scholarship - up to $15,000
- Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) Youth Tour to Washington, DC

Be sure to check back in the fall for more 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
clahaise@polartel.com
COLLEGE BASKETBALL CONTEST!

Play Our Free
Fill out your bracket and enjoy friendly competition with others in your community. It's easy to enter and fun to play. Plus, all participants have an opportunity to win one of our awesome prizes!

Enter by March 17th.

Sign up and play at:
PolarMarchMania.com

Watch the Olympics Anywhere with TV Everywhere

The 2016 Rio Olympic Games will be the eighth consecutive summer Games to be broadcast on NBC and the NBC Universal family of networks, in addition to being streamed live on NBCOlympics.com and NBC Sports Live Extra.

NBC television coverage will begin with the Opening Ceremony on Friday, August 5, with primetime coverage on NBC running from August 5-21. A wide array of NBC Universal networks will host extensive Olympic coverage throughout the Games. Full details and channel listings will be released and available on NBCOlympics.com closer to the start of the Olympics.

All events will be live streamed on NBCOlympics.com and on NBC Sports Live Extra via TV Everywhere.

TV Everywhere provides great entertainment wherever you are. At home you can watch your favorite TV show on a tablet, laptop or game console in one room while others watch on the big screen in another room. Away from home all you need is WiFi access and you could be watching TV — at the kids’ sports practice, in an airport or coffee shop, waiting for an appointment — wherever your day takes you. This service is available at no extra cost to Polar Cablevision customers!

Visit thinkpolar.com to register and start watching your TV everywhere!

New School Channel Coming Soon

Jaguar Vision will be produced by the students of Northern Cass School in Arthur, ND. The channels will include school announcements, sports highlights, special assembly features, band & choir concerts, athletic calendars, lunch menus, homecoming highlights and more!

Jaguar Vision will be the 6th school channel added to the Polar Cablevision lineup. Other school channels include Knight Vision - 70, Titan Vision - 71, Aggie Vision - 74, Tornado Vision - 77 and Raider Vision - 87. These channels are available as part of the Polar Cablevision Digital Basic Package.
Capital Credits Paid to Patrons

This year Polar Communications returned over $1.5 million in capital credits to its co-op members. “The board is pleased to return to a bi-annual payment schedule following our fiber build-out,” said Ron Steinke, Polar Communications Board President. This year’s payout was a partial amount from service years 1997, 1999 and 2015. Checks were disbursed at the annual meeting on June 2nd. Checks not picked up were mailed out after the meeting. December payments will be mailed to all patrons who qualify for capital credits for this payout.

Clip this page and keep it with your Polar directory
CONNECTIONS
Published by Polar Communications

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Ronald Steinke, Cavalier
Beverly Jensen, Drayton
Amber Meyer, St. Thomas
Joe Torgerson, Fairdale
Jon McMillan, Fordville
Lori Dahl, Lakota
Cynthia Hejl, Arthur
Brian Udby, Lankin
Chris Nelson, Edinburg

GENERAL MANAGER/CEO
Karl Blake

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

PLEASE JOIN US
FOR A CAKE & COFFEE
open house
TUESDAY, JUNE 28
from
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Congratulate retiring Polar CEO, Dave Dunning and welcome new Polar CEO, Karl Blake

SOUTH GARAGE
110 4th Street East, Park River, North Dakota