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CONNECTIONS

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ronald Steinke.....Cavalier
Beverly Jensen.....Drayton
Peter “Kelly” McKenzieMichigan
Amber Meyer St. Thomas
Joe Torgerson.....Fairdale
Greg Steffes Arthur
Eric “Ike” Meberg..... Park River
Jon McMillan.....Fordville
Lori Dahl..... Lakota
David L. Dunning General Manager/CEO

HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday-Friday • 7:30am-6:00pm
Saturday • 8:00am-4:30pm
24 Hour Customer Service • 284.7127



*Polar will be closed
Monday, July 4th.*

*We wish everyone a safe and
happy Independence Day!*

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Summer 2011

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Polar Holds 2011 Annual Meeting



The Annual Members Meeting of Polar Communications was held on Thursday, June 9, 2011. A total of 277 members registered during the meeting. Members and guests were served a meal prior to the meeting.

Dan Stenvold, mayor of Park River, welcomed the attendees to Park River, Pastor Byron Cox gave the invocation, and Randy Richards of Representative Berg's office and Tom Brusegaard of Senator Hoeven's office addressed the membership.



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

Three directors were re-elected to Polar's board of directors. Beverly Jensen of Drayton will represent District 1; Eric "Ike" Meberg of Park River will represent District 2; and Lori Dahl of Lakota will represent District 3. All three directors will serve a three-year term.

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Board President, Ron Steinke and CEO David Dunning with Randy Richards from Congressman Rick Berg's Fargo Office.

Director Election

Three directors were re-elected at Polar's annual meeting on Thursday evening, June 9th, 2011, at the Park River High School. They are Beverly Jensen of Drayton, District 1; Eric "Ike" Meberg of Park River, District 2, and Lori Dahl of Lakota, District 3. All three directors will serve a three year term.



Beverly Jensen



Eric "Ike" Meberg



Lori Dahl



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Summer Construction Update

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Polar's 2011 construction project will upgrade the city of Cavalier to fiber-to-the-home Services. Construction started May 31st and will continue into fall. There are several phases to the construction project. Currently Polar's inside wiring contractors, Jeff Carlson Services (JCS), are rewiring homes in Cavalier. This will continue for the next few months. Our contractor, Arvig Communication Services (ACS), is currently doing ground work in the city of Cavalier, placing fiber from Polar's central office to the homes. When this phase is finished, splicing of the fiber routes will be completed and cutovers to the new service will be started. Cutovers will begin in late August and continue through the middle of 2012.



We appreciate your patience throughout our construction project. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call our office at 701-284-7221.

Polar Welcomes New Employee and Interns



Wendy Machart



Rachel Zahradka



Brady Kovarik

Wendy Machart began her employment with Polar on March 14, 2011 as an accounts payable clerk. Her duties include accounts payable, plant accounting and inventory control. Wendy is currently working towards an associate accounting degree from Northwest Technical College – Bemidji. Wendy resides in Park River with her husband Loren. She enjoys spending time with her son and his family, going to snowmobile swap meets and car shows.

Rachel Zahradka started her internship with Polar on June 1st, 2011. Rachel is attending NDSU, she will graduate in the spring

with a Business Management major and a minor in Accounting. Her parents are Jeff and Lori Zahradka from Lawton.

Brady Kovarik started his internship with Polar on June 13th, 2011. Brady will be working in the plant department helping the construction crew and cable splicers. Brady will be a senior at Park River High School this fall. His parents are Dale and Shelly Kovarik of Park River.

2011 Scholarship Award Winners



Each year Polar awards five \$500 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. This year's winners were presented with their awards at the annual meeting on June 9th. They were Jared Mack, Cavalier; Bryce Karel, Cavalier; Jalen Burchill, Arthur; Brittany Estad, Crystal; and Thomas Shephard, Crystal. Congratulations to these outstanding students!

Photo, L-R: Ron Steinke, Board President; Bryce Karel, Brittany Estad, Jared Mack & Thomas Shephard. Not pictured - Jalen Burchill.

FRS Youth Tour



Each year Polar Communications sponsors a high school student for the National Telephone Cooperative Association (NTCA) Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) Youth Tour in Washington, DC. This year marked the 17th annual FRS Youth Tour held June 4-8. It brought 108 students and 24 chaperones, representing 67 NTCA member companies from across the US. Polar is proud to represent NTCA and to send a local student on this trip. This year Polar's representative was Brit Brouillard of Park River. He is the son of David and Bobbi Brouillard. Here is what Brit had to say about his trip:

"Hello, I am Brit Brouillard and I feel very privileged to have been able to represent Polar at this year's Youth Tour. I had a great time in Washington DC. Touring the sites was amazing! I loved visiting every memorial and monument. I especially enjoyed the night tour of DC. I met a lot of great people that I hope to keep long, lasting friendships with. I also learned more about telecommunications from the speakers at the FCC and NTCA who presented us with the latest telecommunications issues facing our government. Broadband and computers are now emphasized more than telephones. I would like to thank Polar for this wonderful opportunity. If you have the chance to apply for this learning experience, I highly recommend it!"

Annual Meeting continued from page 1

The 2011 John G. Walters Scholarship was presented to the following: Bryce Karel of Cavalier; Brittany Estad of Crystal; Jared Mack of Cavalier; and Thomas Shephard of Crystal. Jalen Burchill of Arthur was not present to receive his scholarship.

Polar Communications presented the Business of the Year Award to Louise Dryburgh of First Care Health Center, located in Park River, North Dakota.

Secretary-Treasurer Peter "Kelly" McKenzie reported to the members.

Several prize drawings were held throughout the meeting.

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If your wireless network is not secure, someone sitting across the street from your home can access your network to do illegal activities...and YOU may be responsible!

Many people enjoy the convenience of having a wireless network in their home or business. All you need is a wired connection and a wireless router to broadcast a signal allowing online access throughout your home or business. But unless your network is password protected and secured, you may be sharing your access with others. Anyone using your wireless network, whether you know it or not, is traced back to you.

Let's look at some of the things that can happen when others access your unsecured wireless network. 1) Your bandwidth use is increased with more users on your network. It's important to keep your bandwidth under control to maximize your speeds. Also, more people accessing your router can cause it to overload, slow down and require resets. 2) Hackers may be able to access your private documents, pictures, files and other devices and computers on the network. Your identity may even be stolen. 3) You may be supporting criminal activities. If other people are accessing your wireless network, you have no control over what they're doing. Music pirating, illegal gambling and worse can be happening using your internet. **You may have to face legal liability issues if these activities are traced to your IP address.**

Secure that network! Put a password on your wireless connection, both the wi-fi access point and the computer. Do not use default passwords or account names and make sure you use a "strong" password that includes both numbers and letters.

It takes just a few minutes to secure your wireless network and it can save you a lot of trouble! You can go to the manufacturer's website for instructions on securing your specific router or for help or questions call our 24/7/365 help desk at 1.888.700.7652.

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Sharpness: In addition to clarity, HDTV provides a much sharper picture than analog television. Just like a digital camera, more pixels mean sharper pictures.

Digital Sound: HDTV's digital audio sounds better than a standard television's analog sound, just like digital CD's are superior to analog radio. All HDTV programs use Dolby Digital sound, which is also used on DVDs. This format is used to transmit two to six channels of audio, depending on the program.

Call us at 1.800.284.7222 to upgrade to HDTV!

