



CONNECTIONS

newsletter

PUBLISHED BY POLAR COMMUNICATIONS AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES

SUMMER | 2019

Happenings

Office Closed

Independence Day
Thursday, July 4

Labor Day
Monday, September 2

Office Closed 1:00-3:00

Employee Training
Wednesday, June 26

Office Closed 11:30-12:30

Employee Training
Wednesday, August 14

Polar Holds 67th Annual Meeting

The Annual Members Meeting of Polar Communications was held on Thursday, June 6, 2019. A total of 131 members registered during the meeting. Members and guests were served a chicken, mashed potato and gravy meal 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 Father Jason Lefor gave the invocation. Randy Richards of Senator Cramer's office addressed the membership.

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



Several scholarship recipients were present to receive their awards as presented by CEO Karl Blake and Board President Amber Meyer.

Three directors were re-elected to Polar's board of directors: Amber Meyer (District 1), Jon McMillan (District 2), and Cindy Hejl (District 3). All three directors will serve a three-year term.

Attorney DuBois reported to the membership on by-law changes.

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PO Box 270 / 110 4th St. E

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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Three Directors Re-elected to Board



Amber Meyer - District 1



Jon McMillan - District 2



Cindy Hejl - District 3

Three directors were re-elected to the board of directors at the Polar annual meeting on Thursday, June 6, 2019. Amber Meyer of St. Thomas, Jon McMillan of Fordville, and Cindy Hejl of Arthur were all elected to serve a three-year term.

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Polar Hires Chuck Aaker



Polar Communications is pleased to announce the addition of Chuck Aaker to its team. Chuck started at Polar on May 1, 2019, as an Information Technology Specialist. His duties include assisting in maintaining the current computer infrastructure for Polar's information services needs as well as installation, maintenance, documentation, testing, modification, and updates to the computer network and related equipment. This position will also assist business customers in the maintenance and administration of their network, security, hardware and software needs at the direction of the IT supervisor.

Chuck has over 40 years of experience working in the computer industry. Before coming to

Polar he worked for Arctic Cat of Thief River Falls, Minnesota. His family includes his wife Sharon and daughter Brit who recently graduated from NDSCS with a degree in robotics.

Polar Welcomes Kole Hanson



Kole Hanson is a 2019 graduate of Park River Area School. He will be attending Bismarck State College in the fall to earn a degree in the telecommunications field.

Kole will be assisting the field operations department for the summer. He plans to return to this area after school.

Annual Meeting

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The 2019 John G. Walters Scholarship was presented to: Paige Haakenson of Aneta, Maris Miller of Park River, Jade Nelson of Cavalier, and Brynn Wznick of Cavalier. Jacie Osier of Walcott was not present to receive her scholarship.

The 2019 Polar Leadership Scholarship was awarded to Alyssa Kemp of Cavalier.

The 2019 Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) Scholarship was awarded to Gracyn Cole of Park River and Paige Haakenson of Aneta.

The 2019 Business of The Year award was presented to Kyle Gagner of Nodak Insurance Company-Kyle Gagner Agency of Cavalier.

Secretary-Treasurer Lori Dahl reported to the members.

Several prize drawings were held throughout the meeting.

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.



Brynn Wznick
Cavalier High School



Maris Miller
Park River Area School



Jade Nelson
Cavalier High School



Jacie Osier
Kindred High School



Paige Haakenson
Dakota Prairie High School



Alyssa Kemp
Cavalier High School

Leadership Scholarship

The Leadership Scholarship is sponsored by Polar Communications. 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 2019 Polar Leadership Scholarship in the amount of \$2,000 is being awarded to Alyssa Kemp of Cavalier. Alyssa is a 2019 graduate of Cavalier High School.



Gracy Cole
Park River Area School



Paige Haakenson
Dakota Prairie High School

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. The program seeks to encourage students to return to their rural communities upon completing their education. Each student is sponsored by an NTCA member company, of which Polar is a member.

This year's recipients are Gracy Cole of Park River and Paige Haakenson of Aneta. They are each receiving \$2,500, with \$2,000 coming from FRS and \$500 from Polar.

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



Rachaele Soderman and Kristin Albrecht in front of the Washington Monument.

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 1-5. Polar was proud to sponsor Rachaele Soderman of Gilby and Kristin Albrecht of Pembina for this trip.

Here is what Rachaele had to say about her experience: *"I want to thank Carol LaHaise, the Polar Communications Board of Directors, and the entire Polar "Family" for the incredible opportunity to be a part of the FRS Youth Tour. I enjoyed the tour so much that at the end I didn't want to come home. Before this tour, I only had a vague idea of what broadband was, but during the tour I was taught how much it could impact rural areas. I also had no clue about what the Federal Communications Commission does, but I now know how much control they have over electronic communications and about their work to limit robocalls and spoof calls. We visited so many monuments and landmarks that I could never begin to describe them all. One that really stuck out to me was the Korean War Monument. The Korean War veterans don't get a lot of recognition, so I was impressed by this amazing monument. We went after dark so the statues seemed even more lifelike and the images that were sandblasted into the stone seemed as though they were popping out at you. Each and every face on the wall was of a real person and that detail along with everything else about the Korean War Monument sticks out prominently in my mind. Another highlight was the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, especially Amelia Earhart's Lockheed Vega. Amelia Earhart has been a personal hero of mine for many years and seeing her airplane struck a note in my heart. The friends that I made and the experience will be remembered for a lifetime, and I would like to thank Polar Communications for making it possible."*

Here is what Kristin had to say about her experience: *"I would love to thank Polar and FRS for an amazing opportunity to go to Washington D.C. this summer! I met a bunch of incredible new people and learned about how different and yet similar our lives are. This once-in-a-lifetime opportunity allowed me to see all the famous monuments that I believe everyone should see at least once in their life. My favorites were the Lincoln Monument, we saw it at night all lit up and it was beautiful, the spectacular Library of Congress, and the powerful Martin Luther King Memorial. We also got to learn about jobs in FRS and in the FCC and what they do. Once again, I am very appreciative of this trip and strongly recommend all sixteen and seventeen-year-old teens to take advantage of this opportunity!"*

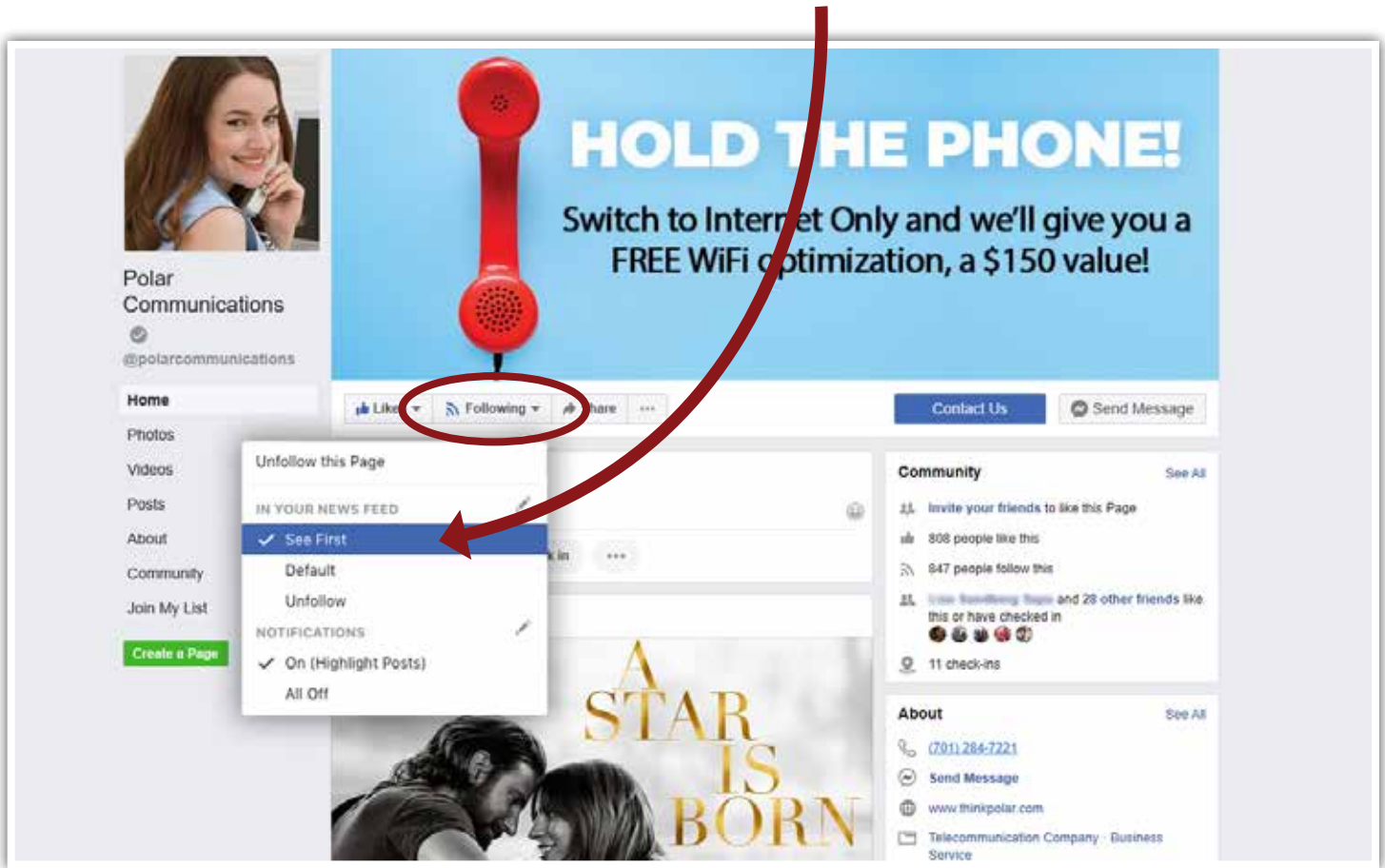
ATTENTION STUDENTS!

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@polar.net.

Polar Facebook Followers

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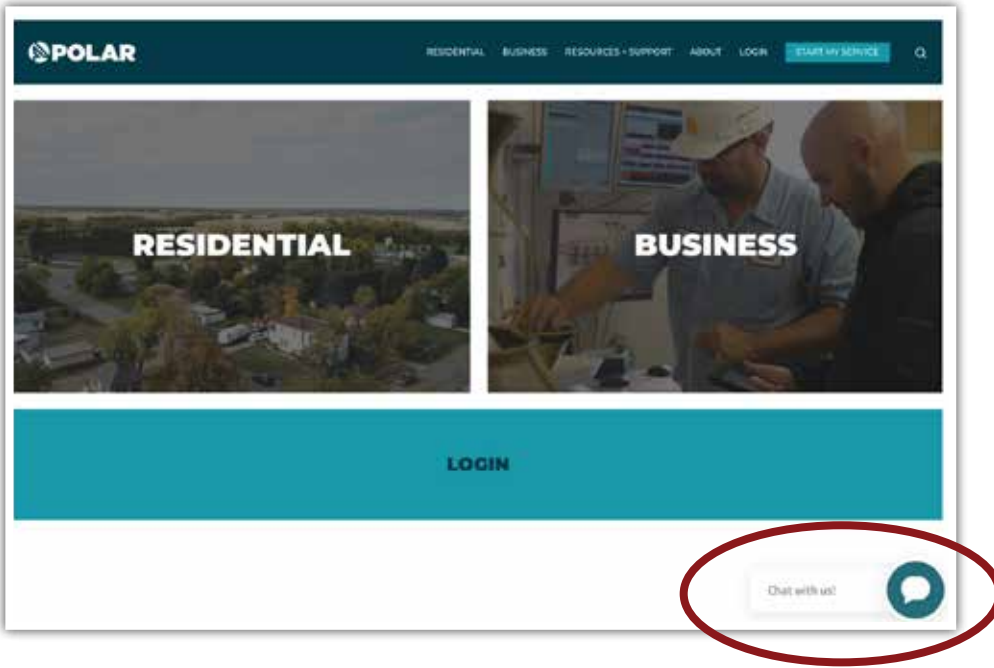


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DIRECTORY UPDATES

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|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------|
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| Base Utilities Inc | Cavalier Afs..... | 701-993-8143 |
| Bowlin Katie | 101 Garfield St Bathgate..... | 701-265-4297 |
| Carlson Gerald | 805 D Ave W Lakota..... | 701-247-2208 |
| Cavalier Transit Center | 214 Main St W Cavalier..... | 701-265-8100 |
| Evenson John M & Eunice | 301 County Road 12b Park River.... | 701-284-6824 |
| Fischer Chad & Laura | 17056 61 St SE Walcott..... | 701-998-2033 |
| Gagner Kyle M. | 601 Bjornson Dr 58220..... | 701-412-1501 |
| Hahn's Bakery | PO Box 328 Park River..... | 701-284-7713 |
| Hanson Alfred G | res Park River..... | 701-284-6311 |
| Haugen Gladys | 805 D Ave W Lakota..... | 701-247-2202 |
| Honeycutt Alan | res Pembina..... | 701-825-6601 |
| Hove Patricia A. | 704 Farup St Adams..... | 701-944-2403 |
| HP Properties LLC | 211 Main St W Cavalier..... | 701-265-4100 |
| Hunter C & I | 205 Main St Hunter..... | 701-874-2337 |
| Johnson Darryl | 221 2 St E Lakota..... | 701-247-2122 |
| Leshner Betty | res Mountain..... | 701-993-8486 |
| McFarland Melanie | res Drayton..... | 701-454-3536 |
| O'Connor Chris & Amanda | farm Cavalier..... | 701-265-3737 |
| Senior Citizens Foot Care Office | 214 Main St W Cavalier..... | 701-265-8715 |
| Stanfield Valerie | res Adams..... | 701-944-2492 |
| Tisdale Lowell | farm St Thomas..... | 701-257-6470 |
| Vaughn David & Brittany | 14357 98th St NE Cavalier..... | 701-265-4680 |
| Welch's DQ Grill & Chill | 305 Park St E Park River..... | 701-284-6799 |
| Wolf Brian & Polly | res Cavalier..... | 701-265-4095 |



POLAR

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CONNECTIONS

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Amber Meyer, St. Thomas
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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HOLD THE PHONE!

Phone service is no longer required to receive a broadband Internet connection from Polar. In fact, dropping your landline could save you about \$20 per month. Switch over to Internet Only before June 30 and we'll give you a FREE WiFi optimization, a \$150 value!

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