

polar connections

Summer 2023



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polar has a spiffy new look!

A better experience starts here

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annual meeting

The 71st annual member's meeting was held June 8, 2023, at the Park River American Legion Coliseum.

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employee news

Welcome to our four new team members!



A Better Experience Starts Here

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110 4th St. E | PO Box 270
Park River, ND 58270

www.polarcomm.com

Business Office:

701.284.7221 | 800.284.7222
customerservice@polartel.com

24/7/365 Help Desk

1-888-700-7652

Board of Directors:

Amber Meyer, St. Thomas
Lori Dahl, Lakota
Cynthia Hejl, Arthur
Brian Udby, Lankin
Chris Nelson, Edinburg
James Longtin, Neche
Wes Welch, Park River
Gordon Johnson, Cavalier
Dan Johnson, Hoople

Chief Executive Officer:

Karl Blake

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

On the cover:



Polar employees Christian Johnson, Jessica Bata, Ashley Askim, and Maci Schwalk ready to assist members with annual meeting registration.

There's a reason they call us "North Dakota tough." It's the same reason they call us "North Dakota nice." When our cloudless, big-sky summers turn to sub-zero winters, we respond with little more than a shrug, knowing our community will help us get through. We're always there for our neighbors—to give a friendly smile at the grocery store or help shovel them out.

When you live in a small town, community is everything. But times are changing, and some of our towns are shrinking. When faceless superstores replace our favorite mom-and-pop shops, young families move away for better jobs and opportunities, and big-name Internet providers focus their efforts everywhere but here, it can feel like the world is leaving this way of life behind.

But what if it didn't have to be that way? What if a local company saw the challenges our community faced and cared enough to solve them? One that pushed for innovation and saw the value in investing in the community—not just in fiber infrastructure, but in scholarships and grants that encouraged people to pursue their dreams right here at home?

There is. Meet Polar Communications.

More than 70 years ago, Polar Communications was founded by a group of everyday folks who saw a need for phone service that was going unmet—and took the initiative to bring it to their neighbors. This can-do attitude and commitment to our community has led us to become the leading telecommunications provider in our area today.

As a local cooperative, we are part of the fabric of the rural areas we serve. And we see it as our responsibility to help them thrive.

We are innovative early adopters who invest in new technologies that make our area a more attractive place to live and work. We listen to our customers and solve their challenges. And we give back however we can—volunteering our time with local nonprofits, providing grants to help entrepreneurs get their foot in the door, and funding scholarships to connect students with life-changing opportunities.

At Polar, we measure our success not in dollar bills, but in the difference we make.

Polar Communications.
A better experience starts here.



polar

The Polar Communications logo uses a semi-bold font, with a slight curvature on the corners to exude **flexibility** and **friendliness**. The cutouts in the O nod to polarity and magnetism – reflecting the balance between a local, **loyal** company with better-than-big-city **technology**. The slight tilt to the O and mirrored angles on the tails of the p and r, provide energy and movement to the mark, while representing Polar’s **innovative** approach and **wry** sense of humor.



The 71st annual meeting of members of Polar Communications was called to order by President Amber Meyer at 6:00 p.m. on June 8, 2023, at the Park River American Legion Coliseum, preceded by a welcome given by Park River Mayor Dan Stenvold; an invocation given by Director Cindy Hejl; the Pledge of Allegiance; an address to the membership by Randy Richards from Senator Cramer's office; an introduction of special guests in attendance by CEO Karl Blake; and the introduction of current board members by President Meyer.

Secretary Lori Dahl reported the official notice was mailed to all members on May 22, 2023, and there were 97 members registered prior to the start of the business and that a quorum was present, and business could be conducted.

President Meyer requested a motion to dispense with the reading of the 2022 annual members meeting minutes and approval as printed in the Polar Annual Report. Wes Welch moved these minutes be approved. Dan Johnson seconded the motion and it carried.

The rules of the meeting were presented by CEO Blake; subsequently President Meyer called for a motion to approve the rules

Annual Meeting

The 71st annual member's meeting was held June 8, 2023, at the Park River American Legion Coliseum.

of the meeting. Cindy Hejl moved to adopt the rules as presented in the Polar Annual Report. Jim Longtin seconded the motion and the motion carried.

A total of 100 members registered during the meeting. A total of 165 members/guests were served at the meal prior to the start of the business meeting.

Attorney DuBois explained the election process in accordance with the company by-laws. Polar members seeking re-election are Gordon Johnson (District 1), Chris Nelson (District 2) and Lori Dahl (District 3).

President Meyer requested a motion that a unanimous ballot be cast for Gordon Johnson (District 1), Chris Nelson (District 2) and Lori Dahl (District 3). Brian Udby moved that a unanimous ballot be cast and Wes Welch seconded the motion. The motion carried. Gordon Johnson was declared director of District #1 for a three-year term. Chris Nelson was declared director of District #2 for a three-year term. Lori Dahl was declared director of District #3 for a three-year term.

President Meyer and CEO Blake made a joint presentation to the members.

President Meyer and CEO Blake jointly presented 2023 John G. Walters Scholarship awards to:
Lydia Gauthier-Cavalier High school
Paige Gunderson-Cavalier High School
Kaylee Kemp- Cavalier High School
Emma Markusen-Park River Area Schools
Sophia Markusen-Park River Area Schools
Andrew Myrdal-Valley Edinburg High School
Sierra Schramm-Park River Area School
Nolan Severance-Northern Cass School
Mitchell Shirek-Park River Area School
Owen Zikmund- Park River Area School
Myah Jensen-Valley-Edinburg High School

Also receiving a 2023 John G. Walters Scholarships but not in attendance were:
Trenton Cosley-North Border
Mackenzie Motter-Hope-Page School
Calder Nelson-Lakota High School
Logan Wieler-Valley Edinburg School

Secretary-Treasurer Dahl reported to the members.

President Meyer called for any further business.

The meeting was adjourned by President Meyer upon a motion by Cindy Hejl and a second by Dan Johnson.

The winner of the \$500 prize drawing was Tom Cummings from Cavalier.



Those in attendance received their John G. Walters scholarship award.



Polar employees Stacey Loftsgard and Tim Olson direct traffic.



Directors Re-elected to Board

Gordon Johnson, Chris Nelson, and Lori Dahl were re-elected to the Polar Board of Directors at the annual meeting on Thursday, June 8, 2023. All three will serve a three-year term.



Gordon Johnson
Cavalier, District 1



Chris Nelson
Edinburg, District 2



Lori Dahl
Lakota, District 3



ENTER OUR Photo Contest!

Send us your favorite nature, landscape, and scenery photos within the Polar service territory to be featured on our directory cover and for use in other Polar marketing.

Winners will receive a \$25 bill credit.

Rules & Guidelines:

- Send up to 5 photos to marketing@polartel.com. Include your name and Polar phone or account number.
- You must be a current Polar customer to be eligible for selection.
- Photos should be in JPG format and preferably at least 300 DPI.

Contest Deadline: September 15, 2023

By submitting a photo, you agree to release freely and voluntarily with full knowledge that you are forgoing any right to claim damages of any kind for the use of your photographic image by Polar. You agree that Polar is authorized to use your photographic image in their marketing materials.



FOUNDATION FOR
RURAL SERVICE

FRS Youth Tour

Polar was proud to sponsor Hannah Myrdal of Edinburg and Lukas Reinhold of Larimore for this year's youth tour trip to Washington, DC.

LUKAS REINHOLD - Washington D.C. is a lot more than where the president lives, it's home to a vast history of our country ready to be explored by you. On the first day of the FRS youth tour we bused to the U.S. capitol building and saw amazing art detailing the country's past. The next stop was the senate building where we were given an opportunity to tour the senate offices of North Dakota. After leaving the senate offices we went to the Kennedy center to see the performance of Sheer Madness. The final stop of the day was a night tour of different memorials including Thomas Jefferson, MLK Jr, and Roosevelt memorial.

The first stop of the second day was the FCC, they were gracious enough to give us presentations on many of the jobs of the FCC. Once finished, we were moved to Washington's mount Vernon to tour his expansive estate. After that, we went to Bowlero as a chance to meet new people and make friends. We concluded the second day with more night tours of the different war memorials.

The beginning of the final day was a stop at Arlington National Cemetery. After a breathtaking tour we arrived at the L'enfant food court where we roamed to find food

North Dakota doesn't offer. The final stop of the entire tour was the Smithsonian Air and space museum, but we were also allowed to tour the other museums the city had to offer. Once we were bused back to the hotel we concluded the tour with a farewell dinner and a dance on the top floor.

HANNAH MYRDAL - This is my fourth trip to Washington DC and out of all of them this is one to remember. There are so many cool and amazing things we got to experience from learning about the history of national monument to a meeting with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). My favorite part of this trip was probably the dance on the final night, but that's always a weak spot of mine. Another memorable part of this trip was the capital tour and how after that we got to learn about how laws are made for the country.

There were 97 students from over 20 states that were selected for this trip and I can say everyone I met there was kind and you could strike a conversation out of nowhere. I will be forever grateful I was selected for this experience. Again thank you Polar Communications for giving me this experience."

Employee News



Ashley Askim

Ashley Askim joined Polar on March 1, as a Customer Service Representative. Her coworkers and the welcoming atmosphere are what she enjoys most about working for Polar. Ashley loves to go shopping with her girls and drink coffee. "You won't see me without a coffee cup in my hand." Born and raised in Minnesota, Ashley currently resides in Lankin, ND with her husband and two daughters.



Christian Johnson

Christian Johnson began on March 7, as a Customer Service Representative. Born and raised in TN, he recently relocated to the Park River area after friends continued to sing the praises of North Dakota, and the unique possibility to experience winters like no other. "Folks in the area have made it easy to acclimate, feel welcome, and lend a hand when a need comes up." Christian's favorite parts of his job are meeting customers and being able to help identify and fix any issues they may have. Hobbies include storm chasing, photography, hiking, playing/teaching music, and traveling.



Jason Troitte

Jason Troitte joined Polar on March 13, as a Business Technician. Jason brings telecommunications experience with him, as prior to coming to Polar he worked for Midco. In his free time, he enjoys cooking, grilling, hunting, archery and camping. Jason's favorite part of working for Polar are his coworkers. "Everyone has been inviting and polite and fun to talk to." Jason, his wife, and three children live in Portland, ND.



Andrew Hitchcock

Andrew Hitchcock joined Polar on May 22, as a Network Technician. Before coming to Polar, Andrew was enlisted in the Air Force. He was stationed at Grand Forks AFB as a system administrator for the high frequency global communication system and spent his last 12 months at Incirlik Air Base in Turkey as a Network Administrator. His favorite part of working for Polar is getting stopped to talk to Polar customers and retired employees on the road. "It's great to meet customers that recognize the Polar truck and are so welcoming when they find out I just started." Andrew's hobbies include barbeque, fishing, golf, and most recently frof. Originally from Clear Lake, IA, he currently resides in Grafton, ND.



Important Dates

July 4 - closed for Independence Day

July 17 - Polar TV service discontinued

September 1 - photo contest entries due

September 4 - closed for Labor Day





Slow Connection?

It might be your router.

Upgrading your router to the latest WiFi standard, such as WiFi 6 or WiFi 6E can significantly improve Internet speeds and ensure that you fully realize the speeds you should be receiving, across all your devices.

Older WiFi standards and outdated routers have limitations in terms of the maximum speed and bandwidth they can support. For example, older routers are only capable of transmitting data at speeds of up to several hundred Mbps, which is not sufficient for our modern high-speed fiber Internet connections. However, WiFi 6 and WiFi 6E are capable of delivering our gigabit speeds, which can support even the most demanding Internet applications, such as 4K video streaming, online gaming, and video conferencing for you work from folks.

At the center of your service is the GigaSpire BLAST router.

You're not going to find this in big box stores or online either. The GigaSpire BLAST is a fast, state-of-the-art system that is fully compatible with all your devices, from phones and laptops to entertainment systems and smart appliances. And the best part is that it's secured, managed, and supported by us, and incredibly easy to customize through the dedicated Polar WiFi mobile app. Plus, with features like content controls and network security built right in, your devices and family are protected at all times.

No Installation Fees!

premium wifi - \$9.95/month

It's time to upgrade to Polar WiFi with the GigaSpire Blast router.

If this all seems too technical you don't have to worry. Our Premium WiFi service takes all the complexity out of it for you. Our expert technicians will assess, install and optimize your entire home network. We ensure that your Internet speeds are fully realized and that all devices on your network are benefiting from faster speeds, increased bandwidth, improved efficiency, security, and better coverage.



Simple Bill Pay Options

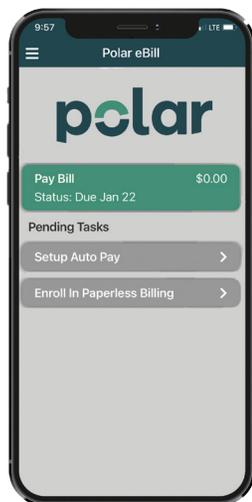
Auto Pay

Have your payment automatically deducted from your bank account or charged to your credit card each month. To keep you informed of your charges and long distance calls, we'll continue to send you an itemized statement each month that's marked "Bank Deduct - Do Not Pay" or "Credit Card".

Contact our office to sign up or visit our website at www.polarcomm.com/resources and complete the Automatic Payment Plan Form.

E-bill (Paperless)

Polar's eBill Mobile App provides a wide range of options for managing your Polar account. Pay your bill safely and securely, view your billing statements, check your usage, look up information from our online directory, and more!



Log in using your existing Polar E-Statement account username and password. If you don't have an account set up, use your most recent invoice to register by going to polarcomm.com and clicking on PAY MY BILL and then Register here.

Please contact us if you have any questions or need help setting up your Polar E-Statement account. We are open Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and can be reached at 701-284-7221 or customerservice@polartel.com.

DIRECTORY LISTING UPDATES

Beneda Abraham D.....	12520 60th St NE Lankin	701-593-6130
Bohle Sandra L.....	312 Thayer Ave Aneta	701-326-4166
Booen Cody.....	2828 19th Ave NE Arvilla	701-747-0980
Brusseau Maurice.....	107 Bjornson Dr Cavalier	701-265-3108
Callahan Trevor.....	104 S 3 St Drayton	701-454-3334
Clarin Gary T.....	6050 172nd Ave SE Walcott	701-998-2861
Cook Stephen.....	1482 17th St NE Grand Forks	701-746-5750
Cote David.....	608 4th Ave SW Lakota	701-247-2110
Crary Industries Inc.....	1809 Highway 81 S Grafton	701-352-1833
Farmers Union Insurance- Travis Rysavy		
.....	204 Main St N Lakota	701-247-2832
Fortin John.....	1462 11th Ave NE Grand Forks	701-772-0754
Getz Michael W.....	1904 150th St Wolverton	218-995-2730
Gillespie Vernon.....	301 County Road 12b Park River	701-284-6014
Haugen Deloise.....	res Lakota	701-247-2207
Haugland Cole M.....	218 2nd St E Lakota	701-247-2240
Hoselton Kyle.....	8661 156th Ave NE Drayton	701-454-3379
Jallo Jason H.....	12249 55th St NE Fordville	701-384-6202
Jon Rieger Daycare.....	475 Main Ave Walcott	701-469-2009
KMS Enterprises LLC.....	505 Old Highway 15 Northwood	701-587-1541
Kubat Lynn.....	301 County Road 12b Park River	701-284-6030
Lindseth Lynn.....	1736 9th Ave NE Thompson	701-599-2933
LMC Specialties LLC Db a Linn's Tex-Mex		
.....	709 Park St W Park River	701-284-7177
Maker Karen.....	1516 154th Ave Se Hunter	701-874-2255
Olson Oil.....	523 5th St Hoople	701-894-6367
Pembina County JDA.....	307 Main St W Cavalier	701-265-3195
Peterson Rodney.....	4 N Park St Northwood	701-581-3001
Pic Angeline.....	810 Park St W Park River	701-284-6243
Pic Gary & Renae.....	11151 County Road 15 Lawton	701-593-6243
Queen City Café.....	310 Main Ave Aneta	701-326-4141
RDK Enterprises Inc.....	Drayton	701-454-3313
Shannon Bonnie A.....	301 County Road 12b Park River	701-284-6035
Skoog Ryan R.....	17450 60th St SE Walcott	701-998-2064
Snyder Paul.....	401 W 1st Ave N Cavalier	701-265-3118
Sondreal Diane.....	Res Northwood	701-581-3003
Thorsgard Ben.....	107 1st Ave Northwood	701-581-3010
Tollefson Vernon & Kristi.....	Res Hoople	701-894-6583
UND Aerospace Foundation ..	1235 24th St NE Emerado	701-747-0610
Vadnie Fred D.....	102 Cottonwood St Galesburg	701-488-2666
Vinson Troy W.....	2010 20th St NE Grand Forks	701-747-0987
Wild Magnolias.....	411 Briggs Ave S Park River	701-284-7220



Whether commercial or personal, summer projects often mean digging. But what happens if you damage a utility? The cost could mean thousands of dollars in repairs and fines. Soon, that little project is a big project. There is a free solution – Call 811! Let them know of your project and all your underground utilities will be located and marked so you can avoid damage.

**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

Know what's below. Call before you dig or visit call811.com



PO Box 270 | 110 4th St E
Park River, ND 58270

Assistance Programs

Helping Households Connect

Affordable Connectivity Program

The Affordable Connectivity Program is a Federal Communications Commission program that helps connect families and households struggling to afford Internet service. This benefit provides a discount of up to \$30 per month toward broadband Internet service for eligible households, and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands.

Eligible households can enroll through Polar Communications or directly with the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) at www.affordableconnectivity.gov.

You can learn more about the benefit, including eligibility and enrollment information, by visiting www.getinternet.gov or by calling 877-384-2575.

Lifeline

Lifeline is a federal program that helps lower the monthly cost of your phone or Internet service by up to \$9.25/month. If you live on Tribal Lands, you may receive an additional discount toward your service.

You qualify for a discount if you participate in any one of these government programs or your income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Medicaid
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)
- Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

Apply online at lifelinesupport.org

Minnesota TAP

Minnesota's Telephone Assistance Plan (TAP) offers a monthly credit on your landline telephone service for customers in Minnesota. This program is administered and supervised by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission of the Department of Commerce."

Apply online at mn.gov/puc/consumers/telephone