

polar connections

Winter 2023



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building community

Helping our rural areas thrive through scholarships, grants, and donations.

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capital credits

Coop margins are returned to member-owners in the form of capital credits. Learn how the process works.

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attention students!

Apply for scholarships and a trip to Washington, DC.



Polar Employees Donate to Park River Senior Center

Casual Clothes for Charity Program

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This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

On the cover:



Our vehicles have a new look! Watch for the transition to happen over the next year.



Since 2008, Polar employees have donated over \$44,000 to local groups, organizations and charities through their Casual Clothes for Charity Program. Each month participating employees pay \$5 for the opportunity to wear jeans to work on Fridays. At the end of the year, employees submit a charity of their choice for the funds to be given to. One charity is selected at random and this year's recipient is the Park River Senior Center, nominated by Polar employee Shelly Dub.

The Senior Center provides congregate and home delivered meals, serving 50-80 area residents per day.

The Senior Center received \$5,800, which includes Polar matching the funds collected from employees! Pictured above is Polar employee Shelly Dub and Park River Senior Center cook and manager Heather Swartz.

We are happy to have the opportunity to give back to the communities in which we live and work!



building community

Building community is one of our brand values. As a local business, we are part of the community—and we have a responsibility to help these rural areas thrive. We provide jobs, essential communications services, and fund initiatives that make our home a better place to live. So far in 2023, Polar has contributed over \$173,600 in scholarships, grants, and donations to these local groups and organizations. By displaying commitment and pride in and for our company and our customers, we will continue to help grow the communities in which we serve.

Adams Fire Department
Adams Quick Response
Aggie Academy Youth Basketball
Aggie Boosters Tailgating
Aneta Ambulance
Aneta Booster Club
Aneta Fire Department
Aneta Parkview Health Center
Aronia Berry Festival, Arthur
Arthur Fire Department
Arthur Market
Bathgate Fire Department
Borg Pioneer Memorial Home
Boy Scouts of America
Brocket Fire Department
Bully Brew Coffee, Park River
Cass County 4-H
Cavalier Ambulance
Cavalier Area Chamber Of Commerce
Cavalier City Park
Cavalier Community Foundation
Cavalier Fire Department
Cavalier Motorcycle Ride-in
Cavalier School After Prom Party
Cavalier School Yearbook
Cavalier Public School Yearbook
Century Elementary School
CHI Friendship
Christine Fire Department
Christine Quick Response
Clifford Fire Department
Community Helpers Group - Grafton
Community of Care, Cass County
Crystal Fire Department
Crystal Quick Response
Dahlen Fire Department
Dakota Prairie School After Prom Party
Dakota Prairie School Yearbook
Dakota Prairie Trap Team Boosters
Devon Grube Memorial Golf
Drayton Ambulance
Drayton Fire Department
Drayton School After Prom Party
Drayton School Yearbook
Eagle Ridge Motorcycle Club
Edinburg Fire Department
Edinburg Quick Response
Edmore Ambulance
Edmore Fire Department
Edmore Memorial Rest Home
Fairdale Community Center
Fairdale Fire Department
Farm Rescue
First Care Health Center
Fordville Fire Department
Fordville Quick Response
Fordville-Lankin School Yearbook
Four Seasons Garden Club

Friends of the Cavalier Public Library
Galesburg Fire Department
Galesburg Quick Response
Gilby Fire Department
Gilby Quick Response
Good Samaritan Society, Arthur
Good Samaritan Society, Lakota
Good Samaritan Society, Park River
Grafton Ambulance
Grafton Baseball
Grafton Fire Departments
Grafton Parks and Recreation
Grafton Scholarship Organization
Growing Hope in Pembina County
Hatton-Northwood After Prom Party
Hoople Fire Department
Hoople Quick Response
Hope-Page After Prom Party
Hunter Ambulance
Hunter Fire Department
Icelandic Communities Association
Icelandic Heritage Connection Trail
Icelandic State Park Kids Weekend
Inkster Fire Department
Inkster Quick Response
Lakota Ambulance
Lakota Easter Carnival
Lakota Fire Department
Lakota High School Close-Up
Lakota High School SADD
Lakota Oktoberfest
Lakota Rock Creek Golf Course
Lankin Fire Department
Lankin Quick Response
Larimore High School After Prom Party
Linn's Tex Mex, Park River
Lutheran Sunset Home, Grafton
Marketplace for Kids
Michigan Ambulance
Michigan Community Club
Michigan/Whitman Fire Department
Midway Public School After Prom Party
Minto Public School After Prom Party
Minto Public School 3-on-3 Basketball
Mountain Fire Department
Mountain Quick Response
MS Suicide Prevention Motorcycle Ride In
National Child Safety Council
ND 4-H Foundation
NDSU Extension
NDSU Foundation
Neché Fire Department
Neché Public Pool
Neché Quick Response
Nekoma Fire Department
Nekoma Quick Response
Nelson County 4-H
Nelson County Health Services Foundation

Nelson County Sheriff's Office K9 Program
Niagara Fire Department
North Border Pembina After Prom Party
North Border Yearbook
North Dakota 4-H Foundation
North Dakota Community Foundation
North Star Youth Hockey
North Valley Career & Tech Center
Northern Cass Dollars for Scholars
Northern Cass Robotics Team
Northern Cass School PL Institute
Northern Lights Council, BSA
Northern Valley Human Services
Northwood Ambulance
Northwood Fire Department
Northwood Deaconess
Off The Charts Music Festival
Park River Ambulance
Park River American Legion
Park River Area School After Prom Party
Park River Area School Yearbook
Park River Arena Commission
Park River Baseball Boosters
Park River Community Club
Park River Figure Skaters
Park River Fire Department
Park River Parks & Rec.
Pembina County Backpack Program
Pembina County Fair
Pembina County Memorial Hospital Foundation
Pembina County Food Pantry
Pembina Fire Department
Pembina Quick Response
Petersburg Fire Department
Pisek Fire Department
Queen City Cafe, Aneta
Richland 44 Dollars for Scholars
Save the Fountain, Park River
Sons of the American Legion, Lankin
St. Thomas Fire Department
St. Thomas Quick Response
Special Olympics North Dakota
State Historical Society of ND Foundation
Steele County 4-H
Super Santa Saturday, Park River
UND Foundation
Unity Medical Center Foundation
Valley Edinburg School After Prom Party
Valley-Edinburg Boosters
Valley-Edinburg Schools Imagination Library
Walcott Fire Department
Walcott Quick Response
Walhalla Area Chamber Of Commerce
Walsh County Employee Appreciation
Walsh County Fair Association
Walsh County Historical Society
Wedgewood Manor

How Capital Credits Work

Capital credits are dividends paid to our membership. Each June and December, Polar Communications pays capital credits to its members, depending on the company's financial well-being. Capital credits may be paid out in full at the age of 75 or to the estate of a deceased person. Polar Communications has returned almost \$30 million in capital credits to members since its inception in 1952.



Polar Communications tracks the services each member has with us throughout the year.



At the end of each year, Polar completes its financials and determines patronage source income based on company policy.



Polar Communications allocates patronage source income to members as capital credits.



The board of directors reviews the capital credit allocations and determines how much to return in capital credits to members based on the financial condition of the company.



Polar Communications notifies members of how and when capital credits will be returned.

Because members are owners, margins are returned in the form of capital credits. In order to keep receiving capital credits earned, it is important that you keep your current address up-to-date with us. You can search using our online tool at polarcomm.com/capital-credits to determine if you have unclaimed capital credits.

Cooperatives are part of the fabric of rural America. The member owners control the cooperative. Members of the cooperative can directly vote in elections for the Board of Directors or even become a member of the Board.

Starting in the 1930s, the U.S. Department of Agriculture supported communities as they created more than 900 electric cooperatives across the country. In the 1950s, the federal government again supported communities building telephone networks, crisscrossing the country with telephone cooperatives to connect rural communities.

Each technology brought new markets, revitalized economies, and revolutionized industries. Co-ops have a long history of building and maintaining essential infrastructure and providing excellent service in rural communities.

it pays to be a co-op member

Capital credits were disbursed as a credit on the December 2023 billing statements. Members receiving \$401 or more, and businesses with multiple accounts, were mailed a check. Capital credits paid out this December were from 2006 & 2007 margins. Polar returned \$2.8 million to its co-op members this year.

Congratulations!

Service Award Recipients

These employees are being recognized for their milestone years of service. We would like to congratulate all of them and thank them for their loyal and dedicated service to Polar and the telecommunications industry.



Shelly Dub
35 years



Lisa Olson
30 years



Dale Holand
30 years



Tim Olson
25 years



Kristin Shea
20 years



Jim Praska
20 years



Angie Schroeder
20 years



Craig Thorsell
20 years



Jessica Bata
15 years

Photo Contest Winner!

Thank you to everyone who entered our photo contest!

Participants were asked to send us their 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.

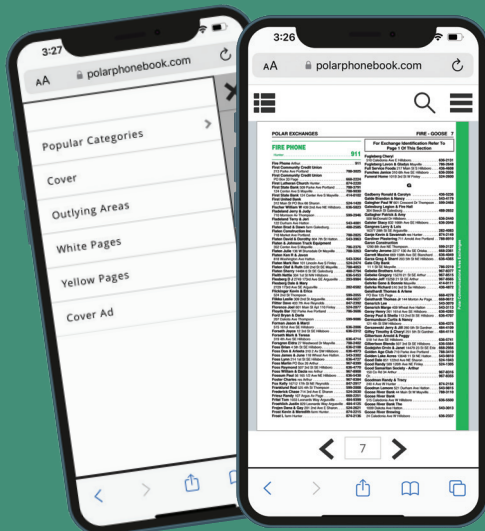
We received 81 submissions and employees were asked to vote for their favorite. The winning photo was taken by Mary Lou Swiscoski from Pembina, North Dakota. She received a \$25 bill credit and her photo will be featured on the cover of our upcoming directory.

2024 Polar Directories

You will soon be receiving your new Polar directory in the mail. Extra copies can be obtained at our office in Park River. Please let us know if you receive more directories than you need and we will update your account for next year.



Old directories may be recycled by dropping them off at our Park River office.



View the Polar directory online at www.polarphonebook.com



Polar Welcomes New Employees



Chelsey Waslaski



Zach Greskowiak

Chelsey Waslaski began on November 6, as a Customer Service Representative. Chelsey has an associate degree in Veterinary Technology and spent eight years as a Veterinary Technician at Golden Valley Veterinary Clinic in Park River. She most recently worked for Safe-T-Pull, Park River as the Inventory and Shipping Manager.

Chelsey, her husband, and their three sons reside in Park River. They enjoy camping, fishing, and hunting.

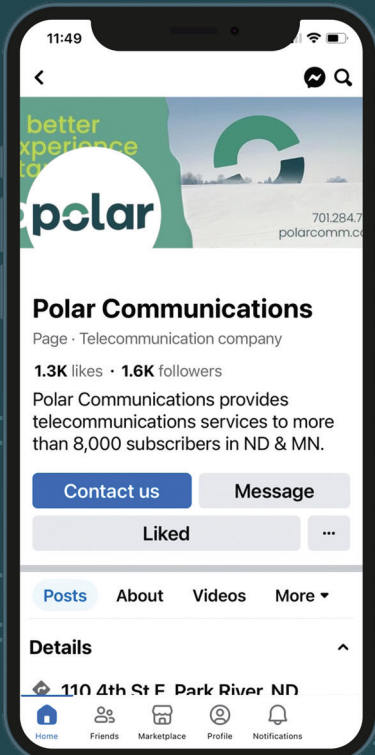
Zach Greskowiak joined the Polar team on November 13, as a Business Technician. Zach graduated from the University of Minnesota Institute of Technology with a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry. He has worked for the University of Minnesota, International Chemtex Corporation, and American Red Cross. His most recent role was working for Grifols Diagnostic Solutions as a Field Service Engineer.

Zach recently moved from Portland, Oregon and now resides in Grafton where he is originally from. In his free time he enjoys hiking, art, photography, and watching sports.

Welcome Chelsey & Zach!

WE'RE GROWING, consider a career with us! Check out polarcomm.com/careers

Connect with us on Social Media



FACEBOOK:
Polar Communications



INSTAGRAM:
@polarcommunications



LINKEDIN:
Polar Communications



YOUTUBE:
@PolarCommunicationsParkRiver

Scholarship Opportunities

In support of continuing education for rural youth, Polar Communications and its subsidiaries are pleased to offer high school students the opportunity to apply for the following scholarships:

FOUNDATION FOR RURAL SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM:

The foundation annually awards scholarships to graduating high school students for their first year of college or vocational school. All applicants require partnership with an NTCA—The Rural Broadband Association member company, of which Polar is a member, to be eligible.

FRS has awarded over \$1 million in scholarships since its inception; empowering students across the country to advance their communities with invaluable skill sets and experiences.

In cooperation with NTCA—The Rural Broadband Association and its members, FRS seeks to sustain and enhance the quality of life in America by advancing an understanding of rural issues. Through its various programs and initiatives, FRS strongly supports the continuing education of rural youth.

One application qualifies students for nine scholarships!

Application deadline is February 16, 2024

POLAR JOHN G. WALTERS SCHOLARSHIP:

Named after Polar's first general manager, the John G. Walters Scholarship in the amount of \$2,000 each will be awarded to fifteen graduating high school seniors from our service area who plan on continuing their education at an accredited 2-year or 4-year college/university or vocational-technical school. Parents or guardians must be Polar customers in good standing of voice or Internet service.

Application deadline is March 1, 2024.

Applications can be found online at polarcomm.com or from your high school guidance counselor.



Experience Your Nation's Capital with the FRS Youth Tour

High School students ages 15, 16 or 17, apply for the Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., June 3-7, 2024.

The Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) Youth Tour brings more than 100 high school students and chaperones from rural communities across the nation to Washington, DC, for five days to learn about legislative and agency processes and the important role of broadband services in rural communities. This unique educational experience provides an opportunity to visit Washington, DC, meet high school students from other states, and tour historical sites while also learning about Capitol Hill and the Federal government.

While on the Youth Tour, students and chaperones will:

- Tour famous historical sites and monuments, including Arlington National Cemetery, Mt. Vernon, Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and World War II Memorial
- Visit Smithsonian Museums
- Meet with Federal Communications Commission and Congressional staff
- Attend a play at the Kennedy Center
- Build relationships with peers that can last a lifetime
- Develop leadership skills



All expenses paid by

polar

Download your application at
polarcomm.com/about-us/#scholarships

Contact us with questions:

701.284.4361 or athompson@polartel.com

Application deadline is March 1, 2024.

Parents or guardians must be a voice or broadband Internet customer in good standing of Polar Communications or its subsidiaries. Students must be a high school student age 15, 16 or 17 at the time of the Youth Tour. FRS will not accept any student age 18 or over. The Youth Tour is hosted in partnership with Polar Communications and the Foundation for Rural Service, a non-profit organization whose programs advance rural communities by focusing on education for rural youth, encouraging community development and introducing policymakers to the challenges of providing broadband services in rural communities. Students participating in the Youth Tour will be under the supervision of chaperones and FRS staff at all times.

Power Backup Notice

If your home phone service is provided with our state-of-the-art fiber optic network, it requires electric power to operate. To avoid a disruption of home voice service during a power outage – and to maintain the ability to connect to 911 emergency services – we at Polar Communications recommend you purchase backup battery power.

Where to Obtain Your Backup Battery

Polar Communications would like to ensure that our customers are offered reliable backup batteries that allow you to continue to use your home voice services during a power outage. We sell an 8-hour and 24-hour backup battery to power your Polar Communications demarcation equipment in the event of a power outage. All the backup batteries we sell include a manufacturer's warranty.

What Your Backup Battery Can – and Can't – Do for You

The 8-hour backup battery sold by Polar Communications is expected to last at up to 8 hours on standby power which equates to approximately 6 hours of talk time. Our 24-hour battery is expected to provide 24 hours of standby power and approximately 18-hours of talk time. The backup battery does not provide power to any services other than voice. Home security systems, medical monitoring devices, routers and other equipment will not run on a home phone backup battery. The backup battery does not power your phone handsets that may separately require power. You must have a phone capable of being plugged into a jack and running off the backup battery should your home power fail.

Proper Care and Use of Your Battery

The ability of the backup battery to power your phone service can be affected by many factors including the age of your battery, improper home wire groundings and unprotected power surges, manufacturer defect, improper storage conditions, or failure to keep the power pack plugged in. Environmental factors such as temperature can shorten your battery's useful life. We recommend that you store your battery above 41°F and below 104°F. Our batteries are rechargeable and provide both an audible alarm and LED lights to indicate bad battery, low battery, and utility line power failure. Batteries that continue to indicate a malfunctioning alarm despite the battery being plugged into a working power outlet may indicate that the battery has failed and needs to be replaced. Testing of your battery may be conducted by unplugging the unit to confirm that it is functioning as intended.

Directory Updates

Agri Valley Insurance Inc.....	410 Main St Arthur	701-967-8572
Agvise Research Inc.....	3671 5th Ave NE Northwood	701-581-3002
Anderson Scott D.....	503 5th St Crystal	701-657-2104
Bordertown Retail Systems, Inc....	Neche	701-886-7626
City Of Inkster.....	323 University Ave Inkster	701-865-4150
Dub Margaret A.....	301 County Road 12b Park River	701-284-7722
Gronhovd Wesley.....	510 Main St Nekoma	701-949-2886
Gylden Wallace.....	4 N Park St Northwood	701-581-3033
Hunter Insurance Agency Inc.....	201 Main St Hunter	701-874-2122
Johnson Wallace.....	2012 Myrtle Ave Hoopl	701-894-6211
Lakota Farm Services.....	210 Main St N Lakota	701-247-2468
Longtine Peggy.....	306 E 3rd Ave S Cavalier	701-265-4567
Rymer Sara.....	3851 14th Ave NE Larimore	701-343-3079



The 988 Lifeline is a national network of local crisis centers that provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in the United States.



Experience the ultimate winter wonderland.

Enjoy the magic of the holidays with the ultimate internet experience this season.

Connection Matters.

The best WiFi experience is the one that's always connected and managed for you.

From the world's most powerful WiFi to network security and parental controls, this is as advanced as WiFi gets. Experience fast, consistent service anywhere in your home and control it all with the Polar WiFi app.

Fully serviced. Fully supported. And now, fully yours. To learn more visit, polarcomm.com/services/broadband-wifi/



polar



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

Wishing you a wonderful
holiday season and
happy new year!



holiday hours

Closed: Monday, December 25, 2023

Closed: Monday, January 1, 2024

Our 24/7/365 support line is always available to assist you at 1-888-700-7652.