



CONNECTIONS

PUBLISHED BY POLAR COMMUNICATIONS AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES

newsletter

SPRING | 2019

Happenings

Scholarship Applications Due

Friday, February 15

Director Applications Due

Friday, March 22

Office Closing at Noon

Employee Training
Thursday, April 4

Office Closed 11:30-12:30

Employee Training
Tuesday, May 7

Annual Members Meeting

Thursday, June 6



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)

24/7/365 Technical Support

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Polar Awards Grants to Area Schools

Polar Communications recently awarded two schools in their service territory almost \$5,000 in Polar Technology Grants. Polar's Technology Grant provides funding for PK-12 schools enabling the purchase of hardware, software, contracted services and other technologies that target student achievement through technology integration. Applicants were required to submit their proposals, including an overview of their project abstract, goals, narrative, and budget information. Accredited PK-12 schools in Polar's service territory were eligible to apply. Polar Communications awards up to \$5,000 per year, with each grant not to exceed \$2,500.

Schools winning the 2018-19 Polar Technology Grants were Northern Cass Public School, "SWIVL/ Personalized Learning" - \$2,200 and St. Thomas Public School, "Bringing the World and its Endless Possibilities through Virtual Reality" - \$2,500.

This is the 11th year that Polar has provided this grant to schools they serve, totaling almost \$55,000 given to enhance technology in the classroom. Polar is proud to invest in our schools and the communities providing value for the future.



Northern Cass Superintendent Dr. Cory Steiner, Polar Board Member Cindy Hejl and Northern Cass Instructor Darin Eller.



St. Thomas Principal Kevin Beaudoin, St. Thomas Instructor Bridgette Clauser and Polar Board Member Amber Meyer.

Polar Welcomes Kyle Ferguson



Polar is pleased to announce the addition of Kyle Ferguson to its team. Kyle was hired as a Combination Technician. His duties include a wide range of exchange operations, including maintenance, and servicing of telephone lines, instruments, cable, terminals, protection devices, and related equipment.

Kyle grew up and attended school in Park River. Before coming to Polar he worked for Long Range Contracting doing fiber cut-overs. His hobbies include hunting, fishing and sports.

Welcome Kyle!

Kristi Gullickson Promoted to Information Technology Supervisor



Polar is pleased to announce that Kristi Gullickson has been promoted to Information Technology Supervisor. Kristi started with Polar in May of 2001 as a Network Specialist, working with advanced business services in the Special Services Department. In October 2011, she moved to the role of Network Administrator overseeing the internal network, software, systems, and equipment. Her new role as the Information Technology Supervisor will include internal network functions as well as Managed IT services for business customers.

Kristi is a Park River native and has a Bachelor of Science in Information Networking Management from the University of Minnesota. She and her family live in rural Hoople.

Kelly Houser Receives 2018 Eagle Award



Kelly Houser has been named Polar Communications' Eagle Award recipient for 2018. He has been with the company for 23 years, beginning in May of 1996. Kelly works as a cable splicer and his duties include installing, maintaining, testing, and repairing of fiber optic cable.

Kelly was nominated for this distinguished award and voted on by his peers, based on the following qualifications: goes above and beyond normal job responsibilities, will do whatever it takes to get the job done, provides new and creative ideas, shows outstanding company dedication, demonstrates teamwork and accepts challenges, is involved in the community and/or volunteer work, demonstrates outstanding customer service and/or assistance, and promotes a positive attitude.

Congratulations Kristi & Kelly!

Applications Being Accepted for Board of Directors

Applications for the Polar Communications Board of Directors will be accepted for the election to be held during Polar's Annual Members Meeting on June 6, 2019. Positions to be filled are as follows:

District 1 – Position currently held by Amber Meyer is up for re-election.

District 2 – Position currently held by Jon McMillan is up for re-election.

District 3 – Position currently held by Cindy Hejl is up for re-election.

POLAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINATION PROCEDURE STEPS:

1. Any qualified member meeting the requirements of Section 3, Article IV of the company by-laws may request an application and petition from the cooperative headquarters. The forms can be picked up at Polar's front desk or can be found on Polar's website at www.thinkpolar.com.
2. Members shall submit a completed application and a petition containing a minimum of thirty (30) signatures of cooperative members from the district in which the applicant resides. Please note that a husband and wife constitute one membership. Either spouse may sign the petition as a member; however, the signature of a husband and wife on the petition may only be counted as one.
3. Completed applications and petitions should be submitted by March 22, 2019, at 4:00p.m. to Polar Communications, Attn: Shari Flanders, PO Box 270, Park River, ND, 58270. Please contact Shari at 701.284.4343 with questions or email sflanders@polartel.com.
4. All nominations by petition are subject to verification. Once verification is complete, the candidate will be notified and their name will appear on the ballot at Polar's Annual Members Meeting.

To find the service areas that make up each district, please refer to Article IV, Section 2 of the bylaws of Polar Communications found in your telephone directory.

Protect Yourself with Strong Passwords

Are you still using the original or default password on your polarcomm.com email account? Have you started using a different email account and seldom use your polarcomm.com email account? If you answered "yes" to either of these questions, your polarcomm.com email account is in danger of being hacked.

There has been a surge of hackers cracking weak passwords and compromising email accounts. This opens a door where tremendous damage can be done, including reading your email, spoofing your information, and gaining access to your online accounts such as banking and credit cards.

You need a strong password to protect yourself online. It may be easier to use a short, easy-to-remember password, but this can pose serious risks to your online security. To protect yourself and your information, you'll want to use passwords that are long, strong, and difficult for someone else to guess, while still keeping them relatively easy for you to remember.

Data breaches are out of your control, and as your service provider we are dodging hundreds or thousands of email spam opportunities on our server every single day. By creating strong passwords you will be more likely to withstand hackers' cracking techniques. The longer your password, the harder it is to crack. Your password should be in the form of a passphrase using a minimum of 8 alphanumeric characters that include: both upper- and lower-case letters, at least one number and at least one special character (for example, !\$%^&*()_+|~-=\{}[]:;';<>?,/). There is a maximum password length of 40 alphanumeric characters. Don't use the same password for multiple accounts and consider using a password manager.

Remember, your passwords protect your online identity and related accounts. It is critical that you use a strong password to protect yourself.



Win a trip to

WASHINGTON DC

**High School students, age 16 or 17, apply for the
2019 Foundation for Rural Service Youth Tour
in Washington, D.C., June 1-5, 2019!**



ALL EXPENSES PAID PLUS \$50 SPENDING CASH!

Sponsored by Polar Communications

THE FRS YOUTH TOUR:

- Offers rural students an inside look at the telecommunications industry.
- Educates students about the legislative and governmental process.
- Gives students the opportunity to experience the nation's capital and visit famous historical sites, including the Lincoln Memorial, the U.S. Capitol, Mount Vernon and Arlington National Cemetery.
- Allows students to meet youth from rural areas across the country, develop leadership skill and help point their communities toward the future.

Download an application at www.thinkpolar.com/scholarships

To qualify send your completed application and essay to:

Polar Communications
Attn: Carol LaHaise
PO Box 270
Park River, ND 58270

Deadline is March 1, 2019!

Questions: 701.284.4361 or clahaise@polartel.com

Parents or Guardians must be a voice or broadband customer of Polar Communications or its subsidiaries. Students must be a high school student ages 16 or 17 at the time of the Youth Tour. FRS will not accept any student age 18 or over.

Directory Advertising Sales

Sales executives from Pinnacle Marketing Group will be in our area soon to sell advertising for the official 2019–20 Polar directory. When you advertise in the Polar directory your ad will automatically be featured in our online directory at no additional charge! All website and email addresses are linked. Both the printed and online directories are great tools to connect with your customers and increase visibility. Get the most out of your advertising investment by placing an ad in the Polar Yellow Pages and online directory. For more information regarding advertising, contact Pinnacle Marketing Group at 800.343.8086 or visit www.pinnaclempg.com.



Gregory Meyer



Rod Wentzel



Kelly Gordon

NDATC announces launch of new brand as BAND: Broadband Association of North Dakota

The North Dakota Association of Telecommunication Cooperatives (NDATC), an organization representing members of North Dakota's independent telecommunication industry, including Park River, ND - based Polar Communications, announced today the launch of a new brand and identity. The organization will now be known as BAND: Broadband Association of North Dakota.

Polar Communications is one of eighteen member organizations that are part of BAND. The change in name reflects the commitment of the member organizations to evolve with the communication needs of North Dakotans, with an important shift from telephone to broadband.

"As communication has shifted globally, our services have, too," said Karl Blake, CEO/General Manager. "We wanted our name to reflect that. It's no longer about telephone — it's about broadband."

BAND was formed sixty-five years ago when a group of North Dakota telephone cooperatives met at the Patterson Hotel in Bismarck. Their mission: to guard against unfavorable legislation, and to ensure the highest quality communication systems were available across North Dakota.

This mission has carried the organization through a revolutionary era of communication. At the time of the association's creation, a majority of rural North Dakota residents had party-line service, wires were strung from pole to pole and "long distance" calls were

prohibitively expensive. Today, rural areas of the state have access to some of the fastest and most affordable broadband technology found anywhere in the United States.

As communication methods evolved around the world, BAND and its member organizations have evolved with them. In the past decade, Polar Communications has laid 4,086 miles of fiber across North East North Dakota.

"BAND and our member organizations have changed a lot in the past 65 years," said Karl Blake, CEO/General Manager. "But what hasn't changed is our commitment to working together, staying innovative, and providing unparalleled service."

Today, BAND and its member organizations continue to build off of their 65-year-old promise: to evolve with the needs of its subscribers "at the end of the line." Together, they are ensuring North Dakota is the most connected state in the U.S.

"We don't know what services and technologies customers will use in the future," said BAND executive Vice President David Crothers, "but we do know that it will be broadband and Internet-based and it will require more capacity and more speed in more places. Polar Communications and the other independent broadband providers in North Dakota are committed to meeting that challenge just as we have done for the last 65 years."

BAND

broadband association of north dakota

PICK-IT MARCH MANIA



It's soon college basketball season and Polar is hosting a Pick-It March Mania contest this year! All customers are invited to participate in this fun, free online contest. You can play Polar March Mania with your friends and neighbors and have the chance to win great prizes, all for free! Sign up begins in March.

Watch for
more information
coming soon!

Pick-It Bowl Challenge Winners



Polar is pleased to announce the winners of the Pick-It Bowl Challenge college football contest. Out of 95 participants in the community, Angela DuBois of Edinburg earned the most points in the contest and was awarded a 55" UHD Samsung TV. Ross Langerud of Edinburg came in second place and won a \$100 MasterCard gift card and Warren Hillukka of Pembina and Dianne Berg of Cavalier were randomly selected for the Wildcard drawings and each won a \$50 MasterCard gift card. Thanks to all who participated!

TV Updates



The following channels are now included in the Digital Basic lineup:

- 104 QVC SD
- 697 QVC HD
- 108 PBS2 Lifelong Learning
- 109 MeTV
- 120 Trinity Broadcast Network
- 121 Eternal Word Network



The Cowboy Channel HD has been added to the Digital Expanded Basic package - CHANNEL 699

CPNI Privacy Notice



From time to time Polar changes its service offerings and makes available additional features and services, which may enhance and augment the services to which you are already subscribed. In order for us to determine which customers may benefit from the new services and enhancements, we will use information about your account that is within our database, legally referred to as Customer Proprietary Network Information (CPNI) unless you restrict that use in the manner described below. CPNI includes information such as which long distance carrier and plan to which you are subscribed, calling features and plans to which you are subscribed, and the associated charges for those plans. Use of this data will allow Polar to tailor its service offerings to your individual needs.

For this purpose, CPNI data will be used by Polar Communications, its subsidiaries, and affiliates only. This data will not be shared by Polar Communications with any other outside source except as necessary and required to provide the service(s) to which you are already subscribed, and unless we are legally compelled to.

You have a right under federal law to protect the confidentiality of your account information and restrict the use of CPNI data, and we have a responsibility to protect your data. To restrict the use of your CPNI data, you must contact our business office at 701-284-7221 or sales@polarcomm.com within 30 days of your receipt of this notice to request that we not utilize your CPNI data. Your denial of approval for Polar to use this data will not affect the provision of any services to which you subscribe. Your approval or denial of approval for the use of CPNI outside of the service to which you already subscribe will remain valid until you revoke or limit the approval or denial.



Clip this page and keep it with your Polar directory

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Ameriprise - TruStone Wealth Mgmt	211 Main St W Cavalier..	701-265-4100
Arnot Jim	res Neche.....	701-886-7420
Bridell Jeff & Rebecca	120 Harris Ave S Park River.....	701-284-6254
Diseth Josh	502 S Lincoln St Edmore	701-644-2276
Hennes Thomas	100 Park St W Cavalier	701-265-4029
Heuchert Josh & Kathlyn	res Cavalier	701-265-4485
Larman Mari K.	1015 Dale Ave Hoople	701-894-6364
Lil' Spuds Childcare	2040 Myrtle Ave Hoople.....	701-894-6100
Litarowsky Robert	301 Division Ave S Cavalier.....	701-265-4391
Martin Bernie & Jenny	7427 114 Ave NE Fairdale.....	701-966-2206
Morten Derek & Brittany	843 43 St NE Aneta.....	701-326-4120
Nel Ewert & Karla	602 N Main St Edmore.....	701-644-2244
Setness Maureen K.	401 Regina Ct Park River.....	701-284-6662
Slettebak Andrew J	farm Petersburg.....	701-345-8522
Steenerson B	res Drayton.....	701-454-3992
Sunde M A	res Edinburg	701-993-8467
Symington Lance	farm Neche.....	701-886-7754
Symintgon Jay D	res Neche.....	701-886-7712
Weixel Vincent & Billy Jo	15993 Cty 11 Drayton.....	701-454-3430
Wilson Richard K	res Clifford.....	701-488-2219

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POLAR

Polar Communications | Polar Telcom
Polar Cablevision | Wolverton Telephone Co.
PO Box 270 | Park River, ND 58270

CONNECTIONS

Published by Polar Communications

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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