

CONNECTIONS

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Allen's Story:
IT You Can Trust





WITH GIG YOU CAN DO IT ALL

STREAM HD VIDEO, WORK FROM HOME, EVEN IMMERSE YOURSELF IN ENTERTAINMENT.

Gigabit Internet may seem impossibly futuristic, like flying cars or robot pets, but it's already here, in our communities.

Across North Dakota, local broadband providers are offering Internet speeds of one gigabit, or one million bits, per second—that's one hundred times faster than the average Internet speed in the United States.

Gigabit Internet isn't just faster; it's more reliable, has lower latency, and offers matching upload and download speeds.

So what does all of this mean for you? Consider how much of your life revolves around the Internet: you use it to work, learn, entertain, shop, communicate, bank,

and more. With gig, you can do everything you already do online, but faster and with higher quality.

What Can You Do with Gig?

Stream high-quality video.

Whether you're streaming Game of Thrones or your grandson's graduation ceremony, with gigabit Internet, you can expect higher

quality video without annoying buffering or lags. But the most exciting improvement in terms of video is that you will be able to stream ultra-high definition 4K video at the same speeds as a typical 1080p stream, despite requiring up to five times as much data.

Work from home.

These days, more of us are working from

KEEPING NORTH DAKOTA
CONNECTED
FOR GENERATIONS

BAND
Broadband Association of North Dakota

our home offices than ever before. And while gigabit Internet is not essential for working successfully from home, if you rely on collaboration tools or frequently need to transfer large files, gig fast upload speeds will allow you to get more done in less time.

Keep in touch.

Speaking of working from home: we've all been on a Zoom or Skype call where someone's video keeps cutting out, making it impossible to make out what they are saying. This isn't just frustrating; it can put a strain on personal and professional relationships that rely on these virtual connections. Gigabit Internet allows for smoother, higher resolution video calls, so you can lead that big meeting or chat with your long-distance friends without interruption.

Online game.

With gig, you can work hard AND play hard. Thanks to matching upload and download speeds, the online gamers in your household will never have to worry about losing a game due to a laggy connection again.

Explore new, immersive media.

When we say "gaming," we're not just talking about Fortnite and Animal Crossing anymore. Gigabit Internet's faster upload and download speeds will make immersive media, like virtual and augmented reality, more accessible from home.

Backup your data.

From family photos to financial documents, there is so much data on our devices that we don't want to lose. Traditionally, backing up that valuable data has required external hard drives which can be damaged or misplaced. Gig Internet makes it more convenient to store your data with cloud backup services, like Google Drive and Microsoft OneDrive, that you can access from anywhere at any time.

Support multiple users and devices simultaneously.

Say you want to stream your favorite show while your kids are playing video games upstairs and your spouse is on a video call preparing for an important business meeting. Something's got to give, right? Not with gig. Perhaps the most exciting feature of gigabit Internet is the ability to support your entire household, and their devices, all at once.

These are just a handful of ways that gigabit Internet can make your online life faster, more convenient, and more reliable. But in order to enjoy all these advantages and more, you'll need technology that can support such blazing speeds. Just give us a call, and one of Polar's tech experts will set you up with the right equipment.

Ready to experience the future of Internet speeds today? Contact us at 701-284-7221 or customerservice@polar.net to learn what gig can do for you!

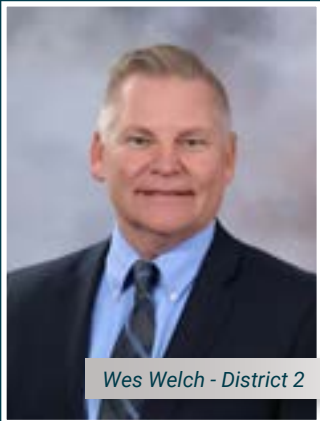


THREE DIRECTORS RE-ELECTED

The following directors were re-elected for a three-year term to the Polar board of directors at the annual meeting.



Jim Longtin - District 1



Wes Welch - District 2



Brian Udby - District 3

A recording of the meeting can be viewed online at www.polarcomm.com/annualmeeting/

69TH ANNUAL MEETING HELD VIRTUALLY

The 69th annual meeting of members of Polar Communications was called to order by President Amber Meyer at 5:00 p.m. on June 10, 2021, preceded by a welcome given by CEO Karl Blake; the Pledge of Allegiance; an invocation given by Director Cindy Hejl; and the introduction of current board members by President Amber Meyer. The annual meeting was a virtual event due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Secretary Lori Dahl reported the official notice was mailed to all members on May 24, 2021, and there were 124 members registered prior to the start of the business meeting and that a quorum was present, and business could be conducted.

The rules of the meeting were presented by CEO Karl Blake; subsequently a motion was made and seconded to approve the rules of the meeting.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the 2020 annual members meeting.

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

President Amber Meyer and CEO Karl Blake delivered a joint presentation to the members.

2021 scholarship recipients were recognized by CEO Karl Blake.

A video was played acknowledging the Business of the Year, Unity Medical Center.

Secretary-Treasurer Lori Dahl reported to the members.

Attorney Larry DuBois explained the election process in accordance with the company by-laws. The following member names were placed on the ballot for election to the board of directors: Jim Longtin (district 1), Wes Welch and Ron Beneda (district 2), and Brian Udby (district 3).

Jim Longtin was declared director of district one for a three-year term. Brian Udby was declared director of district three for a three-year term.

Attorney Larry DuBois reported to the members that Wes Welch was the winner of the district two position for a three-year term.

Tabulation of mail-in ballots:

District Two:

Wes Welch - 501

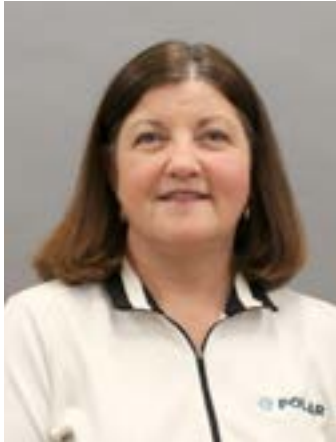
Ron Beneda - 444

President Meyer called for any further business.

The meeting was adjourned by President Meyer.



EMPLOYEE RETIREMENTS



Julie Thompson



Dave Offerdahl

Polar announces the recent and upcoming retirements of five employees.

Dave Offerdahl, Combination Technician
35 Years / Retirement Date – March 31, 2021

Julie Thompson, Customer Service Representative
26 Years / Retirement Date - April 1, 2021

Julie Kohler, Customer Service Representative
12 Years / Retirement Date – April 2, 2021

Roger Hahn, Network Technician
17 Years / Retirement Date – July 6, 2021

Lola Hagen, Cashier
26 Years / Retirement Date – August 6, 2021



Julie Kohler



Lola Hagen



Roger Hahn

Our employees are our greatest asset. These employees worked hard each day to give our customers the best possible experience with our company. We value and will miss their work ethic, dedication, and talents.

**BEST WISHES
FOR A HAPPY
AND HEALTHY
RETIREMENT!**



**WE WILL BE CLOSED
MONDAY, JULY 5
IN OBSERVANCE OF
INDEPENDENCE DAY.**

FUSION

Polar will no longer carry Fusion TV effective July 30, 2021. Fusion TV is currently on cable TV channels 119 and 631 and on streaming TV channel 552. If you would still like to watch Fusion content, it is available on YouTube, Roku, and at fusiontv.com.

CONGRATULATIONS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

JOHN G. WALTERS SCHOLARSHIP

This year Polar awarded ten \$1,000 scholarships in honor of former Polar General Manager John G. Walters. The awards are given to outstanding high school seniors whose parents or guardians are current customers of Polar Communications or its subsidiaries. Applicants are judged on essay content, grammar, academic achievement and community involvement.



ANN ESTVOLD
Lakota High School



TYANNE CROTTY
North Border High School



NOAH HELGOE
Cavalier High School



GRACE JOHNSON
Park River Area School



NATALIE HUNTER
Cavalier High School



CLAIRE DUMMER
North Border High School



KASEY STEGMAN
Drayton High School



ELIAS MARKUSEN
Park River Area School



KAIA SCHLUCHTER
Cavalier High School



SIGNE EKMAN
Grafton High School

ONS TO OUR ECIPIENTS

LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP



JENNA MAKER
Northern Cass High School



CHLOE GEMMILL
Valley-Edinburg High School

The Polar Leadership 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. Applicants must be a senior in high school or freshman or sophomore in college, and their parents or guardians must be Polar customers.

The 2021 Polar Leadership Scholarship in the amount of \$2,500 is being awarded to Jenna Maker, a senior at Northern Cass High School. And Chloe Gemmill, a senior at Valley-Edinburg High School.

EVERETT KNEECE SCHOLARSHIP

This named scholarship, through the Foundation for Rural Service (FRS), has been offered in honor of the generous philanthropist Everett Kneece, who had a passion for rural America. FRS was established as a non-profit by NTCA - The Rural Broadband Association and plays a unique role within the telecommunications industry by supporting rural telecom companies, consumers and policymakers with educational information, products and programming.

This prestigious scholarship provides on exceptional student each year with a \$7,000 award and gives particular preference to students who express an interest in returning to rural America upon completing their education - a goal that Kneece stressed as critical for strengthening rural America.

We are pleased to announce that Claire Dummer of North Border High School was selected as this year's recipient.



CLAIRE DUMMER
North Border High School

**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@polartel.com.

ALLEN'S STORY: IT YOU CAN TRUST



As a young boy, Allen Orwick knew—as young boys coming of age in rural North Dakota often do—that farming was his future. It was his father’s passion, and his father’s, and his father’s before that. And for many years, it was Allen’s passion, too—until he discovered a new interest of his own.

“I found that doing taxes and bookkeeping and things with numbers was much more of my natural calling,” Allen said.

Allen was newly married and doing taxes in Grand Forks when he visited Lakota Farm Service to purchase a life insurance policy for his soon-to-be child. That was when he first met Kenneth Olson, who he would still refer to many years later as a mentor and second father.

“He said, ‘Well, maybe you’ll come and work for me someday,’” Allen said. *“And the rest is history.”*

A Moral and Legal Responsibility

Today, Allen is the President of LFS Professional Services, Inc. in Lakota, ND. He purchased Lakota Farm Service in 1984 after working in the tax department for just three years. He also purchased the Locken and Deede Ltd. tax practice in the same year and assumed the Lamb’s Bank tax practice in 1985. The company was incorporated in 1987, and the name changed to LFS Professional Services, Inc.

Alongside his three employees (including wife Dolores, or “Dee,” who serves as vice president), Allen operates a full-service company providing tax planning and preparation services, bookkeeping, payroll, property management, and insurance products for retirement planning.

After 40 years in the business, Allen has built a loyal community of clients, including his former mentor

Kenneth Olson. While his company assists clients from all walks of life, from accountants and attorneys to business owners and doctors, Allen’s agriculture background makes him particularly well-equipped to support the many farmers who rely on LFS Professional Services.

“There are some individuals who I’ve just completed the 40th tax return for. There are some families that we have the fifth generation soon to be filing tax returns,” Allen said. *“When you work with people that long, they become close to you. They become friends and family and you care about not only their tax return, but their entire life.”*



And these clients don't just trust Allen and his team to help them make sound financial decisions; they trust LFS Professional Services with their most valuable data.

"Our company has very important information on all our clients," Allen said. "We not only have a legal responsibility, but a moral responsibility to protect our clients' information."

“We not only have a legal responsibility, but a moral responsibility to protect our client's information”

Chasing Perfection

On the back wall of LFS Professional Services hangs a framed quote by legendary football coach Vince Lombardi: "Perfection is not attainable, but if we chase perfection, we can catch excellence." Allen and his team live and work by this philosophy as they strive to meet their clients' needs, provide the best possible solutions, and keep their data safe.

"Although we try for perfection, it's not always attainable," Allen said. "And once in a while, we'll find that a file has been damaged, deleted, or overwritten by mistake."

In those circumstances, LFS Professional Services relies on Polar Extreme IT to restore their missing or damaged files.

"Not a lot of small businesses can afford to have an IT person on staff. We take that burden off of them," said Kristi Gullickson, IT Supervisor at Polar.

Polar Extreme IT offers managed IT services tailored to each business's individual needs and budget. For LFS Professional Services, this includes managed firewall services to keep their data secure and off-site backup to keep it safe. All client data is duplicated and stored in two local, secure off-site locations, so that if anything were to happen in Lakota—whether it be a fire, a tornado, or any other emergency—their valuable information would not be lost.

Having valuable data backed up in multiple locations is important for any business or individual. But for tax professionals like Allen, who must refer to files dating back as far as 40 years, it is essential.

"There was a point in time where we thought we had lost our server. Fortunately, the information wasn't lost, but it was a few sleepless nights," Allen said. *"Had we lost our server, we would have had to rebuild an entire year of tax returns to get a base for the upcoming tax season. Now, by having everything backed up, we could be up and running within days. And that is critical."*

By outsourcing his IT to Polar rather than a larger national or international security company, Allen knows that his data is being stored just a few towns over, rather than in an unknown location hundreds or even thousands of miles away. He also knows that if he encounters a problem, he can call a real person—someone who knows his name, his voice, and his business—for support.

"They don't treat us just like a number or just a business someplace," Allen said. *"They treat us as neighbors and they care about us and they know about us. That is important to us, that we have somebody to rely on when we need them."*

Doing Good For People

It's not the future that he once predicted for himself, but after 40 years at LFS Professional Services, Inc., Allen cannot imagine a career anywhere else. It's an honor, he says, to walk with his friends and neighbors through their financial journeys long beyond tax season.

"The reason that I continue to do this every day is the fact that I believe that we're doing good for people," Allen said. *"We're not here just to prepare a tax return. We're here to make your life better."*

And with that honor comes great responsibility. The clients of LFS Professional Services trust Allen and his team with their most valuable personal information; with Extreme IT, Allen can trust Polar to keep that information safe.

"We've put in procedures, policies, equipment, and technology to guarantee that our clients' information will remain secure," Allen said. *"They have full confidence in us. And we have full confidence in Polar to help us maintain that."*



Lisa Miller, Allen Orwick, Dee Orwick and Kathy Corby

Eliminate the IT burden for your business. Call 701.284.7221 to speak with an Extreme IT specialist who will identify your needs and develop a plan that works for you.

TECH TIPS

Is your Internet taking longer than usual to load? Are you wondering how to use the latest video conferencing software? Whatever your tech needs, Tech Tips from Polar is here to help. We provide the knowledge and tools you need to make your technology work for you, all in a series of short, entertaining how-to videos.

Broadband vs. WiFi... What's the Difference?

WiFi, broadband, cyberspace, the World Wide Web... We hear these words tossed around every day, and while they are often used in reference to the same thing—the Internet—the technology they describe is actually pretty different.

Today, we are going to walk you through the differences between WiFi and broadband. If you are more of a visual learner, watch our latest Tech Tip video to follow along with tech expert Riley. Let's get started!

Breaking Down Broadband

Let's start with the basic definition of the Internet. To put it simply, the Internet is a massive global network of computers and machines that are constantly talking to each other. When these computers and machines communicate, we are able to look up information, chat with our friends, and even work and attend school remotely.

With that in mind, let's talk about broadband. Broadband is your home Internet, which happens through a wired connection. So if we think of the Internet as billions of little destinations, broadband is the tunnel we move through to reach them. In the past, broadband "tunnels" were constructed of copper wire, but nowadays, we use faster, more durable fiber-optic cable.

Information travels around the globe on millions of miles of fiber cable, eventually meeting a fiber cabinet on your street corner, which is connected via fibers straight to the modem in your home, which is connected to your router. You connect an Ethernet cable between your router and your computer, and ta-da! You have a stable, high-speed Internet connection.



POLAR
Tech Tips

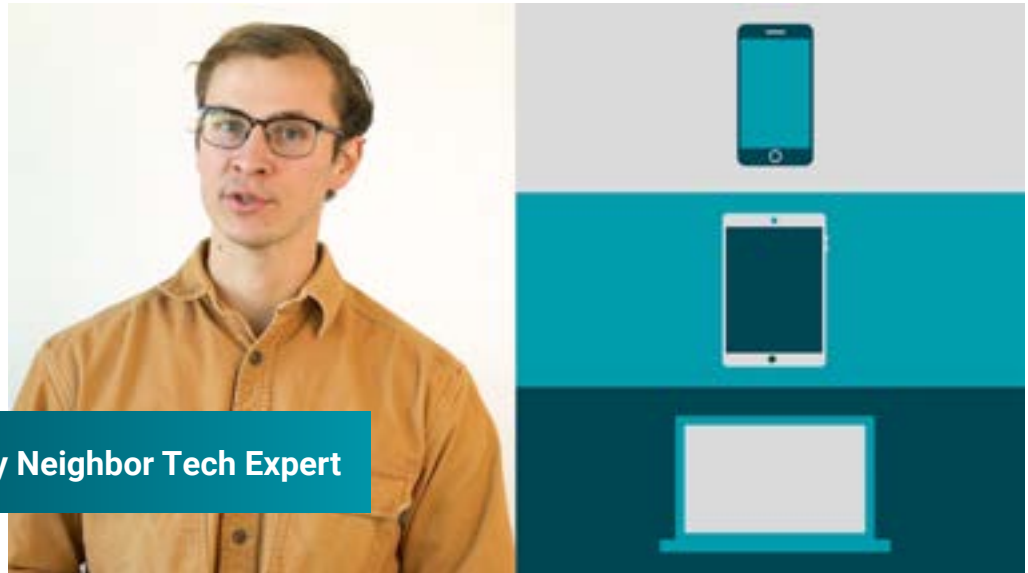
VISIT [POLARCOMM.COM/RESOURCES](https://www.polarcomm.com/resources) TO START GETTING THE MOST OUT OF YOUR TECHNOLOGY.

What's Up With WiFi?

If broadband is a tunnel, then think of WiFi as an airplane carrying your information from the router to your device. Today's smartphones, tablets, and most laptops don't have a port to connect to an Ethernet cable. Instead, they use radio signals to send and receive invisible data through the air between your device and your router.

When data reaches your router, it flows back down the wires to your front door and out to the fiber cabinet and then through the cables and across the vast Internet network.

They say that "knowledge is power", and now that you know the difference between broadband and WiFi, you have the power to make better use of your Internet.



Riley, Your Friendly Neighbor Tech Expert



Clip this page and keep it with your Polar directory

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Anderson Cory & Natalie 14782 64 St NE Grafton	701-922-1618	Napier Randy & Jennifer 6423 Highway 81 Grafton	701-352-2786
Bauer Greg & Marlys Lankin	701-593-6101	Northwood Municipal Airport Authority 3517 Airport Rd NE Northwood	701-587-6080
Beneda Keith S 406 Division St Lankin	701-593-6111	Northwood Park District- Pool 404 Old Highway 15 Northwood	701-587-5931
Bengs Betty 2224 5 Ave NE Thompson	701-787-1995	Olson Robert & Rose res Northwood	701-587-1441
Benjamin Robert P 1762 160 St Wolverton	218-995-2021	Osowski Randy J 15828 68 St NE Grafton	701-352-2283
Bounds Gerald & Diance res Grafton	701-922-2309	Peterson Kent res Northwood	701-587-1447
Camperud Harley & Judy 2732 6 Ave NE Northwood.....	701-587-5269	Presteng John 6838 147 Ave NE Grafton.....	701-352-0911
Alan Collette Farming 15640 County Road 11 Grafton.....	701-352-2880	Reichert Terry 8632 141 Ave NE Hensel.....	701-657-2178
Crist Forrest E 9815 County 12 Cavalier	701-265-3339	Schroeder-Gill Judith 105 W 1st Ave N Cavalier	701-265-8084
Dahlen Ila 7 N Doheny St #9 Northwood	701-587-5579	Severson Joyce 102 5 St W Lakota.....	701-247-2495
Dostert Michele L 801 Wadge Ave S Park River	701-284-7212	Sieg Gerald 314 21 St NE Reynolds	701-847-2738
Emerald Group 191 N Cavalier St Pembina.....	701-825-5719	Brass Rail The 20 N Main St Northwood	701-587-6135
Fisher Rosemary 15513 County Road 11 Grafton.....	701-922-1479	The Summer Kitchen/ Envision Salon 6910 County Road 8 Grafton	701-330-0312
Holm John 7652 132nd Ave NE Hoople	701-993-8474	The Western Bar 626 E 5 St Neche	701-886-7563
Horsley Karla L res Cavalier.....	701-265-3133	Thompson E Gerri res Northwood	701-587-1126
Hove Gary & Judy farm Grafton	701-352-1239	Tibert Brothers LLP Shop 6034 145 Ave NE Minto	701-248-3543
Jameson Jacob D 1032 148 Ave SE Galesburg.....	701-488-2200	Tibert George 14413 59 St NE Pisek.....	701-248-0318
Jenson David & Barbara Res Thompson	701-587-1419	Tillett Kathy J res Mountain.....	701-993-8131
Jodock Brian & Alane res Northwood.....	701-587-6076	Timian Donald & Darla 15511 County Road 11 Grafton	701-352-1939
Jonasson Rental Inc 503 Division Ave S Cavalier	701-265-4115	Treib Elizabeth 405 S Lincoln St Edmore.....	701-644-2300
Koehn Eric & Naomi 115 Nash Dr Nash.....	701-352-4055	Unruh Kendall 14044 County Road 15 Grafton	701-352-1260
Kurz Bethany & Marc 2288 6 Ave NE Thompson	701-587-6196	Valley United Co-Op 1135 Highway 18 NE Hatton	701-543-2024
LeClerc Dennis & Kim farm Grafton	701-352-3195	Walsh Rural Water District 14768 Highway 17 Grafton	701-352-3915
Lund Jeremy & Allison Lund Technologies 14207 60 St NE Pisek	701-248-6344	Wilmer Katherine L. 210 Sandwood Cir Park River	701-284-6152
Magnus Mark & Joyce 115 N Berg St Northwood	701-587-5550	Yon Thomas A. 5541 144th Ave NE Forest River	701-248-3485
Mercer Allan 113 6 St W Michigan.....	701-259-2109		
Miller Gavin 14566 65 St NE Grafton	701-922-2320		
Mutchler Tim & Lynn res Northwood	701-587-5275		



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CONNECTIONS

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Gordon Johnson, Cavalier

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**GIG-CAPABLE
PROVIDER**

This institution is an equal opportunity provider
and employer.

SUMMER SAVINGS



When you contact us this month to add any new service be sure to say, "Can I get a deal on this?" and we'll say, "Yes!" Save money on calling features, TV, broadband Internet, Managed WiFi and MORE! Contact us, tell us which service you'd like to add, and remember to ask for a deal!

