

# CONNECTIONS

PUBLISHED BY POLAR COMMUNICATIONS AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES

Summer 2022

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# POLAR HOLDS 70TH ANNUAL MEETING

The 70th annual meeting of members of Polar Communications was called to order by President Amber Meyer at 6:30 p.m. on June 9, 2022, at the Park River Area School gymnasium, preceded by a welcome given by Park River Mayor Dan Stenvold; an invocation given by Pastor Terry Olson; the Pledge of Allegiance; an introduction of special guests in attendance by CEO Karl Blake; an address to the membership by Randy Richards from Senator Cramer's office; and the introduction of current board members by President Amber Meyer.

Secretary Lori Dahl reported the official notice was mailed to all members on May 23, 2022, and there were 61 members registered prior to the start of the business meeting and that a quorum was present, and business could be conducted.

President Amber Meyer requested a motion to dispense with the reading of the 2021 annual members meeting minutes and approval as printed in the Polar Annual Report. Wes Welch moved these minutes be approved. Gordon Johnson seconded the motion and it carried.

The rules of the meeting were presented by CEO Karl Blake; subsequently President Amber Meyer called for a motion to approve the rules of the meeting. Chris Nelson moved to adopt the rules as presented in the Polar Annual Report. Jon McMillan seconded the motion and the motion carried.

A total of 97 members registered during the meeting. One hundred sixty members/guests were served at the meal held at the Chris Midgarden arena prior to the start of the business meeting.

Attorney Larry DuBois explained the election process in accordance with the company by-laws. Polar members seeking re-election are Amber Meyer (District 1) and Cindy Hejl (District 3). Jon McMillan's District 2 position was voluntarily vacated. No petitions were received for District 2 so pursuant to the by-laws & state statute, the Board will appoint an individual to fill this position.

President Amber Meyer deferred the election to Secretary Lori Dahl. Secretary Lori Dahl requested a motion that a unanimous ballot be cast for Amber Meyer (District 1) and Cindy Hejl (District 3). Wes Welch moved that a unanimous ballot be cast and Cynthia Udby seconded the motion. The motion carried. Amber Meyer was declared director of District 1 for a three-year term. Cindy Hejl was declared director of District 3 for a three-year term.

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

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

President Amber Meyer and CEO Karl Blake jointly presented the 2022 John G. Walters Scholarships to: Karson Blake-Park River Area School, Jasmyn Johnson-Cavalier High School, Skylar Uglem-Northwood High School, and Gwyneth Wieler-Valley-Edinburg High School. Also receiving 2022 John G. Walters Scholarships but not in attendance are: Garrett Haakenson-Dakota Prairie High School, Karson Matejcek-Lakota High School, Maci McMillan-Park River Area School, Austin Rygg-Northwood High School, Faith Vasicek-North Border High School, and Jonah Zikmund-Park River Area School

President Amber Meyer and CEO Karl Blake presented the 2022 Polar Leadership Scholarships to Marit Ellingson-Dakota Prairie High School. Also receiving the 2022 Polar Leadership Scholarship but not in attendance was Noah Helgoe-NDSU.



# MEYER AND HEJL REELECTED TO BOARD

President Amber Meyer and CEO Karl Blake jointly presented the Business of The Year Award to Leading Edge Equipment from Michigan, North Dakota.

Secretary-Treasurer Lori Dahl reported to the members.

In support of our local communities, prizes were purchased at various businesses within our service area and prize drawings were held periodically throughout the meeting.

President Amber Meyer called for any further business.

The meeting was adjourned by President Amber Meyer upon a motion by Jim Longtin.

Amber Meyer of St. Thomas, representing district 1, and Cindy Hejl of Arthur, representing district 3, were re-elected to the board of directors at the annual meeting on Thursday, June 9, 2022. Both will serve a three-year term.



*Members enjoyed a meal before the 70th annual meeting.*



*Leading Edge Equipment owner and employees receive their Business of the Year award.*

# KRISTI GULLICKSON PROMOTED TO CHIEF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER



We are happy to announce that Kristi Gullickson has been promoted to Chief Business Development Officer at Polar.

Kristi began her career at Polar in May 2001, working in the Special Services department as a Network Specialist. In October 2011, she moved to the role of Network Administrator, overseeing the internal network, software, systems, and equipment. She was promoted to Information Technology Supervisor in January 2019, her most recent position. As the Chief Business Development Officer, Kristi will oversee all business services and product sales and maintenance, including phone systems, video surveillance, alarm systems, and Extreme IT managed services.

Kristi is a Park River native and has a Bachelor of Science in Information Networking Management from the University of Minnesota. She resides in rural Hoople with her husband and three children.

*Congratulations, Kristi!*



## LOGAN DUSEK IS SUMMER INTERN

Polar is happy to have Logan Dusek join us this summer as an intern.

Logan is a graduate of Grafton High School. During his time there, he served as an IT assistant. He became a reliable resource to the school students and staff on all things technology related. Logan will be returning to NDSU as a sophomore in the fall where he's majoring in Computer Science. He's still open to other opportunities of focus in the world of technology and specialization.

We are excited to be able to provide Logan a great experience and internship during his time at Polar!

*Welcome, Logan!*

# Congratulations

## SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

This year Polar awarded ten \$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 customers of Polar Communications or its subsidiaries. Applicants are judged on essay content, grammar, academic achievement and community involvement.



**KARSON BLAKE**  
Park River Area School



**GARRETT HAAKENSEN**  
Dakota Prairie High School



**JASMYN JOHNSON**  
Cavalier High School



**KARSON MATEJCEK**  
Lakota High School



**MACI MCMILLAN**  
Park River Area School



**AUSTIN RYGG**  
Northwood High School



**SKYLAR UGLEM**  
Northwood High School



**FAITH VASICEK**  
North Border High School



**GWYNETH WIELER**  
Valley-Edinburg High School



**JONAH ZIKMUND**  
Park River Area School



**MARIT ELLINGSON**  
Dakota Prairie High School



**NOAH HELGOE**  
NDSU

The Leadership Scholarship, sponsored by Polar, 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 2022 Polar Leadership Scholarship in the amount of \$2,500 is being awarded to Marit Ellingson, a senior at Dakota Prairie High School. And Noah Helgoe, a freshman attending North Dakota State University.

**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.polarcomm.com](http://www.polarcomm.com).

# Security + Surveillance

## PROTECT WHAT MATTERS MOST

From your backyard to your business, if it matters to you, Polar is here to protect it.

A video surveillance system from Polar allows you to monitor your home or business at any time, from anywhere—because we all feel better when we know the things we love are safe.

**Safety isn't one-size-fits-all.**

From one-camera surveillance systems to turnkey security set-ups, our experts will work with you to customize a solution that meets your security + surveillance needs. We offer an incredible variety of gear – all tested and curated by our security experts. Get everything you need to protect and monitor your home and business.



Visit [www.polarcomm.com/security](http://www.polarcomm.com/security) to learn more.

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# FRS COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM

## Funding That Supports Important Projects In Our Community

The Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) is a nonprofit organization that works in cooperation with NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association to sustain and enhance the quality of life in America by advancing an understanding of rural issues. The FRS Community Grant Program is offered annually through NTCA members like Polar, to support local efforts to build and sustain a high quality of life in rural America.

**The Program supports projects in these categories:**

- Business and economic development
- Community development
- Education
- Telecommunications applications

**DO YOU HAVE A COMMUNITY PROJECT THAT NEEDS FUNDING?**

Visit [frs.org/communitygrant](http://frs.org/communitygrant) to create a community grant application. Then, return your complete application to Polar Communications. Polar will submit the application on your behalf. Grant requests from \$250-\$5,000 are being accepted. Ten percent of the total grant award comes from Polar.



FOUNDATION FOR  
RURAL SERVICE



# TOP APPS PARENTS SHOULD KNOW THEIR KIDS ARE USING

As kids get more and more tech-savvy, it's important for parents to stay on top of the latest apps and games their children are using. While some apps are perfectly safe and age-appropriate, others can be dangerous and expose kids to inappropriate content. Here are five of the most popular apps parents should know about:



## TikTok

This popular video-sharing app allows users to create and share short videos of themselves lip-syncing, dancing, or performing other creative acts. While TikTok can be a lot of fun for kids, there have been concerns about its safety, as the app has been known to host inappropriate and even pornographic content.



## Instagram

This photo-sharing app is extremely popular among young people, but it can also be dangerous. In addition to the potential for cyberbullying, Instagram also exposes users to a constant stream of ads and sponsored content.



## Snapchat

This messaging app is extremely popular with kids and teens, as it allows users to send disappearing photos and videos. However, Snapchat also has a number of safety concerns, including "Snap Map" which can show your child's location to anyone on their contact list.



## YouTube

This video-sharing platform is one of the most popular websites in the world, with billions of users. While YouTube can be a great resource for educational and entertaining content, it's important to monitor your child's activity on the site, as there is a lot of inappropriate and even disturbing content available.



## Fortnite

This online multiplayer game has taken the world by storm, with kids and adults alike spending hours upon hours playing. While Fortnite can be a fun and harmless game, there have been concerns about its violence and addictive nature.





# Other Dangerous Apps Parents Might Not Even Know Kids Are Using

In addition to the above five apps, there are a number of other popular apps that can be dangerous for kids. These include:



## WhatsApp

This messaging app is extremely popular among kids and teens, but it has a number of safety concerns. In addition to the potential for cyberbullying, WhatsApp also allows users to share their location with others, which can be dangerous.



## Houseparty

This video-chatting app is popular among kids and teens, but it has been known to allow strangers into chats, which can lead to inappropriate content being shared.



## Hoop

This social media app is popular among kids and teens, but it has been known to allow strangers into chats, which can lead to inappropriate content being shared.



## Discord

This chat app is popular among gamers, but it has also been used by predators to groom and exploit children. According to Bark's 2021 annual report found Discord consistently in the top five platforms for bullying, suicidal ideation, body image, and more.



## Kik

This messaging app is extremely popular among kids and teens, but it has a number of safety concerns. In addition to the potential for cyberbullying, Kik also allows users to share their location with others, which can be dangerous.



## Tips for Parents

1. Talk to your kids about the apps they're using and why they like them.
2. Set limits on how much time your kids can spend on their devices, apps, games or specific websites.
3. Monitor your child's activity on their devices, including their app usage and web browsing history.
4. Be aware of the apps your kids are using and research their safety concerns. Block specific apps or limit time on them using enhanced parental controls.
5. Teach your kids about cyberbullying, online predators, and other dangers associated with the Internet.

Learn how ExperienceIQ content controls from Polar can give you freedom to control app usage and screen times, focus for your kids attention, and get back more quality family time. ExperienceIQ is included with Polar Ultimate WiFi!

Learn more at [www.polarcomm.com/broadband](http://www.polarcomm.com/broadband)



# TECH TIP

## Internet Alphabet

The Internet has a language of its own, and learning all of the new slang can be awfully confusing. For example, your computer cannot catch a virus if you sneeze on it. And unfortunately, the cookies we're talking about aren't mom's signature chocolate chip.

In this Tech Tip, we are sharing definitions of some of the most commonly used (and misunderstood) Internet terms. If you are more of a visual learner, watch our latest Tech Tip video to follow along with tech expert Katie.

### APP

The most basic definition of an application, or app, is a type of software that allows you to perform specific tasks.

### BANDWIDTH

Measured in bits per second, bandwidth is used to measure the amount of time it takes for a web page to fully load.

### COOKIE

In Internet terms, a cookie is a teeny tiny file that web servers send to browsers. They allow websites to remember you, your preferences, and your Internet habits.

### FIREWALL

A firewall is a security device that can protect your private data by filtering activity and preventing outsiders from gaining unauthorized access to your computer.

### IP ADDRESS

An IP address, or Internet Protocol Address, is a uniquely assigned numeric address for each computer connected to the Internet.

### VIRUS

A virus is a code or program written to alter the way a computer operates. Like a flu virus, these programs are designed to duplicate and spread between computers.

That's it for this edition of Tech Tips! Hopefully, with a few of these terms in your vocabulary, you can feel more confident using and talking about the Internet. Check out [polarcomm.com/category/tech-tips](http://polarcomm.com/category/tech-tips) for more tips to make your technology work for you.



*Learn More!*

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 blogs and videos. Scan the QR code using your cell phone camera app to learn more!



# AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM

## *Helping Households Connect*

The Affordable Connectivity Program is a Federal Communications Commission program that helps connect families and households struggling to afford Internet service. This new benefit provides a discount of up to \$30 per month toward broadband 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 <https://www.affordableconnectivity.gov>.

You can learn more about the benefit, including eligibility and enrollment information, by visiting [www.fcc.gov/ACP](http://www.fcc.gov/ACP), or by calling 877-384-2575.



Clip this page and keep it with your Polar directory

## DIRECTORY UPDATES

3G Gunsmithing Gilby .....701-865-4250	Lakes Gas Co 6009 172nd Ave SE Walcott .....701-998-2171
Angle S Stables and Horseshoeing 2530 10th Ave NE Emerado .....701-594-6840	Landmark North Dakota LLC 5062 Tator Ave Hoople.....701-894-6179
Boulder Keith O 1351 46th St NE Larimore.....701-343-2667	Leake Todd 2371 10th Ave NE Emerado .....701-594-4275
Brita Swenson Insurance Agency Inc 206 Division Ave S Cavalier .....701-265-8286	Lee Residence .....701-747-0073
Brita Swenson State Farm 206 Division Ave S Cavalier.....701-265-3149	Lindell Donovan 115 Pine St Park River.....701-284-6006
Brita Swenson State Farm 206 Division Ave S Cavalier.....701-265-3150	Loewen Marlin and Marietta 13517 70th St NE Park River ....701-284-7021
Carlson Bruce & Judy 2399 23rd St NE Mekinock .....701-594-4287	Luecke Carol 110 Deaconess Ct Northwood .....701-581-3010
Carlson Stephanie R 210 Briggs Ave S Park River .....701-284-6026	Lund Lucas 304 Briggs Ave S Park River .....701-284-6120
Custom Crop Care LLC 3788 16th Ave Ne Larimore .....701-343-3273	Maier Karen R 1002 27th St NE Emerado.....701-594-4374
Dakota Laser & Manufacturing 3130 US 2 Arvilla.....701-343-2024	Mystic On Main 414 Briggs Ave S Park River .....701-284-6148
Dakota Laser & Manufacturing 3130 US 2 Arvilla.....701-343-2025	Ness R J 750 18th St NE Thompson.....701-599-2650
Douglas Chris & Marcy 1971 30th St NE Arvilla.....701-343-6229	O'Neil Daniel A. 416 D Ave W Lakota .....701-247-2162
Fichtner Terry 2310 9th Ave NE Emerado.....701-747-0132	Olson Elinor P 1598 Oak St NE Emerado.....701-747-0191
Goodoien Ryan J. 9413 139th Ave Ne Cavalier.....701-265-4563	Otto Wendy 1855 11th Ave NE Grand Forks.....701-772-6464
Griffin Dale Farm 2356 28th St NE Mekinock.....701-594-4296	Perkins Izola 549 E 5th St Neche .....701-886-7210
Halls G4 LLP 5070 Tator Ave Hoople.....701-894-6112	Petersburg Cafe 210 5 St Petersburg .....701-345-8200
Haugen Staci 532 E 5th St Neche .....701-886-7652	Peterson Kory & Ashley 2862 17th Ave NE Emerado.....701-747-0248
Hove Eric C. Park River .....701-284-7058	Richie Brubakken Farm 14010 77th St NE Hoople.....701-894-6178
Hoveland Greg 1824 15th Ave NE Grand Forks.....701-746-0009	Ring Phil & Brittany 761 21st St NE Thompson.....701-747-0072
Hulstrand Olnick res Walhalla .....701-265-3160	Sheeley Catherine 220 2nd Ave E Hunter .....701-874-2147
IP Insurance Agency LLC 209 Main St Hunter .....701-874-2171	Simplot Grower Solutions 13837 Highway 66 Crystal.....701-657-2499
IP Insurance Agency LLC 209 Main St Hunter .....701-874-2257	Snyder Barbara L 2075 30th St NE Arvilla .....701-594-4351
Irving Douglas Res Pembina.....701-825-6749	Spicer Steven C. 2184 12th Ave NE Emerado .....701-594-9265
Johnson Cecil 804 Main St W Cavalier .....701-265-4005	Stellon Brooks & Tarri 9236 Old 44 Drayton .....701-454-6125
Killingsworth Sally & Marty 3710 17th Ave NE Larimore....701-343-3189	Thompson Andy D. 7036 141st Ave NE Grafton .....701-284-6038
Kingsley Diane M 303 2nd St W Lakota .....701-247-2108	Toews Ronald & Paula 14325 County Road 11 Grafton ....701-379-2569
	Triebold Matthew & Savana 1752 149th Ave NE Hatton ....701-581-4415
	Wilkinson Dorothy .....701-594-3409



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## CONNECTIONS

Published by Polar Communications  
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### 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

### Chief Executive Officer:

Karl Blake



**GIG-CAPABLE  
PROVIDER**

This institution is an equal opportunity provider  
and employer.



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

Your yard may be hiding underground utility pipes, cables, wires and fiber optics, so if you're planning a summer project that involves a shovel or excavator, it's critical to call 8-1-1 before you start. A quick call can keep your project on schedule, your family safe, and your neighbors connected to the utilities they need.

**ALWAYS CALL BEFORE YOU DIG.  
VISIT CALL811.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION.**