

# CONNECTIONS

PUBLISHED BY POLAR COMMUNICATIONS AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES

Winter 2022

Page 3:

## Employees Donate \$5800

Walsh County Food Pantry

Page 4:

## Scholarships & Youth Awards

Apply today!

Page 9:

## TV Service

Discontinued July 17, 2023





# Employee Spotlight



## Stacey Loftsgard Promoted to Facilities Supervisor

Stacey Loftsgard was promoted to the position of Facilities Supervisor effective Monday, November 21, 2022. Stacey is celebrating her twenty-fifth year with Polar and was most recently working as a Plant Records Specialist.

In her new role, Stacey will oversee the planning and maintenance of the Polar fiber facility records and buildings & grounds. She will also supervise the daily activities of the Plant Records and Mapping departments.

Stacey and her husband reside on a farm just outside of Park River.



## Ryan Rosinski Promoted to Network Operations Supervisor

Ryan Rosinski was promoted to the position of Network Operations Supervisor effective Monday, November 21, 2022. Ryan has been with Polar for over seven years and was most recently working as a Network Technician III.

In his new role as Network Operations Supervisor, Ryan will be responsible for the short- and long-range planning, design & engineering, and maintenance of Polar's ILEC and CLEC operations. He will lead the network operations department in the development for products and services provided and evaluate new technologies and service offerings. He is also responsible for overall network security planning, development and implementing security standards and policies across the various Polar network elements.

Ryan resides in Lankin, North Dakota, with his wife and two sons.

# Polar Employees Donate To Walsh County Food Pantry



Since 2008 Polar employees have donated over \$39,000 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 Walsh County Food Pantry, nominated by Polar employees Kimberly Lundquist and Dale Holand.

The Walsh County Food Pantry received \$5,800, which includes Polar matching half the funds collected from employees! Pictured above is Polar Employee Dale Holand, Food Pantry Representative Tami Egeland, and Polar Employee Kimberly Lundquist.

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

## Service Awards

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.



**Stacey Loftsgard**  
25 years



**Ryan Rosinski**  
20 Years



**Matthew Almen**  
20 Years



**Justin Lindell**  
20 Years



**Kellen Arneson**  
15 Years



**Donnie Gordon**  
15 Years



**Jodi LaHaise**  
15 Years



**Evan Sommer**  
10 Years



# 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 SCHOLARSHIPS:

The foundation annually awards scholarships to an exceptional group of rural students for their first year of college or vocational school. All applicants require sponsorship by an NTCA—The Rural Broadband Association member company, of which Polar is a member, to be eligible. For each FRS general scholarship, FRS provides \$2,000 and Polar provides \$500.

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

In 2023, FRS will award over \$100,000 in scholarships to students sponsored by our NTCA members such as Polar.

In addition to the FRS general scholarships, FRS has the following named scholarships\*

- Diana Jo Dryer Memorial Scholarship – Sponsored by INDATEL Services
- Everett Kneece Scholarship
- Sarah Tyree Good Neighbor Scholarship
- Herbert and Isabel Bitz Memorial Scholarship
- JSI Scholarships
- TMS Scholarships
- Roger Cox Memorial Scholarship

*\*Submitting one application is sufficient for eligibility of all available scholarships.*

**Application deadline is February 8, 2023.**

## 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 3, 2023.**

**Applications can be found online at [polarcomm.com](http://polarcomm.com) or from your high school guidance counselor.**





# WASHINGTON, DC YOUTH TOUR

2023

High School students ages 15, 16 or 17, apply for the 2023 Foundation for Rural Service Youth Tour in Washington, D.C., May 31 - June 4, 2023.

**All Expenses  
Paid Plus \$50  
Spending Cash!**



#### WHY SHOULD I APPLY?

- Educates students about the policy making process through meetings with Congressional and FCC staff members.
- Students gain insight into the challenges of providing quality broadband in their rural communities.
- An opportunity to 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 skills and help point their communities toward the future.

**DEADLINE**  
MARCH 3, 2023

#### SEND YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION AND ESSAY TO:

Polar Communications, Attn: Amy Thompson, PO Box 270, Park River, ND 58270

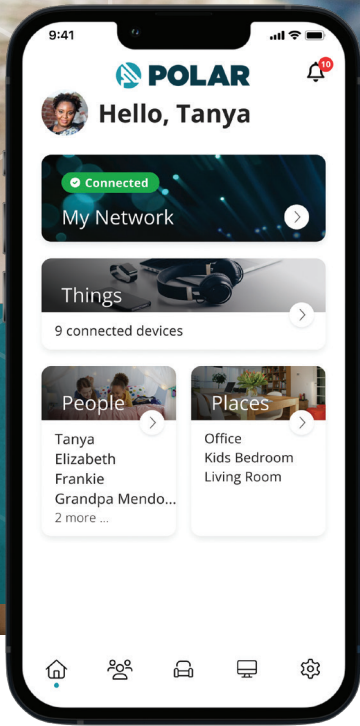
**Download an application at**  
[polarcomm.com/about-us/#scholarships](https://polarcomm.com/about-us/#scholarships)



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.

**Questions: 701-284-4361 or [athompson@polartel.com](mailto:athompson@polartel.com)**

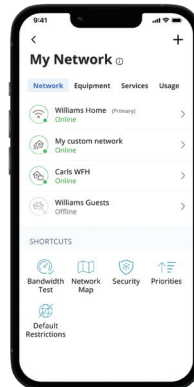




# TOP 5 WAYS THE POLAR WIFI APP MAKES LIFE EASIER

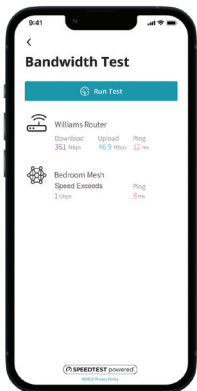
1

**See who is on your network.** Don't let the neighbors poach your WiFi. View all connected devices on your network and get notified when someone connects.



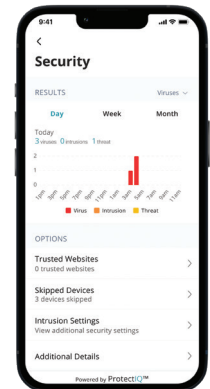
2

**Run a speed test.** Internet running slow? Run a test, the higher the better. Need more speed? Call us for ways to improve your experience.



3

**Get web threat alerts in real-time.** With ProtectIQ network security you'll be notified in the app when threats are blocked and can take correct action. Browse with confidence.

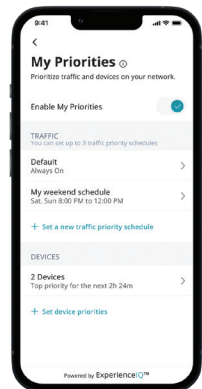
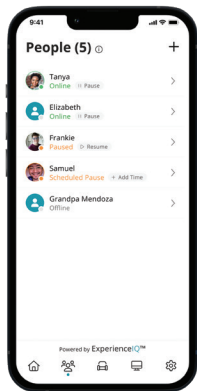






## 4 Hit the pause button.

Sometimes everyone needs a well-placed timeout. You can pause the Internet on anyone's device or during a specific time.



## 5 Prioritize what matters most.

Choose which devices and activities get the most of your bandwidth with My Priorities in the Polar WiFi app. Now you're in control.

# Download the Polar WiFi app today and sign up for Ultimate WiFi service.



Scan the code to learn more and download the app, or visit [polarcomm.com/broadband-wifi](https://polarcomm.com/broadband-wifi)



# Giving Back

Giving back to the communities we serve and where our employees live is one of our core values. So far in 2022, Polar has contributed over \$88,000 in scholarships, grants, and donations to 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 Boosters Tailgating  
Aneta Ambulance  
Aneta Booster Club  
Aneta Fire Department  
Aneta Parkview Health Center  
Aronia Berry Festival, Arthur  
Arthur Fire Department  
Bathgate Fire Department  
Borg Pioneer Memorial Home  
Brocket Fire Department  
Cavalier Ambulance  
Cavalier FBLA  
Cavalier Fire Department  
Cavalier High School After Prom Party  
Cavalier Public School Imagination Library  
Cavalier Public School Yearbook  
Cass County 4-H Council  
CHI Friendship  
Christine Fire Department  
Christine Quick Response  
City of Arthur - Arthur Market  
City of Lakota Oktoberfest  
City of Pisek - Nepomuk Narly Bike Race  
Clifford Fire Department  
Community Helpers Group - Grafton  
Community of Care, Cass County  
Crystal Fire Department  
Crystal Quick Response  
Dahlen Fire Department  
Dakota Prairie High School After Prom Party  
Dakota Prairie High School Yearbook  
Dakota Prairie Trap Team Boosters  
Devon Grube Memorial Golf  
Drayton Ambulance  
Drayton Community Chamber of Commerce  
Drayton Curling Club  
Drayton Fire Department  
Drayton Park Board  
Drayton Public School Yearbook  
Domestic Violence & Abuse Center  
Eagle Ridge Motorcycle Club  
Edinburg Fire Department  
Edinburg Playground Project  
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 Flyer Yearbook  
Galesburg Fire Department  
Galesburg Quick Response  
Gardar Hall  
Gilby Fire Department  
Gilby Quick Response  
Good Samaritan Society, Arthur  
Good Samaritan Society, Lakota  
Good Samaritan Society, Park River  
Grafton Area Chamber of Commerce  
Grafton Booster Club  
Grafton High School After Prom Party  
Grafton Scholarship Competition Organization  
Grand Forks Scouting - Northern Lights Council  
Growing Hope in Pembina County  
Hatton-Northwood After Prom Party  
Hillcrest Country Club  
Hoople Fire Department  
Hoople Quick Response  
Hope-Page After Prom Party  
Hunter Ambulance  
Hunter Fire Department  
Icelandic State Park Kids Weekend  
Inkster Fire Department  
Inkster Quick Response  
Lakota Ambulance  
Lakota Community Club Easter Carnival  
Lakota Elementary School Spring Fling  
Lakota Elementary School Backpack Program  
Lakota Fire Department  
Lakota Park Board Swimming Pool  
Lakota Rock Creek Golf Course  
Lankin Fire Department  
Lankin Quick Response  
Larimore High School Football Team  
Lyric Theater - Super Santa Saturday Movie  
Marketplace for Kids  
Michigan Ambulance  
Michigan Community Club  
Michigan/Whitman Fire Department  
Midway Public School Calendar  
Minto Public School After Prom Party  
Minto Public School 3-on-3 Basketball  
Mountain Fire Department  
Mountain Quick Response  
Mystic on Main  
National Child Safety Council  
NDSU Foundation  
Neche Fire Department  
Neche Quick Response  
Nekoma Fire Department  
Nekoma Quick Response  
Nelson County 4-H

Nelson County Health Services Foundation  
Nelson County Park Board  
Niagara Fire Department  
North Border School After Prom Party  
North Star Youth Hockey  
North Valley Career And Tech Center  
Northern Cass Dollars for Scholars  
Northern Cass Park Board  
Northern Cass Robotics Team  
Northern Valley Human Services  
Northwood FCCLA  
Northwood Ambulance  
Northwood Fire Department  
Northwood Deaconess  
Northwood Park District  
Park River Ambulance  
Park River Area Elementary Backpack Program  
Park River Area School After Prom Party  
Park River Area School Yearbook  
Park River Baseball Boosters  
Park River Community Club  
Park River Figure Skaters  
Park River Fire Department  
Pembina County Backpack Program  
Pembina County Fair  
Pembina County Memorial Hospital Foundation  
Pembina County Soil Conservation District  
Pembina Fire Department  
Pembina Quick Response  
Petersburg Fire Department  
Pisek Fire Department  
PL Institute Northern Cass School  
PRFL Girls Basketball  
Red Knights International  
Richland 44 Dollars for Scholars  
Rural Access Distribution Co-Op  
St. Thomas Fire Department  
St. Thomas Quick Response  
Sons of the American Legion - Lankin  
Sons of the American Legion - Squadron #147  
Special Olympics North Dakota  
State Historical Society of ND Foundation  
Steele County 4-H Leaders Council  
Unity Medical Center Foundation  
Valley Edinburg School After Prom Party  
Valley Edinburg School Yearbook  
Walcott Cemetery  
Walcott Fire Department  
Walcott Quick Response  
Walsh County Fair  
Walsh County Historical Society  
Walsh County Soil Conservation District  
Wedgewood Manor



# TV SERVICE TO BE DISCONTINUED

## Polar will no longer offer TV service after July 17, 2023

For decades, we have offered ever-evolving TV products to provide the entertainment you enjoy. As many of you are aware, Polar experienced issues with its new TV platform that were not up to the quality of service standards that we pride ourselves on. We cannot continue to offer a product that does not meet our customer experience standards. Another reason for this decision is a changing industry and rising programming costs. You can purchase the same video service or channels via streaming for a lesser price than programmers charge us as a video provider. In addition, programmers are providing Polar with less content and moving it to individual streaming platforms. For example, the Thursday night NFL game moving to Amazon Prime, Days of our Lives moving to Peacock, and many others that are only available on the specific streaming services. We feel we are at a unique time to save you the customer money and improve your options.

**POLAR WILL NO LONGER OFFER TRADITIONAL CABLE TV OR POLAR STREAMING TV SERVICE AFTER JULY 17, 2023.**

**ALL OTHER POLAR SERVICES WILL CONTINUE.**



We continue to evolve with the latest technology so we can provide the most value to our customers. We have invested in a state-of-the-art fiber optic network that can offer bandwidth of up to 1 Gigabit to each home. As the demand for high-speed broadband Internet increases, Polar aims to provide the best progressive service possible.

Please visit our website for more information and tools to help determine the best TV option for you. Scan the code or visit [polarcomm.com/streamingtv](http://polarcomm.com/streamingtv).



## Play our free college football contest



Happy college football season, fellow fans! This year, we're hosting a Pick-It Bowl Challenge contest—and YOU are invited. All Polar customers can sign up for this fun and free online contest that follows the college football post-season bowl games.

Simply visit [polar.pickitchallenge.com](http://polar.pickitchallenge.com) to sign up, pick the teams you think will win, and watch your name climb the leaderboard as games progress. Plus, you'll get a chance to win great prizes (and bragging rights). Super fan or not, it's easy to play and a great time for everyone!

Game match-ups will be announced Sunday, December 5 and the first bowl game starts on December 16. Sign up soon for your chance to play and win.

We hope to catch you on the leaderboard: [polar.pickitchallenge.com](http://polar.pickitchallenge.com). Good luck and get ready for some football fun!





*Wishing you*  
**PEACE, JOY  
& FASTER  
INTERNET**

**May your days be merry and bright and all your shows buffer-free and all your gaming lag-free, and your video calls uninterrupted!**

Make this season even more festive with Polar WiFi and app. With the fastest service in every area of your home, our service allows family and friends to access all the Internet has to offer. Internet and WiFi are a part of daily life in most homes and is a critical component of connectivity. With the number of devices being used by you and your family members, including laptops, tablets, smart phones and TVs, you need a connection that is reliable and secure.



**GET UP TO SPEED FOR THE HOLIDAYS AND BEYOND WITH A FREE SPEED INCREASE!**

**Increase your speed to 500Mbps or 1Gig and continue paying your current rate for two months! Visit our website to see all your options, then contact us and let us know what speed you'd like to move up to for FREE!**

701-284-7221 | 800-284-7222  
customerservice@polartel.com  
www.polarcomm.com





# 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.

**It Pays to be a  
Coop Member**

Capital credits were disbursed as a credit on the December 2022 billing statements. Members receiving \$401 or more and businesses with multiple accounts were mailed a check. Capital credits paid out this December were from 2005 & 2006 margins. Polar Communications returned \$2.25 million to its co-op members this year.



Clip this page and keep it with your Polar directory

## DIRECTORY UPDATES

Berdal Marian res Lakota ..... 701-247-2103  
Blackwater Pumping & Septic Services 203 26 St NE Hatton .... 701-581-3006  
Brolliar Diane M. 4 Borg Dr Mountain ..... 701-993-8135  
Dub Margaret A. res Park River ..... 701-284-6039  
First United Bank - Cavalier 200 Main St W Cavalier ..... 701-265-8473  
Gravdahl Bruce L. .... 701-343-2729  
Hanson Donald 102 5th St W Lakota..... 701-247-2107  
Helgoe Howard 14181 98 St NE Cavalier ..... 701-265-4348  
Hobbs James Res Park River ..... 701-284-6003  
Larimore Dam Recreation Area 3586 18 Ave Ne Larimore ..... 701-343-2078  
Leddige Joe A 1132 19 St NE Grand Forks ..... 701-775-8438  
Melland Mark 204 Monroe St Edmore..... 701-644-2453  
My Little Nest Egg 406 Briggs Ave S Park River..... 701-284-6424  
Novak Bryce L 207 Forest St Lankin..... 701-593-6304

Olson Jay 13649 93 St Ne Cavalier ..... 701-265-8245  
Olson Shane 1395 41st St NE Larimore ..... 701-343-3297  
Poppema Brian and Stacie ..... 701-885-4964  
Pro Ag Equipment Inc. 15065 Highway 17 Grafton ..... 701-352-2302  
RAM FARMS 14854 82 St Ne St Thomas ..... 701-257-6517  
Rendezvous Region Trading Post LLC  
DBA Pine Shanty 100 Main St W Cavalier ..... 701-265-3129  
River Junction C-Store 13699 Highway 5 Cavalier ..... 701-265-8585  
Sundahl Parsonage 305 Searns Ave Aneta ..... 701-326-4326  
Tallackson Delores 301 County Road 12b Park River..... 701-284-6089  
The Insulation Place 14770 69 Pl NE Grafton ..... 701-379-2400  
Valley News & Views 909 N Main St Drayton..... 701-454-6333  
Woodward Donald & Zerlene 511 S Park St Northwood..... 701-587-6217





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Park River, ND 58270

## CONNECTIONS

Published by Polar Communications  
[www.polarcomm.com](http://www.polarcomm.com)

**Business Office:**

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James Longtin, Neche  
Wes Welch, Park River  
Gordon Johnson, Cavalier  
Dan Johnson, Hoople

**Chief Executive Officer:**

Karl Blake



**GIG-CAPABLE  
PROVIDER**

This institution is an equal opportunity provider  
and employer.

*Wishing you  
a wonderful  
holiday season!*

### **Polar Holiday Hours**

**Closed: Monday, December 26, 2022**

**Closed: Monday, January 2, 2023**

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

