

# polar connections

Summer 2025



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## annual meeting

Our 73rd annual meeting  
was held on June 5

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behind the service

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## caught on camera

Enter our fun video and  
photography contests!

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Park River, ND 58270

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

**Business Office:**

701.284.7221 | 800.284.7222  
[customerservice@polartel.com](mailto:customerservice@polartel.com)

**24/7/365 Support:**

888.700.7652

**Board of Directors:**

Amber Meyer, St. Thomas  
Chris Nelson, Milton  
Lori Dahl, Lakota  
Dan Johnson, Hoople  
Brian Udby, Lankin  
James Longtin, Neche  
Wes Welch, Park River  
Gordon Johnson, Cavalier  
Scott Kroeger, Arthur

**Chief Executive Officer:**

Karl Blake

*This institution is an equal opportunity  
provider and employer.*

**On the cover:**



*Members gather for the 73rd annual meeting.*

# Polar Holds 73rd Annual Meeting

The 73rd Annual Meeting of Members of Polar Communications was held on June 5, 2025, at the Park River American Legion Coliseum. The evening began with a warm welcome from CEO Karl Blake, followed by an invocation from Director Cynthia Hejl. Attendees stood together to recite the Pledge of Allegiance, after which CEO Blake introduced special guests in attendance. President Amber Meyer then introduced the current board members before officially calling the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Secretary Lori Dahl confirmed that the official meeting notice was mailed to members on May 12, 2025. With 118 members registered before the meeting began, a quorum was established and business proceedings moved forward.

Members voted to approve the minutes from the 2024 meeting as printed in the Polar Annual Report. The motion, made by Director Gordon Johnson and seconded by Director Wes Welch, passed without objection. CEO Blake presented the meeting rules, which were then approved following a motion by Director James Longtin and a second by Director Brian Udby.

Before the meeting, a meal was served to 170 members and guests, setting a welcoming tone for the evening.

Attorney Larry DuBois provided an overview of the board election process in accordance with the company's bylaws. This year's ballot included Amber Meyer (District 1), Daniel Johnson (District 2), and Scott Kroeger (District 3). A motion to cast a unanimous ballot for all three candidates was made by Director Hejl and seconded by Director Chris Nelson. The motion passed, confirming Meyer, Johnson, and Kroeger for new three-year terms.

A highlight of the evening was the joint presentation by President Meyer and CEO Blake, which provided members with a look back at the past year and industry updates.

President Meyer and CEO Blake also had the honor of presenting the 2025 John G. Walters Scholarship. Recipients in attendance included: Emily Larson, Lakota Public School; Madison Heller, Cavalier High School; Jace Larson, Northwood High School; Hannah Myrdal, Valley-Edinburg High School; Addison Uglem, Northwood High School; and Emily Williams, Valley-Edinburg High School.



Additional recipients not in attendance were: Emma Almen, Park River Area School; Kaden Bittner, Thompson High School; Avery Gratton, Larimore High School; Easton Larson, Drayton Public School; Rylee Maurstad, Drayton Public School; Elyanna Schmitz, Kindred High School; Nora Severance, Northern Cass High School; Bo Solseng, Larimore High School; and Andrew Zikmund, Park River Area School.

Secretary-Treasurer Lori Dahl gave a report to the members before President Meyer called for any additional business. With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Director Dan Johnson and a second by Director James Longtin.

The evening concluded with a \$500 prize drawing. Congratulations to James Sobolik of Park River, this year's lucky winner!



Polar employees are ready to assist members with registration.



CEO Karl Blake and Board President Amber Meyer report to the members.

# Director Election

Amber Meyer and Dan Johnson were re-elected to the Polar Board of Directors during the annual meeting on Thursday, June 5, 2025.

Scott Kroger of Arthur has been elected to fill the District 3 position left vacant by Cynthia Hejl. All three will serve a three-year term.



**Amber Meyer**  
St. Thomas, District 1



**Dan Johnson**  
Hoople, District 2



**Scott Kroeger**  
Arthur, District 3

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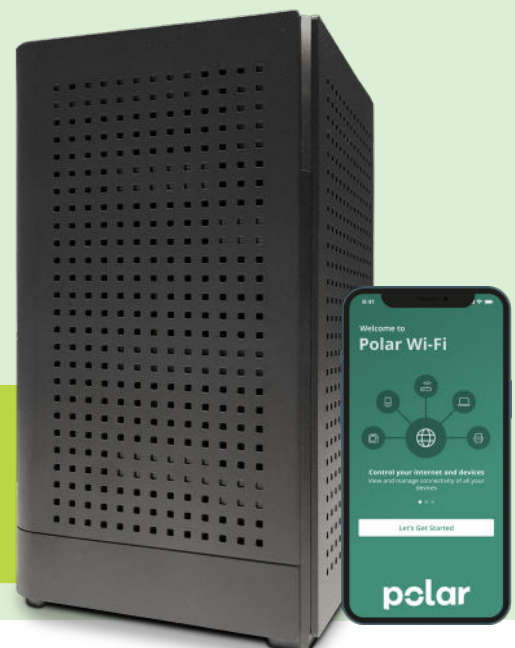
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# FRS Youth Tour

Since 1995, the Foundation for Rural Service (FRS) has been offering a unique educational experience to thousands of high school students across rural America through the Youth Tour. This program brings more than 100 high school students and chaperones from rural communities to Washington, DC, for five days. It's a chance to learn about legislative and agency processes and the crucial role of broadband services in rural communities. The students also get to meet peers from other states, visit historical sites, and gain insights into Capitol Hill and the Federal government.

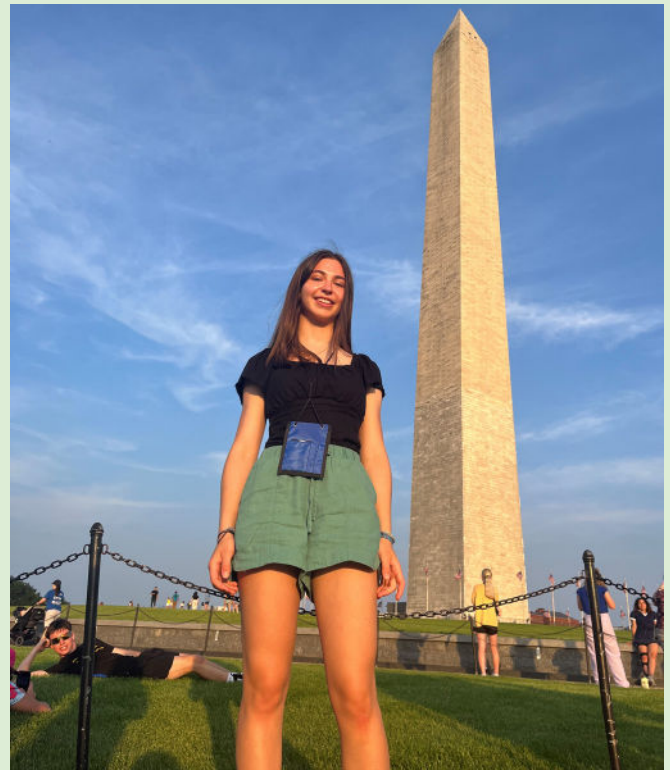
For more information on the Youth Tour, visit our website or [frs.org/programs](https://frs.org/programs).



**The 2025 FRS Youth Tour Winners are Andrew Zikmund and Emma Almen, both attend Park River Area School.**



"My trip to Washington, D.C has been incredible. The FRS group toured many places, including the Capitol, House offices, museums, and much more. We also were given the opportunity to meet our state's congress officials, see the D.C. area, and meet many wonderful people as well. In this photo, I am standing in the WW2 memorial, with the Washington Monument behind me. Thank you, Polar, for this wonderful opportunity!" Andrew Zikmund



"Thanks to Polar, I was able to partake in the 2025 FRS Youth Tour earlier this month. While I got to see and learn about so many amazing things, my favorite part of the trip was meeting new, amazing peers. It was interesting to discover all the differences and similarities in our life experiences as young members of rural communities. I had an amazing experience, and I would highly recommend any interested, eligible student to apply for this opportunity in the future." Emma Almen

We're proud to introduce the faces behind the service, the people you talk to on the phone, see at your door, and count on to keep your service running smoothly. We all live and work right here in the communities we serve, and that local connection makes a big difference. We take pride in what we do and care about our customers because you're also our neighbors, friends, and family. Thank you for trusting us; we're proud to be part of your community.

## Leadership Team



**Karl Blake**  
Chief Executive Officer



**Tim Olson**  
Chief Operations Officer



**Shari Flanders**  
Chief Financial Officer



**Kristi Gullickson**  
Chief Business  
Development Officer



**Ashley Nordstrom**  
Human Resources  
Manager



**Angie Schroeder**  
Service Center  
Supervisor



**Jim Praska**  
Field Operations  
Supervisor



**Kellen Arneson**  
Controller



**Kyle Halvorson**  
Business Services  
Supervisor



**Matthew Almen**  
Information Technology  
Supervisor



**Ryan Rosinski**  
Network Operations  
Supervisor



**Stacey Loftsgard**  
Facilities Operations  
Supervisor



# Employees



**Aloria Nelson**  
Customer Service  
Representative



**Amy Thompson**  
Administrative Assistant



**Ashley Askim**  
Customer Service  
Representative



**Caitlin Evenson**  
Accountant



**Carl Caron**  
Field Technician II



**Casey Fering**  
Field Technician I



**Chelsey Waslaski**  
Customer Service  
Representative



**Chris Buttke**  
Field Technician I



**Christian Johnson**  
Business Technician I



**Chuck Aaker**  
System Administrator



**Dale Holand**  
Network Technician II



**David Dvorak**  
Cable Splicer



**Dennis Kubat**  
Field Technician II



**Derrik McRoberts**  
Business Technician I



**Donnie Gordon**  
Purchasing Coordinator



**Evan Sommer**  
Network Technician III



**Jason Troitte**  
Business Technician I



**Jenny French**  
Accounts Payable Clerk



**Jessica Bata**  
Data Specialist



**Jill Sweeney**  
Plant Records Specialist



**Jodi LaHaise**  
Plant Records Specialist



**Jon Russell**  
Field Technician I



**Justin Loftsgard**  
Field Technician II



**Kage Eisenbarth**  
Cable Splicer



**Kelli Schatz**  
IT Specialist



**Kelly Houser**  
Cable Splicer



**Kimberly Lundquist**  
Customer Service  
Representative



**Kole Hanson**  
Field Technician I





**Kris Rainsberry**  
Field Technician II



**Kristin Shea**  
Account Executive



**Lisa Olson**  
Marketing Specialist



**Lucas Kindseth**  
System Administrator



**Mark Weeks**  
Combination Person



**Matthew Flora**  
Network Technician I



**Owen Bakken**  
Network Technician II



**Robyn Watkins**  
Purchasing Coordinator



**Spencer Potts**  
Network Technician I



**Tamara Cudmore**  
Customer Service  
Representative



**Tyler Seeba**  
Accountant



**Wendy Machart**  
Data Specialist

# Caught on Camera Contest

Have a hilarious, heartwarming, or downright surprising moment caught on your security or doorbell camera? We want to see it! Whether it's a clumsy delivery, a wildlife encounter, or an unexpected visitor, if your camera caught it, you could win!

## How to Enter:

- Submit your video (must be from a camera purchased from us)
- Include your name and a short description of the video.

Winners will receive a \$25 bill credit!

*Enter today!*

[www.polarcomm.com/caughtoncamera](http://www.polarcomm.com/caughtoncamera)

Visit our website for contest rules and details!



## ENTER OUR Photo Contest

We're looking for stunning nature, landscape, and scenery photos taken within the Polar Service territory. Share your favorite shots for a chance to be featured on the cover of our directory and in future Polar marketing materials. It's a great way to showcase your talent and love for the outdoors!

Winners will receive a \$25 bill credit.

## Rules & Guidelines:

- Send up to five photos to [marketing@polartel.com](mailto:marketing@polartel.com).
- Include your name and Polar phone or account number.
- You must be a current Polar customer to be eligible for selection.

Additional details and rules can be found at:  
[polarcomm.com/enter-our-photo-contest](http://polarcomm.com/enter-our-photo-contest)

**polar**



# Phone & Internet Assistance Programs

Lifeline is a federal program dedicated to making phone and Internet service more affordable for low-income households. This benefit provides eligible consumers a monthly discount of up to \$9.25.

For our customers in Minnesota, Minnesota's Telephone Assistance Plan (TAP) offers a monthly credit on your landline telephone service. The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission of the Department of Commerce administers and supervises this program. This benefit provides eligible consumers a monthly discount of up to \$10.

## individual eligibility

You qualify for a discount if you participate in any one of these government programs:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Medicaid
- Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA)
- Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

—OR—

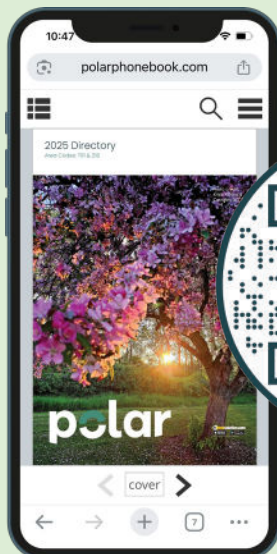
- Your income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines.

Lifeline:  
[www.lifelinesupport.org](http://www.lifelinesupport.org)

MTAP:  
[mn.gov/puc/consumers/telephone](http://mn.gov/puc/consumers/telephone)



Access our directory online  
at [polarphonebook.com](http://polarphonebook.com)



## Directory Listing Updates

Dahl Motorsports .....	103 Harris Ave S Park River	701-284-7001
Figueroa Jose & Kristi .....	10489 58th St NE Bocket	701-655-3525
Fischer Ryan D.....	706 River St Cavalier	701-265-4030
Huso Nola.....	Res Northwood	701-581-3008
Johnson Matthew A.....	307 E 2nd Ave S Cavalier	701-265-4076
Kvernen Dale R.....	14447 9th St NE Portland	701-786-3510
LFS Professional Services Inc.....	311 Inez Ave N Michigan	701-259-2447
Machart Y.....	14463 11th St NE Hatton	701-543-2059
Markel Robert.....	8092 142nd Ave NE Hoople	701-657-2328
McCoy Cynthia S.....	Res Cavalier	701-265-4012
The McIntyre Bar & Grill .....	224 2nd St Hoople	701-894-6102
No Place Saloon Bar & Grill .....	13688 Hwy 5 W Cavalier	701-265-4013
North Star Coop - Park River.....	13209 Highway 17 Park River	701-284-7480
Quaife David .....	504 E 1st Ave S Cavalier	701-265-4010
Samdahl Bradley S. ....	480 5th St S Edinburg	701-993-8100
Waslaski Cody & Chelsey .....	Res Park River	701-284-7217



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



Whether commercial or personal, summer often means outdoor projects, and outdoor projects often mean digging. But what happens if you damage a utility? The cost could mean thousands of dollars in repairs and fines. Soon, that little project is a big project.

There is a free solution — Call 811!  
Let them know about your project, and all your underground utilities will be located and marked so you can avoid damage.

**Dial 811 or visit [call811.com](http://call811.com)  
to submit a request online.**

