
Independent Telecommunications Pioneer Association

Pioneer Connection



itpa

Issue 25-02	May 2025	Founded 1920
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Pioneer Connection

Issue 25-01

May 2025

Founded 1920

Update on Annual Membership Dues

In January all dues-paying ITPA Pioneers received a notice of annual membership dues. Dues are payable upon receipt. As of May 1st, however, only 39 percent of our Pioneers have mailed their dues payment or paid online. Gentle reminders will be mailed in June.

Thanks to the continued support of our faithful Pioneers, the ITPA has been in existence for 105 years. It is through your commitment to serve your communities and your dedication to preserving telecommunication's history that the ITPA organization has weathered many storms over the last century.

Some Pioneers choose to donate to our ITPA Charitable Foundation and Historical Foundation when their membership dues are paid. Thank you for your generous donations to those foundations.

With your monetary support, the Charitable Foundation continues to sponsor national projects that provide support to worthwhile organizations such as the Alzheimer's Association for Alzheimer's research, troop/veteran support, disaster relief efforts, and donations to local projects as part of the ITPA's Awards Program matching funds. Your contributions help others to see brighter futures and are much appreciated.

Donations to our Historical Foundation help support the Hall of Fame Museum in Hinesville, Georgia, where an extensive display of telephone instruments and various telecommunications equipment, as well as records, relics, and other telephony memorabilia are housed.

Officers and directors of the Charitable Foundation are responsible for the oversight of donated funds are as follows:

President—Darlene Roll
Vice President—James White
Secretary/Treasurer—Nancy Schnitzer
Directors:
Ronnie Cashwell
Jan Jeffrey
Darlene Terry

Officers and directors responsible for the ongoing preservation, restoration, and presentation of the many artifacts donated and purchased through the Historical Foundation are as follows:

President—Ronnie Cashwell
Treasurer—Ronnie Cashwell
Secretary—Nancy Schnitzer
Directors:
Morrie Sachsenmaier
Becky Hollis
Leon Yard
Jim Jolly



Our ITPA and non-profits across the nation have experienced a decline in membership. In fact, in 2024 alone, 21 percent of non-profit organizations across the United States realized a decrease in membership dues. Our ITPA dues are therefore even more critical to continuing the mission of our organization.

Thank you again for continuing to support the ITPA with your dues and donations.

REMINDER:

When membership dues are paid online at [Payments and Donations - ITPA \(nationalitpa.com\)](https://nationalitpa.com), a \$2.00 convenience fee is automatically added to the amount collected to cover the ITPA's cost of electronic transactions.

Are you eligible to become a Life Member?

Life memberships may be granted to ITPA Pioneers who have been engaged in the telecommunications industry for a minimum of 40 years and have been active ITPA members for at least 15 years.



Welcome to the Very Merry Month of May!



Welcome to May, a vibrant spring month bursting with life, celebrations, and fascinating history.

May is the fifth month of the Gregorian calendar. The name is believed to come from the Greek goddess Maia, who was associated with spring and growth. The birthstone for May babies is the Emerald and the flowers dedicated to the month are the Lily of the Valley and the Hawthorn.

Zodiac signs for May babies are Taurus (April 20-May 20) and Gemini (May 21-June 20). Notable May holidays include May Day (May 1), Cinco de Mayo (May 5) Mother's Day (2nd Sunday), and Memorial Day (last Monday of the month).

May Day, also known as International Workers Day, is a European festival, its roots dating back thousands of years, although it's not celebrated or even generally recognized in the U.S. today.

Cinco de Mayo celebrates Mexico's victory over the Second French Empire at the Battle of Puebla. In the U.S. the celebration generally includes margaritas and colorful festivals.



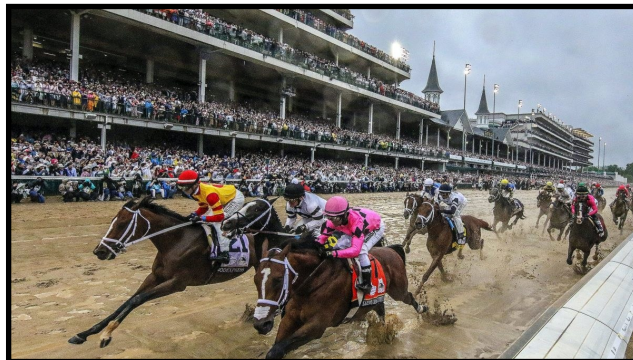
Mother's Day became an official U.S. holiday in 1914, having been signed into law by President Woodrow Wilson. More than 100 countries celebrate Mother's Day, although not on the date we honor mothers in the U.S.

Memorial Day, designated as a day to remember and honor those who have died in our nation's war, is also unofficially celebrated as the kick-off to summer.



Memorial Day originated during the American Civil War as "Decoration Day," named so because citizens placed flowers on the graves of those who had been killed in battle. Although several locations are claimed to be the birthplace of the holiday, the official birthplace was deemed to be Waterloo, New York by congressional proclamation in 1966.

The most exciting two minutes in sports is always held in May. Secretariat, who won the Kentucky Derby in 1973 and went on to win the Triple Crown, still holds the record for the fastest finish. Secretariat finished the 1.25-mile track in less than two minutes (1:59.40). Sovereignty won the 2025 Kentucky Derby with a time of 2:02.31.



Historically significant events in May include the invention of Coca Cola in 1886, the 1937 Hindenburg disaster, and in 1961 Alan Shepard was the first American in space. In 2001, U.S. Navy SEALs killed al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden in a stealth operation that ended a decade-long manhunt.

Antique Telephone Collectors Unite!



Once upon a time in a small town in Kansas, a group of telephone enthusiasts banded together in 1971 to form the Antique Telephone Collectors Association, or ATCA®, the largest telephone collectors' organization in the world. Chartered in 1971 as a non-profit corporation by the state of Kansas and headquartered in Salina, KS, the ACTA has members throughout the USA, Canada, Europe, and Australia.

The ATCA was formed to publicize the historical importance of telephony and to promote the collecting of old telephones and related items. The ATCA hosts multiple events to accomplish those objectives. Anyone who is interested in antique telephones, memorabilia and/or telephone history and supports the objectives of the ATCA can become a member. The \$30 annual membership dues entitle members to receive a periodic online newsletter and access to numerous resources, including historical data sheets on nearly 400 companies, manufacturers and distributors since the inception of the telephone. The club hosts shows during which collectible telephones from antique to modern can be purchased, as well as parts needed to restore instruments.

The ATCA's website offers resources to guide collectors to appraisals, repair options and interesting articles. The website offers a vast array of information to its members, and includes some interesting telephony articles that non-members can enjoy.

The following article is one example of the resources provided by the ATCA:

[The Great Lowell Measles Epidemic or How the Telephone Number was Invented | Antique Telephone Collectors Association.](#)

The ATCA also provides complimentary guides on restoring antique telephones at <https://atcaonline.com/resources/>.

You can also find a list of upcoming shows during which collectors' instruments will be on display and some telephones and parts will be available for sale. Since 1971, the ATCA hosts an Annual Show, now held in August. The location varies, and the show draws collectors from all over the United States and Canada. The annual show features a members-only auction of antique telephones and related telephony items.¹

Telephone Collectors International, also founded in Kansas, has been active since 1986, and also provides online resources for antique telephone enthusiasts. Telephone enthusiasts can find information about collectors, hobbyists, and historians who are helping preserve the history of the telecommunications industry at <https://www.telephonecollectors.org>.²

If you haven't yet visited the ITPA's National Office and Telephone Museum, you have missed a treat. Educational and informative, this museum features an expansive display of telecommunications instruments and equipment. The ITPA's website also includes an extensive online history of telecommunications at [History of the Telephone - ITPA](#). The museum is open to the public at no charge (donations accepted). School groups and other organizations often make reservations to tour the museum.

This museum is also one of the featured museums each year during Georgia's statewide *Super Museum Sunday*, which takes place in February. This year, Alissa Moss, former ITPA Executive Director and active ITPA Pioneer, hosted guests during *Super Museum Sunday*. Read more about that event on Page 6.

Sources:

¹ *Antique Telephone Collectors Association*, <https://atcaonline.com>

² *Telephone Collectors International*, <https://www.telephonecollectors.org>

³ *Independent Telecommunications Pioneer Association*, <https://www.nationalitpa.com>

Telephony History Preserved

Dr. William Granger, a member of the Antique Telephone Collectors Association, is passionate about the preservation of telephone instruments in memory of what he says was once "the greatest telephone company in the world." Dr. Granger has an extensive collection of antique telephones, and has agreed to share some of his knowledge about these instruments with us over the next several issues.

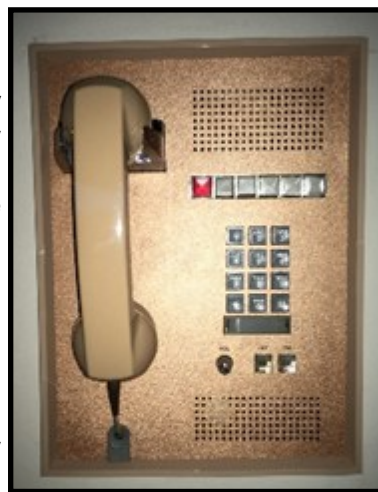


This A1 telephone was manufactured by Western Electric. The Type A instrument was initially placed into service in 1927. This telephone was the first one to have a handset which incorporated the receiver and transmitter into one unit. This phone is famous, or perhaps infamous, for having been created by simply sawing off the top part of a 50-AL, or 51-AL candlestick phone – the predecessor to the A1 – and fitting it with an aluminum cradle and E1 handset. There are allegedly seven variants of this numbered A1 to A7, but I have no idea what the differences are. The most common variant is the A1 and this is fitted with a No. 2 dial. Some people incorrectly call this an AA1, and some people call this an A1A but supposedly that is only valid if you have the matching sub-set. Although this phone is rather rare, what makes it unique is that it came from the office of Jane Addams of Hull House fame. In Chicago. Hull House was started by Ms. Addams and provided early educational, social, and recreational services to immigrants and the urban poor.

Written by Dr. William Granger

This 2752 with Type 3 speakerphone is also in Dr. Granger's collection. It is considered one of the Holy Grails of telephone collectors as it combines the retractable handset cord, key system and Type 3 speakerphone (the Model 55A or B control unit is separate). Dr. Granger provided the following information about this coveted collector's item.

Introduced in 1968, this telephone instrument is unique in my view for compatibility with both 1A2 systems and the home interphone system. Thus, one can add the appropriate built-in microphone to make it work with the home interphone system. It was always my goal or dream to have



a home interphone system, but finding a Model 51 control unit for the interphone system is nearly impossible, not to mention obtaining compatible home interphone telephones such as the x558, x511, and x712. To make it fully functional, one also needed the small N2 microphone to place in each phone and of course, these microphones all have different model numbers and configurations depending on whether it was a wall phone, Princess phone or desk phone. It seems the most commonly installed configuration was a 558 wall phone in the kitchen with a 712 Princess phone in the bedroom. The 2752 has a built-in speaker, but all the other phones mentioned use a 759 speaker mounted on wall or baseboard and a 730 front door speaker with mike. The interphone function is activated by turning the turnkey 90 degrees to the right and then your voice is transmitted to the 759 speakers. If you further press on the turnkey, the front door speaker is activated and you can talk with your front door visitor. I also have the 1A2 phones (mainly 2565s) hooked to the home interphone and can access the home interphone by depressing the 4th key, and the front door by the 5th key. It's a shame the home interphone did not become very popular although I did hear it was very popular in the Washington, DC area.

Written by Dr. William Granger



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ITPA Telephone Museum Featured During Super Museum Sunday



Super Museum Sunday is a free, annual event in Georgia that highlights the state's history, culture, and arts. Held in February each year, the event is part of the Georgia History Festival. On Super Museum Sunday dozens of museums, historic sites, and cultural institutions offer free tours. Visitors can explore exhibits, take guided tours and participate in hands-on activities at participating venues throughout the state.

The ITPA Telephone Museum was one of the featured Liberty County museums this year, and six ITPA volunteers provided tours to at least 60 people during Super Museum Sunday.



Above: ITPA volunteers Kassie Davis, Addie Moss, Chris Moss, Alissa Moss, Ginny Robles and Bruno Robles provided informative and educational tours to individuals and groups who visited the museum during Super Museum Sunday.



Adults and children alike enjoyed the tours provided by our knowledgeable volunteers. Liberty County schools provided students with cards that could be signed by museum representatives at each venue for extra credit. One student spent extra time at the Telephone Museum to gather information for a special project assigned by her teacher. Alissa Moss spent additional time with the student teaching her about Alexander Graham Bell and explaining the transceiver that once belonged to Bell. She also explained the role of the operator and how calls were originally completed. We extend a big thank you to Alissa and all of our museum volunteers for donating their time and knowledge to introduce others to the rich telecommunications history that can be experienced at our museum.



More Museum News

ITPA Executive Director Andrea Wick hosted numerous museum tours in recent months. The museum had so many visitors during a recent Department of Defense - First Grade Field Trip that the group was split into four smaller groups. In total, 122 people attended that event (105 first graders and 17 parents and teachers). Adults and children toured the museum in groups of 30. As one group toured the museum, another group enjoyed time on the park playground, one group read books on the back lawn, and another group visited the Veteran's Memorial Walk. The children were eager and excited participants and were thrilled with the interactive sections of the museum tour.



In April, the Fierce and Free Nature Group, consisting of 16 children and 8 adults, visited our museum. The interactive displays were again big hits with the children.



More than 250 visitors have toured the museum this year, an impressive number since the museum was closed early in the year for various repairs. Often, first time visitors are so impressed with the museum that they return later with other friends or family members. Several families with special needs children are repeat visitors because they particularly enjoy the hands-on aspects of the museum. Visitors to the area who worked in the field of telephony are often pleased to learn of a "telephone museum" in the area and come in to reminisce. Whatever the reason, we are delighted that we are able to share a bit of telecommunications history with our visitors.

Whether they're learning to dial a rotary phone or experiencing the concept of a pay telephone, museum visitors young and old enjoy the interactive telephone displays.



Club/Chapter News

Comporium Pioneer Club (SC)

The Comporium Pioneers did not slow down after the holiday season. They started the year by serving dinner for about 80 homeless clients at Bethel Shelters. Their dinner guests enjoyed a feast of Salisbury Steak with gravy, green beans, mashed potatoes, rolls and soft drinks. Lunch bags were also provided by the club for the men to enjoy the following day. One of the gentlemen who received the meal told club president Brittany Murphy that it was one of the most enjoyable nights he'd ever had.



Above, left to right:

Row 1: Vice President Angie Robitaille, President Brittany Murphy

Row 2: Greg Bucy, Tucker Bucy, Darius Murphy, Tim Smoak, Nolan Robitaille, Candy Bucy

A group of Comporium Pioneers also volunteered at the Haven Men's Shelter on Super Bowl Sunday, assisting with the annual fund-raiser for that organization. The Haven Men's Shelter is one of several organizations that the Comporium Pioneers regularly support.



Above, left to right:

Row 1: Melinda Niday, Cindy Downing, Daniel Barnhardt

Row 2: Greg Lunsford, Loretta Lunsford, Davon Sanders

Comporium Pioneers had a blast volunteering for a winter Special Olympics Bowling event and hosted a Valentine's Day blood drive.



Carotel Club (NC)

Carotel Club Pioneers were alerted to two emergency food needs in February by local food pantry volunteers. Martha's Mission Cupboard, an organization long supported by Carotel Pioneers, was completely out of a staple that is included in the food bags prepared for its clients. Carotel delivered 3 cases of spaghetti sauce within 24 hours of learning about the need, and delivered another 14 cases of sauce a few days later. The Pioneers also delivered heart healthy cans of soup and many other staples to a local "blessings box" that social workers had set up for Veterans at a local VA Clinic. The supplies in that small pantry had been depleted except for a supply of Ramen noodles, and the healthy food options we delivered provided a healthier food choice to the Veterans.



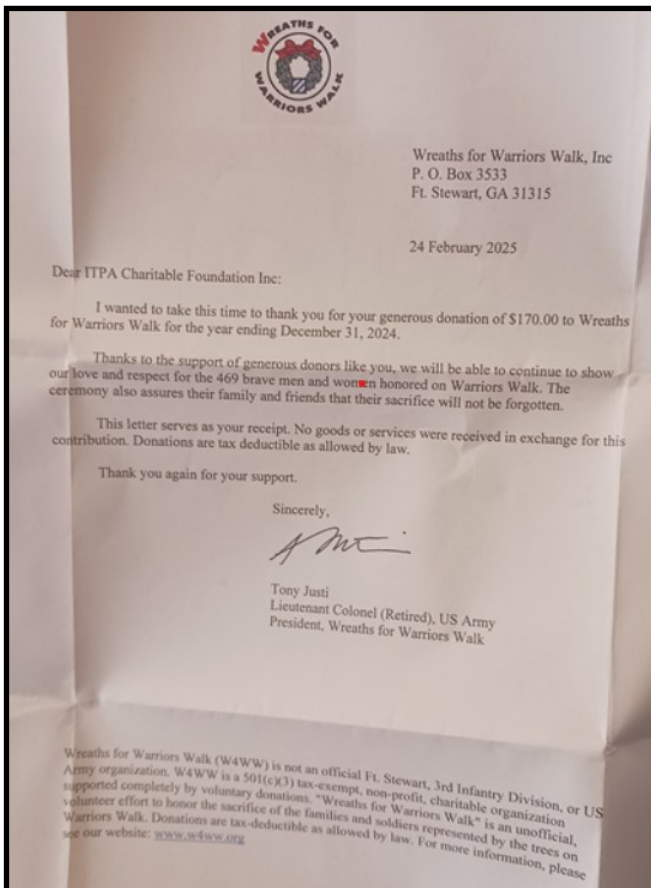
The Executive Director for Martha's Mission Cupboard contacted us to advise the local Veteran's Administration can provide vouchers to their veteran clients that will allow the veterans to obtain food supplies from Martha's Mission Cupboard. We are pleased to support an organization that seeks out opportunities to work with other organizations to fulfill their mission of ensuring families in need have groceries in their pantries.



Foundation News

ITPA Charitable Foundation

The president of *Wreaths for Warriors Walk, Inc.* sent a letter to the ITPA Charitable Foundation acknowledging the year-end donation that contributed towards 469 wreaths placed in honor of the brave men and women honored on Warriors Walk.



This meaningful donation was made possible through the generous donations of our Pioneers to the Charitable Foundation.

*Thank
you*

Independent Telephone Historical Museum and Hall of Fame Foundation Inc

In April, ITPA Executive Director Andrea Wick was a guest speaker at "STEAMposium," an annual event for young learners that highlights areas of interest in science, technology, engineering, art, and math. Students were introduced to an array of topics by dozens of presenters. Andrea presented six sessions on telecommunications history to nearly 150 second and third-grade classes from Diamond Elementary School on the Fort Stewart campus. Each session consisted of 20 to 25 students. At the conclusion of each session, Andrea distributed museum flyers and invited the students and their families to visit the ITPA Museum for tours. Several teachers expressed interest in scheduling field trips for the upcoming school year.

This event provided a great opportunity to share our telecommunications history with young learners and to introduce the community to our museum. Since the museum reopened in February after undergoing some much needed repairs and upgrades, we've had more than 250 visitors!





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To have your club/chapter events published in the May 2025 Pioneer Connection, please e-mail details of your event to bdnterry@outlook.com.

date TBD

MidSouth Chapter
3rd Annual Pheasant Hunt Fundraiser
Birmingham/Montgomery, AL area
Details available soon at:
<https://www.midsouthitpa.org>

August 22-23, 2025

Tar Heel Chapter Annual Fall Assembly
Aberdeen, NC
Details available soon

October 3-5, 2025

Buckeye State Chapter Fall Get-Together
Dutch Host Inn, Sugar Creek, OH
Details available soon

October 10-11, 2025

Carotel Convention
Crystal Coast Oceanfront Hotel
Pine Knoll Shores, NC

December 9, 2025

Otto Wettstein, Jr Pioneer Club 46th Annual Christmas Luncheon
Venetian Center, Leesburg Florida

February 6-8, 2026

Tar Heel Chapter Mid-Winter Gathering
Monterey Bay Suites
Myrtle Beach, SC

Last Wed. of Every Month—NEAREA Telecom Pioneers gather for breakfast (Dutch treat) from 8:30 am-10 am at Lakeside Skillet, Harvey's Lake, PA. Come for breakfast or just to visit.

All clubs and chapters are encouraged to utilize the ITPA website that includes a page specifically dedicated to club and chapter news and events. Information such as scholarship applications, registration forms for annual assemblies and conventions, and more can be shared at <https://www.nationalitpa.com/news>. To add your club/chapter updates, send an e-mail to our Public Relations Chairperson, Darlene Terry at bdnterry@outlook.com. Please add "Club/Chapter News for Website" to the subject line of your e-mail.



Member Spotlight

*ITPA Pioneer **Cindy Downing** is an enthusiastic Comporium Pioneer Club member and she also serves on the National ITPA Board as Secretary. Even though Cindy stays plenty busy with ITPA-related projects, she also volunteers regularly with several other non-profit organizations. This month, our member spotlight shines on Cindy Downing, with a focus on her long and active involvement with the ITPA. Cindy was nominated recently for both the Member Spotlight segment and the Pioneer Passions segment. And because Cindy has a number of passion projects that she supports outside of the ITPA, our Pioneer Passion section will introduce our readers to some of the things that keep Cindy busy when she's not wearing her ITPA hat.*



Above: Cindy (front left) with fellow Comporium Pioneers at a recent Special Olympics bowling event.

At work, Cindy was known as a down-to-earth woman with red curly hair and a cell phone on her hip waiting for a call that might require her immediate action at Comporium's network office in Rock Hill, SC. A Remote Digital Technician never really relaxes, so Cindy was the perfect person for that job. Cindy's co-workers said of her that while she was energetic, she also puts those around her at ease with her beaming smile and an attitude that nothing is too big an obstacle to overcome. Cindy believed that all it takes to conquer any problem is teamwork, focus and rolling up your sleeves.

Cindy began her career with Comporium as an operator in 1989, after having previously worked at a day-care facility, where she credits learning how to be nurturing, compassionate and organized. A native of Augusta, Georgia, she lived overseas during her childhood but graduated from high school in Kentucky. After working as an operator for ten years, Cindy transferred to Network Services as a Frame Desk and Service Order Technician. In 2002, she transferred to the position of Network Remote Digital Technician until she retired in 2023.

With a passion for community service and a desire to network with her co-workers, becoming a Pioneer was a natural fit for Cindy. Since becoming a Pioneer, she has served faithfully at the local, state and national levels.

A quote attributed to Benjamin Franklin says "If you want something done, ask a busy person." Cindy's service as a Pioneer, summarized below, has proven that to be true.

1998- 2001 Catawba Pioneer Club- Community Services Committee member

2001-2003 National ITPA-Co-Chair Public Relations Committee, **Catawba Pioneer Club-Chair** of Membership and Awards

2004 National ITPA- Public Relations Committee Chair, **Comporium Pioneer Club-** 3rd Vice President

2005 National ITPA- Public Relations Committee Chair, **Comporium Pioneer Club-** 1st Vice President

2006 National ITPA- Public Relations Committee Chair, **Comporium Pioneer Club-** President

2007 National ITPA- Public Relations Committee Chair, **Comporium Pioneer Club-** Immediate Past President & Community Services Chair

2008 National ITPA- Public Relations Committee Chair, **Comporium Pioneer Club-** Community Services Chair

2009 National ITPA- Public Relations Committee Chair, **Palmetto Chapter-** Director, **Comporium Pioneer Club-** Community Services Chair

2010 National ITPA- Vice President & Awards committee member, **Palmetto Chapter-** Director, **Comporium Pioneer-** Club Community Services Co-Chair

2010-2011 National ITPA- President, **Palmetto Chapter-** Director, **Comporium Pioneer-** Club Community Services committee

2011-2012 National ITPA- Immediate Past President & Awards committee member, **Palmetto Chapter-** Director, **Comporium Pioneer Club-** Community Services committee

2012-2021 National ITPA-Director At Large, Public Relations Chair, National Awards Committee member, **Palmetto Chapter-** Director, **Comporium Pioneer Club-** Community Services Committee Chair

2023-Present National ITPA- Secretary



Member Spotlight (Cont'd)

Cindy's goal as a Pioneer has always been to inspire others. As National President, Cindy reminded Pioneers and their sponsor companies that, "Pioneering can be used to help in our communities, and our sponsoring companies need to remember that Pioneers are a perfect and often forgotten resource for bridging the gap between themselves and the public."

During her tenure as a Pioneer, Cindy has participated in too many Pioneer projects to list them all. She has a long list of favorites, though, and has coordinated or participated in the following projects for many years:

Blood Drive for American Red Cross and Community Blood Center of the Carolina's, now One Blood. Sponsor contact for both organizations since 2007, setting dates for the drives and making all the appointments for the drives four to five times a year.

Phone Calls to Santa now Phone Calls to the North Pole @ Comporium Telephone Museum. Project coordinator since 2008.

Rolling in Rock Hill. Project participant since 2005 and in charge of the project numerous times throughout the years, helping needy homeowners with painting and landscaping their residences.

Mardi Gras in November for The Children's Attention Home. Served repeatedly as volunteer coordinator.

Christmas Dinners for the Needy. Project coordinator since 2005.

Boo HaHa. Volunteer since 2004. Responsible for recruiting volunteers and purchasing candy since 2005 for community trick or treat event sponsored by a local radio station

Troop Support. Worked with and or been in charge of Troop Support efforts since 2003

Back the Pack- Served as Community Services in 2009 for school district project to ensure children at risk of food insecurity have child-friendly non-perishable foods.

Introducing a Girl to Engineering Day. Recruited volunteers for York Technical School project for three years.

Easter Baskets and Party for Seniors Community Services chairperson in 2009

Easter Egg Classic-Community Services chairperson in 2012, responsible for recruiting volunteers for the WRHI-City of Rock Hill Easter Egg Classic

Undie Monday for York County Foster Parents Association. Community Services chairperson in 2008, responsible for collecting under garments for children placed in Foster Care.

Projects for Lancaster County Outreach-Community Services chairperson in 2009 and 2010. Collected beds and bed linens for children in Lancaster County Foster Care

School Supply Collections-Community Services chairperson or committee member planning for the yearly school supply drives.

Waggin Trail Dog Walk. Cindy planned and developed this fundraiser that was sponsored by the Comporium Pioneers for about 5 years.

Vaccine Clinic-Organized Pioneers to volunteer at the Covid vaccine clinic when the vaccine was first developed and ready for distribution. Also collected snack items for all the volunteers

The Haven Men's Shelter Super Bowl Fundraiser. Organize volunteers to help with this yearly project since 2022.

Lunch and Learns. Planned and hosted monthly Lunch and Learns with guests from various 501c3 charities.

Area 11 Special Olympics. Organize volunteers for the annual games and bowling tournament.

Inclusive Kitchen. Organize volunteers and participate in Inclusive Kitchen to benefit the Adult Enrichment Centers.

Bethel Shelters. Organize volunteers, plan and help cook and serve meals to be at the Bethel Men's Shelter

Dogs for Dogs 2. Hot dog lunch fundraiser to benefit the Rock Hill Police Department's K-9 unit.

Flood Buckets. Continued a project begun during Covid to collect items, pack and send flood buckets to the victims of Hurricane Helene in Western North Carolina

Member Spotlight (Cont'd)

It may be surprising that despite the many hours Cindy devotes to Pioneering activities, she has many other interests as well. She and her husband, Kendall are avid Carolina Panthers fans. They have season tickets and as the old postal service quote goes, "neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night" keeps them from the appointed game time.



Cindy and Kendall recently celebrated their 22nd wedding anniversary. Cindy and Kendall met in 1991 and were a couple for eleven years before marrying. Kendall helped raise Cindy's son Timmie and they enjoyed life as a family watching Timmie play football and wrestle.



In addition to sharing their enthusiasm for the Panthers, Cindy and Kendall enjoy attending other sporting events, going to concerts, traveling to National Parks across the country, and being with friends. In 2022 they took a trip to Ireland and they plan on taking more overseas trips.

Cindy will tell anyone who asks what her hobby is that it's volunteering. When asked about that, she said, "It's what I love to do, it is my passion, and I hope to be able to pass that passion of volunteering on to others." Cindy must have figured out how to pack 48 hours in each day, because she stays incredibly busy volunteering for charities and events outside of her Pioneer activities. Check out our Pioneer Passions segment in this issue to read how Cindy spends the rest of her time.



Above: Cindy was one of several Comporium Pioneers who helped with the recent Super Bowl Fundraiser for The Haven Men's Shelter.

Please help us recognize Pioneers in your local clubs or chapters by nominating a fellow Pioneer for our Member Spotlight segment. Participation at the national level is not required. In fact, we'd love the opportunity to spotlight Pioneers who have been integral members of their local clubs.

Please check with your nominee to be sure they are willing to be interviewed and to share photos and send their contact information to:

bdnterry@outlook.com

Pioneer Passions

The August 2024 issue of the Pioneer Connection introduced this section to let our Pioneers know about other non-profit organizations and causes that our members devote their time and talents to support. This month's Member Spotlight section features Cindy Downing with a focus on her contributions as a Pioneer to the ITPA and the causes our organization supports. Cindy passionately serves by volunteering with several other non-profit organizations, and this segment introduces some of the organizations she helps when she's not busy working on a Pioneering project.

When Cindy was interviewed for the Member Spotlight segment, her first response when asked about her hobbies was "volunteering." It's no wonder, then, that she doesn't limit her volunteer work to Pioneering.

Cindy is integrally involved with **Crime Stoppers of York County**. This community program allows people to provide anonymous information with the intended goal of leading to arrests, recovery of stolen property or the seizure of illegal drugs. Since its inception in 2000, Crime Stoppers of York County has received well over 6,000 tips resulting in nearly 1,500 arrests. Narcotics valued at nearly \$700K has been seized along with nearly \$28K in cash, and close to \$800K in stolen property has also been recovered. Cindy has served on the board of directors since 2016, and she served as board chairperson from 2016 to 2021. Since 2022 she has served as the organization's Compliance Officer. Since 2023 she has served as a board member on for Southeastern Regional Crime Stoppers and as Vice President for the South Carolina Crime Stoppers Association. Cindy was recently appointed to serve as co-chair for the 2027 Southeastern Crime Stoppers Association Conference planning committee.

During the holidays you may find Cindy at a Red Kettle location if she's not recruiting others to volunteer for the **Salvation Army**. She previously served on the advisory board and was board chairperson from 2020 to 2022. Money raised through the Red Kettle program is used to buy food and toys for needy families. Learn more about the Salvation Army serving York, Chester and Lancaster Counties in SC at [The Salvation Army of York, Chester and Lancaster Counties](#).



Cindy commits many volunteer hours to **The Haven Men's Shelter**, through Pioneering efforts and individually. Since 2024 she has served on that organization's fundraising committee and on the research and development committee. This organization serves homeless men of York, Lancaster and Chester Counties in South Carolina, providing a safe environment and offering opportunities to help clients break the cycle of chronic homelessness. Learn more about The Haven Men's Shelter at [The Haven Men's Shelter – Men's Homeless Shelter | Rock Hill SC](#).

Cindy is a founding member of "**Kickin' for a Cause**" Kickball Tournament which began in 2016 to raise money for local children's charities. She has also helped vulnerable children through her involvement as a guardian ad litem (GAL). A GAL looks after and protects the interests of individuals who are unable to take care of themselves, typically a minor or someone who is legally incompetent. Cindy served as a GAL from 2009 to 2011 and served on the board of the **York County Guardian ad litem Foundation** from 2010 to 2011. In 2012 she served as Vice President of the board and in 2014 she served as President of the Foundation for Abused and Neglected Children of York County.

She has long been involved with the York County Relay for Life, which is a community-based walkathon fundraising event for the American Cancer Society. In the past, she has served on the York County Relay for Life Accounting Committee and in 2009 served as chairperson of that committee.

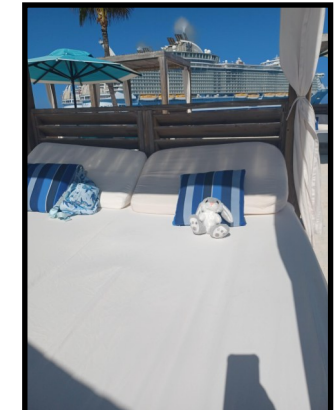
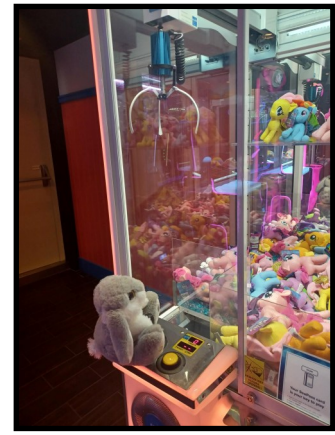
Cindy also served on the 2024 ChristmasVille committee as the Downtown Business Liaison. ChristmasVille is an annual holiday festival held in Rock Hill, SC that celebrates the joy and magic of the holiday season. The festival features a variety of activities, including live performances, art exhibitions, holiday markets, and festive decorations throughout the city. Now operating as an independent 501 (c)(3) organization, ChristmasVille remains committed to creating an enchanting experience for the community and visitors alike.

She served on the planning committee for the Feb. 2025 Heart to Heart Foundation Sip & Savor Soiree and is currently serving as co-chairperson for the "Come See Me Souvenir" committee. The Come See Me Festival is Rock Hill's annual 10-day festival to salute spring. It features more than 60 events and activities for more than 100,000 attendees from across the U.S. and from overseas. The Souvenir committee selects the souvenirs to be sold at the festival and obtains giveaways for sponsors. The committee began working on the festival last October, and they revealed this year's logo in February. The committee is working on T-shirts now for the hundreds of volunteers it will take to host the festival.

Cindy clearly does not believe retirement is for relaxing. Thank you Cindy for making such a difference in the lives of so many people in your community!

Honey Bunny's Adventures

I sure hope you enjoyed some of the photos I shared in February from my international adventures! Who would have thought when Elmer Fudd so abruptly snatched me from ITPA President Leon Yard nearly a year ago that I'd end up seeing so much of the world! And speaking of traveling, I've got some more photos to share with you. I recently flew to Miami, Florida and embarked on a spectacular Royal Caribbean Cruise on Allure of the Seas. First, let me tell you a little about the ship. It has 16 decks with 2,200 crew members to ensure that up to 6,780 guests have a fabulous voyage. The ship boasts a rock climbing wall, ice skating rink and a zip line, to name a few entertainment options. It also features an aqua theater, central park, and a full size carousel! I met so many new friends and went on so many adventures!! Here are some photos from a few of those adventures. I hope you enjoy!



RECIPE EXCHANGE

Sun Drop Cake

An extended family member who lives in Tennessee gave me this recipe for Sundrop Cake. Apparently, the soft drink Sun Drop is popular in the South. By Darlene Roll

Cake Ingredients:

- 1 box lemon cake mix
- 3 eggs
- 1 small package instant lemon pudding
- 1 (12 oz. Sundrop soda). If Sundrop is not available, Mountain Dew or Mellow Yellow will work as a substitute.
- 1/3 cup oil



Icing Ingredients:

- 1 cup confectioner's sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 to 2 tablespoons water (add as needed to achieve "drizzle consistency")

Directions: Preheat oven to 350°. Combine all cake ingredients and mix for 3 minutes. Spray a Bundt pan with cooking spray and pour mixture into the pan. Bake for 30 to 35 minutes (or until a toothpick comes out clean). Let cool. Turn onto a plate, and let the cake completely cool.

Combine icing ingredients and drizzle over top of cake. Serve and enjoy!



Tips for baking with and maintaining your Bundt cake pans:

Traditional Bundt cake pans hold 12-cups of batter, the perfect two-cake cake mix size. Most recipes that make 10 to 12 cups of batter will fit perfectly in most bundt cake pans.

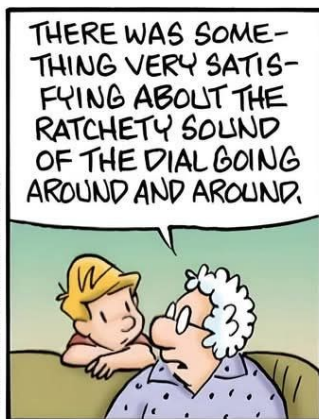
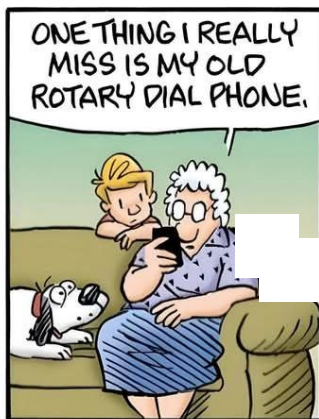
For the best results, only fill your Bundt pan 2/3 full of batter. This will ensure that even with the batter rising while baking, it will not overflow the baking pan.

Bundt cakes are notorious for sticking to the complicated cake molds, and it can be a challenge to remove the bundt cakes cleanly, without tearing the cakes. Use a pastry brush to brush on the solid shortening and then dust with flour, ensuring all areas are covered, especially the center cone. (You can use a little dry cake mix instead of flour, or for chocolate cakes you can use cocoa powder instead of flour. (Using sugar instead of flour will give you a glistening, slightly caramelized finish.) To make this prep very easy, PAM Nonstick Cooking Spray makes a Baking version, which has flour mixed right into the spray.

Baking and cooling times vary according to batter density. Your best bet is to keep a close eye on the cake while baking, and once it starts to appear done, test it with a toothpick. When the toothpick emerges with just a few moist crumbs attached to it, the cake is finished.

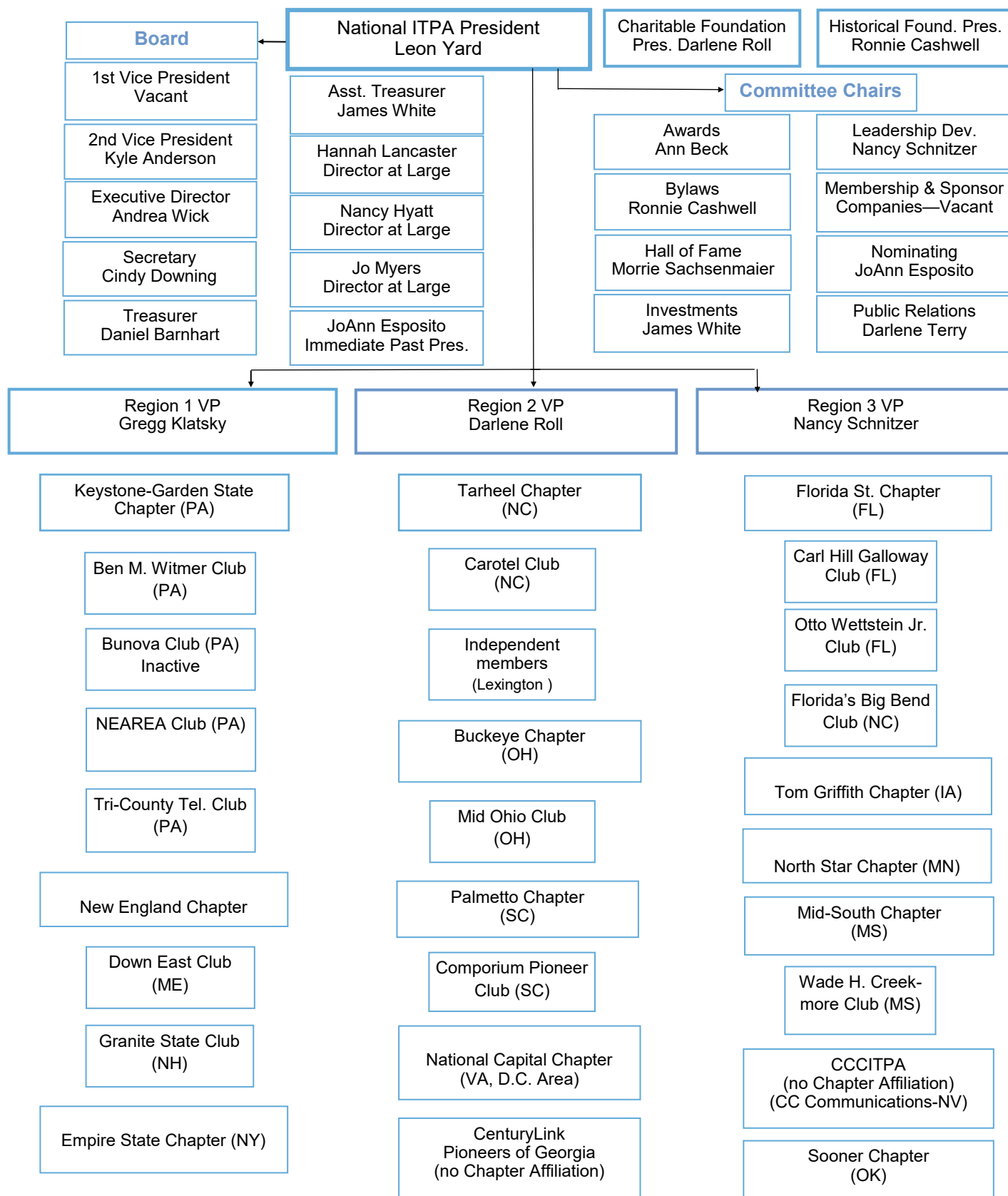
After baking, use a dry paper towel to wipe out excess flour and shortening, then hand-wash the pan. Hand-washing ensures the pan will remain in good condition for years to come.

This and That

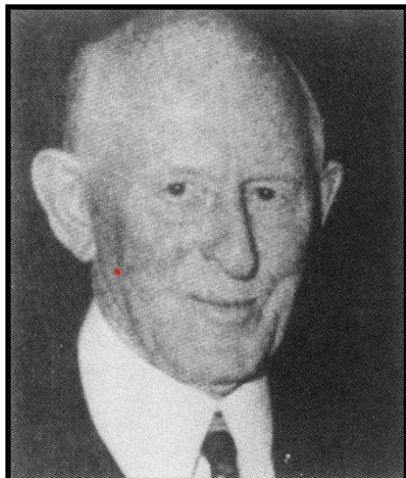




ITPA AT A GLANCE



Looking Back—Telephone Hall of Fame Inductees



Frank R. Berty

*10th Inductee
to the
Independent
Telephone
Hall of Fame*

Frank R. McBerty began his telephony career with Western Electric Company in 1887. He served the telephone industry abroad and in the U. S. for 63 years, during which time he was granted more than 400 patents on telephone and telegraph systems and equipment.

During his tenure with Western Electric, McBerty was put in charge of development of the Patent Department and served as Chief Engineer for Western Electric in Europe. He was active in the sale, manufacture and installation of European telephone exchanges in Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Holland, Great Britain, France, Germany, and Switzerland, and also in Australia and New Zealand.

McBerty directed the development of the Rotary Dial Automatic System. Known as the McBerty Rotary System, this system was used widely throughout Europe. He also helped develop the first printing telegraph system and the DeForest vacuum tube, which was the forerunner of radio.

McBerty returned to the United States in 1917, and he helped reorganize the North Electric Manufacturing Company, first serving as Vice President and Chief Engineer and later becoming President of the company in 1921. McBerty continued the development of the automatic dialing system that permitted conversion of small and isolated telephone exchanges. He was an inventive genius who devoted long hours to research, development and improvement of the relay system of dial automatic switching.

McBerty died in 1950, and was posthumously inducted into the Independent Telephone Hall of Fame in 1965.



Houck McHenry

*Houck McHenry was
the 11th inductee to
the Independent Tel-
ephone Hall of Fame
in 1965.*

Born in 1868, Houck McHenry lived in Jefferson City, Missouri. Before joining the telephony industry, McHenry was "well-known in the railroad circles of

Missouri," according to the 1901 Missouri History Encyclopedia. He worked for the Missouri Pacific Railroad's freight department.

In 1900, McHenry helped organize the Capital City Telephone Company, and he served on the Board of Directors. In 1912, he became Secretary of the company, and he rose to the position of president in 1925. At the time of his death in 1936, he was Chairman of the Board of the Board of Directors, President, Treasurer and General Manager.

McHenry was active in the Missouri Telephone Association, and served as President of that organization for 32 years. He also served on the USITA Board of Directors from 1923 to 1936. McHenry organized the Independent Telephone Pioneer Association in Missouri in 1920 and served on the board for a number of years before becoming first vice president in 1930.

He was also active in civic affairs. He was a member of city council for two terms and he served two terms as president of the Commercial Club (predecessor of Chamber of Commerce). McHenry was elected to the school board in 1906 and he remained on the board for 15 years, during which time he served as vice president and president from 1912 to 1917.

McHenry was a Trustee of the First Baptist Church. From the time of his high school graduation until his death, he was a stalwart Jefferson City citizen. From the time of his graduation from high school until the time of his death, the name of Houck McHenry was written into every progressive step made by Jefferson City. In addition to building a home that became a city-designated landmark, he is remembered for having built "one of the finest telephone systems in the United States," according to the Oct. 28, 1936, Jefferson City Post Tribune.