

PIONEER CONNECTION

Independent Telecommunications Pioneer Association



ITPA

The ITPA is a volunteer organization created by and for the independent telecommunications industry.

Dedicated to community service, ITPA members have been serving the public on behalf of telecommunications companies since 1920.

May 2026
Issue 26-02

Long County Seniors Tour ITPA Telephone Museum

By Alissa Moss

On April 23, 2026, members of the Long County Senior Center visited the ITPA Telephone Museum for a trip down memory lane. They enjoyed seeing the phones from their past and shared stories about party lines. They laughed about neighbors who talked a little too long and didn't always share the line. It was a fun and memorable tour for everyone.





NATIONAL OFFICE AND FOUNDATION NEWS

*By Darlene Roll
President, Charitable Foundation*

Charitable Foundation activities for 2026 include:

- Payment of annual Charitable Registration for the state of Georgia.
- Filing of IRS Form 990-N filed before it was due by foundation CPA, McGee Collins PC.
- Payment of the foundation's portion for national office 2nd 2026 quarter support.

The Charitable Foundation is registered as a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization and accepts tax-deductible donations that are then distributed to various 501c3 non-profit organizations. The Charitable Foundation works with the ITPA to support charitable causes and the volunteer efforts of local phone companies on a national level.

Since its inception, the Charitable Foundation has supported many programs, such as Ronald McDonald Children's Charities, Children's Shriners Hospitals, and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.. The foundation also supports local activities in the Hinesville, GA area including placing wreaths along Warrior Walk at Ft. Stewart during yearly "Wreaths Across America" activities. Through donations made by ITPA members, the Charitable Foundation donates annually to a program that supports our heroes injured in battle, and to the Alzheimer's Association, hoping to one day find a cure for this disease that affects more than six-million Americans. The Charitable Foundation also provides emergency disaster relief grants to clubs, chapters, and organizations to assist victims of natural disasters.

The Charitable Foundation and the Historical Foundation are registered separately with the IRS. They operate independent of the national ITPA, although Pioneers who are affiliated with clubs and chapters across the nation serve as officers and directors of those organizations.

*By Ronnie Cashwell
President, Historical Foundation*

The ITPA Telephone Museum remains closed during repairs and remodeling, except by appointment. Renovations and repairs are still underway, and once reopened, we will encourage all Pioneers who have not previously visited, to plan a trip to Hinesville to visit the museum. There is much to do in the area. Hinesville is just a short drive from historic Savannah, Georgia.

Our national office remains temporarily closed, and no one is currently in the office to answer calls live. Voice mails are being monitored, and calls are being returned within 48 hours when callers leave a voice mail with their contact information. If you need to contact someone urgently and immediately, please call national ITPA 1st Vice President Ronnie Cashwell at 919-801-8428 for assistance.

Our national ITPA board requests your continued patience as we work hard to get our national office and museum reopened, and we appreciate your support.

The Historical Foundation is registered as "Independent Telephone Historical Museum and Hall of Fame Foundation Inc." with the IRS as an exempt 501(c)(10) private foundation. The ITPA's Historical Foundation is the vehicle through which the ITPA preserves the telecom industry's rich history at the Telephone Museum in Hinesville, Georgia and through which telecommunications Pioneers are inducted into the ITPA Telephone Hall of Fame. To learn more about the Historical Foundation, visit:

<https://www.nationalitpa.com/kiosk/home.html>



State of the Federal Telecommunication Market 2026

By Dennis Groh, ITPA Director at Large

Mid 2026 marks a high-growth period for companies in the federal telecommunications sector. Driven by regulatory streamlining, massive broadband investment, spectrum expansion, and national security priorities, contractors, technology providers, and service provider firms have substantial opportunities across infrastructure deployment, next-generation networks, and secure communications.

Regulatory Modernization and Network Upgrades

A defining feature of 2026 is the acceleration of the transition away from aging copper infrastructure. In March 2026, the FCC adopted a major Report and Order that eliminates nearly all federal filing requirements for network changes and streamlines technology transition discontinuance applications under Section 214.

These profound changes free up tens of billions of dollars annually for fiber, 5G/6G, and other modern deployments. The result is faster copper retirement and investment in reliable, secure IP-based networks.

Network Modernization and EIS Transition

The General Services Administration's Enterprise Infrastructure Solutions (EIS) contract vehicle is central to federal telecom modernization. Legacy contracts (Networx, WITS 3) are expiring in 2026, driving transitions to modern IP, cloud-integrated, and secure services.

Opportunities Include:

- Managed network services, SD-WAN, and unified communications
- Cybersecurity enhancements and zero-trust implementations
- Cloud migration and hybrid infrastructure for agencies
- NG911 and public safety communications upgrades

National Security and Resilience

DoD is modernizing its enterprise networks: The Navy and Army are consolidating IT environments and data centers while advancing unified networks and continuous Authority to operate (ATO) processes. 5G and FutureG (Including RAN) integration supports tactical edge capabilities, with investments in resilient private wireless networks.

Key Technologies and Trends

- **Alt-IP and Fiber Transition:** Widespread shift to IP networks with fiber backbones, supported by regulatory forbearance and streamlined discontinuities.
- **Satellite and Space Integration:** Modernized rules for LEO constellations and direct-to-cell services boost coverage, especially in rural and remote areas.
- **AI and Emerging Tech:** Networks are being designed to support AI workloads, with spectrum for capacity and edge computing.
- **Public Safety:** NG911 advancements and interoperability rules ensure reliable emergency communications during the transition.
- **Cybersecurity:** Heightened focus on secure routers, supply chain integrity, and resilience against evolving threats.

Challenges and Outlook

Overall, 2026 marks a pivotal year. Through deregulation of legacy systems, spectrum expansion, and security-focused modernization, federal telecommunications policy is positioned to deliver faster, more reliable, and more secure connectivity. This lays the foundation for U.S. leadership in the digital economy, national defense, and global innovation for years to come.

About the Author:

Dennis Groh, GTT's Business Development Executive, possesses over 30 years of senior leadership experience with both the federal government and private telecom business sectors. He also presently serves on ITPA's National Board of Directors, and was past President and served on the Board of Directors for the National Capital Region ITPA.

CLUB AND CHAPTER NEWS

MidSouth Chapter

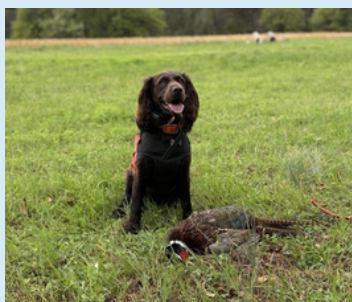
A Great Day for a Great Cause: ITPA Pheasant Shoot Raises Over \$20,000 for Scholarships

Submitted by Ali Phillips

On a crisp, cold day in Montgomery, members of the telecommunications community and friends from across the industry bundled up and gathered for one of our favorite traditions, the annual ITPA Pheasant Shoot. The temperatures may have been low, but the energy was high, with a full house of participants ready to enjoy a little friendly competition, great company, and a day in the field. From seasoned shooters to first-timers, there was no shortage of laughs, good shots, and memorable moments, all in support of a shared goal: investing in the next generation through our scholarship program. Congratulations to this year's Money Bird winner, Emory Rabern, who went home with a well-earned bragging right and a \$500 prize to top off the day!

Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors and participants, we are proud to share that this year's event raised more than \$20,000 for the ITPA Scholarship Fund. These funds will go directly toward supporting students connected to our industry, helping them pursue educational opportunities and build bright futures.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the Lower Wetumpka Shotgun Club for hosting us at such a fantastic facility, and to Deese Quail and Pheasant Farm for their generous donation of birds, which helped make the day a success. A special thank you as well to Derrick Deese of Mon-Cre Telephone Cooperative, John Thomas of Proline Design, and Lisa Crane for their hard work in organizing and executing such a seamless and enjoyable event.



CLUB AND CHAPTER NEWS (CONT'D)

MidSouth Chapter (Cont'd)

Events like this would not be possible without the continued support of our sponsors and participants. Your commitment to giving back, whether through participation, sponsorship, or support, makes a lasting difference in the lives of students and strengthens the communities we serve. We are incredibly grateful for everyone who played a role in making this year's pheasant shoot such a success. We look forward to continuing this tradition and building on the impact it creates year after year. Thank you again to all of our sponsors of this year's scholarship fundraiser:

Event (\$2,000): Blitz Broadband

Lunch (\$1,000): Franklin Telephone Company (MS), Union Springs Telephone Company (AL), Freidrich & Associates

Moneybird (\$500): Proline Design

Refreshment (\$250): Power & Tel, Adtran, Talley

Shooters (\$300): Proline Design, B&L Construction, CHR Solutions, Montgomery Concrete, Friedrich & Associates, Alabama Fiber Network, Arriva (MS & GA), Lightera, Graybar, Holder & Company, Palmetto Engineering, Power & Tel, Adtran, Talley

Stand Sponsors (\$100): Proline Design, B&L Construction, CHR Solutions, Lightera, Southside Tire & Auto, Holder & Company, Cousins Insurance, Capitol City Body Works, Sweetcreek Farm Market, Powersports of Montgomery, NWS Broadband Solutions, Lynn Networks, Adams Motorsports



CLUB AND CHAPTER NEWS (CONT'D)

CAROTEL PIONEER CLUB

The Carotel Pioneer Club (Carotel) is in Region 1 of the ITPA and is affiliated with the Tar Heel State Chapter. The club was formed on July 1, 1971 under the previously existing Tar Heel Chapter. The Carotel Pioneer Club initially consisted of members who were employed by Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company (CT&T).

Carotel Pioneers remain active in many retiree gatherings across CT&T territories in NC. Each month, retirees in the Wake Forest area gather for breakfast at Briggs Restaurant in Wake Forest, NC. Retirees from CT&T's Fayetteville area gather bi-annually at Paradise Acres in Hope Mills, NC to enjoy lunch and fellowship. This gathering often brings more than 100 retirees and guests. CT&T retirees from Williamston and Ahoskie areas meet for lunch every three months on the first Thursday of the Month at Shamrock Cafe at 11:30 am.

Recently, CT&T retirees, spouses and guests convened in Rose Hill recently for their bi-annual lunch gathering. The group included folks from several departments, including central office, cable, engineering, business office and others. Retirees from Fayetteville, Warsaw, Newton Grove, and Jacksonville, among other locations were present, most representing what was once known as the "Clinton District." The Rose Hill gathering is held every spring and fall, and the group has met in Rose Hill just off I40 for several years.

Numerous other groups meet regularly, and Carotel Pioneers participate as often as possible in these gatherings.



Carotel Pioneer Edie Everington (standing) was one of many Carotel Pioneers who attended a recent bi-annual retiree lunch gathering in Rosel Hill, NC.



Carotel Pioneers Larry and Carolyn Newsome attended a recent Ahoskie/Williamston area retiree luncheon.

CLUB AND CHAPTER NEWS (CONT'D)

CAROTEL PIONEER CLUB (Cont'd)

Ties collected from Pioneers friends of Pioneers friends were used to create a beautiful quilt that is being raffled by Carotel Pioneer Club. 100% of the proceeds from ticket sales will fund the Elizabeth Bland Scholarship Fund," which is awarded annually.

Raffle tickets are \$20 each and are available through October 10, 2026. The drawing for the quilt will be held at the 2026 Carotel Convention.

You do not have to be present to win. To purchase a raffle ticket or to obtain raffle tickets to sell in support of this fund-raiser, please contact Janet Cashwell by email at jrhc1313@gmail.com.



CLUB AND CHAPTER NEWS (CONT'D)

Comporium Pioneer Club

Spring Blood Drive

The Comporium and Comporium Pioneers Spring Blood Drive for the American Red Cross netted 21 productive units, providing medical care providers with the potential to save 63 lives.

Annual Haven Men's Shelter Cake Auction

Comporium Pioneers and volunteers participated for the fourth year in the annual Haven Men's Shelter Cake Auction on May 2nd. The club provided a beautiful cake and a fabulous charcuterie board with crackers, cheese and wine.



Even before the event began, the Haven Men's Shelter staff expressed their appreciation via social media to the Comporium Pioneers with the following message:

Rise and shine, York County!

We are starting our morning with a huge burst of gratitude for the Comporium Pioneers Club! These wonderful folks are joining us for the Haven Men's Shelter Cake Auction on May 2nd, and we couldn't be more excited. The Pioneers have a long-standing tradition of heart and service in our community, always finding ways to give back and stay connected. Seeing them step up to support the men at the shelter is a perfect example of neighbors helping neighbors! Thank you, Comporium Pioneer Club, for your legacy of kindness and for helping us make this auction a success. We can't wait to see the "pioneering" spirit you bring to the event!



CLUB AND CHAPTER NEWS (CONT'D)

Comporium Pioneer Club (Cont'd)

Over the two weekends of the annual Come-See-Me Festival in Rock Hill, SC, Comporium Pioneers manned the souvenir tent at five events: Beach Bash, Gourmet Gardens, Sundaes with Glen & Mother Goose, Moonlight Jazz & Blues and Tailgate & Fireworks. Special Thanks are extended to the club's event leaders Tara Anderson Thomas, Allyson Reid, Stephanie Nicole Kirkman and Brittany Broome Murphy. Brittany, current president of the club, was team leader for the festival's Coloring Contest. She and other Pioneers presented awards to all the winners. Comporium Pioneers also thank this year's Come-See-Me Souvenir Team Leaders Arhea Glenn and Cindy Downing.

The Come-See-Me Festival is Rock Hill's annual salute to spring. It debuted in the spring of 1962 as a community project to encourage tourists, relatives, and friends to visit Rock Hill during its most beautiful season. What started as a weekend event has grown in popularity and expanded to 10 days, with more than 60 featured events attended by more than 100,000 attendees.



FROM WOOD GRAIN TO BLACK TO A MYRIAD OF COLORS – PHONE COLORS PART ONE

By Dr. William Granger

Few of us are probably old enough to remember when our phones were made of wood, and a few more remember when most phones were black; however, phones in color have been with us since the 1930s.

I know people out there will say that they made colored phones before the 1930s, but these were very rare and seem to be “one-off” models that are discussed in books, and these were still metal or black Bakelite phones that were painted.

So this story is more about the more modern phones starting with the WE 302 models and going up to the -500 sets with Princess and Trimlines giving us the bulk of colored phones. In fact, if it weren’t for former First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy, there would be no black Princess phones or Trimline phones.



Above: The five colors of the 302, left to right, are: Ivory, Pekin Red, Dark Blue, Gray-Green, and Old Rose

About the Author:

Dr. William Granger is a member of the Antique Telephone Collectors Association and is passionate about the preservation of telephone instruments in memory of what he says was once “the greatest telephone company in the world.”



Above: A line up of Trimline-style phones: All are Western Electric except the orange and lime green which are Stromberg Carlson and the cherry red which is ITT in origin. The violet phone was made for Northwestern Bell.

PHONE COLORS (CONT'D)

Below is a list of colors courtesy of Paul Fassbender for Western Electric Trimlines

- 3 Black (NP 1963)
- 50 Ivory (NP 1963)
- 51 Moss Green, Mistletoe Green (NP 1963)
- 53 Cherry Red (NP 1963)

- 56 Pastel Yellow (NP 1963)
- 58 White
- 59 Rose Pink
- 60 Light Beige
- 61 Light Gray (NP 1963)
- 62 Aqua Blue
- 64 Turquoise
- 104 Chocolate Brown
- 105 Dark Green, Hunter Green
- 111 Harvest Gold
- 114 Bright Red
- 115 Royal Blue, Dark Blue
- 124 Rust
- 139 Charcoal Gray
- 142 Midnight Blue
- 143 Burgundy Red
- 144 Cinnabar Red
- 145 Teal Blue
- 146 Dark Teaberry Pink
- 147 Creamy Apricot Pink
- 170 Mocha
- 258 Peach
- 302 Green, Forest
- 303 Yellow, Sunny
- 305 Blue, Country
- 124 Rust

Stromberg Carlson (S-C) made their Trimlines under license from Bell and most of their phones are similar colors to Western Electric, but S-C did make four different "swirl" telephones in Cherry, Yellow, Brown, and Green. If anyone has a Cherry Swirl they would like to sell, let author know. GTE made a Trimline variant called the Styleline with a different style plug connector. Those phones were a little larger than the WE and S-C Trimlines.



Above, From left to right: Yellow, brown and green swirl S-C Slenderet phones. Yellow and red GTE Styleline phones.

The Independent Telecommunications Pioneer Association is committed to preserving our nation's rich telecommunications history.

Dr. William Granger is a regular contributing author, to whom we are grateful for his willingness to share his passion for preserving telephone instruments such as the ones described in this article.

HUNNY BUNNY'S TRAVEL ADVENTURES

Since my induction as your mascot, beginning with that memorable experience of being wabbit-napped by Elmer Fudd during the spring assembly, this hare has been on the move. I've visited with so many wonderful Pioneers and traveled on so many adventures with them! I've lost count of the number of states and countries I've visited as your mascot representative!

Most recently in April, I visited Jamaica, Grand Cayman Island and Cozumel, Mexico. While in Jamaica, I traveled to Mystic Mountain and enjoyed a scenic sky ride above the tree tops. In Grand Cayman, I took a panaramic tour of the island, and in Cozumel I learned to make chocolates. I also learned to appreciate how dark chocolate enhances the flavor of wines and vice versa. I may have enjoyed a chocolate espressor martini or two during the class, which could explain why I don't remember learning much else.

Regardless, I've had a great time traveling and sharig my travel adventures with my Pioneer family through this magazine. Stay tuned for more mascot adventures!



*Above: Cocktails in Grand Cayman.
Below: Taking a break from hiking the rain forest near Ocho Rios, Jamaica.*



Above, left: Grinding the cocoa beans was a lot easier than I thought it would be. Cleaning that grinder afterwards, though...YUCK!

Above, right: Enjoying a chocolate martini with my teacher after my grueling class.



CLUB AND CHAPTER NEWS (CONT'D)

IMPORTANT DATES



June 4, 2026

ITPA National Capital Chapter Annual Dinner and Awards Gala
Westwood Country Club, 800 Maple Avenue E., Vienna, VA
5:30 PM - 9PM EDT .

August 21-22, 2026

Tar Heel Chapter Annual Assembly, Aberdeen, NC

October 9-10, 2026

Carotel Convention, Crystal Coast Ocean Front Hotel, Pine Knoll Shores,
NC

October 16 - 18, 2026

Buckeye State Chapter Get-Together Dutch Host Inn, Sugarcreek, OH

December 8, 2026

Otto Wettstein, Jr. Pioneer Club Retiree Luncheon
Pasta Faire Restaurant in Belleview, Florida

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.

LOOKING BACK – TELEPHONE HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

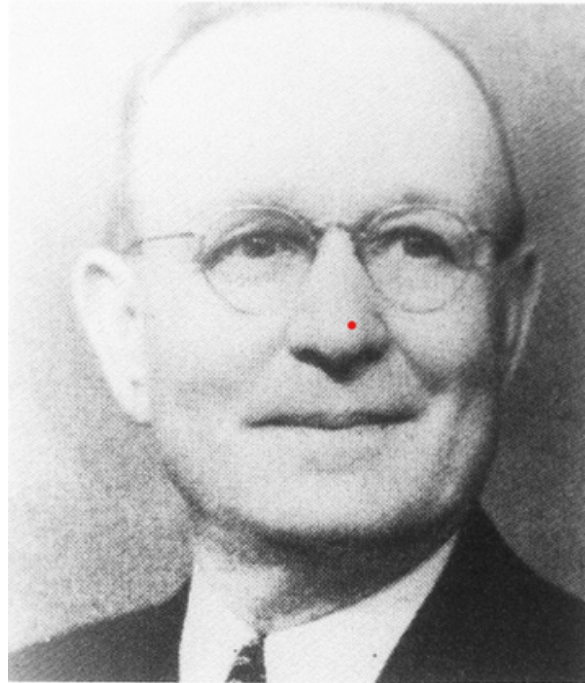


Frank Edward Bohn was posthumously inducted into the ITPA Telephone Hall of Fame in 1966. Born in Fort Wayne, IN in 1883, he attended

Williams College and Purdue University, and began his career in the telephone business with Home Telephone Company of Fort Wayne in 1907. He moved through a series of occupations of Auditor, Secretary and Assistant Manager, Secretary and General Manager, Vice President, President and then Chairman of the Board, 1948-1956. He also served as Chairman of Citizen's Telephone Company, Terre Haute, IN from 1946-1956.

Bohn was a director and president of the Indiana Telephone Association and was a USITA director from 1933-1957. He was a member of the organization's Executive Committee from 1944-1953, and served as vice president from 1947-1950. Bohn was also a member of ITPA.

Bohn contributed to trade magazines and journals with articles such as, "Telephone Business Correspondence" and "What Do You Mean - He Lacks Balance." Bohn was very active in civic, community and philanthropic organizations including Rotary Club President, Lindenwood Cemetery Assoc. , President, Red Cross, Fort Wayne Council for Patriotic Service (WWI and WWII), County Council of Defense, Fort Wayne Art School; Fort Wayne Historical Society, Fort Wayne Civic Theatre and Fort Wayne Quest Club.



Burgie L. Fisher was inducted into the Telephone Hall of Fame in 1966.

Between 1903 and 1928 Fisher founded and owned Franklin County Telephone Company, Stuart Telephone Company, and Fisher Telephone Company, all of which were consolidated to form Lee Telephone Company in Virginia. He also organized the first power company in Rocky Mount, Virginia.

Fisher was owner, president, treasurer from 1938-39. While he served as president, he assisted the Legislative Committee on the Wage Hour Bill and received a plaque signed by President F. D. Roosevelt.

Fisher was a charter member of the North Carolina and Virginia Independent Telephone Associations. He served as president of the Virginia association in 1936.

THIS AND THAT

The reason to still have a landline phone is so you can use it to call your cell phone so you can find it.



Where do we stick the stamps when we send an email?



I'M SO OLD I REMEMBER STAYING AT HOME WHEN I WAS EXPECTING A PHONE CALL.



aunty acid

© AUNTY ACID 2023

I'm not quite sure why I have a land line and a cell phone. It's not like I answer either one.



I'd keep my cell phone tucked in my bra, but I can't hear it ring from that far away!



Here's what I have in common with my fancy phone. We can both do lots of things we never do.



WHAT'S COOKIN'?

Crispy Baked Chicken Thighs

Submitted by Darlene Terry
Carotel Club

Ingredients:

- 3 lbs. chicken thighs (bone-in and skin on is best)
- 2 Tablespoons Olive Oil
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 2 teaspoons garlic powder
- 2 teaspoons onion powder
- 2 teaspoons Italian seasoning
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 teaspoon Paprika

Instructions:

Preheat oven to 400°. Line a large baking sheet with foil and set aside. Pat chicken thighs dry with paper towels. Arrange thighs on prepared baking sheet and drizzle with the olive oil, rubbing the oil into the chicken to coat.

In a small bowl mix together all of the seasonings and sprinkle the spice mixture over the chicken evenly and rub spices into chicken.

Bake for 35-45 minutes until internal temperature is 165°.



Oven Roasted Diced Sweet Potatoes

Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 tablespoons avocado oil or olive oil
- 2 pounds sweet potato, cut into 1/2 inch pieces. (Cut all pieces the same for even cooking)
- 3/4 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 teaspoon granulated garlic
- 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme

Instructions:

Preheat oven to 425°. Combine all ingredients except potatoes in a bowl and mix. Add potatoes and toss well so that all pieces are well coated. Spread potatoes on large unlined baking sheet. Unlined sheet is important to achieve crispy roasted potatoes. Bake for 25 minutes, tossing at the 15 minute mark.

About Us



2025-2026 Officers/Directors

President: Leon Yard

1st Vice President: Ronnie Cashwell

2nd Vice President: Vacant

Immediate Past President:
Jo Ann Esposito

Secretary: Cindy Downing

Treasurer: Daniel Barnhardt

Asst. Treasurer: James White

Directors: Dennis Groh, Hannah
Lancaster, Nancy Hyatt

Region 1 VP: Darlene Roll

Region 2 VP: Nancy Schnitzer

Committee Chairs

Awards:
Ann Beck

Bylaws:
Ronnie Cashwell

Nominating:
Jo Ann Esposito

Investments:
James White

Hall of Fame:
Morrie Sachsenmaier

Leadership Development:
Nancy Schnitzer

Membership and Sponsor Companies:
Vacant

Public Relations:
Darlene Terry

Clubs and Chapters



Region 1:

Buckeye State Chapter (OH)

Palmetto Chapter (SC)
Comporium Pioneer Club (SC)

National Capital Chapter
(VA, D.C. Area)

New England Chapter
Down East Club (ME)
Granite State Club (NH)

Tar Heel Chapter (NC)
Carotel Club (NC)
Independent Members
(former Lexington Tel Pioneers)

**CenturyLink
Pioneers of Georgia**
(no Chapter Affiliation)

Region 2:

**Keystone-Garden State
Chapter (PA)**
Ben M. Witmer Club (PA)
NEAREA Club (PA)
Tri-County Tel. Club (PA)

Empire State Chapter (NY)

Florida St. Chapter (FL)
Carl Hill Galloway Club (FL)
Otto Wettstein Jr. Club (FL)
Florida's Big Bend Club (FL)

North Star Chapter (MN)

Sooner Chapter (OK)

Tom Griffith Chapter (IA)

Mid-South Chapter (MS)
Wade H. Creekmore Club (MS)

