## 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. August 2025
Issue 25-03



## You're Invited! ITPA Assembly Oaks on the River in Darien, GA



https://oaksontheriverresort.com/

November 21st-23rd, 2025
Friday Evening - Meet and Greet
Saturday Morning - Assembly
Saturday Afternoon - On your own
Sunday Morning - Devotional & Awards
Afternoon - Hall of Fame Luncheon

Rooms available Thursday-Monday at reserved prices

Oaks/City View \$159 & River View \$189

Registration \$50 per person





More details coming soon!



### Community Service - It's What We Do!

telecommunications
companies since 1920.

Spirit of Service: projects that publicly

promote the value of telecommunications.

Dedicated to community

service, ITPA members have been serving their

communities on behalf of

ITPA Pioneers have been serving their communities through the ITPA since 1920. Created by and for the independent telecommunications industry, the ITPA was founded as a community service organization, and our members have been serving the public on behalf of telecommunications companies ever since.

Each year, ITPA clubs and chapters have the option of submitting information about their projects and events. These community service efforts are publicized in part through our annual awards process. When clubs/chapters submit awards applications, the projects are grouped into classifications based on club size, and each class is judged by project category, as follows.

Class A Clubs = 1 to 30 members Class B Clubs = 31 to 100 members Class C Clubs = 101+ members

There are five project categories:

Community Enhancement: projects that help the entire community. Public education, community awareness, health fairs, and health screenings are examples of projects that fall into this category, as well as various fundraising events such as Relay for Life or Alzheimer's Walks.

**Human Services:** projects that provide a tangible service. Financial support and donation of items such as food, clothing, vehicles, or toys may fall into this category.

**Life Enrichment:** projects that entertain or provide the element of "human touch" or one-on-one interaction.

National Project: fosters a sense of unity, providing our Pioneers the opportunity to support common charitable goals. This category recognizes innovative and special efforts to support national projects. While monetary contributions are important, emphasis is placed on ingenuity and participation. National projects include

support of Alzheimer's, blood drives, disaster

relief efforts, education, and troop support.

A sixth **Pioneer Choice** category features projects that are unique and do not fit into one of the five categories but are worthy of recognition.

Clubs that submit an award classification for all five categories may qualify for the **Founders Award**, which is presented to the Chapter or Club achieving the best overall performance during the Pioneer year. The eligible club or chapter must also have conducted a membership campaign and must have sponsored a fellowship event or social activity during the year.

Fourteen clubs received awards for their 2024 community service efforts. These projects exemplify some of the types of community service that our Pioneers are engaged in on an ongoing basis, both on teams and individually.

We hope that after reading the award application entries in this issue, that you'll share your own club/chapter projects with us next year so that other Pioneers can be better informed of the important work you're all doing.



### ITPA PROJECT AWARDS

#### **Community Enhancement**

#### **National Project**

#### Class A

1st Place: National Capital Chapter - ITPA National Capital Chapter Charity Support

#### Class A

1st Place: Florida's Big Bend Club - Disaster Relief

#### **Human Services**

#### Class A

1st Place: Tar Heel Chapter - A Gathering at the Gathering

Honorable Mention: Mid-Ohio - Hearts for Rewired Schools

#### Class B

1st Place: NEAREA - Hand Crocheted Lap Robes/Shawls for Nursing Homes and Friends in Need

2nd Place: Carotel Club - Hope and Help after Hurricane Helene

3rd Place: North Star Chapter- Charitable Contributions and Memorials

3rd Place: Buckeye State Chapter Supports Rewired Schools

#### Class B

1st Place: Buckeye State Chapter - Wreaths for Deceased Veterans

2nd Place: North Star Chapter - Alzheimer's Donations

#### Pioneer Choice

#### Class A

1st Place: Tar Heel Chapter - Elvis Rocks the Retirement Village

#### Class B

1st Place: Carotel Club - Helping the Hungry

2nd Place: Buckeye State Chapter - Tackling Hurricane Helene Needs

#### Spirit of Service

#### Class B

Honorable Mention: North Star Chapter-Donation to ITPA National Museum





### Community Enhancement Projects

#### 1ST PLACE CLASS A: ITPA NATIONAL CAPITAL CHAPTER

The National Capital Chapter is active throughout the year hosting monthly luncheons with guest speakers, an annual golf tournament, and an annual dinner.



The chapter raises funds through sponsor organizations and event registrations to cover administrative and event expenses and which allows the chapter to contribute generously to non-profit organizations each year.

National Capital Chapter Pioneers received a welldeserved first place award for their munificent contributions during the 2024 calendar year. The Pioneers donated \$21,000 to non-profit organizations in the Washington, D.C. metro area. Donations included the following organizations:





Capital Area Food Bank works with more than 400 nonprofit partners to provide more than 60 million meals each year to people in communities across D.C., Maryland and Virginia.

**Breakthrough** T<sub>1</sub>D funds research for the development therapies and treatments for type 1 diabetes. Formerly known the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, this organization advocates for federal research funding toward technologies and treatments and works with regulatory and policy officials to disburse funds. Breakthrough T1D also has partnerships with academia. industry, and clinicians accelerate research into potential cures for type 1 diabetes.

United Service Organizations Inc., better known simply as USO, is the nation's leading charitable organization in serving active-duty service members and military families.

Salute Military Golf **Association** works with wounded veterans, providing a therapeutic outlet for veterans undergoing prolonged medical treatments. The organization and its founders have been recognized numerous times for their contributions to the recovery of wounded veterans. addition to the donation, the National Capital Chapter included a Patriot Sponsorship in its 2024 golf event, which allowed 12 SMGA members to golf for free.

Congratulations and thank you to all of the National Capital Chapter Pioneers who work so diligently throughout the year to support the efforts of these non-profit organizations.



Handmade quilt by NCC board member for charity auction at October golf event



### **Human Services Projects**

#### 1ST PLACE CLASS A: TARHEEL CHAPTER'S "GATHERING AT THE GATHERING"

For many years Tar Heel Chapter Pioneers have gathered personal supplies and non-perishable foods to bring to their annual assembly in Aberdeen, NC. Personal supplies are donated to The Life Center of Davidson County. This agency has served the senior population of the Piedmont area of the state since 1980, providing high-quality daytime care to older and impaired adults and helps improve the quality of life for those individuals and their caregivers by offering support, relief, respite, The adults served by the and counsel. organization receive meals, recreation, music therapy, health check-ups, and nursing care. The Tar Heel members provided enough supplies in 2024 to serve at least 20 residents at the Center.

Donated non-perishable foods were delivered to the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina - Sandhills Branch. The food bank is part of a multi-location organization. Even though the Aberdeen area is in one of the best places to live in the United States, many people in the food bank's 34-county service area don't have consistent access to enough nutritious food to live a healthy, active life. In fact, across the 34 counties served by this location, studies show that nearly 561,000 people live in foodinsecure homes, including nearly 174,000 kids and teens. Thanks Tar Heel Pioneers for feeding the hungry and caring for seniors.



HONORABLE MENTION CLASS A:
MID-OHIO
HEARTS FOR THE REWIRED SCHOOL

After Mid-Ohio Pioneers were made aware at a Buckeye State Chapter meeting of student needs at Rewi<sup>3</sup>re<sup>2</sup>d School in Newark, Ohio, the Mid-Ohio Pioneers decided to help. Many students served by that school don't have the means to provide all of the supplies their families are asked to provide, so the Mid-Ohio Pioneers decided to purchase items on that list.

The Mid-Ohio Pioneers purchased index cards, Ziploc bags, Clorox wipes, paper towels, toilet tissue, paper plates, tissues, cups, hand soap, hand sanitizer, Play-Doh, plastic forks and spoons, dry-erase markers, Scotch tape, and a variety of shelf-stable, non-refrigerated individual-size portions of food items. Money earned in the club treasury, along with donations from club members, funded the purchases.

than 100 More items were purchased during a two-hour shopping trip, after which several **Pioneers** made the 45minute trip Newark to deliver the items.



Rewi<sup>3</sup>re<sup>2</sup>d is actually acronym an "Reimagining Education With Inspiration, Integrity, Innovation, Research, and Engaging, Energizing Dimensions." This inclusive, learnercentered school provides individualized instruction and encourages hands-on learning.

Thanks to our Mid-Ohio Pioneers for investing in Ohio's young learners.



### Human Services Projects (cont'd)

#### **1ST PLACE CLASS B: NEAREA CLUB**

NEAREA Pioneers began what became an annual lap robe project about 50 years ago at member's auxiliary recommendation, when she noted that patients in nursing homes always seemed to be cold. At that time, 7 ladies (all now deceased) undertook the project. About 10 years ago, as Pioneers NEAREA were delivering lap robes, they were asked for shawls, so they Bealia and Don Fedro expanded their project's scope. Pioneers volunteered more than 600 hours crocheting and delivering lap robes and shawls to grateful recipients.

To crochet a single 30" x 45" lap robe is quite commitment. requiring anywhere from 13 to 22 hours, depending on the complexity of the pattern. The "bow" pattern consists of about 12 ounces of yarn, and the "ripple" pattern consists of 14 ounces. The "granny square" pattern is made using leftover balls of yarn, along with about 8 ounces of yarn that connects the squares. The "granny square" lap robes takes considerably longer complete.



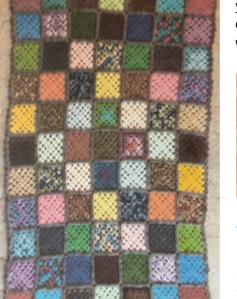
Above: 17 lap robes and 9 shawls were donated to residents at The Meadows Nursing & Rehab Center in Dallas, PA. Front row: Lap robe recipients Joan

In 2024, more than 45 NEAREA Payne (Activities Aids), Lara Wingard (Activities Director), and NEAREA Pioneers Joyce Naro, Sabie Naro, Tanya Christ, and Ray Wandel.

A 72" x 20" shawl requires about 10 hours and 10 to 12 ounces of yarn. The NEAREA Pioneers were grateful for donations of varn since one 14ounce skein of yarn currently can cost upwards of \$7, depending on the brand and color used.

Donated yarn allowed the Pioneers to complete 1 large (85"x45") that Back row: Angela Fisher and Katie donated to an elderly couple, and another 38 lap robes and 9 shawls were donated patients in hospitals, nursing homes, and rehab centers.

> Thanks, NEAREA Pioneers, for your commitment to serving others in such a meaningful way!





Above: 20 lap robes were delivered to patients at Guthrie and Troy Community Hospital, NEAREA's Pet McClure (left) shows a "ripple" lap robe. Marilyn McClure (seated) shows off a "bow" lap robe. Behind Marilyn is Pioneer Tanya Christ with **Guthrie's Activity Director.** 

### Human Services Projects (cont'd)

#### 2ND PLACE CLASS B: CAROTEL CLUB

Intense rains from Hurricane Helene caused catastrophic flooding, and the storm was responsible for a record-breaking \$53 billion in damage. Samaritan's Purse, headquartered in Boone, NC, where damages were the heaviest in surrounding areas, was among the first to respond. Carotel Club Pioneers knew that one of the best ways to help in Western North Carolina was to provide funds to this reputable organization. Samaritan's Purse had begun helping flood victims even before clean-up efforts could begin by airlifting people who had been cut off from basic necessities. The club held silent and live auctions during its annual meeting and solicited donations for hurricane relief. Hotel guests and Pioneers who weren't able to attend the convention also contributed to this effort, and Carotel Pioneers donated \$2,700 to the Samaritan's Purse Western North Carolina disaster relief efforts.



Above: One of many tables full of auction items, the proceeds for which were donated for hurricane disaster relief.

### 3RD PLACE CLASS B: NORTH STAR CHAPTER

The North Star Chapter Pioneers are scattered across Minnesota and the Dakotas, which sometime presents a challenging geographic obstacle for group projects. However, that geographic hindrance doesn't keep this group of dedicated Pioneers from continuing to make a huge impact for the communities they represent.

North Star Chapter members continue to make annual donations to various charities through an ongoing annual fundraiser. The Pioneers voted on the non-profit organizations they would support in 2024, and then they got busy with their annual book sale. The Pioneers netted enough to donate more than \$4,000 to various non-profit organizations.

This year's recipients of their generosity included the following non-profit organizations: American Cancer Society, Bountiful Basket Food Shelf, Children's Cancer Research Fund, Feed My Starving Children, Parkinson's, and Tunnel 2 Towers. A donation was also made to Heart of Minnesota Animal Shelter in memory of Beate Reuber.

### 3RD PLACE CLASS B: BUCKEYE STATE CHAPTER

During a July Buckeye State Chapter meeting, a Buckeye Pioneer brought to attention that a school in Newark, Ohio was badly in need of index cards, Ziploc bags, Clorox wipes, paper towels, toilet tissue, paper plates, tissues, cups, hand soap, hand sanitizer, Play-Doh, plastic forks and spoons, dry erase markers, Scotch tape, and a variety of individual size nonperishable foods. The Buckeye State Chapter members decided to help meet that need, and the group donated/raised funds during their July meeting. The money collected during that meeting was then used to shop for deals, so they could make the biggest impact possible.

Some members shopped, others donated towards the shopping spree, and some members made financial donations directly to the school. The items purchased were brought to the group's Fall Gathering in October, after which the full carload of items and a monetary donation of \$110 were delivered to the school.



### Spirit of Service Project

### HONORABLE MENTION CLASS B: NORTH STAR CHAPTER

The national ITPA headquarters office in Hinesville, GA, is much more than just an office. The ITPA Telephone Museum is also located there and holds a treasure trove of telephones and telephony equipment from the early inception of telecommunications through modern times. These instruments fascinate children and adults alike when they see how telephone instruments and telecommunications have evolved over time.

We have a number of repeat visitors to the museum, and our curators try to keep the exhibits fresh and interesting for repeat visitors by rotating inventory periodically. The museum is generally open to the public Monday through Friday from 10 am to 4 pm, although visitors are encouraged to call in advance to confirm, with a recommended donation of \$3 per person, and donations from museum supporters help greatly with the costs we incur to make the museum an educational and inviting destination.

Our ITPA family is grateful to the North Star Chapter Pioneers for their generous monetary support of our national museum, which helps preserve our telecommunications history so that our telecommunications legacy can be shared with today's and future generations.



Above: This old switchboard and our resident operator is one of the museum's permanent exhibits.

### National Service Projects

### IST PLACE CLASS A: FLORIDA'S BIG BEND CLUB

On May 10, 2024, Tallahassee, FL, home of the Big Bend Club, was struck in the early morning hours by three tornadoes, accompanied by straight-line winds of 100 mph, with catastrophic power outages. The storms caused deaths and injuries, and residents suffered loss of food, furniture, vehicles, and homes. Many were reliant on relief organizations for water and basic food supplies.

Big Bend Pioneers immediately applied for a disaster relief grant from the ITPA Charitable Foundation and received a \$1,000 grant for a well-known local charity, Little Sunshine Pantries. Little Sunshine Pantries distributes non-perishable food to families in times of need and also utilizes refurbished, brightly decorated newspaper bins in several locations across the city as mini food pantries.



The ITPA Charitable Foundation works with ITPA members to support charitable causes by collecting donations and distributing funds to non-profit organizations. Since its inception, the ITPA Charitable Foundation has supported many programs, such as Ronald McDonald Children's Charities, Children's Shriners Hospitals, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, the American Red Cross, and the American Health Assistance Foundation. The ITPA Charitable Foundation also provides emergency disaster relief grants to clubs, chapters, and organizations to assist victims of natural disasters. Contributions by ITPA Pioneers make it possible for the ITPA Charitable Foundation to donate 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.



### National Service Projects (cont'd)

### IST CLASS CLASS B: BUCKEYE STATE CHAPTER

Each year volunteers for Wreaths Across America place wreaths at the gravesites and tombstones of deceased veterans. This tradition, which began at Arlington National Cemetery, has expanded to include more than 4900 locations across all 50 states.

Shelby County, Ohio is one of those locations, and more than 700 wreaths were placed at that cemetery last year.

A small group of Buckeye Pioneers and friends purchased some wreaths that were placed there, and in addition, they picked up wreaths that they placed themselves at cemeteries near Delphos, Ohio, in memory of former classmates who were killed in Vietnam.





### 2ND PLACE CLASS B: NORTH STAR CHAPTER

North Star Chapter Pioneers are enthusiastic supporters of the Alzheimer's Association. The organization's mission is to end Alzheimer's and other dementia related diseases by accelerating global research, driving risk reduction and early detection, and maximizing quality care and support.

The Minnesota-North Dakota Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association assisted 10,522 individuals in 2024 through its helpline, support groups, etc. The organization is reliant on volunteers for much of the support they provide, so when they contacted the North Star Chapter Pioneers with a "wish list," the Pioneers sprang into action. North Star Chapter Pioneers purchased numerous items needed for various Alzheimer's events, including tumblers, water bottles, digital display clocks, notebooks, magnets, bracelets, a tent, tent weights, sign holders, folding table and chairs, brochure holders, and gift cards. In total, the North Star Chapter Pioneers donated more than \$2,000 worth of items needed by the Minnesota-North Dakota Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association.



### Pioneer Choice Service Projects

### 1ST CLASS CLASS A: TAR HEEL CHAPTER

In keeping with the "Elvis" theme for the 2024 annual Tar Heel Chapter assembly, Elvis made an appearance and accompanied Tar Heel Pioneers to a local retirement center in Laurinburg, NC. Performing in his full regalia, Elvis not only entertained the residents but also autographed pictures and shared his scarves with the ladies.

Patsy Cline (aka Janet Cashwell) entertained the group while Elvis took a break, and crooned her famous tunes Crazy and I Fall to Pieces, along with some gospel songs. Elvis is the Tar Heel Chapter's very own George Mills, so much like Elvis that he sounds like Elvis, dresses like Elvis, and is a US veteran.

Elvis was accompanied by Priscilla (real-life wife and Pioneer Darlene House Mills). George and Darlene are regulars in Eastern NC retirement centers at least once a month. If there is a special day in the month, they provide appropriately themed items for the residents who attend the "show" – Valentines, teddy bears, Christmas gifts, and angels. Additionally, they often provide small tokens for the staff, ranging from handmade items to baked goods. It is so true that when you seek to be a blessing to others, you often walk away having been blessed by those you hoped to bring a smile to – that was certainly the case for Elvis, Patsy, and Priscilla in Laurinburg.





Above left: Elvis (aka George Mills) greets a resident after his performance.

Above right: Patsy Cline (aka Janet Holliday-Cashwell) visits with enthusiastic fans.

### 1ST PLACE CLASS B: CAROTEL CLUB

Carotel has long supported Martha's Mission Cupboard, a local emergency food pantry in Carteret County, NC. Soley run by volunteers, Martha's Mission Cupboard was established to provide needy Carteret County, NC citizens with a temporary supply of nutritious and balanced food at no cost, to tide them over during a temporary financial crisis or while they are awaiting permanent assistance from the State or Federal Government.

Martha's Mission Cupboard provides food to an average of 300 and 350 families every month. Families in need of food are screened and referred by State or Federal social service agencies.

Carotel Pioneers donated non-perishable food items several times throughout the year, and in October 2024, the organization's executive director attended our annual convention to see firsthand how our donations of food and money have helped those in need. In addition to donations of food and toiletry items, our Carotel Pioneers donated \$300 to Martha's Mission Cupboard.



Above: Carotel President Brenda Smith presents \$300 donation to Mary Schronze. Executive Director of Martha's Mission Cupboard.



### Pioneer Choice Service Projects (Cont'd)

### 2ND PLACE CLASS B: BUCKEYE STATE CHAPTER

Buckeye State Chapter Pioneers hosted their annual convention and fall gathering in October 2024, shortly after Hurricane Helene traveled inland, leaving mass devastation and deadly flooding in Western North Carolina and East Tennessee.

Pioneer guests from North Carolina and Tennessee attended the gathering, and after discussing the significant recovery needs, the Buckeye Pioneers decided on the spot that they needed to help.

During the chapter's regular business meeting, a 50/50 raffle was held to raise funds for hurricane recovery efforts. During the evening social, Bingo cards were sold for \$5 per card, and Pioneers also simply reached into their pockets and gave to the cause.

By the end of the event, Pioneers who attended the gathering had collectively contributed \$600, which was donated to Samaritan's Purse and earmarked for Hurricane Helene disaster relief.



Above: Buckeye State Chapter Pioneers were serious about their bingo, and about their intentions to help with the Hurricane Helene relief efforts.

Left to right: Jan Jeffrey, Carol Farschman, and Ron Gaumer

### Volunteering is Heart Healthy!

We generally think of the benefits others receive when we volunteer, but it's actually healthy for us! Engaging in community service is an excellent stress reducer. And less stress promotes heart health. Chronic stress can increase cortisol and adrenaline levels in your bloodstream, leading to increased heart rate and blood pressure. Stress is also linked to the formation of blood clots, which can cause a heart attack or stroke, and chronic inflammation, which weakens the immune system over time. Adding to its physical impacts, stress can also lead to negative emotions that contribute to unhealthy coping behaviors drinking too much alcohol, overeating, avoiding exercise, and putting off medical appointments, for example.

People who volunteer are more likely to take preventative health measures, according to a 2016 study published in Social Science & Medicine. The research found that older adults who volunteer are 47 percent more likely to get cholesterol checks and 30 percent more likely to get an annual flu shot, which may reduce the risk of heart attack and stroke.

Volunteering often keeps you on your feet. Many volunteer opportunities, whether you're packing boxes at a food pantry, serving meals at a soup kitchen, or greeting visitors at a senior center, require physical activity.

Volunteering is a great way to fight depression and provide purpose. Volunteering can ease symptoms of depression and loneliness, according to a 2020 study in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine, but it also offers volunteers a sense of meaning, direction, and a goal to strive for – key positive emotions for longevity. People who feel more happiness, gratitude, and a sense of purpose have a lower risk of experiencing a cardiovascular event, including a heart attack or stroke, according to a 2016 report in Psychosomatic Medicine.

Volunteering is also linked to improved cognitive function, including thinking, learning, and memory. Some experts believe humans' brains are hardwired for generosity, according to a 2016 study published in Brain Mapping.



### **CLUB AND CHAPTER NEWS**

#### **Buckeye State Chapter News**

Buckeye State Chapter Pioneers are collecting items or financial donations that will go to Nationwide Children's Hospital Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). Items needed are: 2-way zip sleepers, onesies, and sleepers without feet. These items are the easiest for the babies because these little ones are on continuous monitoring.

If you are unable to attend the Buckeye State Chapter's Fall Gathering, but would like to participate, as always, we collect "Pennies for Pioneers" (also known as any financial donations). Please make checks payable to Buckeye State Chapter ITPA, with "Pennies for Pioneers" on the memo line. Send checks to Darlene Roll, 1385 Township Road 216, Bellefontaine, OH 43311-9644.



#### You are Invited!

**Buckeye State Chapter** Pioneers, family, and friends will meet at the Dutch Host Inn in Sugarcreek, Ohio from October 3–5, 2025 for the annual meeting and dinner. Events include:

Friday evening – Meet & Greet at the Dutch Host Inn Conference Room. Buckeye State Chapter members will bring items for an evening meal (sandwiches, casseroles, vegetables, fruit, dessert, snacks, and drinks). Fun & fellowship all evening.

Saturday morning – 10:00 a.m. – Chapter Business Meeting (open to all) in the conference room.

Free time after the meeting until dinner.

Saturday – 6:00 p.m. – Gather for the buffet dinner at the Dutch Valley Restaurant, less than 1 mile from the Dutch Host Inn, then back to the hotel conference room for presentations, fellowship, and fun.

Contact Darlene Roll at 419–371–5515 if you have questions. Registration for the Saturday dinner is due by September 13, 2025 – \$30.00 per person. All other meals on your own.



### **CLUB AND CHAPTER NEWS**

### ITPA National Capital Chapter Honors Achievements at Annual Awards Dinner

The ITPA National Capital Chapter (NCC) held its prestigious Annual Awards Dinner and Gala on Thursday, June 5, 2025, at the elegant Westwood Country Club in Vienna, Virginia. This special evening brought together members, sponsors, and guests to celebrate outstanding contributions to the telecommunications industry and the government/industry IT partnership, community service, and chapter leadership. The event opened with a networking reception at 5:15 PM, followed by dinner and award presentations from 6:15 to 8:30 PM.

The evening's keynote address was delivered by Mr. Jamie Holcombe, Chief Information Officer of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). Mr. Holcombe offered compelling insights into digital transformation, artificial intelligence, and modernization efforts within the federal IT landscape.

The NCC recognized its distinguished award recipients and thanked its generous sponsors and partner charities. Award recipients included Jason Friend, CEO of C1Gov and ITPA NCC Board Secretary, who was recognized with the Diana Gowen Industry Partner of the Year Award; Darren Ash, recently retired from the Senior Executive Service at the U.S. Department of the Interior, received the Government Partner of the Year Award; and Stephanie Geiger, CEO and Founder of Geiger Consulting Group, won the Volunteer of the Year Award for her superb design and implementation of a totally new event registration process that greatly improved the registration experience for event attendees. With a black-tie optional dress code, the event highlighted the strong community spirit and dedication that define the ITPA mission.

### National Capital Chapter to Host 16th Annual ITPA NCC Golf Tournament

Get ready to hit the links! The 16th Annual ITPA NCC Golf Tournament will be held on Wednesday, October 1, 2025, at the beautiful Westfields Golf Club in Clifton, Virginia. This flagship event brings together ITPA members, industry professionals, and supporters for a day of fun, fellowship, and fundraising in support of the chapter's ongoing charitable programs.

Tournament Schedule:

8:00 AM - Registration and Breakfast

9:00 AM – Shotgun Start

2:00 PM – Luncheon, Raffle, Auction, and Awards Ceremony

Fees: \$250 per individual golfer / \$95 for government participants

A variety of sponsorship opportunities are available—including Executive, Eagle, Birdie, Patriot, and Hole sponsorships—providing excellent visibility and recognition throughout the tournament. To register or sponsor, visit: <a href="https://itpancc.org/become-a-golf-sponsor/">https://itpancc.org/become-a-golf-sponsor/</a> or contact: <a href="mailto:info@itpancc.org">info@itpancc.org</a>. Bring your best game and join us for another outstanding ITPA NCC tradition!



### CLUB AND CHAPTER NEWS (CONT'D)









### Tar Heel Chapter Awards Scholarships

Tar Heel Chapter Pioneers congratulate the 2025 recipients of the Bill and Joe Lawrence Scholarship. The Tar Heel Chapter has been awarding scholarships to college-bound students for about 25 years, thanks in large part to the generosity of Bill and Joe Lawrence, both of whom worked for Heins Telephone Company. Bill and Joe, now deceased, were active Pioneers and enthusiastic supporters of educational opportunities. Scholarship fund was established by Tar Heel Chapter Pioneers Bill and Joe Lawrence, both of whom worked for Heins Telephone Company. This year's scholarship recipients are Mykenzi Cashwell, Joey Howard, and Kassie Davis.

Mykenzi (pictured top left) is the granddaughter of Pioneers Ronnie and Janet Cashwell. She is a second-year student at Fayetteville Technical Community College, where she is pursuing a degree in Dental Hygiene. In High School, Mykenzi was a Beta Club and CTE Honors Society member, and she graduated near the top of her class. She has continued her outstanding academic excellence college.

Joey (pictured top right) is the grandson of Pioneer Carolyn Thompson. He plans to pursue an Engineering degree at Methodist University. Joey graduated from West Davidson High School in June, having maintained a 4.0 GPA during his senior year. He was captain of his varsity football team and received the All-Conference Defense Sportsmanship Award. He earned a brown belt in karate, which signifies an advanced level of skill and knowledge in the unarmed martial arts discipline.

Kassie (pictured bottom left) is a junior at the College of Coastal Georgia and is pursuing a nursing degree. She has maintained an excellent academic standing and has been on the President's List of Scholars every semester, with a 4.0 grade point average. Kassie has devoted many volunteer hours to the ITPA.

Well done, scholars, and best wishes as you pursue your academic goals.

### CLUB AND CHAPTER NEWS (CONT'D)

### Carotel Club Awards Scholarships

Carotel Club Pioneers congratulate Mykenzi Cashwell and Ethan Harrell, this year's recipients of the annual Elizabeth Bland Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship awarded annually in memory of Carotel Pioneer Elizabeth "Libba" Bland in recognition of her years of dedication to the Carotel Pioneer Club.



Mykenzi, granddaughter of Pioneers Ronnie and Janet Cashwell, is a 2nd-year student at Fayetteville Technical Comm. College, pursuing a degree in Dental Hygiene. She has continued the academic excellence she achieved in high school.



Ethan is the grandson of Pioneers Jimmy and Sandra Harrell. He graduated from high school this year with academic honors and will attend North Carolina State University, where he will pursue a degree in Chemical Engineering.

### Carotel Pioneers Invite you to Attend their Annual Carotel Convention

Carotel Club Pioneers invite you to join them for their annual fall Carotel Convention, to be held at the beautiful Crystal Coast Oceanfront Hotel (formerly known as The Inn at Pine Knoll Shores). The hotel is located at 511 Salter Path Road in Pine Knoll Shores, NC. This year's "Boot, Scootin Boogie" themed convention will be held on October 10–11 at the

The room rate this year is just \$125 per night (before tax), a great deal for these beautiful waterfront, ocean view rooms. You may call to reserve your hotel room now at 252-247-4155. To receive the special room rate for Thursday (optional) and Friday/Saturday nights, ask for the Carotel Club or ITPA Carotel Club group rate. (Room includes two double beds. If you prefer a room with one king-size bed, the per-night rate is \$135.)

Registration fees cover the cost of our meeting room, meals, snacks, and entertainment. For your planning purposes, last year's registration fee was \$75, and our planning committee is working hard to keep costs comparable to last year's registration fee. In the meantime, you can get your oceanfront hotel reservation made and dust off your dancin' boots for our country western themed event!



### CLUB AND CHAPTER NEWS (CONT'D)

### Comporium Pioneers Help Save Lives!



Click on the following link or copy into your browser to view a video featuring a dedicated Comporium blood donor.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/12iVparzhl76fR6c6rs L-A5APPU\_-dQqk/view?usp=drive\_link Comporium Pioneers recently coordinated two blood drives at Comporium work locations and the club will sponsor another blood drive at Comporium's Fort Mill location on August 19<sup>th</sup>. During the two recent blood drives, Comporium employees donated enough blood to save 63 lives!

Pictured right,
Comporium Pioneer
Club President
Brittany Murphy
rolled her sleeves up
to do her part at
Comporium's
Summer Blood Drive
on August 12th.



### Comporium Pioneers Partner with March of Dimes to help NICU Families

Families of premature infants often don't have an opportunity to grab personal items at home because they spend many hours at the hospital with their newborn. Having ready access to care items such as travel-size deodorant, toothbrush and toothpaste, face wipes and other necessities are of tremendous benefit to these families. Comporium Pioneers recently partnered with the March of Dimes and collected those items as well as gift cards for gas, coffee, unscented lotions, small journals, pens and pencils, dry shampoo, ChapStick, gum, mints, hand sanitizer travel tissues, cozy socks, water and calming teas. The club held a "collection party" in late July and held a "packing party" on Aug. 11<sup>th</sup>, after which the care kits compiled by the team were delivered to the March of Dimes.





### MUSEUM NEWS (CONT'D)

## From Frogs to Phones!

ITPA Executive Director Andrea Wick is always ready and eager to share our ITPA Telephone Museum's history with visitors. Recently, on a warm summer morning, Andrea spied a mother with her young children out and about on the grounds. The family was romping around with so much glee, she decided to step outside to say hello. The children, ages 4 and 6, happily showed Andrea the little frogs they had found.



After sharing in their enthusiasm, Andrea explained what was inside our museum and invited the family inside for a tour. The kids were just as enthused with the pay telephone booth as they were with the little frogs. And Andrea took delight in sharing with the small family a little about our museum and its purpose.





The ITPA Telephone Museum in Hinesville, GA is generally open from 10am to 4pm Monday through Friday. It is recommended that you call ahead to ensure the museum is open on the day you want to visit. There are times when the museum has to be closed during normal operating times. A donation of \$3.00 per person is recommended for admission to help maintain the museum. For more information or to schedule a visit, contact the ITPA Executive Director at 912-408-4872.



### MUSEUM NEWS (CONT'D)

### **Exciting Changes** Coming!

Work is being finalized on Hall of Fame Kiosk cabinets. Grants are being pursued now to help cover the cost of technical equipment needed to complete that exhibit.



Hall of Fame Exhibit "Before" (above) and "After" (right). Glass doors are expected to be installed for this in-progress kiosk by the date of this publication.



Another big project is also underway to expand the availability of historical telephony resources that are housed in our museum. The Historical Foundation purchased a high-tech scanner to copy significant books that are stored at the museum. Once digitized, some of those documents will ideally be online. Some of the information being digitized includes meeting minutes from way back in 1921!

We also have a lot of old technical magazines that are being scanned, as well as documents related to past Hall of Fame Luncheons, Board Books, and various ITPA documents from past national assemblies.

The following are just of few of the books that have been scanned from the library and hopefully one day available for our Pioneers to peruse, including the following:

Course Number One: Practical Telephony **Electronics for Young People** 

GTE Station Installation and Maintenance Handbook June 1976

Handbook for Telephone Managers and Engineers

History of the Union Springs Telephone Company 1992

ITPA Ideas Book Preliminary Edition Lincoln Telephone News (various issues

from 1920-1984) LTT Magazines

Memoirs of a Telephone Pioneer

On the Line - The Men of MCI Who Took on AT&T, Risked Everything, and Won

Telephony (various issues)

The Citizens Telephone Story 1990

The Show-Me State:0 Α History of

Telephony in Missouri

The Spirit of Independent Telephony

The Telephone Idea Arthur Pound

Your Telephone and How it Works

Telephone Transmission Theory

Telecommunications - Herring and Gross

The History of the Telephone

The Story of Independent Telephony

Census of Telephones 1922 1927 1932 1937

Telegraphs 1927 1932 1937

Construction and Maintenance Practices

General Telephone System

How to Build Rural Telephone Lines

### PRESERVING OUR TELECOM HISTORY

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 again shared some of his knowledge about his instruments with us in this ongoing series.

Here are some interesting phones from my collection, and I ask you, "What do they all have in common?"





Well, you might say they are all 2565 keysets, but then you know the last phone is a 2662 Al, not a 2565. So what is the connection? Look at the line cord. They all have a matching line cord to the handset cord and case. This was very common way back when, but then all the business phones and eventually, all residence phones went to the so-called satin silver cords.



If any of the readers said they all had a 25-pair cable line cord, that would be correct as well, as they are all key telephones, but I did not know you could ever get a multiline phone with a matching cord until a few years ago. Another commonality is that they are all hard-wired except for the five phones with the Amphenol connector on the line cord. Imagine having to be the installer who had to hand-wire that black 2565 without the Amphenol connector.

When I first started collecting, I didn't discriminate between modular cords and hard-wired versions, but now I have come to appreciate the longevity of the hard-wired version. Plus, I have lost count of all the modular handsets and line jacks I have had to replace because the modular jack seems very susceptible to breakage.

Thank you, Dr. Granger, for sharing your knowledge and your collection with us. We look forward to reading more!

### **HUNNY BUNNY'S TRAVEL ADVENTURES**

### Honey Bunny visits Alaska





















### **HUNNY BUNNY'S TRAVEL ADVENTURES (CONT'D)**

### Honey Bunny visits Paris























### LOOKING BACK - TELEPHONE HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



Alfred Stromberg was one of several telephony Pioneers to be inducted into the ITPA's Hall of Fame in 1965. His career began with L. M. Ericsson in Sweden.

In 1876, he helped test the first pair of telephone instruments that Alexander Graham Bell sent to Stockholm. Later, he managed construction and installation throughout Sweden and Denmark. In 1884, Stromberg immigrated to the United States and worked with Bell in Pennsylvania and Illinois, where he was credited with a number of inventions. He then worked briefly with the Chicago Electric Protection Company and devised what became known as the "Stromberg System" of burglar alarms. In 1894, Stromberg returned to telephony and worked with Western Telephone Construction Company in Chicago, one of the first independent manufacturers. It was there that he met Androv Carlson. The men thought they could make a better telephone instrument, so they pooled their money (\$500 each) to establish Stromberg-Carlson Telephone Manufacturing Company. Stromberg served as president of the new company. Their reputation as a quality manufacturer spread quickly, and in 1902, the operation moved to Rochester, NY. The 12th Hall of Fame inductee, Stromberg, was inducted posthumously, having deceased in 1913.



Almon Strowger was an inventive genius who recharted the entire concept of telecommunications. He improved what Alexander G. Bell had devised and invented the dial telephone. Strowger produced a mechanism that had no predecessors, and his original ideas embody the principles that are largely in use today. Strowger was born in Ponfield, NY, in 1839 and died in 1902. He was a commissioned lieutenant in the NY cavalry and taught school in Illinois, Michigan, and Kansas, and served as school principal in New York. In Topeka, Kansas, he entered the mortuary business and later moved his business to Kansas City, Missouri. Strowger became concerned that telephone operators were diverting calls to rival mortuaries and decided to solve the problem. He filed a series of patents, found financial backers and technicians, and established the Strowger Telephone Exchange Automatic Chicago. The first installation of the dial LaPorte, telephone was in Indiana. Strowger's contributions to the telephony industry were significant and long-lasting. He was posthumously inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1965.



### **IMPORTANT DATES**

#### August 22-23, 2025

Tar Heel Chapter Annual Fall Assembly Aberdeen, NC

#### October 1, 2025

National Capital Chapter 16th Annual ITPA NCC Golf Tournament Westfields Golf Club, Clifton, Virginia Advance Registration Required; Details in Chapter and Club News

#### October 3-5, 2025

Buckeye State Chapter Fall Get-Together Dutch Host Inn, Sugar Creek, OH Details in Chapter and Club News

#### October 10-11, 2025

Convention
Crystal Coast Oceanfront Hotel
Pine Knoll Shores, NC

#### November 21-22, 2025

National ITPA Board Meeting and Member Gathering Darien, Georgia

#### **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 <a href="https://www.nationalitpa.com/news.">https://www.nationalitpa.com/news.</a>.

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.



### AHHH, AUGUST, AND THE BLISSFUL DAYS OF SUMMER



Well, Pioneers, in cause you haven't caught up yet, summer is in full force, and more than half of 2025 has passed us by. August is a unique month. Vacationers are out in full force, as families begin preparing for the school bell to ring yet again. August is also unique in that, in a standard year, there is no other month that begins on the same day of the week as August. (In a leap year, August begins on the same day of the week as February.) August is the last month of summer in the Northern Hemisphere and the last month of winter in the Southern Hemisphere.

August is named after the first Roman emperor, Augustus Caesar. It is the month of the year where, quite literally, we reap what we sowed. Many fruits and vegetables planted in the spring are usually harvested in abundance during the month of August.

August has quite a history. It was during the month of August in 79 A.D. when Mount Vesuvius erupted near the ancient Roman city of Pompeii. The mountain spewed out great clouds of ash, smoke, and pumice and rained down on Pompeii's citizens. The molten lava that followed buried remaining residents more than 7 feet deep. Italian explorer Christopher Columbus famously set sail from Palos in Spain on the first of his voyages to the Americas in 1492. He took with him a fleet of three ships – the Niña, the Pinta, and the Santa Maria. Rock music legend Elvis Presley left this world behind on August 16, 1977.

The atomic bomb was deployed on August 6, 1945. A second atomic bomb was deployed over Nagasaki three days later. An estimated 140,000 people died as a result by the end of the year.

August does celebrate happier occasions. The Perseid meteor shower, one of the most popular meteor showers, occurs in August. And a holiday that many of our readers can celebrate occurs in August. August 21, 2025, is National Senior Citizens Day!

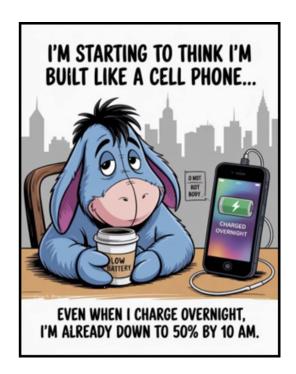
There are other occasions to celebrate in August. August 3rd is National Watermelon Day. August 10th is National Lazy Day. Maybe our favorite, August 16th, is National Roller Coaster Day. And finally, August 28th is fancy, it's National Bow Tie Day!

Do you know the birthstone for August? If you said Peridot, you're right! This green-hued stone is indeed known primarily as the "modern" birthstone for August. However, if you thought the August birthstone was "Spinel," you're also right. With a deep, rich red shade, this stone is sometimes mistaken for being in the family of gemstones to which rubies and sapphires belong. This confusion arose from their striking similarity in color and the fact that they are often found in the same locations. However, spinel is chemically different from ruby or sapphire. There is a third August birthstone, however. The original August birthstone was the Sardonyx. This reddish zebra-striped gemstone has white bands and is made of alternating layers of sard and onyx, two types of the layered mineral chalcedony. Measuring 6.5 on the Mohs hardness scale, sardonyx is widely available and relatively inexpensive as gems, beads, and jewelry. It is often carved into cameos, intaglios, and brooches to show the color contrast between layers.

And there you have it, a few fun, and not-sofun facts about the month of August. Enjoy the rest of your month!



#### THIS AND THAT



Remember when you used to be able to call a person 57 times, and hang up, and they never knew it was you.

...good times.





### WHAT'S COOKIN?

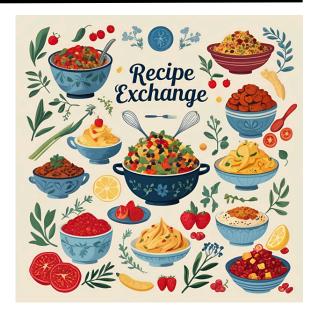
#### **Mom's Spaghetti**

Submitted by Darlene Roll ITPA Buckeye State Chapter/Mid-Ohio Club

I grew up in Delphos, Ohio. Delphos is located in northwest Ohio, along the historic Lincoln Highway. In the 1800s, Delphos was a major port on the Miami-Erie Canal. Many of the early settlers of Delphos and the entire area were immigrants from Germany. That may be how "Mom's Spaghetti" came about. All I can tell you is that occasionally, some family members still want what we referred to as "Mom's Spaghetti". Other friends in the Delphos area have also grown up with this spaghetti recipe.

There are a couple of versions for this very easy to make spaghetti. I'll provide both.





#### **Ingredients:**

- 1 lb. Spaghetti noodles
- 1 lb. ground beef (I prefer 85-90% lean)
- 1 onion, diced

**Directions:** In a large skillet, cook the ground beef over medium-high heat until browned, breaking it up into smaller pieces as it cooks. Drain off any excess fat. Add the diced onion to the skillet with the ground beef and cook for an additional 2 to 3 minutes, until the onion is soft and translucent. While the hamburger mixture is browning, cook the spaghetti noodles according to package directions until desired tenderness. Drain the spaghetti noodles but reserve about one cup of the water. Add the drained spaghetti noodles to the hamburger mixture. Stir well. Use a little of the reserved water, if needed to make the mixture more moist. · Enjoy!

2nd Version – In addition to the above ingredients, cook one package of frozen peas separately and add them to the above mixture last.

## About Us

2025-2026
Officers/Directors

President: Leon Yard

1st Vice President: Vacant

**2nd Vice President:** Kyle Anderson

**Immediate Past President:** 

JoAnn Esposito

Secretary: Cindy Downing

**Treasurer:** Daniel Barnhardt

**Asst. Treasurer:** James White

**Executive Director:** Andrea Wick

**Directors:** Hannah Lancaster,

Nancy Hyatt, Jo Myers

Region 1 VP: Gregg Klatsky

Region 2 VP: Darlene Roll

Region 3 VP: Nancy Schnitzer



#### **Committee Chairs**

Awards:

Ann Beck

**ByLaws:** 

Ronnie Cashwell

**Nominating:** 

JoAnn Esposito

Investments:

James White

Hall of Fame:

Morrie Sachsenmaier

**Leadership Development:** 

Nancy Schnitzer

Membership and Sponsor Companies:

Vacant

**Public Relations:** 

Darlene Terry

www.nationalitpa.com

# Clubs and Chapters



#### Region 1:

#### Keystone-Garden State Chapter (PA)

Ben M. Witmer Club (PA) Bunova Club (PA) Inactive NEAREA Club (PA) Tri-County Tel. Club (PA)

#### **New England Chapter**

Down East Club (ME) Granite State Club (NH)

**Empire State Chapter (NY)** 

### Region 2:

#### Tar Heel Chapter (NC)

Carotel Club (NC) Independent Members (Lexington Tel)

#### Buckeye State Chapter (OH)

Mid-Ohio Club

#### Palmetto Chapter (SC)

Comporium Pioneer Club (SC)

### National Capital Chapter

(VA, D.C. Area)

CenturyLink
Pioneers of Georgia
(no Chapter Affiliation)

#### Region 3:

#### Florida St. Chapter (FL)

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

Tom Griffith Chapter (IA)

North Star Chapter (MN)

#### Mid-South Chapter (MS)

Wade H. Creekmore Club (MS)

### CCCITPA (no Chapter Affiliation) (CC Communications-NV)

Sooner Chapter (OK)