



Pioneer Connection

August 2020

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ITPA Members,

As time passes, we must remain strong in this perilous time, the Covid-19 pandemic virus has changed our lives and how we function on a day to day basis. It has made us retreat into our homes and avoid almost all social contact. It has made us refrain from attending church and any other social events that leads to human contact. The fear is real for most of us and we all know someone in our family, a close friend or someone in our network that the virus has affected. It is my sincere hope that everyone is doing well during this time and continues to make the sacrifice to do what is best.

Business shutdowns, temporary or not, are causing all businesses to change the way they conduct business. Telecommunications has always been adaptive and on the forefront of technology. This year, without exception-- it exploded with new technology. Skype and Zoom business calls have grew exponentially. Big businesses have sent their folks home to work creating fiber and modem connection orders for residential housing. Schools will be doing E-Learning this fall and has created another need for telecommunications. With all Telecommunications being labeled essential and the work that our folks are doing day in and day out puts them on the front line of this pandemic.

With all the reasons (excuses) to retreat into homes and remain there until the pandemic is gone, there is WORK to be done by the Pioneers. We must look around and re-invent new ways of helping people. We must use the talents we have and even find hidden talents you did not know you had all these years. I want to encourage all Pioneers to dig deep and contact other Pioneers in their group to come up with new projects that are focused on helping others but do it in a safe way. The folks in your areas still need your help and I urge you to pick up the phone and get something going this week.

We want everyone to know we will get through these crazy times and if you need to reach out the National office, please do so. A few project ideas on this would be making/purchasing masks, group purchasing of hand sanitizer and gloves to donate to local churches, daycares, schools. As with business models changing so must we. We want to hear about your new projects and how it made a difference in the community. Remember we are all in this together and **“To the heart of a Pioneer, we are one in fellowship, friends good and true: we are one in Loyalty to see each other through: one in service to the end in everything we do:”**

Best regards to all,

Daniel Barnhardt

2nd Vice President ITPA

ITPA Museum News

ITPA Executive Alissa Moss received the email below Chamber of Commerce and the Liberty County Convention and Visitors Center. We would like to publicly recognize them for their generosity in including the ITPA Museum in their efforts to keep visitors safe.

Good afternoon Liberty County Historic/Cultural Site!

We are writing this afternoon to make you aware that we plan to purchase some of the attached Sanitizing Stations for use at our local historic/cultural sites. We are able to donate one to each of you at no cost. We will provide the station, along with the first gallon of sanitizer.

To give you details on size: this is a stand up hand sanitizing station with full color stretch fabric background. It holds 1000ml of hand sanitizer with a no touch dispenser. It does require batteries. It is aluminum construction and suitable for indoor use only. Assembled it is 24" by 90". The fabric is machine washable. It weighs roughly 16 pounds.

We will be doing the design for the 24" by 90" surface and it will be reflective of our county as a whole.

If you would like one of these for your site please email me back by close of business on Friday, July 31. If we do not hear from you we will assume that you are not interested. We will be following this email up with a call to each site to ensure that you check your email.

These are being sourced locally and once ordered should arrive within 2 weeks. Please let myself or Catie know if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Leah Poole
Chief Executive Officer
Liberty County Chamber of Commerce
Liberty County Convention & Visitors Bureau



Charitable

Walk to End Alzheimer's – 2020

ITPA and the ITPA Charitable Foundation support Alzheimer's Disease and Alzheimer's Disease Research almost every year and have done so for many years. Some may remember when Al Galletly rode his bicycle across the United State from California to Washington, D.C. to bring attention to Alzheimer's Disease.

There is normally a "Walk to End Alzheimer's" in locations throughout the country. This year, there is still a Walk; however, this year, it is everywhere – on every sidewalk, track and trail.

There will not be large group in-person walks. Instead, you are invited to walk in a small team with family and friends while others in your community do the same thing. You might even walk as an individual.

Most of the walks are taking place in September or early October. If you go to alz.org/walk, on the Internet, you can find a location near you, and register as a team or an individual. There is no fee to register. Participants are encouraged to raise funds that will be used to further Alzheimer's mission.

If you can participate, or donate, thank you. I am sure we are all looking forward to the day that Alzheimer's is preventable, responds to treatment and is curable.

Darlene Roll

100 Years Celebration



Save the Date!

November 6 & 7, 2020

Independent Telecommunications Pioneer Association

100 Years Celebration (1920-2020)

All ITPA members and guests are invited!

At the ITPA National Office & Museum, Hinesville, Georgia

If current conditions allow

Please complete the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PVRVVK6> or by mail or E-mail *by July 31, 2020*, to let us know whether or not you are interested in attending the 100th Anniversary Celebration, if conditions allow. Completing the survey does not commit you to attend the events but it provides us with information to move forward with planning the events.

Events

Friday, November 6th

Tour the ITPA Museum and Bryant Commons

Enjoy the Meet & Greet Reception and 100 Years Recognition

Saturday, November 7th

Reflection on Pioneering Through the Years

(Bring your favorite story about ITPA or Telephony to share)

Tree Planting to Celebrate 100 Years

Picnic on the Grounds

If you have questions, please contact us at:

ITPA	Email: itpa@telecom-pioneers.net
438 W. Oglethorpe Highway	Phone: (912) 408-4872
Hinesville, GA 31313	Toll-Free: (877) 320-4872

Buckeye State Chapter

Buckeye State Chapter – COVID Compliant Project Written by Buckeye Chapter/Mid-Ohio Club member Darlene Roll

Did the title of this piece of information catch your attention? Read on for the explanation! On Saturday, July 18th, Buckeye Chapter members met via conference call to hold a quarterly meeting. All attendees were in “safe” places – mostly their homes for the call. It was a busy call and the topic of projects chapter members might be able to do came up.

Not knowing whether members could work together in a group setting, several ideas for projects that could be done at home were discussed. The group came up with a “COVID Compliant” project (thanks to Chapter Secretary, Kathlene Anerino for that title)! It might really be “Carrying Out Very Important Decisions” – COVID – because that is what members did!

Members will be asked to collect new socks for men, women, and children through the end of October. Socks will be donated to homeless shelters. Surveys on the Internet show that socks are one of the most requested items for those in homeless shelters or on the street. Buckeye Chapter members may donate socks, enlist family and friends to participate in providing socks, or donate to the Buckeye Chapter “Pennies for Pioneers” fund to have club representatives purchase socks.

The goal is to help those who need our help. Buckeye Chapter hopes your chapter or club will find a project that can be done individually or with others. Just make it “COVID Compliant!”

National Office

Annual Reports

Each year, clubs and chapters are required to file an annual report to the Region Vice-President (RVP) assigned to their region. We are asking for annual reports to be submitted even if you have not been able to complete a project due to Covid-19. If you have not been able to complete a project due to Covid19, please indicate that on the service project page. RVP’s will work with each club on a case by case basis to ensure that the best interest of the club/chapter is considered. Once an approved annual report is filed with the National Office, the club/chapter is eligible to receive a dues refund check. Clubs/Chapters will be reimbursed \$6.00 for each member that has paid dues for the current year.

Membership

MEMBERSHIP

Well hello again fellow pioneers. It is me again here to encourage you to get out and recruit new members. I know, when you try people always ask “what’s in it for me, why should I join? Here is an answer for you – FRIENDSHIP

Today Jim, my husband, and I traveled from our home in Lexington, NC to Fayetteville, NC, about 2 hrs. away to visit some special friends, Jean and Mike Outlaw. We just wanted to check and see how they were doing since we had not seen them in 6 months.

We met Jean and Mike through ITPA 25-30 years ago, and our friendship has grown through the years.

In today’s crazy, mixed up world with all its uncertainty one constant you can depend on is Friendship. Friends are there for you through the good times and the bad, the happy and sad.

So when you try recruiting and someone asks what’s in it for me? Put a smile on your face and answer with confidence Friendship, like no other you may find.

Go out and recruit members – keep ITPA growing!

Vickie Jolly

ITPA National Office
438 West Oglethorpe Hwy
Hinesville, GA 31313
Phone: 912-408-4874
Email: itpa@telecom-pioneers.net



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Amazon donates to the ITPA when you shop at
<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/52-1819313>.

Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation's compassion, unselfish caring, patience, and just plain loving one another." – **Erma Bombeck**