



Pioneer Connection

July 2020

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Dear ITPA Members,

Who would have thought back in March, that four months later we would be continuing to feel the affects of this National pandemic and continuing to be making changes and adapting to the “new norms” which are effecting our ITPA members, families and friends every day.

We hope that you are all weathering the COVID-19 storm and will continue to do so. There was no way to understand just how much this Pandemic would shed a light on the continued need and importance of not only the work you do every day within the telecommunications industry, but the continued work and future work that will result from this crisis.

Telecommunication professionals continue to be critical throughout the communities we live and work in. ITPA is proud to support those efforts, and just as proud of the efforts of our members and what they accomplish throughout the communities when faced by adversity.

The ITPA Board recognizes the changes that are effecting our organization during these times and will be following up with more specifics regarding any requirements or obligations from members and chapter executives. We recognize certain challenges that we need to work together to overcome and we will help to provide those solutions to our members.

We are here to help our members just as our members continue to serve their communities. Please continue to reach out to the National office with ideas on how we can help our members. We would love to hear stories and share ideas on our website or in the monthly newsletter with what our members are experiencing throughout the Nation and how people are making a difference or even taking advantage of the situation we are all facing. Now is the time for all of us to help each other through communication, and comradery. Pick up a phone, write a letter, reach out to your fellow members and continue to make someone’s day when you have the opportunity. We are all in this together.

Best regards,
Gregg Klatsky
1st Vice President ITPA

Region 2

Greetings from Region 2

My how our world has changed since March. We are all experiencing situations we've thankfully never encountered before in our lives and I sure hope things are back to normal soon. We can all help by wearing masks in public and practicing social distancing. Luckily, I had some hand sanitizer at home and I wash my hands more often now. It is still difficult to find cleaning supplies but I'm hoping that also will improve.

It seems that this might be the wake up call that we all needed. It has forced families to spend much more time together and it is my hope that people will cherish this time that they might not ordinarily have with their loved ones. I know I wished I could have stayed home more with my kids during the years that I worked.

I realize that with most businesses having to close and the number of people allowed to meet together that most clubs and chapters have not been able to hold meetings. We can still make contributions to help others. For those families that are financially stable, this is a good time to donate to charities who have a greater need now. Tom and I have chosen many charities to donate to, including our local food pantry, The Salvation Army, women's shelter and the Boy Scouts. St. Jude is also one of my favorite charities. A few weeks ago, all contributions up to a certain amount were matched by the Columbus Foundation on a day called the Big Give so we made several contributions then.

This is also back to school time whether that will be from home or at school or part time at each location. Our stores are already having great sales on school supplies. I know a lot of clubs have projects to purchase school supplies and backpacks. I am already starting my collection to donate to a local school. I know anything they receive is always greatly appreciated.

Did I forget to mention the heat? We are in day 10 of 90 degrees or above here in Ohio. We will catch a break for about 3 days when we get a little rain and our temperatures drop down to the mid 80s with 60s at night but then we go right back to 90 again. We are getting thunder and a torrential downpour as I type this. Good thing I mowed earlier today.

In closing I just want to tell everyone to stay safe and I hope we can meet again soon and get back to what we all enjoy doing. We are all in this together. I am available for any clubs or chapters in the region who have questions or concerns and will help you as much as possible.

Continue the spirit of Pioneering!

Sue Lehmkuhle

Region 2 Vice President

lehmkuhle@windstream.net

Tarheel Chapter news

The Board of Directors of the Tarheel Chapter have made the decision to cancel their Annual meeting that was scheduled for August 14th & 15th. If you have any questions about this cancellation please contact Janet Goss ngoss@lexcominc.com

Hall of Fame

Donald Lewis Hirt

1926-2020

Donald Hirt passed away peacefully on June 24, 2020 in Anthem, AZ. His family was able to visit with him and say their goodbyes (both personally and electronically) in the days preceding his passing.

Donald Hirt was a self made man. He overcame incredible challenges throughout his life. He was born in 1926 in San Diego, CA. His parents divorced when he was three. Around the same time, he contracted polio. Over the rest of his young life, he had multiple orthopedic surgeries to address damage to his legs and lower body. He was unable to run as a child but he made the best of it, even playing on the high school tennis team.



He graduated from Monrovia High School and Pasadena City College and started a career in the telephone industry. He met Margaret Hanson in 1948 and they were married the next year. They had two children, Steven (1950) and Chrissie (1953) and settled in Monrovia, CA.

Donald rose to executive positions and accepted a Vice President of Policy Development at the United States Telephone Association in Washington DC.

They lived in Reston, VA from 1972 until his retirement in 1988. **In 2001, Donald was inducted into the ITPA Hall of Fame.** They retired to a wonderful life in beautiful Paso Robles, CA, a central coast wine town. Golf, bridge, volunteer work at the **Pioneer Museum** and service in the Kiwanas Club filled his days. He was very tech savvy and enjoyed working on his desk top computer. Donald and Margaret loved family visits to and from Ventura, CA and Salinas, CA.

Donald is survived by, Margaret, his loyal, devoted and loving wife of 71(!) years, their children, Steven (Sandy) Hirt and Chrissie (Dave) Culver, their grandchildren, Dan (Melissa) Culver, Claire (Joel) Ashby, Matt (Jesika DiCampi) Hirt, Scott Hirt and Todd Hirt. Six great-children blessed Donald and Margaret: Finley, Irelyn, Conrad, Antonio, Nicoletta and Matteo. His determination throughout his life has been an inspiration to all. He overcame huge health, economic and family break up issues as a boy to lead a long and wonderful life.

The Telephone Hall of Fame was founded in 1965 by a group of Pioneers who envisioned a special way of recognizing individuals in the industry who contribute not only to their company, but to the industry at large; a forum where excellence is rewarded by colleagues, employers and the leaders in telecommunications.

By establishing the Hall of Fame, they accomplished their goals. This entity now exists, and is more vibrant than ever. By meeting the criteria set forth by the Committee, individuals are considered by the Hall of Fame Honors Court.

The accomplishments of those inducted into the Telephone Hall of Fame truly represent an unmatched insight into the development and growth of telephony. This industry has made a significant contribution to the nation's private and public sectors and the lifestyle of its people, especially in the rural areas. These successes also serve as a standard to which present and future generations can aspire.

Nominations to the Hall of Fame are made from among those persons who have made positive and substantial contributions to the development, growth, and public perception of the telephone industry, on a national scale, over a period of many years.

To be eligible, an individual must have reached age 70, be retired from the industry for at least three years, or be deceased.

If you would like to nominate someone to the Hall of Fame, we are accepting applications until September 30th. The nomination form can be found on the ITPA website: https://www.nationalitpa.com/uploads/useruploads/files/Hall-of-Fame-Nomination_4911t02g.pdf

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

100 Years Celebration



ITPA 100th Anniversary Celebration Survey

Thank you for participating in our survey to let us know if you (ITPA members and guests) are interested in attending the 100th Anniversary Celebration in November in Hinesville, Georgia, if current 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.

I am interested in attending the 100 th Anniversary Celebration	Yes	No
How many would be attending in your group?	# in group	
Would you need to make hotel reservations in Hinesville?	Yes	No
If you need to make hotel reservations, how many rooms?	# of rooms	
Will you be attending the Friday events?	Yes	No
Will you be attending the Saturday events?	Yes	No

Other Comments:

If you are considering attending, may we please have your contact information?

This will not be shared.

Name:	
E-mail:	
Telephone:	
Pioneer Chapter or Club Name:	

Thank you for participating in the survey!
Please watch for more information in upcoming newsletters.

FreeConferenceCall.com

Did You Know?

Having difficulty getting your club and chapter members together for a face to face meeting? Don't worry, there is a solution that may be helpful for holding your meetings via conference calls. The best thing about it? The conference service is at no cost to subscribe and maintain. FreeConferenceCall.com is your pathway and beginning to an easy way to fulfill the Annual Report requirements of holding one annual meeting each year. Making things easier for your club and chapter leaders and members is an important goal of your national office and we encourage electronic and conference meetings whenever needed. The National board members have successfully used the service since earlier this year. Here's how to get started: Sign up at www.FreeConferenceCall.com and set up your account on-line to receive a dial-in number and access code. Read the fine print to be sure you understand the rules. One thing to note is that your phone carrier may apply normal long distance charges to those calling in without free long distance plans.

Go ahead!!

Give it a try.

If you have questions or problems, contact your national office for some guidance and tips.

It's that easy! Good Luck.



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Dues were due on April 1st, but it isn't too late to get them paid. Help us save on mailing costs by submitting your dues today. Dues not paid will result in being removed from the membership list on August 1st.

<https://www.nationalitpa.com/pay-dues>

or by mail:

ITPA

438 West Oglethorpe Highway

DON'T

FORGET

ITPA National Office
438 West Oglethorpe Hwy
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Email: itpa@telecom-pioneers.net



We are on the web:
www.nationalitpa.com

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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**