



independent telecommunications pioneer association

Meet ITPA National President Gregg Klatsky

Mr. Klatsky joined the telecommunication industry in 2006 working for a small engineering firm in rural Maine named MOUNTAIN, LTD. He was hired by Joe Hosmer the founder of the company, who at the time, Gregg likes to think, impressed Joe with his varied background and past work experience at companies such as Nintendo, Nobel Wines and Amazon. Years later, Joe came clean and let Gregg know it was less about the work experience and that he just shared many of the same hobbies as Motorcycle riding and hunting that led to Joe's decision to bring Gregg on with the company.

Gregg's passion for the industry quickly grew as he navigated through several jobs working at MOUNTAIN, LTD. He became entrenched in the day-to-day affairs of the companies he supported by learning from work associates and by joining professional, and telecommunication associations such as TANE (The Telephone Association of New England). He joined the HR committee with TANE and several folks from companies such as Oxford Networks, Waitsfield Telecom, FairPoint, and Unitel took him under their wings to help broaden his experiences in the telecom industry and to help mentor him with industry knowledge and history and he eventually wound up as the chair of the committee for several years.

He is considered by his peers and clients as an expert in telecommunications Staffing, HR, and safety in the telecommunications industry. His proficiency in employment law, business practices and ethical standards earned him the CPC (Certified Personnel Consultant) and CTS (Certified Temporary Staffing Specialist) designations, as well as being 1 of 22 individuals Nationally CERS (Certified Employee Retention Specialist) certified that are proficient in working with clients to create effective employee

staffing strategies that attract, retain, and foster environments that help Senior Leadership increase their profitability.

Gregg's official title at MOUNTAIN, LTD. is Vice President of Business development, and he handles responsibilities of New Business, Direct Recruiting, Contract Recruiting, Project Management and Safety. Additionally, he manages several team members ranging from Marketing, IT, Wireless and Wireline sales and usually has several projects he is Project Managing for the company any given day. He continues to support clients within the telecommunications companies when needed as a Cad drafter, Engineer, permitting support specialist, or as a staffing and personnel consultant.

Gregg has provided insight, organized seminars and training to telecommunication associations and clients across the United States on topics such as Pole Top Rescue, Disaster Recovery Planning, OSP Technician Safety, ladder safety, Fall arrest training, and other human resources and safety related topics.

The kindness that was extended from the individuals within the Rural telephone community while working at MOUNTAIN, LTD has been a huge driving force behind the decision to become involved with the ITPA. It was contagious seeing individuals wanting to give back, do more and help where they can, and Gregg was hooked from the very moment he was asked to help.



— continued next page

Meet Gregg Klatsky ... continued

Gregg was eventually asked to be involved as a board member with Granite State Chapter ITPA and take on a leadership role with the Down East Club and continues to spread the enthusiasm and energy through his own company and the community. Whether it's organizing a yearly golf tournament or simply helping with a silent auction to support the ITPA, the importance of continuing to spread the message of caring for the communities we work and live in is part of what helps drive the commitment to his company and ITPA. Gregg made the case one year to April Metivier the COO of MOUNTAIN, LTD to let him take some time to check out the ITPA National Assembly after years of working with the local ITPA organizations. The experience and friendships that came from that first Assembly made a lasting impression that he is forever grateful for.

He is honored and humbled by the opportunity to help lead an organization with such a rich history of giving back, comradery, service to the community and is looking forward to continuing these traditions of the many members that have held this position before or have been a part of this association.



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shop as you normally would. Make sure to go to smile.amazon.com instead of amazon.com to make sure your donations are registering; it's the same products, same prices, same services, but you will support the ITPA. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the National Office at 912-408-4872.

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The Pioneer Magazine
The official publication of the
Independent Telecommunications
Pioneer Association

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Please send stories about your club or chapter to ITPA at the contact information above.

The Pioneer Magazine is developed by the ITPA Public Relations Committee and is published three times a year by the Independent Telecommunications Pioneer Association.

Hall of Fame

Dewey Wayne Peterson

Avisionary who also sought practical applications, D. Wayne Peterson instituted a host of innovations in the companies for which he served that found their way into Independent telephone companies everywhere. He has been elected to the Telephone Hall of Fame of the Independent Telecommunications Pioneer Association and will be inducted at the Association's next annual Assembly at a time and place to be determined.

The 100-year old association with headquarters in Hinesville, GA began in 1965 to recognize individuals who had made "outstanding contributions to the Independent (non-Bell) telecommunications industry." The accomplishments of those inducted represent an unmatched insight into the development and growth of the Independent telecommunications industry which makes a significant contribution in the nation's private and public sectors and lifestyle of its people, especially in rural areas. ITPA has now honored 104 Hall of Famers, most recently the late Eleanor G. Haskin of Waitsfield, VT in 2019.

Peterson's distinguished 40-year career began in 1957 with a nine-year grounding in telephony at Southwestern States Telephone Company in Texas (Southwestern Bell in 1964). He was recruited in 1968 by United Telecommunications Inc. as Assistant Vice President-Revenues with management responsibilities in division of revenues, cost analysis and revenue planning. When the position of VP-Marketing was created, it went to Peterson. One of those to whom Peterson reported, retired Vice Chairman Raymond Alden (Hall of Fame 1994) says in 2020: "Wayne was among the strongest of my staff. He did his job well and was highly respected throughout the United System."

So respected that in March 1980 Peterson at age 44 was appointed president and CEO of, arguably, the crown jewel of holding company United's operating telcos: Carolina Telephone Company in Tarboro, NC. It was in the next 13 years that Peterson left his largest footprint.

A time of great change for telephone companies, momentum was advancing on the fronts of digital and fiber optic technology and competitive marketing in new communications products. Peterson grasped all three and led CT in meeting these and other challenges. One former employee, George Dudley, recalls: "When I think of Peterson, what keeps coming back to me are the 'big picture' things—how his forward-mindedness guided us into the emerging future. He was at the helm as we navigated huge regulatory and competitive challenges." For instance:

****By 1993 the company was 100% digital switching having invested \$390 million. Peterson's annual construction budget during the period was over \$100 million annually, remarkable for the times.**

****Determined to mine the resources of his employee-force to improve overall quality, Wayne created an award-winning Quality Circle Program, beginning in 1981 with a steering committee and six pilot circles. By 1993 there were over 100 circles of employee work groups involved in decision-**



making. The company's annual Quality Conference lasting a week involved more than 2,000 employees and became a model for other telcos.

****Peterson recognized the need for Independents to be politically involved as the industry evolved to a more competitive business. He was instrumental in creating a governmental affairs effort within the North Carolina Independent Telephone Association that drafted and obtained legislation that eased the telco transition into a competitive market. North Carolina in many instances had a head start before changes made at the federal level in such changes as long distance deregulation, price regulation, local exchange deregulation.**

****Trading on his experience in marketing back in United System corporate, he pushed training employees to become sales people rather than just order takers, an emphasis other telcos took to heart from the successful CT&T example.**

Shortly after Carolina Tel's parent company, United Telecommunications, was changed to Sprint Corporation, Peterson in 1992 was placed in charge of Sprint Mid-Atlantic Telecom which embraced United's properties in the Southeast as well as the acquired Centel telephone companies in the region.

A year later (1993) his leadership skill was rewarded in being named head of Sprint's Local Telecommunications Division in Kansas City, MO. He became responsible for all of Sprint's U.S. local service telephone companies, including Carolina Tel. Three years later (1996), Peterson was appointed president of National Integrated Services until his retirement in 1997.

Not to be overlooked over the years was Peterson's exemplary contributions to the communities in which he lived and served. Over time he was on the boards of 14 civic organizations, 10 different educational institutions, a half dozen other non-profits and three bank directorships. His awards too numerous to list include the U.S. Army's highest civilian award: Commander's Award for Public Service in 1993 from the hand of Fort Bragg's General Charles D. Luckey.

A staunch supporter of Pioneering, Wayne encouraged the Carotel Club's purchase of two Smokehouses for educating school children in fire safety with the slogan that became popular: "Stop, Drop and Roll." Company vehicles transported the houses to various events around North Carolina. He was a hands-on participant remembered for stating: "Wait for me. I'm your leader."

The native of Stroud, Oklahoma received his education at Tyler (TX) Community College, Dallas College of Southern Methodist University and Rockhurst College, Kansas City, MO. Peterson served for six years on the board of governors of the University of North Carolina Systems. He is a member of Christ Community Church of Pinehurst. Wayne and his wife, Billie Ann, are the parents of two daughters and two sons.

Club Corner

The City of Rock Hill, SC in partnership with Piedmont Medical Center and other community partners opened the first Covid-19 Vaccination Center for the State of South Carolina in an empty space in the Rock Hill Mall. It is staffed by volunteers, medical and otherwise. They need supplies from the public to be able to accomplish their objective and the **Comporium Pioneers** stepped up to provide over \$300 worth of the items on the list. The plan going forward is to take supplies once a month and to also supply volunteers as the clinic will be in operation for many months.



2020 Scholarship Winners

The **Midsouth Chapter** attended the Telecommunications Association of the Southeast's (TELSE) Summer Symposium in June and awarded over \$20,000 to 15 students through the Billy D. Young Telephone Pioneer Memorial #Scholarship.



After serving in the U.S. Air Force, Mr. Young dedicated his career to telecommunications, working with several companies in Mississippi and Alabama. The scholarship was established in his memory to support current high school seniors and undergraduate college students who are dependent children or grandchildren of an

employee of a TELSE member company or the ITPA Mid-South Chapter. Selection of scholars is based on a number of factors with special emphasis on each individual's character, personal merit, and background. Merit is demonstrated in a variety of ways: leadership in school, civic, and other extracurricular activities; academic achievement; and motivation to serve and succeed in all endeavors.

Congratulations to our 2020 Scholarship Awardees!

\$5,000 winner: Maeghan Grace Lee, Franklin Telephone Company

\$3,000 winner: Addison Lynn Stailey, Electricom

\$3,000 winner: Joshuan Roan Griffin, Franklin Telephone Company

\$1,000 winners: Erica Chmielewski (TEC), Erin Branna Martin (New Hope Telephone Cooperative), Colby Lewis King (O'Telco), Josie Layne Hussey (Mon-Cre Telephone Cooperative), Kyle Andrew Berryhill (Power & Tel), Johnah Bayleigh Pipkins

(Franklin Telephone Company), Noah Thomas Lessley (O'Telco), Kenzi Jordyn Traylor (Farmers Telecommunications Cooperative), Brianna Nichole Mathis (TEC), and Laila Alyssa Hall (Farmers Telecommunications Cooperative).

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 concerns, we were unable to have an awards ceremony for our scholarship recipients at the TELSE Summer Symposium.

In December, the **Nearea Telecom Pioneer Club** donated 18 hand crocheted lap robes, 12 hand crocheted shawls, and 40 hand crocheted angel ornaments at The Meadows Nursing & Rehabilitation Center in Dallas, PA. This was the first time the facility accepted donations since Covid-19 began.

In the photo are Tanya Christ, holding one of the donated lap robes, and in the door window is Laura Wingard-Meadows Activities Director.



Club Corner

Big Bend Pioneers in Tallahassee supported a local community by donating funds to help purchase food for families that have been impacted by the effects of the pandemic. Many folks have experienced disrupted normal routines due to school and workplace closures. Employment and income interruptions have led to an increase in food pantry activity. It has become an all too familiar scene—a line of cars waiting to drive through a food distribution site. To assist, Big Bend donated funds to an area church food bank that serves eighty five families bi-monthly. We received a heartwarming thank you card from church members and volunteers for our donation.



Mask up with ITPA

The **Florida State Chapter ITPA** has launched a fundraiser to equip all ITPA members, family and friends with a logo'd ITPA mask. What a great opportunity to purchase these masks for your board members, new members or as a gift for membership recruiting efforts. Bulk or individual orders are welcomed. The branded masks are available for a low cost of \$10 each. If interested, please send an email to FLChapterITPA@gmail.com for ordering details. Let's mask up and represent our beloved ITPA Pioneering!

We are calling all
Pioneers and
Friends to Mask up
with ITPA, Let's go!

Order your comfy
ITPA Logo face mask
today!

Bulk or individual orders are welcomed. The branded masks are available for a low cost of **\$10 each plus \$2.50** (shipping). Please send an email to FLChapterITPA@gmail.com for ordering details.



Charitable Foundation

Wreaths for Warriors Walk at Fort Stewart, Georgia

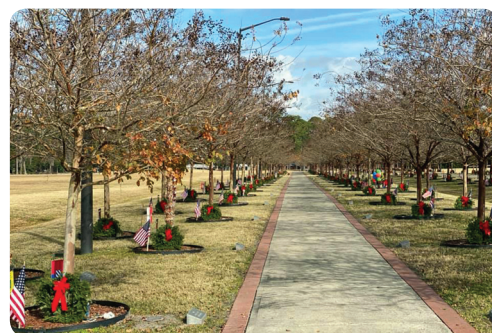
The holiday season is generally a time of celebration, but for many military families, it is also a time of remembrance. My family and I had the distinct honor of being part of the Wreaths Across America wreath laying event at Fort Stewart, GA to honor the 469 Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield-based soldiers who died while serving in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Because of your generous donations to the ITPA Charitable Foundation, ten wreaths were donated to Warriors Walk and my family had the honor of laying eight of them at the base of each crape myrtle tree honoring the sacrifice of each soldier listed here:

SPC Russel H. Nahvi, Iraqi Freedom
SPC Jeffery W. Corban, Iraqi Freedom
SSG Vincent E. Summers, Iraqi Freedom
SGT Robert W. Tucker, Iraqi Freedom
LTC Leon G. James III, Iraqi Freedom
SFC Brandon K. Sneed, Iraqi Freedom
SSG Jerry L. Bonifacio, Jr., Iraqi Freedom
SPC Jose E. Rosario, Iraqi Freedom

A complete list of soldiers honored at Warriors Walk on Fort Stewart can be viewed on the Wreaths for Warriors Walk website: <https://w4ww.org/our-fallen-warriors/>
Wreaths for Warriors Walk, Inc., is a non-profit corporation organized in the state of Georgia. We are not affiliated with the US Army, 3rd Infantry Division, or Fort Stewart, Georgia. We are supported entirely by unsolicited donations. As a non-profit, we are required to have officers, but they do not receive a salary or compensation of any kind. The board is assisted by a core group of dedicated volunteers comprised of military retirees, local veterans' organizations, service organizations, and local citizens who care deeply about soldiers, especially those soldiers associated with Fort Stewart.
Pictured- Alissa Moss, ITPA Executive Director, Kassie Davis and Addison Moss (Alissa's daughters) and Susan Williams (Alissa's Mom)

—Alissa Moss, ITPA Executive Director



Telephone Collectors International Donors

In the world of TCI, donors are very important. They are members who provide cash donations annually, above and beyond their basic dues. Most if not all of the donors know how the board uses these extra funds. One of the commitments to members is at least one annual telephone "show" where telephones and related equipment is bought and sold by and to other collectors. The donations help keep the costs of shows to a minimum. Another longstanding use is to send new members an eighty-four page "tutorial" that covers just about everything a new telephone collector should know. The book was authored by long-standing newsletter editors (Emeritus), Paul and Bev McFadden. New members also receive a TCI lapel pin, also funded by donations.

Acknowledging donors is a tough task because donors prefer that the organization spend its resources on all members, not just donors. For the past two or three years, TCI has sent donors something that is small and displayable, such as a framed item that can be displayed with a phone collection or any way the member wishes to display it.

For the 2020-21 year, it was decided to locate a vintage picture advertising piece that could be modified in some manner to reflect the reason behind it. We chose a 1918, war-related telephone item.

The art work on the item we chose has an interesting history. An American artist, Z.P. Nikolaki (1879-1945), an illustrator, etcher, and lithographer, was commissioned by the telephone company to create the advertising design. Nikolaki was famous for his classy women and motor girl drawings of the early 1900s. The TCI newsletter editor, who is also a telephone museum curator, Remco Enthoven, modified the message on the piece to reflect a donation to TCI, and it was printed as a 5 by 7 photograph. A copy, as well as a donation receipt, was sent to all our donors.

If you are interested in TCI, visit us at www.telephonecollectors.org

We look forward to sharing other TCI related articles with ITPA members in the future.



HELLO!
THIS IS LIBERTY SPEAKING
BILLIONS OF DOLLARS ARE NEEDED
TCI THANKS YOU FOR BEING A DONOR

Supplement to Engineering & Mining Journal, September 21, 1918.

Going Green!

Would you prefer to receive the *Pioneer Magazine* digitally? ITPA offers e-mail delivery of the *Pioneer* to anyone who elects to receive it. The Magazine will be delivered in PDF (Adobe) format three times annually. To take advantage of this option, e-mail itpa@telecom-pioneers.net with the subject line "Digital Pioneer Magazine Opt in."



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ITPA Commemorative Tokens

We are so grateful for the support of those that have made donations to our Historical Foundation fundraiser. We only have a few commemorative tokens left, so get them before they are gone! To place your order you can find the order form on our website at: <https://www.nationalitpa.com/fundraising> or you can email the National Office at itpa@telecom-pioneers.net to request an order form.

Commemorative Token - \$15.00 Each Donation

Actual Size – 2"x1.4"

Front



Back



ITPA Token - \$12.00 Each Donation

Actual Size – 2"

Front



Back

