

Pioneer Connection



Issue 22-02

May 2022

Founded 1920

30th Annual ITPA Assembly

Club delegates from across the nation attended the 30th annual ITPA Assembly in Greenbelt, MD on April 22-25. The energy throughout the meeting was palpable as ITPA members reconnected. From beginning to end, the entire assembly committee ensured a big dose of fun accompanied the business at hand.



Above: Gregg Klatsky and Daniel Barnhardt co-host an assembly session. They kept the entire assembly entertaining, informative and productive.

National officers, board members and committee chairs were inducted during the business session (details on Page 7). One notable item of business is the new member category that ITPA delegates unanimously approved. Effective immediately, individuals who haven't worked directly in the telecommunications industry may apply for ITPA membership under the *Friends of Pioneers* category. Applicants must demonstrate the character and values on which the ITPA is founded and must be sponsored by an active club member. (See more about new membership category on Page 10.)



Guest speakers from the Alzheimer's Association and SC National Guard Soldier Member Family Care Directorate provided informative overviews of those organizations, after which each organization was presented with a \$1,500 donation from the ITPA Charitable Foundation. This won't be the last time we see Ana and Rose, both of whom we expect to be welcoming into the ITPA family. Ana's husband Jim, who also attended the assembly, is a telecom guy himself, so of course he was invited to become an ITPA member! Rose is the inaugural applicant in our *Friends of Pioneers* membership category! (Read more about this in "Charitable Foundation News" on Page 4.) That we gained two club members during the assembly speaks to the excellence with which this year's assembly was presented. And on that note....

Sincere gratitude is extended to the assembly committee members who worked long hours before, during and after the assembly to provide an enjoyable and memorable event: Tara and Kyle Anderson, Daniel Barnhardt, Ann Beck, Janet and Ronnie Cashwell, Cindy Downing, Alissa and Chris Moss, Melinda Niday, Tiffany Staton, Arhea White and Leon Yard.



Above: The decorating committee, adorned the banquet room beautifully on Military Appreciation Night, and attendees dressed accordingly in red, white and blue. What a lovely evening!!

Our deep appreciation is extended to outgoing President Gregg Klatsky for his tireless work and leadership during the past year. Past issues of this magazine are evidence of his dedication to the ITPA and its chapter/club members. He traveled frequently to support club efforts and encourage club members. Incoming president Daniel Barnhardt said about Gregg, "It's been an honor to work with Gregg this past year. The progress and changes we made under his leadership were outstanding. Gregg is a "get-it-done" kind of guy, and he kept the national ITPA moving forward."

Some milestones (there are many more) accomplished through Gregg's leadership include:

- Social media improvements for clubs and chapters
- Establishment of a sustainable budget with reduced expenses
- Rekindled Amazon Smile to generate quarterly funds
- Updated technology in the National ITPA office
- (Much needed) membership dues adjustment
- Introduction of ITPA online silent auction

During his presidency, Gregg traveled to meet with the Nearea Club, Buckeye Chapter, and Comporium clubs/chapters to support club events and he hosted the ITPA's 100-year service anniversary tree planting in Hinesville, GA. He also implemented a weekly/monthly meeting schedule using Teams and Zoom applications for the National ITPA officers and board members that we will continue utilizing. Gregg also committed his time to serve on this year's awards committee, an extremely time consuming commitment in and of itself." Gregg will continue to serve on the ITPA board as *Immediate Past President*.

Hats off to you Gregg!

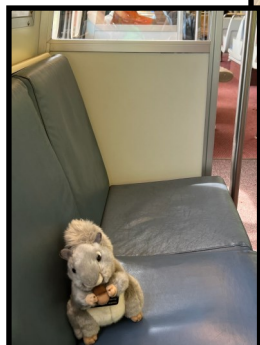


Where's Rocky? (Or for that matter...where's Lilly???)

Rocky the Squirrel has been spotted numerous times this year hiding here and there and everywhere, sometimes in plain sight!



He's also been known to get into quite a bit of mischief when he thought no one was watching.



Poor Lilly was kidnapped pretty early on during this year's assembly. Investigators believed Daniel Barnhardt may have masterminded the kidnapping, but the only evidence discovered thus implicated Tiffany Staton as the sole perpetrator.

Tiffany was photographed by investigators while holding tightly to her captive.



Lilly was released only after Gregg was able to secure the steep ransom that her kidnapper demanded.

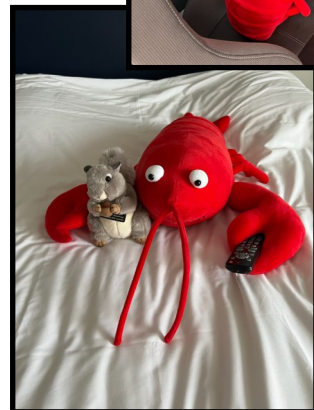
These two mischievous mascots are naughty enough when left to their own devices, but together they're a force to be reckoned with. You never know where they'll end up.



As a matter of fact, we have it on good authority that they might be spotted here and there in this very issue!

If you find Rocky or Lilly elsewhere in this issue, please report their sightings immediately! Our new president is offering a reward for information leading to their capture. **The first four people** to accurately list all of the pages where mischievous mascots are hiding will receive a mystery prize (hint: it's \$\$)

If you see something, say something! Winners will be determined based on the time-stamped receipt of their e-mail to itpa@telecom-pioneers.net. (Note: Members only—National Board Members and Committee Chairs are not eligible!)



Above: From early morning snacks in bed, to a drive on the town, and then some late night TV, Rocky and Lilly enjoyed every minute of Lilly's freedom during the recent national assembly.

Assembly Fun and Games!

They have NO idea where I am! Shhhh....



It's time for BINGO, for crying out loud!

Punch it already!!

He won AGAIN?? No fair!!!

I think there's a snack in here somewhere...

Is it EVER going to be MY turn?!?

The Pioneer Punch gets a big ol' Pioneer punch!



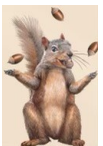
The Men in Black weren't available so they sent The Men in Blue.



Under cover agents impersonating Tara and Kyle Anderson infiltrated Saturday's banquet while investigating the kidnapping of Lilly the Lobster.



Kassie Moss, Janet and Ronnie Cashwell, and Addison Moss worked hard and occasionally played hard.



Charitable Foundation News

Thanks to everyone whose donations to the Charitable Foundation allowed us to continue supporting other charitable organizations. Earlier this year, the foundation's board voted to contribute to the following organizations during this year's assembly:

- Alzheimer's Association research - \$1,500
- National Guard 178th Engineering Battalion Family Readiness Program (Troop/veteran support) - \$1,500
- Matching donations to charities selected by Awards Program Recipients -\$630

This year's assembly featured speakers from the Alzheimer's Association and the National Guard 178th Engineering Battalion Family Readiness Program. The National Guard 178th Engineering Battalion Family Readiness Program is our incoming president's "charity of choice." It was our privilege to support a cause that met our troop and veteran support criteria and also supported our president's selected charity.

Alzheimer's Association - Ana Nelson, VP-Programs & Services for the National Capital Area Chapter provided a wealth of information about the Alzheimer's Association and the devastating disease. The Alzheimer's Association has united more than 10,000 researchers world-wide who are working to conquer Alzheimer's. The Alzheimer's Association is investing more than \$110 million in nearly four hundred best-of-field research projects across 19 countries. A landmark research funding project signed into law in 2018, provided an additional \$414 million for Alzheimer's research. Our members can continue investing in this important research by being an advocate, enrolling in clinical trials for healthy individuals and those diagnosed with Alzheimer's, and by donating. Visit www.alz.com for more information.



Above: Darlene Roll, Gregg Klatsky and Daniel Barnhardt present donation from Charitable Foundation to guest speaker Ana Nelson.

Ana's husband Jim also attended the assembly. While conversing with Jim, Darlene Roll learned that Jim also works in the telecommunications industry! Long story short, Darlene invited him to join ITPA – and he did! Way to recruit members, Darlene! Jim and Ana both commented that they felt at home with our ITPA Pioneer family, and they hope to join us for future activities as their schedules allow, including a visit to our national museum in Hinesville, GA.

Troop/Veteran Support - Rose Lemmons-Berry, Soldier and Family Readiness Specialist, provided an excellent overview of the help rendered to troops and their families through the National Guard 178th Engineering Battalion Family Readiness program in South Carolina. This program assists families of individuals enlisted in that National Guard unit, particularly while members of the unit are deployed. The type of assistance varies based on need, including financial aid, helping family members and often by simply lending a caring and listening ear.



Above: Daniel Barnhardt, Gregg Klatsky, Darlene Roll and Cindy Downing present guest speaker Rose Lemmons-Berry with donation to Soldier and Family Readiness Program

Matching Awards - The Charitable Foundation matched the ITPA amounts donated to charities designated by awards recipients. Matching funds were presented for thirteen 1st place projects, one 2nd place project and one 3rd place project. Thanks to everyone who submitted project applications. We were deeply impressed and appreciative of the work our clubs are doing in their respective communities.

During the assembly, our Charitable Foundation board members worked with the assembly committee to host 50/50 raffles and a silent auction. Last year's cancellation of Gregg Klatsky's assembly prevented the Immediate Past President's opportunity to "beg" for money for his charity. In the spirit of partnership, new President Daniel Barnhardt asked that Gregg's charity of choice, Camp Sunshine, receive some of the weekend's fundraising proceeds.



Gregg was a good sport and engaged in all manner of shenanigans to raise money for Camp Sunshine and rescue his prized mascot, Lilly the Lobster.

The weekend's activities resulted in a \$1,000 donation to Camp Sunshine, and \$757 donation to the National Guard 178th Engineering Battalion Family Readiness Program in addition to the \$1,500 grant.

ITPA Charitable Foundation President, Darlene Roll, extends a sincere thank you to everyone whose donations help us help others.

Historical Foundation News

Once located in Washington, D.C., ITPA's National Office and Museum relocated in 2001 to the small, beautiful city of Hinesville in Liberty County, Georgia. Nestled beneath the majestic oaks draped elegantly with Spanish moss, the National Office occupies the former family home of Glenn E. and Trudie Bryant. Mr. Bryant was a pioneer for Hinesville, Liberty County and the telephone industry alike. He was the founder of Coastal Communications. He bought the Hinesville Telephone Company in 1946, later acquired the Coastal Telephone Company in Richmond Hill, GA and merged the two under the name of Coastal Utilities (now operating as CenturyLink). Bryant, who died in 1999, also served as a Georgia State Senator and was a visionary in business, political, community and charitable ventures. His philanthropic legacy is carried on by the work of the Glenn E. and Trudie Bryant Family Foundation.

The ITPA Telephone Museum consists of a vast collection of telephones and telephone equipment from throughout history. Children and adults alike may find it fascinating to see how the telephone evolved from the solid wood, wall mounted, hand cranked, operator directed, simplistic designs of the past to today's pocket sized, touch-screen, cellular phones. Our collection of artifacts features several hands-on displays that are sure to take you back in time and an interactive kiosk that teaches telephone history.

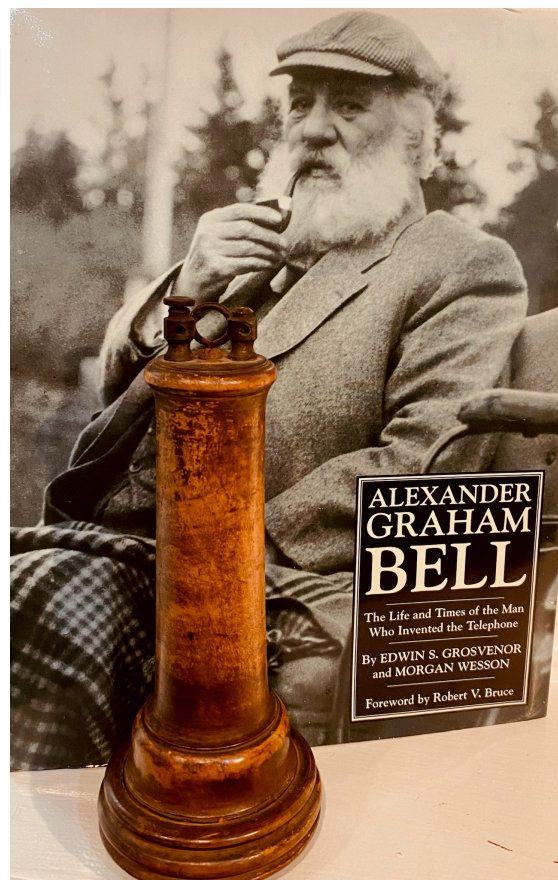
The museum's most prized artifact is a wooden transceiver which was used by Alexander Graham Bell while he was on vacation at Natural Bridge, Virginia. This valued piece was donated to the museum in 2007 by C.P. Lamm a former employee of the Virginia Telephone and Telegraph Company with headquarters in Charlottesville, Virginia. This company purchased the Lexington Telephone Company from the Augustines on April 1, 1958, and they sent him to Lexington, VA, to work with the Lexington Telephone Company employees. Mr. Lamm included the information provided here after regarding how he received Bell's receiver that he later decided to donate to the ITPA Telephone Museum.

"Natural Bridge was one of the five exchanges operated by Lexington Telephone Company. During this assignment, I contacted all of the larger Lexington Telephone Company Customers, including the Natural Bridge Hotel. While visiting this customer, one of their employees, an elderly (80+years) bellman asked me to accompany him to the hotel basement where he wanted to give me a telephone instrument that "Mr. Bell" used while at the hotel. According to this employee, Mr. Bell visited Natural Bridge on several occasions and stayed at the hotel. There was no telephone service available in Natural Bridge at that time, so Mr. Bell requested that the hotel install a circuit between the hotel and the railroad station. Mr. Bell provided the telephone instruments."

Mr. Bell used the wooden transceiver, which both transmits and receives communications, to connect to a line service at the hotel which allowed him to connect with an operator to place a call.

Visitors to the museum are amazed to find out that we have an instrument that was used by Alexander Graham Bell.

If you haven't yet visited our museum, we welcome you to visit. Even if you have visited, come on back and you're sure to find something new...well you're more likely to find something old...but it's worth a repeat trip. Come on down!



Darlene Roll Honored with Pioneering Excellence Award

Congratulations to Darlene Roll, this year's Pioneering Excellence Award recipient. This Award is the highest individual honor bestowed by the ITPA. Recipients are Pioneers who consistently contribute to their communities through ongoing Pioneer activities and who enhance the ITPA and its goals; and Darlene has certainly done that.



Above: Darlene (left) extended a warm welcome to guest speaker Rose Lemmons-Berry at this year's national assembly.

A devoted Pioneer, Darlene joined the Mid Ohio Pioneer Club after 15 years of service in 1984. During the 80's and 90's she held the offices of Secretary, Vice President, President and Treasurer. She continues to serve as the club's treasurer. Darlene has also held those same offices at the state level.

Darlene has spearheaded numerous fund-raising projects through the years, including coffee breaks, garage sales, and the Pennies for Pioneers project. Funds raised through these projects have been used to help families of ill co-workers with expenses, support the Alzheimer's Association, and help with completion of an educational project on school playgrounds.



Above: Mid Ohio volunteers paint U.S. maps on a school playground, to help make education fun for kids.

Darlene has participated in fund-raising efforts such as Alzheimer's Walks, March of Dimes Walks, Bikes Across America, and has helped donate to food pantries, Veterans Hospitals, and much more. Her ever-positive attitude is contagious and the Mid Ohio Pioneer Club has thrived with her influence.

Darlene's Pioneering spirit led her to the national level when in 1994 she accepted a role as director on the ITPA's national board. She was elected Region 2 Vice President in 1997. During her tenure she traveled to all clubs in that region and assisted every club when possible. (In 2020 she again accepted that position for another term.)

Darlene served as National ITPA President in 2001-2002. She is currently the President of the ITPA Charitable Foundation.

Darlene said of her service to and on behalf of the Pioneers, "It's the feeling of 'family' that I get...and I hope others do as well...when working on a project to fill a need."

Many Pioneers are well aware of the projects she has championed and the offices she has held. **But did you know.....**

She married her late husband Barney at a church camp! She was blessed with four stepchildren and five grandchildren.

Darlene has visit all 50 states at least once. She only has to visit 3 more states to complete her second visit to all 50 states!!!

Darlene's name was submitted for a Jeopardy game show search in Cleveland. She was selected to take the test but didn't make it to the show. Darlene said of that experience, "That test is MUCH harder than the TV version!"

Below (far right) Darlene with fellow ITPA officers who attended the 2022 annual assembly. Others, left to right: Leon Yard, Daniel Barnhardt, JoAnn Esposito, Cindy Downing and Jo Meyers.





2022-2023 ITPA National Board Members and Committee Chairs

Executive Board:

President	Daniel Barnhardt
1st Vice President	JoAnn Esposito
Secretary	Cindy Downing
Treasurer & Asst. Secretary	Jo Myers
Assistant Treasurer	James White
Immediate Past President	Gregg Klatsky

Region Vice Presidents:

Region 1	Bill Barber
Region 2	Darlene Roll
Region 3	Leon Yard
Region 4	Nancy Schnitzer

Committee Chairs:

Assembly	JoAnn Esposito
Awards	Ann Beck
Bylaws	Ronnie Cashwell
Charitable Foundation President	Darlene Roll
Historical Foundation President	Ronnie Cashwell
Historical Committee	Morrie Sachsenmaier
Investments	Gregg Klatsky
Leadership Development	Nancy Schnitzer
Membership	Vacant
Nominating Committee	Gregg Klatsky
Public Relations	Darlene Terry
National Local Affairs Liaison	Alissa Moss
Sponsor Company	Alissa Moss
Director at Large	Hannah Lancaster
Director at Large	Nancy Hyatt

Just for fun:

Very early one morning the 'phone rang at Barry's house, it was 3am. He picked up the phone and a woman bellowed into his ear, 'Is this 2983645?'

'No, I'm sorry, this is 2983642,' Barry answered, surprisingly calmly.

'Oh, I'm so sorry for disturbing you then,' the woman said.

'That's alright,' Barry murmured, 'I had to get up to answer the 'phone anyway.'

Project Awards



Chapters, Clubs and/or individuals who exemplified the principles of Pioneering were recognized during the spring assembly in April.

All clubs/chapters may submit entries for projects. A National Awards Committee whose chairperson is appointed by the National President administers the awards program. Entrants are categorized based on club size:

Class A = 1-30 members
Class B = 31-100 members
Class C = 100+ members.

Award recipients may elect to receive a certificate and check for the charity of their choice in lieu of a plaque.

A Founders Award is also available each year to the Chapter or Club having achieved the best overall performance. To qualify for the Founders Award, entrants must have (1) submitted a project entry in all five categories, (2) conducted a membership drive, and (3) sponsored a fellowship event or social activity. This year's award winners by category are:

National Project

1st Place Class A – Palmetto Chapter
Class B – Carotel
Class C – Comporium

Spirit of Service

1st Place Class A – North Star Chapter
Class C – Comporium

Human Services

1st Place Class A – Palmetto Chapter
Class B – Buckeye Chapter
Class C – Comporium

2nd Place Class A – North Star Chapter
3rd Place Class A – Mid-Ohio

Community Enhancement

1st Place Class B – Otto Wettstein, Jr.
Class C – Comporium

Life Enrichment

1st Place Class B – Carotel
Class C – Comporium

Pioneer Choice

1st Place Class C – Comporium

Founders Award – Comporium

Congratulations to this year's award recipients and to all clubs who submitted a project entry, thank you making a difference in your communities.



Chapter and Club Corner

Carotel Club News

Carotel club members Darlene Terry, Janet Cashwell and Darlene House tied for 1st place for identifying the most national monuments in a timed cross-word puzzle challenge at the spring assembly.



Above pictured left to right: Daniel Barnhardt with 1st place winners Darlene Terry, Janet Cashwell and Darlene House

Tarheel Chapter

You are cordially invited to attend the Tarheel Chapter's annual assembly on Aug 19-21 at the Hampton Inn & Suites located at 200 Columbus Drive in Aberdeen, NC.

The Tarheel Chapter's annual business meeting will be conducted during the assembly, and there will be plenty of other activities including, entertainment, games and prizes, a 50/50 raffle, an auction, a food and toiletry drive to help replenish a local food bank's pantry. The Telephone Hall of Fame Luncheon in honor of Mr. Peterson will be held on Sunday, Aug. 21st. (Mr. Peterson's formal induction to the Hall of Fame was scheduled to be conducted during the national spring assembly but he was unable to attend due to family illness.

Costs for the annual Tarheel Chapter assembly are being finalized and a registration form will soon be available with final details. Attendees are invited to bring non-perishable foods and/or toiletries or to send those items with someone who plans to attend.

Please send an e-mail to itpa@telecom-pioneers.net to request a registration form.



National Capitol Chapter (Washington, D.C.)

Our chapter is delighted to report that we have recently reinstated our "in person" monthly luncheons during which industry and governmental guest speakers join us to discuss a number of relevant topics and current events. Visit www.itpancc.org/monthlyluncheons/ for details on our luncheons and other relevant news.



Florida Chapter

We will host a "Florida Retired Operators" reunion at 11:30 a.m. on June 7, 2022 at the Pasta Fare in Belleview, FL. All are welcomed.

Florida Chapter board members are reminded of our regular board meeting (conference call only) on June 14th.

The annual meeting/dinner is being planned now. Check our July issue for details.

Comporium

Club members showed up in a BIG WAY at the national assembly to support incoming ITPA president Daniel Barnhardt of Comporium!



Buckeye State Chapter

The Buckeye State Chapter is continued to collect pennies for the ITPA's "Pennies for Pioneers" drive. You can help too! Simply collect your pennies and other coins (or dollars) and convert your collection into a check payable to the ITPA at 438 W. Oglethorpe Hwy, Hinesville, GA 31313. (Please include "Pennies for ITPA" on the memo line of check). Funds raised through this project help with expenses of maintaining our national office and museum.

Reminder to board members that our regularly scheduled meeting is July 16th.

Plans are being made now for our annual fall convention in October. More to come.

Our club extends a hearty congratulations to our own Darlene Roll for having received the prestigious Pioneering Excellence Award during the national ITPA spring assembly. (Read more on Page 6.)



Buckeye president, Jim Hoskinson was too fast for Rocky this time. He snuck up on the pesky mascot and accompanied him to the assembly hall.

Other Club News

We want to include your club/chapter news and events. Be on the lookout for an email reminder asking for your updates that can be included in the **July** issue of Pioneer Connections. Reminder that our magazine is now a bi-monthly publication.

Comporium Hosts 13th Annual Fire House Run

The Comporium Pioneers resumed their annual Firehouse Run on Sat., May 14th, after a two-year hiatus due to COVID restrictions. The event was held at the Oakdale Fire Dept. Despite a dreary weather forecast, the Comporium Pioneers soldiered on. They began setting up at 7:00 a.m. with high hopes that the rain would clear, and the riders would show. The group sent a prayer up at 8 a.m. asking the Lord for a bit of help in that department.



By 9 a.m. the rain had stopped, the roads were drying out, and the riders started rolling in. Thirty-eight enthusiastic riders received a specially designed ride shirt, the thirteenth in the collection for this annual fund-raiser.



Before the ride began, Firehouse Run organizer Leon Yard was presented a quilt that was made of the first 12 Firehouse Run ride shirts.

A second quilt was presented to the Oakdale Volunteer Fire Department to acknowledge the department's dedication to the Comporium Pioneer Club and to the annual event.



Despite the early morning weather scare, the day was beautiful, and riders were treated to a lunch of burgers and hotdogs with all the trimmings.



Volunteers and riders enjoy a delicious lunch after the ride.

More than \$5,000 in door prizes were awarded to participants, thanks to the generosity of many event sponsors.

This annual event is Comporium's largest annual fund-raiser each year, and proceeds are used by the club for the many community projects the team undertakes throughout the year. We are continually grateful to the Oakdale Fire Dept. for their partnership and help with this event.

The club also extends special thanks to event guests Ronnie and Janet Cashwell (Carotel Club) and National Office Executive Director Alissa Moss, along with her daughters Kassie and Addison.

Leon Yard, Comporium club member and Region 3 Vice President is the founder of the Fire House Run.



Pictured above: Leon Yard, Fire House Run Founder, with a sweet ride of his own.

Leon not only serves the Pioneers with dedication and passion, but he serves his community with the same passion. That community service includes the Oakdale Volunteer Fire Department where Leon serves as Assistant Fire Chief.



Rocky might not make the cut as a volunteer firefighter. He was stuck in the basket until someone found and rescued him.





Other News

Up to Date on Dues?

The ITPA 2022 membership statements were mailed earlier this year. Thanks to everyone who has already sent in their dues, which help support community service projects sponsored by the ITPA and also help support our member clubs. You can renew online at www.nationalitpa.com/pay-dues or if you prefer to pay by check and haven't received your statement, another statement will be sent. To help the ITPA save on additional mailing costs, you can send your check with your membership number and club name/number to the ITPA at:

438 W. Oglethorpe Hwy
Hinesville, GA 31313

New Pioneer Membership Category Approved by Assembly Delegates

Club delegates unanimously approved a proposed amendment to the ITPA By-Laws, adding a new membership classification to Article IV.

Under the new **Friends of Pioneers** classification, individuals who do not have a direct affiliation, present or past, with the telecommunications industry are eligible to become members when they are sponsored by an active Pioneer member in good standing and they are at least 21 years of age. After a one-year grace period, **Friends of Pioneers** members who are current on their annual dues will be granted voting rights and may hold office. **Friends of Pioneers** may participate in all activities of local chapters, clubs and the National Association including attending the National Assembly.

A revised membership form that includes the **Friends of Pioneers** member category can be found at the end of this issue so that you can invite **your** friends and family to join our ranks!



Greetings from the National ITPA Office. It's my sincere hope that everyone is doing well as we slowly get back to a new normal. Our big news is that the annual Assembly was a resounding success. The sponsorships from companies, vendors, ITPA Clubs and Chapters helped make this year's assembly a resounding success, and I am deeply grateful for their support. Our assembly committee made all the planning and work that goes into planning the annual assembly look easy, and the following individuals deserve special recognition for their hard work and dedication:

Alissa and Chris Moss, Janet and Ronnie Cashwell, Tiffany Staton, Ahrea White, Mahiro Tanaka, Leon Yard, Cindy Downing, Ann Beck, Tara and Kyle Anderson, Melinda Niday, Connie Taylor, Kassie Moss and Addison Moss.

I would also thank our incoming ITPA board members: Cindy Downing – Secretary, Jo Myers – Assistant Secretary, Gregg Klatsky – Investments, and Darlene Terry – Public Relations. I want to also thank the committee chairs that who retained their current positions. I will truly need their help and expertise throughout the coming year.

Attendees of this year's assembly reconnected with old friends and colleagues and allowed all of us to re-establish bonds that just aren't the same through a Zoom conference call.

With the April assembly complete, we started May with a host of new projects and events. Some events I've been able to participate in are:

Timberlands Fishing Rodeo (May 7, 2022) - It was a pleasure to help the Comporium Pioneers work with the YMCA's First Thursdays Club. Pioneers served lunch to all of the Fishing Rodeo participants. This was a meaningful event for me and I would like to participate in next year's rodeo.

President's Ponderings

I was privileged to participate in a number of Pioneering projects during May, including:

- Timberlands Fishing Rodeo (May 7) - It was a pleasure to help the Comporium Pioneers work with the YMCA's First Thursdays Club. We served lunch to the Fishing Rodeo participants. This was a meaningful event for me and I would like to participate in next year's rodeo.
- Firehouse Run (May 14) – The Comporium Pioneer's annual motorcycle fundraising event resumed after a 2 year COVID hiatus. It was great to see Alissa Moss and her two children who drove up from Hinesville, GA, and Ronnie and Janet Cashwell who came in from Raleigh, NC to help. It was a momentous event, and everyone had a wonderful time.
- Boys & Girls Club End of Year Bash (May 19) – Comporium's President Ahrea White selected the Boys & Girls Club after-school program for an end of the school year "BASH". This was super fun to watch the 56 kids light up as we cooked and served them hotdogs and chips. Afterwards, they played games until the Kona Ice truck showed up to serve icy treat. What a day, and what a difference these Pioneers made in these kids' day. I overheard several of the kids say they did not want to leave as the parents came to pick them up. We all worked hard that day, but the kids' reaction was priceless.

I urge you to contact your Pioneer members to plan and participate in a safe community service project. It only takes a few folks to host a meaningful project and it is truly rewarding at the end of the day.

- During the remaining of the year I plan to focus on fundraising for a National ITPA project to raise desperately needed funds for ITPA and on maintain a budget within the National ITPA.

Please keep all our fellow Pioneers in your prayers. Not all who were here with us last year are with us today.

Regards,
Daniel Barnhardt | National ITPA President

The Recipe Exchange

Sensational Spinach Dip

This recipe is from Cindy Downing (Comporium Club). Cindy served on the assembly committee this year and prepared a yummy spinach dip that was enjoyed by many in the hospitality room. The dip was such a big hit that Cindy was asked to PLEASE submit it for the next Pioneer Connections issue. So here it is!



Ingredients:

1—10 oz. package of frozen spinach
1—16 oz. container of Sour Cream
1 cup Mayonnaise
11.4 oz pkg Knorr Vegetable Soup Mix (this is a dry mix)
1 1/2 cups grated Swiss Cheese

Preparation:

Thaw spinach and press out all of the water until it is dry. This will take a few minutes. Set aside.

Combine remaining ingredients and then add spinach. Mix well. (Dip will be thick.)

Cover and refrigerate for at least 2 hours before serving with your favorite crackers or chips.

Yields:

4 cups



Baking Tips and Tricks

Keep cookies and other baked goods soft and same-day fresh by storing them in an airtight container with a slice of white bread.

They'll feel and taste freshly baked even after being stored for several days.



If you forget to soften your butter, cut the cold butter into small cubes and let it sit for 15-20 minutes. The smaller the cubes, the faster it will soften.



Need extra cooling racks? Take the cover off your ironing board (does anyone still use it for ironing anyway?) for an extra large cooling rack. An added benefit is that you can set it up anywhere to free up counter space.

Baked items turn out better when eggs are room temperature. To get eggs to room temperature fast, place them in a warm bowl of water for a few minutes.

Keep appetizers cool and attractive by filling a plastic baggie with crushed ice. Place the bag in the bottom of a bowl and cover with lettuce leaves. Scoop your appetizer onto the lettuce leaves and your appetizer will remain cool and tasty all night!



Quickly place a wooden spoon across the rim of a pot that's boiling over to settle the frothy bubbles and prevent more over-boiling.

Assembly Sponsors

Diamond



Platinum



Down East Pioneer Club



Daniel & Lu Barnhardt



Silver

Gregg & Shelia Klatsky



Carotel Pioneer Club

Copper



**Otto Wettstein Jr. Club
Florida Chapter ITPA**



What is AmazonSmile?

The AmazonSmile Foundation is a 501(c)(3) private foundation created by Amazon to administer the AmazonSmile program. All donations generated by the AmazonSmile program are remitted to the AmazonSmile Foundation. In turn, the AmazonSmile Foundation donates those amounts to the charitable organizations selected by its customers. Amazon pays all expenses of the AmazonSmile Foundation; nothing is deducted from the donation amounts generated by purchases on AmazonSmile.

AmazonSmile allows you to select an eligible charity which will then allow the AmazonSmile Foundation to donate 0.5% of the purchase price " for all items marked **Eligible for AmazonSmile donation** to your selected charity.

Amazon provides metrics to allow for transparency on the donations.

How to get started:

Step #1: Go to: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/47-4122549>

Step #2: Select "Independent Telecommunications Pioneer Assoc Charitable Fnd Inc." as your charity of choice.

Step #3: Complete your normal shopping and AMAZONSMILE will handle the rest.

Step #4: **ALWAYS** log in to **smile. amazon.com** to begin your Amazon shopping experience.

How to use AmazonSmile on iPhone:

1. Go to the app.
2. Click on the 3 bars on bottom right corner.
3. Click on Settings (has an American Flag beside it)
4. Scroll down to AmazonSmile and Click.
5. Turn device option to "ON."
6. You're ready to shop!

Spread the Word!

Please encourage everyone you know to use AmazonSmile and select us when they shop! It'll cost them nothing extra and these extra funds will help us so much!



National Office use only:

Mbr#: _____

DB: _____

LTR: _____

Cert: _____

(Check One)

- ☐ New Member
- ☐ Friends of Pioneers
- ☐ Reinstate Member _____ (Member # if known)

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Annual dues (\$30.00) must accompany this application.

Please make check payable to ITPA

Please Print

Sponsoring Member (Required for Membership. This must be an ITPA member and not a company): _____

Chapter or Club Name: _____ Chapter or Club #: _____

Name: _____ Company: _____

(If retired, name of Telecom Company where you retired.)
Not required for Friends of Pioneers.)

Residential Address:

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: Day (____) - _____ Evening: (____) - _____

☐ Employed

☐ Retired

Immediate Family members you would like to add:
(They are included in your dues)

Signature _____

Date _____

438 W. Oglethorpe Hwy., Hinesville, GA 31313

9912-408-4872

E-mail: itpa@telecom-pioneers.net