

From the General Manager - Blake Callaham



Wow, it is so great to begin such an exciting new chapter for Pioneer in 2024. We hope you had an amazing Christmas and Happy New Year, and we believe 2024 will be another historic year for this great cooperative as we embrace the Pioneer Broadband Revolution. You may ask, "What is the Pioneer Broadband Revolution?". Good question! As announced last year, we committed to a federal program known as Enhanced A-CAM that will enable us to fulfill our mission of providing fiber optic connectivity to 100% of our cooperative footprint in 5 short years. This equates to the dedicated Pioneer employees engineering, constructing, and converting over 18,000 locations to complete the mission of having fiber available to almost 70,000 locations in 60 short months. This is a huge undertaking for the Pioneer family which can only be described as the Pioneer Broadband Revolution.

We have another great announcement, as

a cooperative member, you are entitled to patronage, and we are happy to report that we had a very successful year. Pioneer Telephone Cooperative board of trustees approved an estimated \$5 million for general membership and estate payments for 2024. It is our pleasure to give back to each member of this great cooperative as that is how we were founded and who we will always be. Since 1953, Pioneer Telephone Cooperative has given back to our members a grand total of approximately \$153.5 million. We also realize how important broadband and connectivity is to our members, hence in addition to this approximate \$153.5 million in financial return over the last 70 years, we have also invested nearly \$241 million in the last 7 years in fiber optic facilities throughout Western Oklahoma to ensure that you can "Connect What Matters". This investment ensures that we have the same opportunities and quality of life standards as a resident of Oklahoma City, Tulsa or any other metropolitan area in the United States of America.

Pioneer Telephone Cooperative is thrilled to share that our recent and future fiber enhancements have resulted in tangible improvements for our members. The upgraded fiber-optic infrastructure has not only boosted internet speeds but has also revolutionized real-life experiences for households and businesses within our cooperative. From seamless video conferencing and lightning-fast downloads to enhanced connectivity for remote learning and telecommuting, these advancements are not just technological upgrades but gateways to more connected, efficient, and empowered communities. We are excited about the potential these enhancements hold in elevating the way our members work, learn, and communicate, which equates to the enrichment of our daily lives. We look forward to serving you today and for many years to come. Welcome to our Pioneer Broadband Revolution!



Blake Callaham
General Manager

CONNECT WHAT *MATTERS*

NOTICE OF MEETINGS FOR DISTRICTS 6, 8, 10 AND 12

Meetings for members of Districts 6, 8, 10, and 12 will be held this year (2024) for the purpose of electing a trustee to represent your district on the Board of Trustees of PIONEER TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC., for the ensuing three-year term.

Any member who meets the applicable qualifications of their respective District as set out in Sections 4.2 and 4.4 of the By-Laws, and who desires to be a candidate for election as trustee, must file a form for candidacy, in-person, with the Secretary of the Cooperative at *108 E. Robberts Avenue, Kingfisher, OK 73750* on the first consecutive Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday of the month of April (April 1, 2, or 3), 2024.

Forms to file for candidacy are available at the Pioneer Telephone Corporate Office in Kingfisher, Oklahoma. NO PERSON IS ELIGIBLE for candidacy unless this written filing is made.

It is important that you attend your District Meeting, as a quorum is necessary for a legal election.

Trevor Wilczek
Secretary

Note: A pass-by ballot procedure will be used whereby a ballot box will be open for one (1) hour, from 6-7 p.m., prior to this meeting. All District Meetings will start promptly at 7 p.m., at which time, sign-in will close.

Pioneer Telephone's By-Laws can be found online at: <https://GoPioneer.com/about-us/by-laws>.

You are a member and eligible to Vote at your District Meeting if your membership account for services is located in the landline telephone exchange boundaries of the District holding the election of a Trustee; and,

You subscribe to a retail landline dial tone service with Pioneer Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

OR

You subscribe to a retail landline stand-alone Digital Subscriber Line Service (DSL), provided by and using Pioneer Telephone Cooperative, Inc.'s landline copper or fiber facilities, with or without a corresponding analog voice (dial tone) service.

The information for each District Meeting can be found below. Please be sure to verify the date, time, and location of your District Meeting.

The District 6 Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 11, at 7 p.m., at Okarche High School, *632 W. Oklahoma Ave. in Okarche*. District 6 includes the following exchanges: **APACHE, COMANCHE, HASTINGS, OKARCHE, TEMPLE.**

The District 8 Meeting will be held on Monday, April 8, at 7 p.m., at the Senior Citizen's Center, *219 N. Main in Helena*. District 8 includes the following exchanges: **ALINE, CARMEN, CLEO SPRINGS, DACOMA, DEER CREEK, HELENA, HOPETON, HUNTER, LAMONT, NASH, POND CREEK, WAKITA, WAYNOKA.**

The District 10 Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 9, at 7 p.m., at Kingfisher County Fairgrounds Exhibit Building, *300 S. 13th in Kingfisher*. District 10 includes the following exchanges: **DOVER, KINGFISHER.**

The District 12 Meeting will be held on Monday, April 15, at 7 p.m., at Woodland Hills Baptist Church, *313 S. Highway 76 in Newcastle*. District 12 includes the following exchanges: **NEWCASTLE.**

THIS IS THE ONLY NOTICE SUBSCRIBERS WILL RECEIVE.

District Meeting Voting Eligibility

You are a member and eligible to Vote at your District Meeting if your membership account for services is located in the landline telephone exchange boundaries of the District holding the election of a Trustee; and,

You subscribe to a retail landline dial tone service with Pioneer Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

OR

You subscribe to a retail landline stand-alone Digital Subscriber Line Service (DSL), provided by and using Pioneer Telephone Cooperative, Inc.'s landline copper or fiber facilities, with or without a corresponding analog voice (dial tone) service.

At its regular Board Meeting on July 8, 2005, the Pioneer Board of Trustees adopted the following policy with regard to voting in district elections.

Only those properly identified will be able to cast a vote for specific business entities; they will be required to sign documentation to verify their position with the respective member.

The following individuals will be able to vote for the various business entities identified.

- 1. Individual** either husband or wife can vote.
- 2. Joint Tenancy** limited to husband and wife, grandfathered only. We no longer permit people to sign up in joint tenancy status; however, this could be voted by either joint tenant.
- 3. Sole Proprietorship** these memberships can only be voted by the owner or co-owner.
- 4. General Partnership** any general partner can cast a vote for the partnership.
- 5. Limited Partnership** only a general partner can vote.
- 6. Corporation** these memberships can only be voted by the general manager, or the president, or the vice-president.
- 7. Limited Liability Company (LLC)** can be voted only by a member.
- 8. Limited Liability Partnership** can be voted only by a member.
- 9. Trust** can be voted only by a trustee.
- 10. Hospitals** can be voted only by the administrator, or president, or vice-president of the board.
- 11. Volunteer Fire Departments** in unincorporated areas can be voted only by the fire chief or assistant fire chief.
- 12. Churches, including Parsonages** if set out as a separate membership and held in the name of the Church can only be voted by the minister, or chairman, or vice-chairman of the governing body.
- 13. Club/Lodge/Miscellaneous Associations** can only be voted by the chairman or the vice-chairman of the governing board.
- 14. Senior Citizen Center** can only be voted by the chairman or vice-chairman of the governing board.
- 15. Schools** can only be voted by the superintendent, or president, or vice-president of the school board.
- 16. Tribal Government** can only be voted by the chief, or assistant chief, or chairman, or vice-chairman.
- 17. Municipalities** all city offices of any type can only be voted by the city manager, or mayor, or any elected member of the governing board of the city or town.
- 18. County Government** if all county offices are covered by one membership, the county can only be voted by one of the county commissioners or the county clerk. Those county offices that have individual memberships can be voted only by the elected official.
- 19. State Government Offices** can only be voted by the individual in charge of the local office of the State agency involved, if it possesses a separate membership.
- 20. Federal Government Offices** can only be voted by the individual in charge of the local office of the Federal agency involved, if it possesses a separate membership.
- 21. Conservatorship/Guardianship** these memberships can only be voted by the court appointed conservator or guardian.
- 22. Powers of Attorney** no Powers of Attorney, including Durable Powers of Attorney, are authorized to vote.

2023 Ad Valorem Tax

Pioneer Long Distance, Inc.

Blaine.....	1,853.00
Canadian.....	5,982.00
Cotton.....	2,273.00
Custer.....	15,514.00
Dewey.....	3,098.00
Grady.....	23,012.00
Grant.....	1,885.00
Kingfisher.....	277,869.00
Logan.....	2,897.00
Major.....	5,001.00
McClain.....	29,282.00
Oklahoma.....	8,280.09
Roger Mills.....	16,510.00
Woods.....	2,573.00
Woodward.....	1,122.00
TOTAL.....	\$397,151.09

O.T.&T. Communications, Inc.

Ellis.....	38.00
McIntosh.....	1,085.00
Muskogee.....	419.00
Okfuskee.....	665.00
Okmulgee.....	1,652.00
Pittsburg.....	2,276.00
Roger Mills.....	3,279.00
Seminole.....	3,555.00
Tillman.....	839.00
TOTAL.....	\$13,808.00

Cellular Network Partnership OK

Alfalfa.....	19,679.00
Atoka.....	10,998.00
Beckham.....	16,267.00
Blaine.....	22,808.00
Bryan.....	6,069.00
Caddo.....	28,929.00
Canadian.....	8,343.00
Carter.....	6,292.00
Coal.....	7,711.00

Cellular Network Partnership OK Cont.

Comanche.....	4,324.00
Cotton.....	7,815.00
Custer.....	47,524.00
Dewey.....	20,437.00
Ellis.....	17,673.00
Garfield.....	55,543.00
Garvin.....	4,051.00
Grady.....	4,750.00
Grant.....	10,682.00
Greer.....	7,154.00
Harmon.....	6,649.00
Harper.....	13,493.00
Hughes.....	2,071.00
Jackson.....	8,731.00
Jefferson.....	10,387.00
Johnston.....	9,660.00
Kingfisher.....	185,593.00
Kiowa.....	10,313.00
Logan.....	14,967.00
Major.....	20,438.00
Marshall.....	9,676.00
McClain.....	7,409.00
Murray.....	3,784.00
Okmulgee.....	1,424.00
Pontotoc.....	20,903.00
Roger Mills.....	14,734.00
Stephens.....	14,636.00
Tillman.....	18,447.00
Washita.....	12,607.00
Woods.....	15,009.00
Woodward.....	44,310.00
TOTAL.....	\$752,290.00

Cellular Network Partnership KS

Butler.....	703.78
Cowley.....	2,796.96
Sumner.....	70.72
TOTAL.....	\$3,571.46

Pioneer Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Alfalfa.....	20,488.00
Beckham.....	13,272.00
Blaine.....	118,268.00
Bryan.....	226.00
Caddo.....	35,303.00
Canadian.....	46,334.00
Carter.....	939.00
Cleveland.....	929.00
Comanche.....	18,686.00
Cotton.....	11,605.00
Custer.....	56,043.00
Dewey.....	38,093.00
Ellis.....	64,163.00
Garfield.....	101,906.00
Garvin.....	2,460.00
Grady.....	197,638.18
Grant.....	34,687.00
Greer.....	148.00
Harmon.....	23,397.00
Harper.....	26,986.00
Jackson.....	1,992.00
Jefferson.....	12,075.00
Kay.....	862.00
Kingfisher.....	894,517.00
Kiowa.....	184.00
Logan.....	84,795.00
Major.....	76,287.00
McClain.....	517,518.00
Muskogee.....	8.00
Noble.....	4,384.00
Oklahoma.....	3,579.07
Payne.....	4,732.00
Pontotoc.....	1,265.00
Stephens.....	70,778.00
Tillman.....	108,517.00
Washita.....	14,737.00
Woods.....	31,316.00
Woodward.....	139,764.00
TOTAL.....	\$2,778,881.25

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) Nears Its End: What You Need to Know

The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) has proven beneficial for millions of low-income households in the United States, providing them with affordable access to the internet for work, education, healthcare, and more. **However, as of February 7, 2024, the ACP is no longer accepting new applications or enrollments. This marked the beginning of its wind-down phase.**

What is the Affordable Connectivity Program?

The ACP was established in 2021 under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, with an appropriation of \$14.2 billion. It aimed to bridge the digital divide by providing financial assistance to eligible households, ensuring they could afford broadband internet services. The program offered a discount of up to \$30 per month for internet service and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands.

Eligibility Criteria:

To qualify for the ACP, households needed to meet one of the following criteria:

- Have a household income at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines.
- Receive a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year.
- Meet the eligibility criteria for a participating provider's existing low-income internet program.
- Participate in specific government assistance programs, including SNAP, Medicaid, Federal Housing Assistance, WIC, and more.
- Live on qualifying Tribal lands and participate in designated assistance programs.

The ACP's Impact:

Since its inception, the ACP has made a significant impact, with over 22 million households enrolled and benefiting from the program as of January 2024. It has helped bridge the digital divide by providing affordable internet access to underserved communities.

Why is it ending?

The primary reason for the ACP's wind-down is the projected depletion of its \$14.2 billion funding, estimated to occur in April 2024 (though this date is subject to change). Here's what you need to know about the ACP wind-down:

- 1. Deadline for New Enrollments:** The ACP has stopped processing new applications and enrollments. The deadline was February 7, 2024, at 11:59 PM ET.
- 2. Continuation for Existing Enrollees:** Households that have been approved and are already receiving the monthly internet discount before February 8, 2024, will continue to receive their ACP benefit until the program's funds run out, which is expected in April 2024.
- 3. Communication with Enrolled Households:** Enrolled ACP households will receive notices from Pioneer about the end of the benefit, its impact on their bills, the date of the last bill including the ACP benefit, and options to change or opt-out of service.

For answers to frequently asked questions about ACP, you can visit fcc.gov/acp or call the ACP Support Center at 877-384-2775. For Pioneer customers that are ACP recipients, there will be information coming to your mailbox in the coming weeks, so please be patient!

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

NATIONAL AND PIONEER DO-NOT-CALL LISTS

NATIONAL Do-Not-Call Registration

The Federal Trade Commission has established a National Do-Not-Call Registry for residential consumers and cell phone users that do not wish to receive commercial solicitation over their telephone. Pioneer honors Do Not Call requests on this national list, as well as state lists and Pioneer's internal Do Not Call List.

The National Registry is nationwide and will preclude telephone solicitations made for commercial purposes only; but will not prevent all unwanted calls. It does not cover the following:

- calls from organizations with which you have recently done business with or calls for which you have given prior written permission; but if you ask them not to call you, they must stop. Be sure to write down the date you asked them to stop;
- political calls (call cannot include a sales pitch);
- charitable calls (call cannot include a sales pitch);
- debt collection calls (call cannot include a sales pitch);
- purely informational calls (call cannot include a sales pitch);
- surveys (call cannot include a sales pitch); and
- scam calls.

Robocalls – a call that plays a recorded message – is selling something, it is illegal unless the company trying to sell you something got written permission, directly from you, to call you that way.

So if you haven't given the company permission, and the

robocall isn't purely informational — like your cable company confirming a service appointment — there's a good chance it's a scam. At the very least, it's from a company you don't want to do business with.

If you get an illegal robocall, hang up. Don't press buttons to be taken off a call list or to talk to a live person. It might lead to more unwanted calls. Instead, report it to the Federal Trade Commission at www.donotcall.gov.

Once you register your phone number(s), telemarketers covered by the National Do-Not-Call Registry have up to 31 days from the date you register to stop calling you.

You may register your residential telephone number(s) and your personal cell phone number(s) by calling the toll-free number, 1-888-382-1222 and for TTY access, 1-866-290-4236 (call from phone you want to register). You will need to call from each phone number you want to register. Business phone numbers and fax lines are not covered by Do Not Call.

The Internet web address for registrations is donotcall.gov. Registration is permanent, unless you revoke such objection by calling the toll-free number, or by using the Internet access listed above. You will need to call from each phone number you want to register.

For more information, please visit donotcall.gov

PIONEER Do-Not-Call Registration

Pioneer maintains a do-not-call list that you may register with if you do not wish to receive telemarketing calls from us at a specific telephone number. If you would like to register, please dial 611 from your landline or cellular phone, or call 1-888-PTC-COOP (1-888-782-2667) to ask that your number be listed on Pioneer's do-not-call list.

In response to your request, Pioneer will update its list within 30 days of your request. Your number will remain on the list for five years unless you ask us to remove it sooner.

If your number is on Pioneer's do-not-call list, Pioneer and its representatives will not contact the listed number for sales promotions or other marketing campaigns. Pioneer may still contact that number for non-telemarketing purposes such as customer service surveys, public interest notices, or other service-related matters.

DO  NOT
CALL

Take 5, Win \$25!

Complete the entry form (all fields must be completed), clip out and mail to: Pioneer Telephone Cooperative, Pioneer Tele-Topics, PO Box 539, Kingfisher, OK 73750

Name: _____

City & Zip: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Pioneer Telephone #: () _____

1. I can register both my landline and mobile phone numbers on the National Do-Not-Call Registration.

- True
- False

2. I can register both my personal and landline phone numbers on the Pioneer Do-Not-Call Registration.

- True
- False

3. If I register on Pioneer's Do-Not-Call list, I can still receive calls from Pioneer if they are:

- Customer service surveys
- Public interest notices
- Service-related matters
- All of the above

4. If I receive an illegal robocall I should:

- Hang up immediately
- Wait to chat!
- Press all the buttons.

5. I can get more information on the National Do-Not-Call Registration at donotcall.gov

- True
- False

**Skip the stamp! Fill this form out online at
GoPioneer.com under Tele-Topics Newsletter**

IF WE DRAW YOUR ENTRY AND YOUR ANSWERS ARE CORRECT, YOU WIN \$25! ELIGIBILITY: Correctly answer all the questions. You must be a current member/subscriber of Pioneer Telephone Cooperative, Inc., 18 years of age or older. One entry per household. No photocopies. Employees of Pioneer or its subsidiaries, and their immediate household members are not eligible to enter. Winners will be contacted by letter and announced in the next issue of Tele-Topics. Clip out and mail to: Pioneer Telephone Cooperative, Pioneer Tele-Topics, PO Box 539, Kingfisher, OK 73750. **Entries must be received by March 8, 2024.**

SAVE THE! DATE!

Pioneer's Annual Meeting Tuesday, May 7

Watch for more information
in April's Tele-Topics!



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Volume 1 of 4 2024
P.O. Box 539
Kingfisher, OK 73750
GoPioneer.com



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EDITORIAL & CIRCULATION

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Blake Callaham *General Manager*
Kim Grellner V.P. *Marketing, Sales & Service*
Brenda Walta V.P. *Finance and Administration/CFO*
Mike Baustert V.P. *Operations and Engineering*

CAPITAL CREDIT ESTATE INFORMATION

To obtain your Capital Credit balance, or begin the process to collect for a deceased member, please call toll free at **800-650-6116**.

Pioneer Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
Attn: Capital Credit Department
P.O. Box 539 • Kingfisher, OK 73750

POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to Pioneer Tele-Topics, P.O. Box 539, Kingfisher, OK 73750.

Periodical Postage paid at Kingfisher, OK 73750 and other additional entry offices.

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Non-Member subscription rate: \$6/year

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District 12 - Vacant

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Issue 4 Take 5, Win \$25 Winners

\$25 Winners will receive their checks by mail within a few days of this publication.

District #1 winner — **Nancy Brewer, Buffalo**
District #2 winner — **Allison Osmond, Fargo**
District #3 winner — **Harold King, Tipton**
District #4 winner — **Lea Ann Hull, Thomas**
District #5 winner — **Tia Hickey, Dibble**
District #6 winner — **Laura Brewer, Comanche**
District #7 winner — **Lavella Delaplane, Ames**

District #8 winner — **Julie Allen, Carmen**
District #9 winner — **Jon Jones, Covington**
District #10 winner — **Penny Adams, Kingfisher**
District #11 winner — **Pam Fertonani, Geary**
District #12 winner — **Jausa Jordanoff, Newcastle**
District At-Large winner — **Larry W. Goyer, Weatherford**