

From the General Manager Designate - Blake Callaham



What is the meaning of education and how important is it to Pioneer? At Pioneer, we believe education is the foundation of our existence. It provides purpose

and a path to knowledge which molds us into our future selves which ultimately determines our future. Pioneer's legacy resides upon the success of western Oklahoma. We are committed to providing educational support to continue investing in the youth of our communities to keep the great state of Oklahoma moving forward into the next generation. With this in mind, I am pleased to announce we are accepting applications for both College and Technology Center Scholarships.

The Scholarship Committee will consider all applicants entering their Junior/Senior College year in August 2022 for the College Scholarship, which shall cover \$1,000 per semester toward the cost of tuition for a maximum of \$2,000 per year. The Committee will also consider all qualified Technology Center applicants for the Technology Center Scholarship, which shall cover \$1,000 toward the cost of tuition and fees for their chosen program. I encourage all eligible students to apply for our scholarships. Please direct your students to our website GoPioneer.com under Community Resources and click Scholarships for all the information and application forms they need to apply.

Applicants can either submit their applications by mail, or they can email them in. The deadline for applying is June 1, 2022, and the requirements for each respective scholarship can

be found in this issue of the Tele-Topics on page 6. Please send in your completed applications to its respective email:

techscholarship@ptci.com
collegescholarship@ptci.com

or

Scholarship Committee
Attn: Richard Ruhl/Blake Callaham

Pioneer Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

P.O. Box 539
Kingfisher, OK 73750

We look forward to receiving your applications and wish all students the very best as they pursue their dreams.

I am extremely excited to extend an invitation to the Pioneer Telephone Cooperative membership for our 69th Annual Meeting on Tuesday, May 3, 2022. We are very pleased to get back to our normal Annual Meeting schedule and look forward to spending a wonderful Spring afternoon with our Members. Attendees can enjoy educational sessions by our talented employees, some wonderful harmonies by The Bonham Brothers, and have a chance to win some popular door prizes. We are also excited to extend our appreciation of your attendance by providing you a \$20 bill credit, something that has never been done before at Pioneer Telephone Cooperative. Yes, you will receive \$20 just for showing up to the meeting. How about that! Pioneer believes that after the past couple years of hardship and pandemic, everyone should be a winner in 2022. In addition to the bill credit, we will also be glad to provide you with traditional gifts: a Pioneer hat, pen, a fanny pack, as well as a wonderful meal by McAlister's.

In addition to exciting entertainment and giveaways, we would like to give you the opportunity to vote on the proposed by-law changes. The changes, which are highlighted on pages 2-4, are a direct result of the pandemic. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board of Trustees had to make several hard decisions, including cancelling and rescheduling our Annual Meetings. Pioneer also had to adjust timelines for district meetings and how we received votes for new district Trustees. The changes made during the pandemic have changed the preferred method of attendance by many individuals in relation to publicly held meetings. The changes as outlined would set the precedent for future district meetings and further defines the circumstances which can lead to a meeting being cancelled or postponed. The safety of the membership is our top priority, and we want to provide the safest and most convenient environment for you to provide your support of the cooperative while hearing your voice on relevant agenda items.

I hope to see you all at the Annual Meeting on May 3rd and send well wishes to you and your families.

Blake Callaham
General Manager Designate

Annual Meeting Notice & Proposed By-Law Changes

OFFICIAL NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS OF PIONEER TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.

The Annual Meeting of members of Pioneer Telephone Cooperative, Inc., Kingfisher, Oklahoma, will be held in the Kingfisher County Exhibit Building on the grounds of the Kingfisher County Free Fair Association, located just West of Thirteenth Street and South Bowman Avenue, situated on a tract of land described as the N/2 of the NE/4 of Section 21, Township 16 North, Range 7 W.I.M., Kingfisher County, Oklahoma, at 1:00 p.m., on Tuesday, May 3, 2022, to take action on the following matters:

- I. Certified copies of the Minutes of the District Meetings of Members in which Trustees have been elected.
- II. Report of Officers, Trustees and Committees.
- III. Consideration of Proposed By-Law Changes:

Those portions of the By-Laws proposed to be amended are hereinafter shown. Language to be deleted from the By-Laws is ~~lined through~~ and ~~hi-lighted gray~~. Language to be added to the By-Laws is **Bold**, *italicized*, and **hi-lighted yellow**.

Section 3.4. **Postponement of a Meeting of the Members**. In the event of inclement weather, ~~or the occurrence of a catastrophic event,~~ **any order, recommendation, or restriction by any governmental authority or health official, or otherwise determined to be advisable for public health and safety,** the meeting of the members ~~or any district meeting~~ may be postponed ~~or cancelled~~ by the President. Notice of ~~the any~~ adjourned meeting shall be given by the President in any media of general circulation or broadcast serving the area.

Section 3.5. **Quorum**. As the total number of members exceeds five hundred, fifty members or two per centum, (or such other minimum percentage as shall be fixed, from time to time, by statute), of the members present in person, whichever shall be the larger, shall constitute a quorum. If less than a quorum is present at any meeting, a majority of those present in person may adjourn the meeting from time to time without further notice, **except as otherwise provided**

Proposed By-Law Changes, Cont.

in Section 4.3(d)(iv). The minutes of each meeting shall contain a list of the members present in person.

Section 4.3. Election of Trustees . . .

(a) Following the adoption of the changes in these By-laws, at the regular district meetings held thereafter, Trustees shall be elected for terms of three years in the districts as follows:

2014 23	Districts 2, 4, 9, 11 and at-large;
2015 24	Districts 6, 8, 10 and 12;
2016 25	Districts 1, 3, 5 and 7;

all to be done. . . .

(b-1) Notice of Candidacy. Any member of a district desiring to be a candidate for election as Trustee from that district shall file with the Secretary of the Cooperative written notice, on a form provided by the Secretary, of their candidacy and intention to stand for election to the office of Trustee from their district. The filing period shall be held on the first consecutive Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, of the month of April, **unless the Board of Trustees has set a different filing period. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, in the event of any postponed or cancelled meeting, a new filing period may, in the discretion of the Board of Trustees, be established.** All candidates meeting the requirements of Article IV, Section 4.4, shall be certified by the Secretary as candidates. Only persons filing written notice of their candidacy and intention to stand for election shall be eligible for election at said meeting. If no member files such notice of candidacy and intention to stand for election with the Secretary within the time prescribed above, then the office shall be declared vacant by the Board of Trustees at their next regular meeting, and said office shall be filled by vote of the Board at such meeting, without regard to any provisions herein regarding nominations and election of Trustees. . .

(d) The Board of Trustees shall have the power to make and adopt such policies, procedures, rules, and regulations not inconsistent with law, the Articles of Incorporation or these By-laws, as it may deem advisable for the conduct of all meetings, elections and voting by members of the Cooperative and each district, including but not limited to the following:

(i) For each meeting for which there is an election of trustees or any other matter to be voted on by the Members, the time period during which the polls will open and close (the "Polling Period") will be set in advance.

(ii) All members who register and are verified as being entitled to vote during the Polling Period will be deemed to be present in person for purposes of determining a quorum. Reasonable accommodations may be made for those members who desire to avoid large or close gatherings by, among other things, providing registration and ballots to members who remain in their vehicle outside of the site of the meeting. Members may provide their preferred means of notice in the event the meeting is adjourned or a runoff vote is required.

Proposed By-Law Changes, Cont.

(iii) Ballots and all other information to be provided to other members at or during the meeting, will be provided and such members will have the opportunity of providing any statements they wish to make to the meeting. Appropriate steps will be taken to maintain confidentiality of the completed ballot until provided to the inspector of the election.

(iv) Set one adjournment date in advance if a quorum is not achieved at the initial meeting date or if there is need for a runoff for Trustee elections. In either event members who registered will be notified of such adjourned meeting.

(v) In addition or in lieu of any of the specific procedures described above, the Cooperative may implement any reasonable measures to provide it's members a reasonable opportunity to participate in any meeting and to vote on matters submitted to the members, including an opportunity to read or hear the proceeding of the meeting substantially concurrently with the proceedings.

(ee) The member in each voting district receiving the highest number of votes cast in the election, at such district meeting, shall be elected a Trustee of the Cooperative to take office immediately following the ensuing annual meeting of members **or such other date set for such candidate to take office by the Board of Trustees in the event of any postponement or cancellation of such meeting**, and shall serve their proper term, or until their successor shall have been elected and qualified.

(ef) IN THE EVENT A QUORUM IS NOT PRESENT AT SAID MEETING **OR ADJOURNED MEETING PURSUANT TO SECTION 4.3(d)(iv)**, AND IF NOT OTHERWISE PROVIDED BY LAW, THE INCUMBENT TRUSTEE SHALL HOLD OVER FOR A TERM OF THREE YEARS, OR UNTIL THEIR SUCCESSOR IS ELECTED AND QUALIFIED.

(fg) The chairperson . . .

IV. All other business which may come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

PIONEER TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.

BY Maui Parker
It's President

ATTEST:

Linda Ruth Randall
It's Secretary

(SEAL)

If anyone needs an interpreter present because of hearing impairment, please notify us five (5) days in advance.

Equal Opportunity Employer M/F

Make Plans to Attend Pioneer Telephone's 69th Annual Meeting!

1 p.m. • Tuesday, May 3 • Exhibit Building • Kingfisher County Fairgrounds Kingfisher, OK



Featuring:

The Bonham Brothers

The schedule and events are as follows:

Registration & Bingo: 9:30 a.m.

Tech Trends & Training seminar: 10:30 a.m.

This year's class will include topics on: *Smart Wi-Fi and iVideo, VoLTE/CDMA Retirement, and the new Customer Solutions Call Center.*

Lunch: 11:30 a.m.

Entertainment: Noon

The Bonham Brothers

Virgil and Glen Bonham started their music careers as young boys by joining their father's band. Virgil was on mandolin and Glen on guitar, where both later became songwriters. Over the years they have traveled to Canada, Germany and most of the United States. They were later joined by banjoist Mickey Flatt and bassist Clifford Parrett who was a former member of a National Dixieland Jazz band performing on David Letterman. The Bonham Brothers have opened for Loretta Lynn, Turnpike Troubadours and many more.

Meeting: 1 p.m.

Be sure and mark your calendars to attend Pioneer's 69th Annual Meeting!

Registered membership will receive:

A \$20 Bill Credit*, Pioneer hat, pen, and fanny pack!



AND HAVE THE CHANCE TO WIN CASH AND PRIZES VALUED AT

\$4,600

***One credit per membership. Member must be present to receive credit.**

Take 5, Win \$25!

Complete the entry form (all fields must be completed), clip out and mail to:

Pioneer Tele-Topics, PO Box 539, Kingfisher, OK 73750

Name: _____

Address: _____

Pioneer Telephone #: () _____

City & Zip: _____

Email: _____

1. Pioneer Telephone Cooperative's 69th Annual Membership Meeting will be Tuesday, May 3, at 1 p.m. at the Exhibit Building (Kingfisher County Fairgrounds) in Kingfisher, Oklahoma.

- ☐ True
☐ False

2. This year's entertainment will feature The Bonham Brothers.

- ☐ True
☐ False

3. I will be attending this year's meeting:

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

Skip the stamp!

Fill this form out online at GoPioneer.com under Tele-Topics Newsletter.



FOR OFFICIAL RULES VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT: GoPioneer.com under Tele-Topics Newsletter. Entries must be received by May 6, 2022.

Annual Meeting: Tech Trends & Training

As always, we will be hosting our Tech Trends & Training seminar at the Annual Meeting. Sit back and listen while our experts showcase some of Pioneer's newest technology and apps. This is also your chance to chat one-on-one and ask any questions you have about any of your current Pioneer devices or services.



Topics for 2022

SmartWi-fi & iVideo

Get a quick overview of SmartWi-Fi and iVideo— two of Pioneer's apps that can help make your life easier.

VoLTE/CDMA Retirement

We want to make sure you have service. Learn about 3G retirement and how to ensure your phone is VoLTE capable.

Customer Solutions Call Center

Learn how our new contact center is going to help the Pioneer customer experience.



Bring your tablets and smartphones so our experts can help make sure you're up to date on all your Pioneer apps, answer questions, or even help you download and set up new Pioneer apps like SmartWiFi. This is your time to bring all your Pioneer questions!

PIONEER COLLEGE/TECHNOLOGY CENTER SCHOLARSHIPS ANNOUNCED

Pioneer Telephone Cooperative, Inc., has announced applications are available for both the 2022-2023 College Scholarship AND the 2022-2023 Technology Center Scholarship.

The College Scholarship(s) awarded will provide \$1,000 per semester for tuition and/or books for a maximum of \$2,000 per year.

The Technology Center Scholarship(s) awarded shall cover the cost of tuition and fees for \$1,000 per program.

Review the requirements and required documents below. Visit GoPioneer.com/community/scholarships for the application.

REQUIREMENTS FOR CONSIDERATION

1. The son, daughter or legal dependent of a residential subscriber of Pioneer Telephone Cooperative, Inc., shall be eligible for consideration of one (1) of up to twelve (12) *College Scholarships* OR one (1) of up to twelve (12) *Technology Center Scholarships* to be awarded each year.
2. A subscriber is defined as a member of the Cooperative whose membership account for services is located in the landline telephone exchange boundaries; and, subscribes to a retail landline dial tone service with Pioneer Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

OR

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

The Scholarship Committee will consider all applicants who will be entering their Junior/Senior College year in August 2022.

The Technology Center Scholarship committee will consider all qualified applicants.

Note: Dependents or children of any Employee of Pioneer Telephone Cooperative, Inc., shall only be eligible for consideration of the scholarship awarded from the Thirteenth (13th) District-At-Large of the Cooperative each year.

Note: Any scholarship granted shall be evaluated at least annually. School standards must be maintained to continue funding of the scholarship.

Note: The Board of Trustees of Pioneer Telephone Cooperative, Inc., reserves full discretion with regard to the granting or renewal of any scholarship.

ITEMS TO BE SUBMITTED

College Scholarship Applicants

1. College and/or High School transcripts
2. ACT or SAT scores
3. Two (2) Letters of Recommendation from a high school administrator, instructor, or professor who is familiar with your character and academic performance.
4. Teacher Education acceptance letter if the applicant is an Education Major.
5. Submit an essay of 500 words or less answering one of the following questions:
 - i. Tell us about a teacher or professor that impacted you and why that made you select your current field of study.
 - ii. Tell us about your favorite "pioneer" in your field, one discovery, or moment that sparked your interest in your current field of study.
6. Applicant must complete the College Scholarship Application Form
7. Applicant must attach a studio-quality (color) picture of themselves to the Scholarship Application Form
8. Attach a list of scholarships, grants and/or tuition waivers. Include the amount of each one and how often it is received, i.e., per semester, per year, etc.

Technology Center Scholarship Applicants

1. High School transcripts, if available
2. ACT or SAT scores, if available
3. Two (2) Letters of Recommendation from a high school or current instructor who is familiar with your character and academic performance.
4. Submit an essay of 500 words or less answering one of the following questions:
 - i. Tell us about someone that impacted you and why that made you select your current field of study.
 - ii. Tell us about your favorite "pioneer" in your field, one discovery, or moment that sparked your interest in your current field of study.
5. Applicant must complete the Technology Center Scholarship Application Form
6. Applicant must attach a studio-quality (color) picture of themselves to the Scholarship Application Form
7. Attach a list of scholarships, grants and/or tuition waivers. Include the amount of each one and how often it is received, i.e., per semester, per year, etc.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS JUNE 1, 2022

Visit GoPioneer.com and click 'Scholarships' for the applications.

MAIL APPLICATION TO:
SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE / ATTN: RICHARD RUHL &
BLAKE CALLAHAN
PIONEER TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.
P.O. Box 539
KINGFISHER, OK 73750

OR

EMAIL APPLICATION TO:
techscholarship@ptci.com
collegescholarship@ptci.com
Subject: Scholarship Submission 2022



Equal Opportunity Employer
(405) 375-0334



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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

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Issue 1 Take 5, Win \$25 Winners

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

District #1 winner — **Donna J. Burkhalter, Fort Supply**
District #2 winner — **Leona Blair, Shattuck**
District #3 winner — **Janay Due, Grandfield**
District #4 winner — **Emily Stinson, Oakwood**
District #5 winner — **Sandy Keely, Dibble**
District #6 winner — **Carol Ann Willcutt, Okarche**
District #7 winner — **Terrie Wollard, Ames**

District #8 winner — **Jacqueline Kephart, Carmen**
District #9 winner — **Bob Webb, Crescent**
District #10 winner — **Jeremy Rowan, Kingfisher**
District #11 winner — **Melisa Cooper, Greenfield**
District #12 winner — **Wayne Paul Stehr, Newcastle**
District At-Large winner — **Buena Hohweiler, Woodward**