

## From the General Manager - Blake Callaham



**A**re we really beginning the year of 2023? Man, time sure does fly by. Everyone here at Pioneer hopes you had an amazing Christmas and Happy New Year!

We are entering a historical year in 2023 as we are celebrating our 70th anniversary! Pioneer Telephone Cooperative was founded in 1953 with the purpose of providing opportunities for residents in Western Oklahoma to connect to the world via telephones. Today— 70 years later—that connectivity has evolved from simple telephone to a virtual world of opportunity. Today you can connect to digital rooms that make it seem like you are in the same room at the same time with your neighbor, family and friends. Though we can't begin to predict what all the future might hold, one thing is for certain, this evolution will continue to progress. Pioneer looks forward to sharing those advancements with you for the next 70 years just as we have since 1953.

Throughout this year, you will see special publications, historical references, creative billboards, and even a special 70th edition cookbook. If you would like to receive an amazing piece of Pioneer history, please plan on attending our 70th Annual Meeting on May 2! Every member will receive one of those cookbook jewels free as a gift of our appreciation for your business and attendance. We're planning to switch it up at this year's Annual Meeting, so keep your eye out for the details in Tele-Topics Vol. 2, which will be coming to your mailboxes this April!

We have another great announcement... drum roll please... 😊

The Pioneer Telephone Cooperative board of trustees approved an estimated \$5.5 million for general membership and estate payments for 2023. It is our pleasure to give back to each of you as a member of this great cooperative. Since 1953, Pioneer Telephone Cooperative has given back to our members a grand total of almost \$150M. We also realize how important broadband and connectivity is to our members, hence in addition to this approximate \$150M in financial return over the last 70 years, we have also invested nearly \$200M 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.

We look forward to serving you this year and hope to see you at Pioneer's 70th Annual Meeting. Mark your Calendars!



Blake Callaham  
General Manager

**CONNECT  
WHAT  
MATTERS**

# NOTICE OF MEETINGS FOR DISTRICTS 2, 4, 9, 11 AND At-Large

Meetings for members of Districts 2, 4, 9, 11 and At-Large will be held this year (2023) 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 3, 4 or 5), 2023. (Note: Eligibility for the District At-Large Trustee position is limited to any cooperative member that is a minority or female.)

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 2 Meeting** will be held on Tuesday, April 11, at 7 p.m., at the Canton Community Center, *301 N. Garfield in Canton*. District 2 includes the following exchanges: **ARNETT, CANTON, CHESTER, FARGO, GAGE, HARMON, MUTUAL, SEILING, SHARON, SHATTUCK.**

**The District 4 Meeting** will be held on Wednesday, April 12, at 7 p.m., at the Thomas High School Auditorium, *920 N. Main in Thomas*. District 4 includes the following exchanges: **CARTER, CUSTER CITY, FAY, GOULD, HOLLIS, OAKWOOD, PUTNAM, SENTINEL, THOMAS.**

**The District 9 Meeting** will be held on Thursday, April 13, at 7 p.m., at the First Christian Church Family Life Center, *200 E. Monroe in Crescent*. District 9 includes the following exchanges: **COVINGTON, CRESCENT, DOUGLAS, GARBER, MARSHALL, ORLANDO.**

**The District 11 Meeting** will be held on Thursday, April 6, at 7 p.m., at Watonga City Hall, *410 W. Main Street in Watonga*. District 11 includes the following exchanges: **CALUMET, GEARY, WATONGA.**

**The District At-Large Meeting** will be held on Friday, April 7, at 7 p.m., at the Kingfisher County Exhibit Building, *300 S.13th Street in Kingfisher*. At-Large District Member includes **all Members of Pioneer Telephone Cooperative, Inc.** (Note: Eligibility for the District At-Large Trustee position is limited to any cooperative member that is a minority or female.)

**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.

# 2022 Ad Valorem Tax

## Pioneer Long Distance, Inc.

Blaine.....	1,556.00
Canadian.....	4,987.00
Cotton.....	1,848.00
Custer.....	12,682.00
Dewey.....	2,322.00
Grady.....	19,178.00
Grant.....	1,561.00
Kingfisher.....	282,629.00
Logan.....	2,392.00
Major.....	4,114.00
McClain.....	24,220.00
Oklahoma.....	6,972.51
Roger Mills.....	13,856.00
Woods.....	2,114.00
Woodward.....	951.00
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$381,382.51</b>

## O.T.&T. Communications, Inc.

Ellis.....	39.00
McIntosh.....	993.00
Muskogee.....	460.00
Okfuskee.....	627.00
Okmulgee.....	1,537.00
Pittsburg.....	2,115.00
Roger Mills.....	3,154.00
Seminole.....	3,560.00
Tillman.....	811.00
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$13,296.00</b>

## Cellular Network Partnership OK

Alfalfa.....	19,502.00
Atoka.....	11,866.00
Beckham.....	18,162.00
Blaine.....	26,131.00
Bryan.....	6,307.00
Caddo.....	32,370.00
Canadian.....	8,851.00
Carter.....	6,471.00
Coal.....	8,243.00

## Cellular Network Partnership OK Cont.

Comanche.....	4,455.00
Cotton.....	8,116.00
Custer.....	49,480.00
Dewey.....	21,032.00
Ellis.....	20,271.00
Garfield.....	62,206.00
Garvin.....	4,415.00
Grady.....	4,858.00
Grant.....	11,091.00
Greer.....	8,432.00
Harmon.....	6,994.00
Harper.....	14,600.00
Hughes.....	2,037.00
Jackson.....	8,835.00
Jefferson.....	10,147.00
Johnston.....	10,273.00
Kingfisher.....	207,422.00
Kiowa.....	10,610.00
Logan.....	15,361.00
Major.....	22,058.00
Marshall.....	10,276.00
McClain.....	8,060.00
Murray.....	4,033.00
Okmulgee.....	1,464.00
Pontotoc.....	27,802.00
Roger Mills.....	15,503.00
Stephens.....	15,054.00
Tillman.....	19,177.00
Washita.....	15,101.00
Woods.....	15,724.00
Woodward.....	48,507.00
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$821,297.00</b>

## Cellular Network Partnership KS

Butler.....	638.28
Cowley.....	2,292.34
Sumner.....	63.36
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$2,993.98</b>

## Pioneer Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Alfalfa.....	19,777.00
Beckham.....	11,871.00
Blaine.....	126,138.00
Bryan.....	209.00
Caddo.....	32,360.00
Canadian.....	45,130.00
Carter.....	931.00
Cleveland.....	833.00
Comanche.....	17,526.00
Cotton.....	11,959.00
Custer.....	45,652.00
Dewey.....	41,102.00
Ellis.....	64,210.00
Garfield.....	95,940.00
Garvin.....	2,423.00
Grady.....	153,567.14
Grant.....	34,319.00
Greer.....	97.00
Harmon.....	25,858.00
Harper.....	27,067.00
Jackson.....	2,011.00
Jefferson.....	11,394.00
Kay.....	818.00
Kingfisher.....	763,111.00
Kiowa.....	198.00
Logan.....	73,701.00
Major.....	69,157.00
McClain.....	443,966.00
Muskogee.....	8.00
Noble.....	3,535.00
Oklahoma.....	2,818.77
Payne.....	4,225.00
Pontotoc.....	1,270.00
Stephens.....	68,611.00
Tillman.....	133,046.00
Washita.....	14,039.00
Woods.....	32,409.00
Woodward.....	116,489.00
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$2,497,775.91</b>



# Are you missing a **TELEPHONE or INTERNET** discount?

## **IF YOU QUALIFY FOR:**

- SNAP
- Medicaid
- Federal Public Housing Assistance
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- WIC
- Veterans Pension or Survivor Benefits
- Lifeline

***Then you should apply for  
the Affordable Connectivity  
Program and Lifeline.***

The **Affordable Connectivity Program** is an FCC program that helps connect families and households when they are struggling to afford internet service.

*Provides up to \$75/month on  
qualifying Tribal lands.*

— OR —

*A \$30/month discount for  
qualifying households that  
aren't on qualifying tribal  
lands.*



[fcc.gov/acp](https://fcc.gov/acp)

— AND —

**Lifeline** is a federal government benefit program and only qualified persons may participate. Applicants must present documentation of household income or participation in qualifying programs. Lifeline is only available for one service per household whether landline, wireless, or internet.

*You could qualify for  
discounts on basic service  
ranging from \$5.25 to  
\$34.25 per month!*



[checklifeline.org](https://checklifeline.org)

# 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); and,
- surveys (call cannot include a sales pitch).

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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://donotcall.gov)

- True
- False

**Skip the stamp! Fill this form out online at [GoPioneer.com](http://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 10, 2023.**



**PIONEER**  
1953 • 2023

JOIN US FOR A LANDMARK  
**ANNUAL MEETING**



**Tuesday, May 2**



***Look out for more information in the April Tele-Topics!***



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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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**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 — *Sharon Heer, Longdale*  
**District #2** winner — *Rebecca Shuyler, Mutual*  
**District #3** winner — *Caleb Rodriguez, Grandfield*  
**District #4** winner — *Alveta Taylor, Thomas*  
**District #5** winner — *Sandy Keely, Dibble*  
**District #6** winner — *Tresa Keaton, Temple*  
**District #7** winner — *Judy Lacy, Lahoma*

**District #8** winner — *Don Kinsey Jr., Helena*  
**District #9** winner — *Angela Hurst, Crescent*  
**District #10** winner — *Miranda Mayfield, Kingfisher*  
**District #11** winner — *Vernon Whitnah, Calumet*  
**District #12** winner — *Martha Askins, Newcastle*  
**District At-Large** winner — *Sharon A. Meier, Woodward*