

From the General Manager - Blake Callaham



We welcome 2025 as it brings many opportunities, and for Pioneer, it reaffirms our mission of connecting rural western Oklahomans to enhance their quality of life through continuous innovation and technology. Over the past year, we have made remarkable progress, from expanding fiber deployment and advancing technology to forming strategic partnerships and laying the groundwork for our 2030 strategic plan, Project Lightspeed. You will learn more about these initiatives in our Annual Report, and we invite you to join us at our Annual Meeting to hear firsthand about our progress and future vision.

This year, we celebrate our 72nd anniversary—a milestone that reflects our ongoing journey in the communications industry. The evolution of connectivity has been extraordinary, constantly reshaping how we interact and ultimately enhancing our daily lives. At Pioneer, we embrace agility and adaptability, recognizing that the future will rely on fiber connectivity, but the next groundbreaking application remains unknown. Consider how the iPhone revolutionized the mobile industry in 2007 or how Uber transformed the taxi industry in 2010 using 3G connectivity, later expanding its services through advancements in 4G and 5G technology. We may not know the next transformational application or service, but we

believe fiber technology is the gateway, and we will be ready to adapt and provide that solution to connect what matters for you and your family just as we have for the past 72 years.

Education plays a vital role in shaping the future workforce. Whether through specialized training in Career Tech programs or pursuing a bachelor's degree, developing knowledge and passion is essential. Pioneer is proud to support students in achieving their educational goals by offering financial assistance through our College and Technology Center Scholarships.

We are pleased to announce that applications are now open for these scholarships. The Scholarship Committee will review applications from students entering their junior or senior year of college in August 2025. Recipients of the College Scholarship will receive \$1,000 per semester, up to a maximum of \$2,000 per year. Additionally, we will consider qualified applicants for the Technology Center Scholarship, which provides \$1,000 toward tuition and fees for their chosen program.

We encourage all eligible students to apply through our website at GoPioneer.com under **Community Resources > Scholarships**, where they can find application details and submission requirements. While email submission is preferred, applications may also be sent by mail. The deadline for applying is June 6, 2025. Requirements for each scholarship are available in this issue of Tele-Topics on page 6. Completed applications should be sent to:

techscholarship@ptci.com
collegescholarship@ptci.com
 or

Scholarship Committee
 Attn: Blake Callaham
 Pioneer Telephone
 Cooperative, Inc.
 P.O. Box 539 Kingfisher,
 Oklahoma 73750

We are thrilled to officially invite you to Pioneer's 72nd Annual Meeting on Tuesday, May 6, 2025. This special event will be held at the Kingfisher County Fairgrounds Exhibit Building, with drive-through registration starting at 7:30 AM.

Here's what to expect:

- Doors will open at 10:00 AM for Walk-In Registration
- BINGO session at 10:30 AM
- Lunch served at 12:00 PM
- Tech trends and training session from 12:30 PM – 1:00 PM
- Business session at 1:00 PM, featuring key company updates from the Pioneer Leadership Team
- Exciting raffle prizes and giveaways (rain gauge, first aid kit and a hat)
- Cash prizes totaling \$4,600 for attendees

Join us as we celebrate a successful 2024 and look ahead to an exciting future. We can't wait to see you there and connect with our valued members.

See you on Tuesday, May 6, 2025!

Blake Callaham
 General Manager

**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 6, 2025, 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. All other business which may come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

PIONEER TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.

BY M. Parker
Its President

ATTEST:

its 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

IMPORTANT NOTE FOR MEMBERS:

Don't throw this away!

This year Annual Report is coming to your mailbox! In just a few weeks the 2025 Annual Report will be delivered—but don't toss it!

**The Annual Report you receive in the mail
will contain your Registration information
for Annual Meeting!**



BRING THIS REPORT SO YOU CAN REGISTER!!!

Pioneer Telephone Cooperative's

72nd Annual Meeting

Tuesday, May 6

A FUN-filled Morning

Doors Open **10:00 AM**

Bingo and Prizes
*This is your chance to win
prizes valued at \$4,600!* **10:30 AM**

Lunch
*Lunch will be provided
for our MEMBERS.* **12:00 PM**

Tech Tips
*Learn all the great things
happening with YOUR Cooperative!* **12:30 PM**

Business Meeting
*Learn all the great things
happening with YOUR Cooperative!* **1:00 PM**

DRIVE-THRU Register

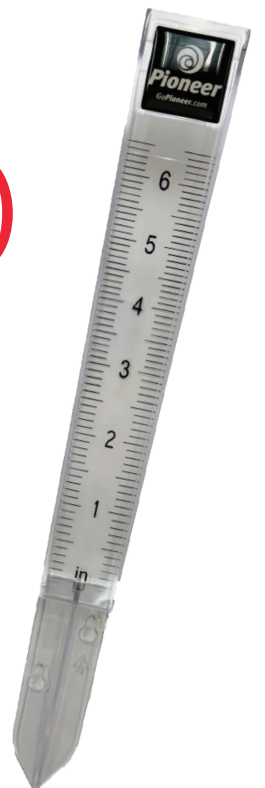
Join us before work to register
and receive your gift
in one quick stop!

OPENS AT
7:30 AM

Drive-thru *and* attending
Registered Members Will Receive:
Pioneer Hat | Rain Gauge
First Aid Kit | Lunch

+

Attending members will have
THE CHANCE TO WIN
CASH PRIZES VALUED AT
\$4,600



Don't forget to bring
your Annual Report!

BECOME A PIONEER SCHOLAR

Investing in education is investing in the future of our communities. The Pioneer Scholarship Program helps local students take the next step toward their goals while reminding them that their hometown is cheering them on every step of the way.

Application Timeline

March 15
Applications Open

June 6
Application Deadline

July
Selections Announced

August
Turn in final paperwork
for disbursement to
Scholar's College

TIPS FOR SUCCESS

Start early

Give yourself plenty of time to complete the application thoughtfully.

Reach out

You'll need two references, so contact teachers, mentors, or community leaders early to ask if they're willing to help.

Check eligibility

Make sure your parent or guardian is a Pioneer Cooperative member.

Be authentic

Use the essay or short answer sections to share your goals, passions, and what makes you unique.

Proofread

Review your application for spelling, grammar, and clarity—or ask someone you trust to help.

PIONEER COLLEGE/TECHNOLOGY CENTER SCHOLARSHIPS ANNOUNCED

Pioneer Telephone Cooperative, Inc., has announced applications are available for both the 2025-2026 College Scholarship **AND** the 2025-2026 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 2025.

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.

Applications are Due June 6, 2025

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

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

OR

EMAIL APPLICATION TO:
techscholarship@ptci.com
collegescholarship@ptci.com
Subject: Scholarship Submission 2025



Equal Opportunity Employer

Tele-Topics
Volume 2 of 4 2025
P.O. Box 539
Kingfisher, OK 73750
GoPioneer.com



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: _____

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

1. Pioneer's Annual Meeting is on May 6.

- ☐ True
☐ False

2. Official Business will begin at 1:00 PM on May 6.

- ☐ True
☐ False

3. My presence at the Annual Meeting is vital and encouraged.

- ☐ True
☐ VERY TRUE!

4. I can drop-off my registration form via the Drive-Thru beginning at 7:30 AM.

- ☐ True
☐ False

PIONEER TELE-TOPICS (USPS No. 456-200) is owned by and published quarterly for the benefit of the approximately 32,000 member families of Pioneer Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

EDITORIAL & CIRCULATION

Contact: Madison McCollum, Tele-Topics Editor
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 539, Kingfisher, OK 73750
E-mail: teletopics@ptci.com
Call: (405) 375-0274 Fax: (405) 699-3053

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:
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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 — **Dianne Owens, Buffalo**
District #2 winner — **Nathan Shuyler, Mutual**
District #3 winner — **Janis King, Tipton**
District #4 winner — **Terri Powers, Custer City**
District #5 winner — **Bridget Ford, Blanchard**
District #6 winner — **Virgie Gruntmeir, Okarche**
District #7 winner — **Kay Allen, Drummond**

District #8 winner — **Allen Shriver, Hunter**
District #9 winner — **Robert Newton, Marshall**
District #10 winner — **Barbara Patterson, Kingfisher**
District #11 winner — **Devon Richardson, Watonga**
District #12 winner — **Wayne Stehr, Newcastle**
District At-Large winner — **Larry W. Goyer, Weatherford**