

## From the General Manager - Blake Callaham



**A**s we enter the final stages of the 2022-2023 educational year, it is once again time to reflect on the importance of education and recognize the impact it has on the future of our communities and our world. Education can have so many meanings these days, but at its core it is the effort of receiving information and enlightening one's understanding to provide wisdom for future endeavors. By understanding the impact education has on our lives and journeys, we at Pioneer recognize the future of our organization has a direct correlation to the future of Oklahoma. It's with this in mind we announce we are once again accepting applications for College Scholarships and Technology Center Scholarships.

The Scholarship Committee will consider all applicants entering their Junior/Senior College year in August 2023 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 scholarship. 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.

We strongly encourage all our applicants to email in their applications, but the applications can also be submitted by mail. The deadline for applying is Thursday, June 1 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](mailto:techscholarship@ptci.com)  
[collegescholarship@ptci.com](mailto:collegescholarship@ptci.com)

or  
**Scholarship Committee**  
**Attn: Blake Callaham**  
**Pioneer Telephone Cooperative,**  
**Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 539**  
**Kingfisher, Oklahoma 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 announce our official 70th anniversary and want to invite you to our historic Pioneer Telephone Cooperative Annual Meeting on May 2nd. We will be starting a little earlier this year and have invited all of our Pioneer Family (employees) to participate in this 70th anniversary event for the first time since 1953. We will begin with the registration at 7:30 a.m. where our Members and family can enjoy complimentary breakfast. Our traditional bingo games will begin at 8:30 a.m. and continue until we start the business session at 10:30 a.m. We have made the decision to start earlier and shorten our festivities to allow more of our Members to experience the historic event. We will conclude with an amazing BBQ lunch at 11:30 a.m. without taking up your entire

day. In addition to the BBQ lunch, each Member will also receive a FREE 70th anniversary cookbook, Pioneer hat, Pioneer's personalized playing cards and domino set. During the event we will be giving away over \$4,600 in door prizes including cash drawings. We will also provide an opportunity for the Membership to exercise your right to vote on a proposed by-law change focusing on evolving the voting process based on advanced technology and community convenience. In addition to the normal "State of the Cooperative" report, we will discuss in more detail the recent Pioneer Cellular announcement concerning discontinuing our cellular subscriber operations. Pioneer Cellular is a general partnership with (3) other general partners and although the decision was difficult, our vote in the process was made for the continued health of Pioneer Telephone Cooperative.

It is extremely important that our Members are present at this event, and we look forward to seeing all of you on May 2nd.



**Blake Callaham**  
**General Manager**

**CONNECT**  
**WHAT**  
**MATTERS**

# 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 10:30 a.m., on Tuesday, May 2, 2023, 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:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Article XIV of the By-Laws of Pioneer Telephone Cooperative, Inc., that the following amendments to the By-Laws will be presented to the Board of Trustees for approval at the Annual Meeting of the Cooperative to be held in the City of Kingfisher, Oklahoma, at the Kingfisher County Fairgrounds Exhibit Building on the 2nd day of May, 2023, said meeting to commence at 10:30 a.m.

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

# Proposed By-Law Changes, Cont.

**All members who register and are verified as being entitled to vote at an annual or special meeting 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 will be advised as to how they will be notified, if at all, of any adjournment or runoff. The Board of Trustees shall have the power to make and adopt such other policies, procedures, rules, and regulations not inconsistent with law, the Articles of Incorporation or these By-laws, as it may deem advisable.**

## 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:

20 <b>14</b> 23	Districts 2, 4, 9, 11 and at-large;
20 <b>15</b> 24	Districts 6, 8, 10 and 12;
20 <b>16</b> 25	Districts 1, 3, 5 and 7;

all to be done . . . .

~~(b-1)~~ (i) 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 will be advised as to how they will be notified, if at all, of any adjournment or runoff.**

**(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) 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.**

# Proposed By-Law Changes, Cont.

- (e) The member in each voting district . . .
- (ef) IN THE EVENT A QUORUM . . . .
- (fg) The chairperson and secretary . . . .

Section 8.2. Patronage Capital in Connection with Furnishing Communication Service – last paragraph in this section . . .

The members of the Cooperative, by dealing with the Cooperative, acknowledge that the terms and provisions of the Articles of Incorporation and By-laws shall constitute and be a contract between the Cooperative and each member, and both the Cooperative and the members are bound by such contract, as fully as though each member had individually signed a separate instrument containing such terms and provisions. The provisions of the By-laws shall be called to the attention of each member of the Cooperative by publishing in the Cooperative's telephone directories **available on the Cooperative's website at [GoPioneer.com](http://GoPioneer.com)**.

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

PIONEER TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE, INC.

BY *Gail Parker*  
Its President

ATTEST:

*[Signature]*  
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**

*JOIN US FOR THE 70TH*

# **ANNUAL MEETING**

## **MEETING SCHEDULE**

**We're switching it up this year! This year's meeting will be shorter than ever to allow for people to take only a half a day away from work. However, we're keeping everyone's favorites on the schedule! Stop by to enjoy breakfast and bingo or just show up for business at 10:30 a.m.! We hope to see you there.**

***7:30 a.m.***

***Coffee and Donuts***

***8:30 a.m.***

***Bingo***

***10:30 a.m.***

***Meeting begins***

***11:30 a.m.***

***Lunch will be served following the conclusion of the meeting***



**TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2023**

*Kingfisher Fairgrounds - 300 S 13th St, Kingfisher, OK 73750*

# WE NEED YOU

## WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A MEMBER

There are many benefits to having a cooperative in your community, but the main goal of a cooperative is to provide and distribute benefits to members.

A cooperative is a member-controlled form of business. This means that YOU have the power to make a difference in your cooperative and communities. Members exercise control over a cooperative directly by voting at membership meetings, such as Pioneer's Annual Meeting that will be held on May 2, or indirectly through the election of a board of trustee.

The board of trustees manage the cooperative within the restrictions set by state statutes, articles of incorporation, and by-laws. The by-laws are particularly important because they are directly set and voted on by the membership and restrict what the board of trustees can and cannot do. By-law changes must be made at a membership meeting where a quorum must be met for any changes to be made.

There will be many by-law changes that will be up for vote, which makes your attendance at this Annual Meeting all the more necessary!

*Join us in*

**CELEBRATING YOUR COOPERATIVE AND RECEIVE:**

*Registered Members Will Receive:*  
Pioneer Hat | Dominoes | Deck of Cards  
Family Cookbook | Breakfast | Lunch

+

**THE CHANCE TO WIN**

*CASH PRIZES VALUED AT*

**\$4,600**



# PIONEER COLLEGE/TECHNOLOGY CENTER SCHOLARSHIPS ANNOUNCED

Pioneer Telephone Cooperative, Inc., has announced applications are available for both the 2023-2024 College Scholarship AND the 2023-2024 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](http://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 2023.

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, 2023**

**Visit [GoPioneer.com](http://GoPioneer.com) and click 'Scholarships' for the applications.**

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

OR

EMAIL APPLICATION TO:  
[techscholarship@ptci.com](mailto:techscholarship@ptci.com)  
[collegescholarship@ptci.com](mailto:collegescholarship@ptci.com)  
Subject: Scholarship Submission 2023



Equal Opportunity Employer

**Tele-Topics**  
**Volume 2 of 4 2023**  
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## 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**

- Pioneer's Annual Meeting is on May 2.  
 True  
 False
- Official Business will begin at 10:30 a.m. on May 2.  
 True  
 False
- My presence at the Annual Meeting is vital and encouraged.  
 True  
 VERY TRUE!
- The 2023 Meeting will end by 12 p.m. this year.  
 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  
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 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

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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 — *Judy Laubach, Okeene*  
**District #2** winner — *Leona M. Blair, Shattuck*  
**District #3** winner — *Julie Hayes, Frederick*  
**District #4** winner — *Larry Crabb, Hollis*  
**District #5** winner — *James Woodward, Blanchard*  
**District #6** winner — *Sherri Ingram, Apache*  
**District #7** winner — *Debra Evans, Hennessey*

**District #8** winner — *Allen Shriver, Hunter*  
**District #9** winner — *Sue Yocham, Marshall*  
**District #10** winner — *Pam Combs, Kingfisher*  
**District #11** winner — *Larry Kerr, Watonga*  
**District #12** winner — *Cleo Moore, Newcastle*  
**District At-Large** winner — *Arlene Burghardt, Hitchcock*