

From the General Manager - Richard Ruhl



I am excited to announce that Pioneer Telephone Cooperative, Inc. will once again be accepting applications for both College scholarship and Technology Center scholarship programs which provide up to \$1,000 a semester towards their education. Pioneer believes in investing in our young adults and understands the future begins with our youth; both in the traditional academic setting and those who choose a trade. Scholarship applications require a 500 word or less essay which will allow not only the applicant's Board Member to see some of their passion, but also give insight for the "Pioneer Scholar" section in our new GoPioneer Magazine. Each scholarship recipient will be interviewed by the GoPioneer Editor and have a feature article written on them, as seen in the inaugural issue released in March. This will allow our Customers and Members to see the amazing work ethic and passion behind some of the brightest minds in our communities.

The Scholarship Committee will consider all applicants who will be entering their Junior/Senior College year in August 2020 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. This year the application will be more convenient as we continue to enhance our applications and push into the digital age. The applications can be found online in a PDF format and now all applications can be received via email. The deadline for applying is June 26, 2020, and the requirements for each respective scholarship can be found in this issue of the Tele-Topics on page three. Both scholarship applications can be found on our website GoPioneer.com, under Community Resources/Scholarships.

Please send in your completed applications by the June 26, 2020 deadline to its respective email:

techscholarship@ptci.com
collegescholarship@ptci.com

or

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

I look forward to receiving your applications.

As I am sure you are aware, typically by this point in my column, I would be extending a warm invitation to each of you to attend our Annual Meeting. However, *I regretfully must inform you the 2020 Annual Meeting has been postponed.* This is not a decision that was made lightly. The Pioneer Board of Trustees voted to postpone the meeting on March 18, 2020, in response to the catastrophic circumstances brought forward by COVID-19. The decision is based on the directives provided by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), particularly in regard to the number of people typically in attendance at our Annual Meeting. Pioneer has been closely monitoring the Coronavirus status in Oklahoma and is constantly keeping in mind the safety of our Employees, Customers and Members. Currently, Pioneer does not have a set date for our rescheduled Annual Meeting.

With the postponing of the Annual Meeting, all previous notices and events associated with the District Meetings, have also been retracted and the events postponed.

The filing for prospective Trustee candidates, previously set for April 6, 7 or 8 have also been postponed until a later date.

The meetings for Members of Districts 2, 4, 9, 11 and District At-Large have also been postponed until a later date.

Once again, the Pioneer Telephone Board of Trustees does not take this decision lightly. This decision is made for the health of our Employees and Members. The circumstances brought on by COVID-19 is unprecedented in the history of our company and, therefore, we are responsible for the safety and well being of all involved.

I would like to remind all of our Members the CDC recommends practicing 'social distancing', meaning

you reduce your rate of contact with other people. By avoiding public spaces and unnecessary social gatherings, you can lower your risk of infection. Pioneer is taking many steps to follow the directives and suggestions set forth by the CDC, including making the tough decision to close our offices to the public beginning March 19. We know this may be inconvenient, but we will still be here for our customers. Customers can reach Pioneer in the following ways:

- **Phone** - call the local office number or 888.PTC.COOP
- **Website** - GoPioneer.com
- **Payment Drop Box** - On site at each location
- **SmartHub** - GoPioneer.com/SmartHub
- **SmartHub App for mobile devices** - Search GoPioneer SmartHub in the App store on your device
- If you have an equipment repair or replacement which needs personal attention, we ask that you call us at 888.PTC.COOP to schedule an appointment

We strongly recommend downloading and using Pioneer SmartHub to submit your questions or trouble tickets. SmartHub is an app that allows our customers to manage their account, view and pay their bills, submit trouble tickets, and much more. This is a great way to keep yourself healthy and safe when it comes to respiratory viruses such as COVID-19 and keep in contact with Pioneer.

If you happen to feel sick, please consider those around you. Even if you do not have the symptoms of COVID-19, we encourage you to stay home and take care of yourself and limit the spread of germs to your fellow community members.

Please keep an eye on our social media sites, or GoPioneer.com for updates on the postponed events. We will update all Members when more information becomes available via these online resources and Tele-Topics when a date has been set for the Annual Meeting and associated events.

Our thoughts and well wishes to all of our Members,

Richard Ruhl
General Manager

ATTENTION: ALL DISTRICT MEETINGS POSTPONED

The filing for perspective Trustee candidates that was scheduled to begin on April 6th has been **POSTPONED** until a later date.

The District 2 Meeting will be **POSTPONED**. District 2 includes the following exchanges: ARNETT, CANTON, CHESTER, FARGO, GAGE, HARMON, MUTUAL, SEILING, SHARON, SHATTUCK

The District 4 Meeting will be **POSTPONED**. District 4 includes the following exchanges: CARTER, CUSTER CITY, FAY, GOULD, HOLLIS, OAKWOOD, PUTNAM, SENTINEL, THOMAS

The District 9 Meeting will be **POSTPONED**. District 9 includes the following exchanges: COVINGTON, CRESCENT, DOUGLAS, GARBER, MARSHALL, ORLANDO

The District 11 Meeting will be **POSTPONED**. District 11 includes the following exchanges: CALUMET, GEARY, WATONGA

The District At-Large Meeting (Note: Eligibility for the District At-Large Trustee position is limited to any cooperative member that is a minority or female.) will be **POSTPONED**. District At-Large includes: ALL PIONEER EXCHANGES

***2020 PIONEER TELEPHONE ANNUAL MEETING
POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE***



**ATTENTION
PLEASE!**

PIONEER COLLEGE/TECHNOLOGY CENTER SCHOLARSHIPS ANNOUNCED

Pioneer Telephone Cooperative, Inc., has announced applications are available for both the 2020-2021 College Scholarship AND the 2020-2021 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 applicant.

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 2020.

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 26, 2020

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

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

OR

EMAIL APPLICATION TO:
techscholarship@ptci.com
collegescholarship@ptci.com
Subject: Scholarship Submission 2020



Equal Opportunity Employer
(405) 375-0334

Tele-Topics
Volume 2 of 4 2020
 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 Telephone Cooperative's 67th Annual Membership Meeting has been POSTPONED.
 True
2. The filing for perspective trustee candidates has been POSTPONED.
 True
3. The meetings for members of Districts 2, 4, 9, 11 and District At-Large have been POSTPONED.
 True
4. I will be informed at a later date via Tele-Topics when the rescheduled events (those postponed above) will take place.
 True

FOR OFFICIAL RULES VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT: GoPioneer.com under Tele-Topics Newsletter.
 Entries must be received by April 17, 2020.

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

Richard Ruhl General Manager
Jerry Kadavy V.P. Network Operations
David Post V.P. HR/Legal
Kim Grellner V.P. Marketing, Sales & Service
Brenda Walta V.P. Finance and Administration/CFO

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 — *Joseph Craig Winn, May*
- District #2** winner — *Ned William Moyer, Gage*
- District #3** winner — *Marilyn Schrick, Frederick*
- District #4** winner — *Larry Crabb, Hollis*
- District #5** winner — *Wayne Stevens, Blanchard*
- District #6** winner — *Carol A. Willcutt, Okarche*
- District #7** winner — *Margie McConnell, Hennessey*

- District #8** winner — *Diana Kay Pitts, Waynoka*
- District #9** winner — *Beverly Warren, Covington*
- District #10** winner — *Vickie Baker, Kingfisher*
- District #11** winner — *Linda Jensen, Watonga*
- District #12** winner — *Ronald J. Hamilton, Newcastle*
- District At Large** winner — *Don F. Kinsey, Helena*