

From the General Manager - Richard Ruhl



I would first like to extend a warm 'congratulations' to the 2020 Oklahoma Telephone Association Employee Scholarship recipients who can be found inside this edition of Tele-Topics. Though

our tradition of celebrating these scholars in person was put on pause due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are still very proud of these scholars and wish them luck in their higher education studies.

Unfortunately, due to the timeline change of this Tele-Topics Volume, the 2020 Pioneer Telephone College and Technology Center Scholarship recipients were not yet selected and will not be announced in this volume. The Pioneer Board of Trustees will be selecting our Pioneer Scholars and we will announce the recipients on GoPioneer.com, social media, in the Vol. 4 of Tele-Topics and featuring them individually in the GoPioneer Magazine.

As the world continues to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic, Pioneer is constantly monitoring and evaluating our corporate policies, procedures and company events. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I must regretfully inform you the 2020 Annual Meeting has been canceled. Previously, the Pioneer Board of Trustees had initially decided to postpone the Annual Meeting for a later date. However, as COVID-19 continues to threaten the health of Oklahomans, the Pioneer Board of Trustees did not want to host the Annual Meeting and put the health of our Members and Employees at risk. The safety of our Customers, Members and Employees are our top priority, which is why the Board of Trustees officially voted to cancel the meeting on June 11, 2020. There are many factors which

led to this decision including the current rise in infection rates in Oklahoma, the number of people typically in attendance and the ongoing uncertainty surrounding the 'end' of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite the cancellation of our Annual Meeting, the Board of Trustees voted to reschedule the District Meetings for Districts 2, 4, 9, 11 and District At-Large. If you look on the following page, you will find specific times, dates and locations for all District Meetings, as well as, voting eligibility requirements. Though we do not know what the Center for Disease Control (CDC) will recommend at the time of these meetings, we currently plan on recommending all attendees practice social distancing, proper hand hygiene, and wear a mask for the safety of themselves and others.

We understand this year has been unpredictable in many ways, and Pioneer is grateful for our loyal and understanding Members and Customers. To show our appreciation, Pioneer will once again be hosting our annual Customer Appreciation Week, August 24 - 28, 2020. Join us at your local Pioneer retail location during normal business hours for a free gift (a 4-in-1 Jar opener and Pioneer pen), refreshments, and register to win a \$100 credit on any Pioneer account. We will also have specials on Internet, Cellular, Security, and Pioneer iVideo, all will be available both online and in person, so please make sure to stop in.

All Pioneer retail locations and main campus offices have been open to the public since May 26th, however, I ask that guests be mindful of the CDC recommendations and Pioneer policies. Currently, we ask all guests follow the signage posted on the floors and doors of all office and retail locations and, if possible, to wear a mask for both your protection and our Employees.

These guidelines will be in place for the unforeseeable future, and at the same time, Pioneer will continue to monitor, and practice proper social distancing as recommended by the CDC. I remind everyone that while our retail locations are open, the COVID-19 pandemic is still prominent and safety precautions should always be taken. For our friends who do not wish to visit the retail locations, we have several ways for you to stay connected. Customers can contact us by:

- Phone - call the local office number or 888.PTC.COOP
- Website - GoPioneer.com
- Payment Drop Box - On site at each retail location
- SmartHub - GoPioneer.com/SmartHub
- SmartHub App for mobile devices - Search GoPioneer SmartHub in the App store on your device

We strongly recommend downloading and using Pioneer SmartHub to submit your questions or trouble tickets. SmartHub is an amazing app that allows customers to manage their account, view and pay their bills, submit trouble tickets, and much more. We are always here to help our customers and will do our best to solve any issues.

As summer activities pick up in preparation for school in August, I hope you are safe and enjoy your time outside. Please stay safe!

Richard Ruhl
General Manager

NOTICE OF MEETINGS FOR DISTRICTS 2, 4, 9, 11, and DISTRICT AT-LARGE

Meetings for members of Districts 2, 4, 9, 11 and District At-Large will be held this year (2020) 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 meeting the applicable qualifications of their respective District as set out in Sections 4.2 and 4.4 of the Bylaws, and desiring to be a candidate for election as trustee, must file written notice of his or her intention with the Secretary of the Cooperative at *108 E. Robberts Avenue, Kingfisher, OK 73750* on August 31, September 1 or 2, 2020. (Note: Eligibility for the District At-Large Trustee position is limited to any cooperative member that is a minority or female.)

Forms for use in filing are available at the Pioneer Telephone Corporate Office in Kingfisher, Oklahoma. NO PERSON IS ELIGIBLE for election unless this written filing is made.

It is important that you attend your District Meeting, as a quorum is necessary for a legal election.

Linda Dich Randall
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.

Bylaws are found in the center of your Pioneer Telephone Directory.

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, September 15, 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 Monday, September 14, 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 Tuesday, September 8, at 7 p.m., at the First Christian Church Gymnasium, *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, September 3, at 7 p.m. at the Watonga City Hall, *117 N. Weigle in Watonga*. 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 held on Friday, September 4, at 7 p.m., at the Kingfisher County Exhibit Building, *300 S. 13th Street in Kingfisher*. District At-Large includes **ALL PIONEER EXCHANGES**

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.)

A Message from Tele-Topics

2020 has been a hard year for annual events and schedules, with almost all public activities being rescheduled and canceled. For this reason, Tele-Topics would like to point out a few changes to this issue:

1. The Annual Meeting has officially been canceled for 2020.
2. The College and Technology Center Scholarship Recipients will be announced online and in the Tele-Topics Vol. 4.
3. The District Meetings have been rescheduled and will be held in the month of September (see pg. 2).

We know this has been a crazy year, but Pioneer values our Members and Customers. Pioneer wants to find a way to say "Thank You!" for being a part of the Pioneer family and invite you to participate in our Annual Customer Appreciation Celebration that will

take place Monday, Aug. 24 through Friday, Aug. 28, both in store and online.

If you are able to make it into one of our local stores, you will receive a free gift (while supplies last), enjoy refreshments and have the opportunity to register to win a \$100 credit on either your Pioneer Telephone or Pioneer Cellular bill.

We are excited to see our loyal customers and hope you can make it out to see us!

As a final reminder, Tele-Topics would also like to remind you that beginning in Jan. of 2021, the **Take 5, Win 25 quiz will be moving online**. There's still time to practice. To fill out the Take 5, Win 25 quiz visit:

***GoPioneer.com under Tele-Topics
Newsletter***

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. Pioneer Telephone's Annual meeting has been canceled.

- True
 True

2. District Meetings for 2,4, 9, 11, and At-Large have been rescheduled for September.

- True
 False

3. Our College and Technology Center recipients for 2020 will be announced in Vol. 4 of the Tele-Topics.

- True
 False

4. I can participate in Pioneer's Annual Customer Appreciation Week:

- At my local office
 Online
 All of the Above

5. Tele-Topic's Take 5, Win \$25 Quiz will be moved online in 2021.

- True
 False



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

IF WE DRAW YOUR ENTRY AND YOUR ANSWERS ARE CORRECT, YOU WIN \$25! FOR OFFICIAL RULES VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT: *GoPioneer.com under Tele-Topics Newsletter*. Entries must be received by July 31, 2020.

CONGRATULATIONS
2020 OTA Foundation Scholarship Recipients

The Oklahoma Telephone Association (OTA) Scholarship Foundation was formed in 1993 to help students pursue their academic careers in higher education. Scholarships are awarded to successful applicants who are dependents of employees of Oklahoma-based telephone companies. The scholarships are available for full-time students attending Oklahoma universities, four and two-year colleges and post-secondary career technology curriculum.

2020 OTA Foundation Scholarship Recipients:

Kinsey Mueggenborg

Daughter of Patricia Mueggenborg

Landon Nault

Son of Francis & Sabrina Nault

Brayden Foley

Son of Tracy & Ronna Foley

Peyton Pierson

Son of Patrick Pierson

Taylor Chapman

Daughter of Mike & Kelli Chapman

Madison Stucki

Daughter of Mike & Donna Gore

Mason Callaham

Son of Blake & Laura Callaham

Syriah Howard

Daughter of Jennifer Swift

Laryn Schemmer

Daughter of Ed & Amber Schemmer

Sarah Sanders

Daughter of Mike & Lisa Sanders

Kole Simon

Son of Chris & Michele Simon

Baleigh Brickman

Daughter of Bart & Kristi Brickman

Hannah Wittrock

Daughter of Jeff & Heather Wittrock

Jacqueline Piedra

Daughter of Roland Piedra

Noah Smith

Son of Steve & Brenda Smith

Hayden Wittrock

Son of Jeff & Heather Wittrock

Caden Hill

Son of Jeremie & Crystal Hill

Irelyn Schemmer

Daughter of Ed & Amber Schemmer

Kaden Mueggenborg

Son of Patricia Mueggenborg

Kaelyn Carter

Daughter of Michael & Patty Carter

Congratulations
to our 2020 OTA Scholars

Pioneer Recognized as Smart Rural Community Member

Across the United States, rural, community-based broadband providers are serving small towns with robust broadband networks to support critical and innovative solutions for rural communities. These technological leaders are helping to build a nationwide network of Smart Rural CommunitiesSM, where broadband connections are helping create a brighter future for rural America. On May 1, 2020 Pioneer Telephone Cooperative, Inc. was recognized by The Rural Broadband Association (NTCA) as a member of the Smart Rural Communities network for their important work in bringing broadband-enabled advances to rural America.

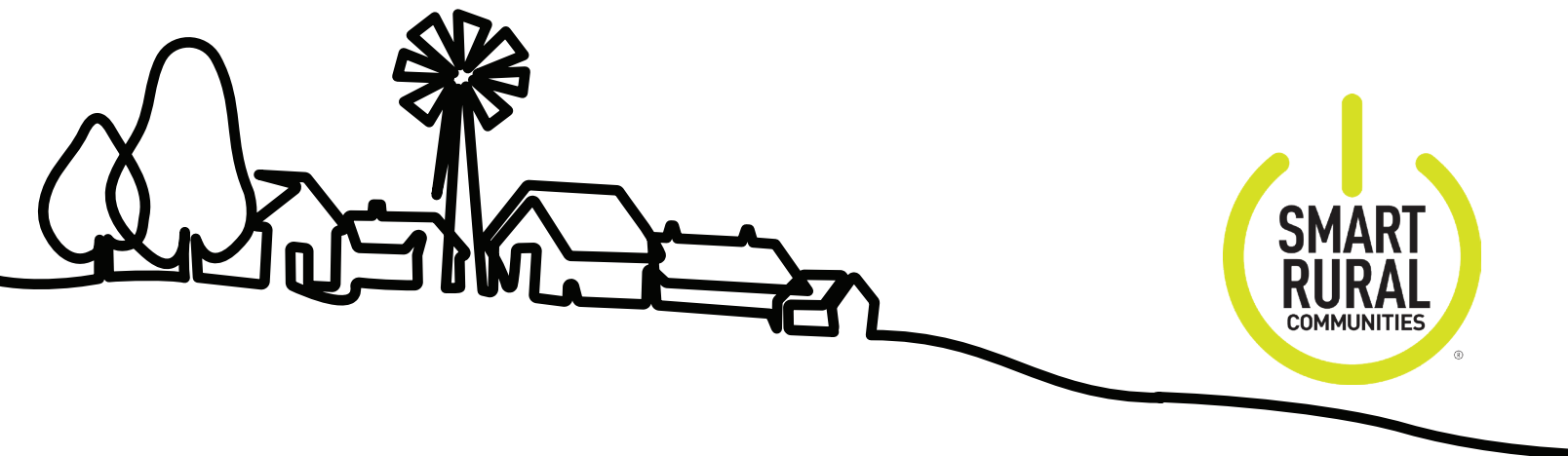
"Pioneer Telephone has always prided ourselves on the fact that we're local. We started out filling the needs of Western Oklahoma back in 1953, when the need to stay connected was more vital than ever and continue today by making sure our rural communities aren't left behind as technology continues to advance," Richard Ruhl, General Manager of Pioneer Telephone Inc. said. "To be recognized as a Smart Rural Community provider speaks to our mission and we are excited to be a part of this program."

The Smart Rural Communities program

promotes collaborative work among rural broadband providers and other local leaders to develop broadband-enabled solutions for education, economic development, healthcare and more. The Smart Rural Communities initiative celebrates the technological leadership of nearly 850 small, community-based rural broadband providers in NTCA's membership.

"I am so proud of Pioneer Telephone Cooperative, Inc. for rising to meet the challenge of providing exceptional service in rural America, where our member companies face low population density, geographic obstacles, regulatory hurdles and limited budgets," said NTCA Chief Executive Officer Shirley Bloomfield. "NTCA's Smart Rural Community Providers are leading by example and charting a course toward an even more vibrant, productive and community-oriented rural America."

Smart Rural Communities includes four new tools for NTCA members: Smart Rural Community Provider; the Gig-Capable Smart Rural Community Provider designation; the Smart Rural Community Showcase Awards; and the Smart Rural Community Grants program. For more information about Smart Rural Communities visit ntca.org/smart.





FREE GIFT!
Stop into your local office
throughout the week for a
free 4-in-1 Jar opener!

While supplies last*

JOIN US FOR

**CUSTOMER
APPRECIATION
WEEK**

August 24 - 28, 2020

Stop in-store or visit us online for exclusive deals.

We want to say **THANK YOU** for being a part of the Pioneer family. Enjoy week-long specials (see below) online and in store.

Make sure to join us at your local Pioneer Telephone or Pioneer Cellular store location for a special in-store celebration where you can: receive a FREE 4-in-1 Jar opener, Pioneer pen, enjoy refreshments and register to win \$100 credit on one of your Pioneer Accounts.

Special offers available August 24-28:

- ▶ **Internet - \$50/month credit for 2 months for existing fiber customers upgrading to GoGig**
 - ▶ **Cellular - Ask about GoPioneer Loyalty benefits**
- ▶ **Security - XTLtouch™ Wireless Security System starting at \$299**
 - ▶ **iVideo - Receive a FREE Amazon Fire Stick 4K (\$49.99 value) with a new qualifying plan or qualifying plan upgrade**

Visit your local office or visit GoPioneer.com for more information. Some restrictions apply. Other offers available in store. Check stores for hours and availability.

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GoPioneer.com



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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 2 Take 5, Win \$25 Winners

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

District #1 winner — *Shirley Weiszbrod, Ft Supply*
District #2 winner — *Don J. Cox, Sharon*
District #3 winner — *Doyle Chambers, Tipton*
District #4 winner — *Barbara Winfield, Thomas*
District #5 winner — *Sondra Keely, Dibble*
District #6 winner — *Michael Sampley, Comanche*
District #7 winner — *John McMurphy, Ames*

District #8 winner — *Charles F. Schmitz, Wakita*
District #9 winner — *Scott Shenold, Orlando*
District #10 winner — *Larry M. Wilcox, Dover*
District #11 winner — *Belinda Vaughn, Geary*
District #12 winner — *Amanda Baldner, Newcastle*
District At Large winner — *Nelson Louthan, Chester*