



independent telecommunications pioneer association

ITPA Telephone Museum Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

The Independent Telecommunications Pioneer Association (ITPA) officially opened the doors to the ITPA Telephone Museum during a ribbon cutting on June 3, 2021 which was hosted by the Liberty County Chamber of Commerce.

ITPA Historical Foundation President, Ronnie Cashwell spoke briefly about the mission of the ITPA which in part focuses on preserving the history and traditions of telecommunications.

The ribbon cutting ceremony unveiled a new 140 square foot illuminated display case which exhibits rarities from the entire span of telephony history. Other museum exhibits were revitalized and new items are now on display.

The ITPA Telephone Museum received a grant from Telephone Collectors International (TCI) to assist with some of the cost associated with the new display case which totaled \$1635.00, the ITPA Historical Foundation pitched in the remaining amount of more than \$10,500.00 to complete the project. Many thanks to TCI for your generous donations, and to the ITPA members who give donations to the Historical Foundation, so that we can continue to preserve the history of telephony.

The ITPA Telephone Museum is open Monday through Friday from 10am to 2pm. A \$3.00 donation to the museum is collected for admission.

We are looking to expand our museum exhibits. If you have any items that you would like to donate to the museum, please contact Alissa Moss at itpa@telecom-pioneers.net we are in need of all telephony related items, and are interested in adding new interactive displays.

ITPA Board Members in attendance for the event were Ronnie Cashwell, Nancy Schnitzer, Jo Myers and Darlene Roll. Also present were Museum Volunteers Kassie Davis and Addison Moss (Daughters of Alissa Moss, ITPA Executive Director), and Bruno and Ginny Robles. Many thanks to our special volunteers who gave so freely of their time to make sure the museum was beautifully decorated for the ribbon cutting. We want you to know that the immeasurably valued work that you do for the ITPA, and your dedication to preserving our history, mean so much to us.

—See more photos on p. 3



Pictured left to right: Leah Poole, Liberty County Chamber of Commerce- Chief Executive Officer, Jimmy Shanken, Liberty County Chamber of Commerce- Board Chairman, Ginny Robles, Museum Volunteer, Bruno Robles, Museum Volunteer, Darlene Roll, ITPA Board Member & Charitable Foundation President, Nancy Schnitzer, ITPA Board Member, Alissa Moss, ITPA Executive Director, Ronnie Cashwell, ITPA Board Member & Historical Foundation President, Jo Myers, ITPA Board Member, Addison Moss, Museum Volunteer, Kassie Davis, Museum Volunteer, Barbara Martin, Liberty County Chamber of Commerce- Board Member, Karen Bell, Liberty County Chamber of Commerce Board Member

President's Corner



Greetings!

It's been some time since many of us have had the opportunity to get together and share a

story or a laugh, or for that matter, be in a room with folks other than your immediate family.

I wanted to take a moment to say that we at the National office are looking forward to getting back together soon. Even though businesses and states are opening their doors and working to get back to the new normal, we're not quite there yet as a country. People need time to deal with what has happened and what they feel is needed to move past the pandemic and recent events in our Nation. It's going to be different for everyone, and that's to be expected.

We know at the National office that now is not the time to be complacent, and the causes we support very rarely go away, so we are continuing to push forward the best we can. We have a lot of activity taking place regarding

the National ITPA organization, our members and leadership team—100-year anniversary Tree planting ceremonies, ITPA Museum ribbon cutting ceremonies, planning for next year's assembly, and taking care of the day-to-day items that keep the organization up and running.

I've received several requests to visit local chapters over the next few months and through the end of the year, and I'm so excited to have the opportunity to come visit the chapters and clubs and meet the extraordinary people who are out there making it happen in the communities and regions they live in. Keep the requests coming!

I encourage all the members to continue to be creative with their projects and strive to continue to make every difference you can as an individual and with your groups and volunteerism; more than ever you are needed and appreciated.

—Gregg Klatsky
President ITPA



Going Green!

Would you prefer to receive the *Pioneer Magazine* digitally? ITPA offers e-mail delivery of the *Pioneer* to anyone who elects to receive it. The Magazine will be delivered in PDF (Adobe) format three times annually. To take advantage of this option, e-mail itpa@telecom-pioneers.net with the subject line "Digital Pioneer Magazine Opt in."



Independent Telecommunications
Pioneer Association National Office

The Pioneer Magazine
The official publication of the
Independent Telecommunications
Pioneer Association

ITPA Officers

Gregg Klatsky, President
19 Yarmouth Dr.
New Gloucester, ME 04105
gklatsky@mountainltd.com

Daniel Barnhardt, 1st Vice President
2210 New Gray Rock Rd.
Fort Mill, SC 29708
Phone: (803)322-1401
daniel.barnhardt@comporium.com

Jo Myers, Secretary/Treasurer
438 W. Oglethorpe Hwy
Hinesville, GA 31313
Phone: (877) 320-ITPA
jdmye@yahoo.com

Becky Hollis, Assistant Secretary
8446 Augustwood Ln
Tallahassee, FL 32311
Phone: (850) 274-8048
labs4ne1@embarqmail.com

James White, Assistant Treasurer
PMB 176, 12620-3 Beach Blvd.
Jacksonville, FL 32246-7130
Phone: (904) 386-4556
Jlw650i@gmail.com

Hannah Lancaster, Immediate Past President
P.O. Box 301
Chesnee, SC 29323
hannahl@chesnet.net

ITPA Staff Office
Alissa Moss, Executive Director
438 West Oglethorpe Hwy
Hinesville, GA 31313
Phone: (912) 408-4872
Toll free: (877) 320-4872
Fax: (912) 408-4874
itpa@telecom-pioneers.net

Please send stories about your club or chapter to ITPA at the contact information above.

The Pioneer Magazine is developed by the ITPA Public Relations Committee and is published three times a year by the Independent Telecommunications Pioneer Association.

Museum Ribbon Cutting Ceremony...cont'd



Club Corner

Miracle Park

The Comporium Pioneers are collecting plastic bottle tops and lids to provide a bench for Miracle Park. Miracle Park is a project designed for people of ALL ages and abilities to play and work! It is located in Rock Hill, SC and will be the first of its kind in the US! Check it out at <https://www.miracleparkrockhill.com>

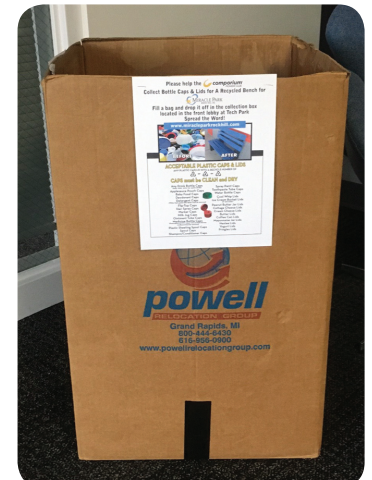
With 400 pounds of plastic caps/lids with the recycle numbers 2, 4 & 5 and \$200 we can provide a bench for the park. So far, we have collected and sorted and weighed 160 pounds toward our first bench. We still have a long way to go and so happy to help not only provide a few benches for Miracle Park but to keep 800 pounds of plastic out of our landfill. Two benches is our goal!



Carotel Club Member Appointed to ITPA Charitable Foundation

Carotel club member Darlene Terry has been appointed to a 2-year term on the Board of Directors for the National ITPA Charitable Foundation, effective immediately. Ronnie Cashwell, long-time Carotel member, is also a board member. The ITPA Charitable Foundation works in conjunction with the ITPA to support volunteer efforts of local phone companies on a national level. Since its beginning, the Charitable Foundation has supported a multitude of programs such as Ronald McDonald Children's Charities, Children's Shriners Hospitals, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, the American Red Cross, and the American Health Assistance Foundation. Through donations made by ITPA members, the Charitable Foundation donates annually to a program that supports our heroes injured in battle and to the Alzheimer's Association in hopes of one day finding a cure for this disease that affects more than 5 million Americans. The Charitable Foundation also provides emergency disaster relief grants to clubs, chapters, and companies to assist victims of natural disaster. Recently, the Foundation provided emergency disaster relief grants in North Carolina, South Carolina and Florida.

Source for above information: <https://www.nationalitpa.com/foundations>



Club Corner

Pioneers Helping Other Pioneers

When Daniel Barnhardt and his wife, Lu, decided to downsize their yarn stock pile, they chose to share it with someone who would put it to good use. After learning that Tanya Christ, Secretary and Treasurer of the Nearea Telecom Pioneer Club, Factoryville, PA., could use the yarn to make lap robes, and shawls for nursing home patients, they knew they found the perfect recipient.

Although Daniel and Lu are members of the Comporium Pioneer Club in Rock Hill, SC, their hearts led them to ship several yarn filled boxes to Tanya, so that she could continue to crochet beautiful lap robes and shawls that bring warmth and comfort to many nursing home patients.

The yarn sent by the Barnhardt Family was enough to make 30 lap robes, and some miscellaneous leftovers to make



“granny squares” for several additional lap robes.

We highlight club projects in our Pioneer Connection Newsletters, and Pioneer Magazines, many of our clubs/chapters have ongoing projects that you can support even if you are not a member. If your club is not active, but you still have the Pioneering spirit in your heart, consider reaching out to other clubs to see how you can assist them.

The Comporium Pioneer Club has a great project going on right now called “Miracle Park.” They are collecting plastic bottle tops and lids to provide a bench. Miracle Park is a project designed for people of all ages and abilities to play and work.

We all have bottle tops and lids that can be collected to help Comporium with their goal of collecting enough caps/lids to donate two benches to the Miracle Park project. More information about this project can be found on page 4.

If you are interested in collecting caps/lids to help with this project, please contact Alissa Moss at the ITPA National Office (itpa@telecom-pioneers.net) or Cindy Downing, Comporium Pioneer (cindy.downing@comporium.com) If your club/chapter has a project going on and you would like help from other Pioneers, send us an article and we will share the information with other Pioneers.

Buckeye State Chapter- Save the Date! October 29-31, 2021

Buckeye State Chapter Pioneers are hoping to host a Fall Get-Together at the Berlin Grande Hotel in Berlin, Ohio – in the heart of Ohio’s Amish country - the weekend of October 29-31, 2021. Of course, as with all events, activities will be based on COVID requirements and restrictions in place at that time.

Current plans are to “welcome” everyone on Friday evening. The chapter’s business meeting will be held on Saturday morning, followed by free time to explore the Holmes County/Tuscarawas County area, and then return for an evening meal buffet at The Berlin Farmstead located next door to the hotel and fellowship time afterward.

More information will be available after the chapter’s mid-July meeting.

Nearea Telecom Pioneer Club 50th Annual Banquet

October 2, 2021

1pm-3:30pm

The Inne of the Abingtons

239 Kennedy Creek Rd. North Abington Township, PA 18414

Cost is \$25.00 per person. Reservations and money must be in by September 15th. Check, made payable to NEAREA, should be forwarded to Tanya Christ at 147 Christ Lane, Factoryville, PA 18419.

Social time will start at 1pm. Buffet Dinner will start at 1:30pm.

There will be a “blind auction.” Each person attending is asked to bring a wrapped gift of at least \$3.00 value for the blind auction. There will also be a “Chinese auction.” Door prizes and give-away items will be available.

Should you have questions, please contact Tanya Christ at 570-945-5874.

Historical Foundation

Items needed for ITPA Telephone Museum



The ITPA has partnered with Telephone Collectors International to add additional display space for our Telephone Museum in Hinesville, Ga. We have started to fill the shelves, but we have taken items from other areas of the museum and we are still in need of items to help fill our museum. We accept donated items or you have the option to loan them to the museum. If you have shelf items that the museum could use, please contact Alissa Moss at the National Office by telephone at 912-408- 4872 or by email at itpa@telcom-pioneers.net.

The ITPA Historical Museum appreciates your continued support to help preserve our history. There are so many of you who have dedicated countless years to bring the telecommunication industry to what we have today.

Thank you for your service.

Ronnie Cashwell, Historical Foundation President



Charitable Foundation

ITPA National Charitable Foundation visits Hinesville

Four ITPA National Charitable Foundation members (Ronnie Cashwell, Nancy Schnitzer, Jo Myers, and Darlene Roll) participated in the ITPA museum ribbon-cutting reopening on June 2nd.

Prior to the ribbon-cutting ceremony, the National Charitable Foundation presented donations to three (3) organizations selected as this year's recipients, all three serve the Hinesville area. Even though there was no Spring Assembly this year, the Charitable Foundation members still wanted to make donations to the groups serving military and veterans, and for Alzheimer's Association Research. Chris O'Malley, President of Team Savannah for Veterans, accepted the \$1,000.00 donation, and shared their efforts to support veterans in the 4 county area that they help through peer support, manual labor, financial support, as well as providing essential items to limit stress in veterans' lives. The goal of the organization is to create an environment where local veterans, and members feel like part of a family.



Some of the projects they have helped with recently include helping to defray cost associated with a veteran's son that needed a kidney transplant, donated and installed wheel chair ramps, a new flag and pole for a WWII veteran, and provided a transmission for a car. The organization believes in doing what is best for veterans and work to achieve that. To learn more about them, their website is www.ts4r.com

The second \$1,000.00 presentation was to Survivor Outreach Services, located at Ft. Stewart Army Base in Hinesville. Selinda Torbert-Blue, Program Manager, accepted the donation. This is a government agency, and they are able to accept donations. Their focus is their outreach to parents and spouses of deceased service members, but their services are open to all surviving family members. The area of operation includes 40 counties in Georgia, and 2 counties in South Carolina. 657 family members in the 190 households are involved in their services. Donated dollars can be specified for use in the Hinesville area. The organization holds events at Ft. Stewart at the Club Stewart. Events include Gold Star Spouses Day, Dolphin Boat Cruise, Gold Star Mothers and Family Dinner (September), Lights of Love (September), Snowball Express (December), and a holiday party (December). All events are funded with donated funds.

Survivor Outreach Services regularly contacts the surviving families of deceased soldiers memorialized by trees at Warrior Walk on Ft. Stewart. Note- For the past several years, the ITPA Charitable Foundation has donated wreaths in December for the Wreaths for Warrior Walk Project. Survivor Outreach Services are the long terms support system for survivors. They reassure survivors they are continually linked to the Army Family for as long as they desire.

Our third \$1,000 donation goes to the Alzheimer's Association, specified for research. A local representative was unable to participate due to Covid restrictions. Research includes projects that advance understanding of the Alzheimer's disease, new treatment strategies, further knowledge of brain health and disease prevention, and improve care and support for people with dementia and their families.

We the board members of the ITPA National Charitable Foundation believe we have chosen three organizations which will help others. It is through donations by Pioneers that we can help make positive differences in others' lives. Thank you for your support.

—Charitable Foundation Board Members- Darlene Roll- President, Nancy Schnitzer- Secretary, Jo Myers- Treasurer, Ronnie Cashwell, Janet Goss, Darlene Terry, and James White.

ITPA
438 West Oglethorpe Hwy
Hinesville, GA 31313

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