

PHOENIX THUNDERBIRD CLUB

Arizona Chapter #66

* SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2019 NEWSLETTER *



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT/SENIOR VICE-PRESIDENT

Sadly, Arizona Pioneers lost a longtime, active member during the summer. **Helen Trobough** passed away June 23, 2019, in her new home-state of Oklahoma. Helen would have marked her 94th birthday in July. Helen's telephone company career spanned from working as an operator in Kansas to first level management and second level management positions in Phoenix and Denver, in Directory. She retired in the 1990s. Pioneers benefited from her dedication for over 35 years. Helen's Pioneer activities are innumerable. Helen served on the Phoenix Pioneer Boards in many various capacities, most recently as President of Phoenix Thunderbird Club for multiple years. For many years, Helen was the driving force of the Hug-A-Bears group – cutting, stitching, stuffing, and holding Hug-A-Bear workshops in her home. The "Cupcake Project" was an activity that Helen helped initiate and worked with for untold years. Helen will certainly be missed. Rest in peace. *Ellen E. Miller and Caron Personke*

VETERANS NEWS by Carole Spiess

I love Estate Sales! I recently found out they can be a great source for Christmas wrapping paper and supplies! At one Estate Sale, I found 3 rolls of wrapping paper and went to the man who was the cashier. I explained that I was a member of Pioneers and our group furnishes wrapping paper, bows, etc. to the American Legion Auxiliary who have an annual gift shop for veterans where the veterans may pick up gifts free of charge for their families. These veterans otherwise could not afford to have any gifts for their families. The cashier was really interested and just gave me the 3 rolls of wrapping paper.

At the next Estate Sale, I explained my story and got a whole box full of wrapping paper, gift bags, and bows for \$10.00. Then I went to another Estate Sale and purchases 4 brand new rolls of expensive paper, unopened, for just \$2.00! I found out this is a lot of fun! Consider shopping Estate Sales and Garage Sales for wrapping supplies – it helps the seller and it helps our veterans, and it's fun! Please bring Christmas wrapping supplies to any luncheon. *Thanks!*

8 Bicycles + 8 Chromebooks = 16 Thrilled Students



At the school assembly May 20, 2019, Phoenix

Thunderbird Club awarded 8 bicycles and 8 Chromebooks to students at Acacia Elementary School, 3021 W. Evans Drive, Phoenix, who have met certain reading achievements or math improvement goals. Seven Pioneers attended the presentation assembly. The programs are open to any and all Acacia students. Since this program was started by Phoenix

Thunderbird Club Pioneers in 2011, over 65 bicycles and numerous laptop computers have been awarded to students. Each bicycle is presented with a bike safety helmet and bicycle lock. Each Chromebook was presented with a protective sleeve and a mouse.

Students read grade appropriate books throughout the school year and take a test about each book read. Students who pass the tests are awarded points. When a student receives X-number of points, their name is put in a drawing for the bicycles. Students are tested on math skills at the beginning and end of the school year and the students' names with the highest points of improvement are put in a drawing for the laptops. The Principal draws the winning names and the excited winners skip, run, and hop up to the stage, while the Pioneers clap and yell **"Good job!"**.

Students with fewer points than the "leaders", but still with notable improvement, were also given awards varying from a bag of school supplies to a small robot, and each one also received a book to take home. The teachers with the highest performing classes were also given awards. All of these awards are made possible by Phoenix Thunderbird Club. GO TO www.aztelecompioneers.com to see photos.

"CARON'S CHALLENGE" Newsletters will feature "Caron's Challenge"

FILL OUR SCHOOL BUS!! Okay, it's only a cardboard box decorated to look like a school bus ... but we can fill it! It's **Back-to-School** time! Each year Phoenix Thunderbird Club members generously provide school supplies to help students at Acacia Elementary School in Phoenix, a school where over 96% of the students are in families at or below the poverty level. Please bring at least **one** item of school supplies to the September and October luncheons. Let's fill our school bus !

Over 600 spiral notebooks – that's how many were delivered by Pioneers to Acacia School on first day of school for the 2019-2020 session !

PIONEER WEBSITE – easy access to Pioneer information

<https://aztelecompioneers.org> Chapter 66 website

Phoenix Thunderbird Newsletter may be accessed directly on this site by entering <https://aztelecompioneers.org/thunderbird-club/>



Please notice the slight change to the website addresses. Previously just <http://> they are now <https://> The "s" is added as a "security" measure.



Be sure to add az66media@gmail.com to your email contacts list to ensure you receive emails and announcements from Chapter 66 and Phoenix Thunderbird Club by email.

Make a direct donation! Monetary donations may be made directly to Phoenix Thunderbird Club by making out a check to Phoenix Thunderbird Club, and mailing it Attn: Caron Personke, Pioneers Phoenix Thunderbird Club, P. O. Box 8078, Surprise, AZ 85374

Be sure to note your donation is specifically for Phoenix Thunderbird Club coffers. Keep in mind, your donations are tax-deductible within the legal parameters and a tax-deduction form will be provided to you if requested.

Support Chapter 66! Order from a wide selection of gourmet nuts, chocolates and sweets, snacks and mixes, and dried fruits through *TerryLynn Cares*. Thirty percent match of your order total goes to Chapter 66. Enroll in Fry's Community Rewards program – every time you shop Fry's, a percentage of your total purchase is given to Chapter 66. All information is on <https://aztelecompioneers.org> or ask any Board member.

LUNCHEON WINNERS:

MAY 2019:



Cash drawings (Each winner received \$20.):

Cecilia Andrade -and- Vikki Dahle -and- Lucy Durham

\$5.00 drawings (Each winner received \$5.00):

Harry Hensell -and- Karen Tillson

Free lunch: Ruth Buck

IN MEMORIAM

We send prayers for strength and comfort to the loved ones of those who have passed away.

BOB JOHNSON 04-26-19 at age 88

"Bob retired from the phone company, and then drove a school bus for 8 years."

CARALEE DEAN SHUMAN 10-17-31/03-23-19

"She and her husband Earl worked for the phone company for over 30 years"

EVERETT ALLISON HALL 04-30-31/04-05-19

"Everett retired from AT&T after 35 years of service."

CONSTANCE JUNE "CONNIE" UHL 03-19-31/05-23-19

"Connee had a successful career and retired March 1, 1990, as an engineer from the Mountain Bell/USWest Telephone Company. Once retired, Connee became very involved with the Telephone Pioneers. She volunteered at school and city libraries, she read to students, she helped with adopting needy families at Christmas time, she participated in back to school clothing drives and many other worthy causes." At one time, she was Secretary of Phoenix Thunderbird Club.

CHARLENE [STURGEON] SIMPSON 08-17-31/05-29-19

"Right after high school graduation she went to work for Mountain Bell. She was the first woman to work in the Plant Department. Charlene retired in 1985 after 34 years of service."

JOEL HAMMOND 05-22-19 Partner of Patricia, Payson AZ

HELEN IRENE TROBOUGH 07-24-25/06-23-19

MARGUERITE "Peggy" BRANDT 01-04-31/06-27-19 Partner of Doyle Brandt

"Volunteered with the Telephone Pioneers, a group devoted to helping the disabled and disadvantaged, especially those with hearing and visual impairments."

PATRICIA FEHR SWANSON 06-11-26/06-22-19 Sedona.

"She was hired by Bell Telephone Laboratories as a computer programmer in 1963. As a retiree of Bell Labs, she was a life-participant in, and supporter of Telephone Pioneers of America."

NORMA JEAN BETTI 06-27-45/07-25-19

"She worked as a Telephone Technician for AT&T until her retirement in 2012."

MICHAEL T. SLATER 09-03-51/07-17-19

"He worked 30+ years at US WEST, retiring in 2002."

RONALD "Ron" CASTILLO, SR 07-29-19

"Ron worked as a phone technician for almost 30 years when he retired in 2002."

JAMES EDWARD "Eddie" JONES 07-18-26/08-10-19

"He served in the US Navy during World War II and then built a career working for a telephone company for over 30 years."

FREDRICK C. "Fred" HOLZ 10-15-27/07-20-19 "Fred worked at the same Wisconsin Telephone Company (Mountain Bell) as his dad where he later met his future wife, Jane. His favorite story was how he was introduced to Jane by his dad. Moved to Arizona in 1957, and continued to work at the Telephone Company for 35 years, starting out as a lineman and eventually becoming an engineer."

CHESTER "Jim" ARTHUR WYKE 08-22-33/08-04-19 "Jim and Peggy moved to Arizona in 1959 and he began his career of 27 years with USWest as a telephone installer where he always enjoyed working and spending time with his co-workers."

COOKIE JAR FUNDRAISER – MAY 2019



THANKS TO EVERYONE !

Cookie Jar Silent Auction brought in a record **\$ 185.00!** Thanks to those who donated cookie jars, those who bid, and those who won!!

Cookie jars in the shapes of houses, Noah's Ark, and 2 platters of homemade peanut brittle were among the eight items that were up for bidding at the May luncheon silent auction. The cookie jars and goodies were provided by Phoenix Thunderbird Club members. The bidding was fierce, and final winning bids were placed by **Dorothy McShee, Audrey Gregory, Garnett McInnis, Lottie Novak** of Phoenix Thunderbird Club and **Mo Ryan, Jan Pitts, Patti Pace, and Sherry Daughtry**, the Pioneer visitors from Tucson. Be sure to watch for the 2020 cookie jar fundraiser coming again in May! GO TO www.aztelecompioneers.com see photos.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS !

Signed up through Family and Friends
Have you helped a new member sign up? Please do!

EXCEPTIONAL COLLECTOR'S ITEM !!



*** FUND RAISER ***

Drawing at December Luncheon

Winner does not need to be present.

Jim Beam 1928 French Telephone Decanter

Tickets go on sale starting at September 18 luncheon.

Can't attend luncheons? Contact Caron Personke at email: cp4tbird@gmail.com

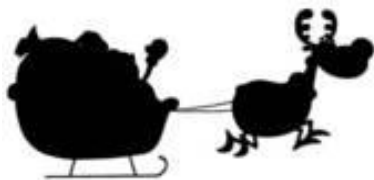
GO TO www.aztelecompioneers.com see photos.

2019 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS HONORED

OLIVIA GRACE DOW, Chapter 66 Scholarship winner, and AMANDA MARIE WIECE, Phoenix Thunderbird Club Robert M. DeBusk Scholarship recipient, and were honored at the May 22, 2019, luncheon at The Beatitudes. Neither recipient could attend the Pioneers luncheon so they were presented with their certificates of scholarship at lunches with Caron Personke, Scholarship Chair, and Ellen E. Miller. Amanda had her mother as guest, and Olivia had her grandmother **Pioneer Pat Rentmeester** as her guest. The Pioneer spirit of community service is very evident in the scholarship winners.

Olivia graduated high school on May 22, 2019, (the day of our May luncheon!) and began her journalism studies this Fall at ASU Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication, which is known as the best journalism school in America. Her acceptance into Barrett Honors College, an honors-based community of high-achievers at ASU, is a highly coveted honor. Her goal is to be a field reporter for National Geographic or Associated Press. Not only has Olivia maintained a GPA of 3.87, she volunteers weekly at the elementary and junior high school she attended by tutoring students, grading papers, and assisting the teachers in many various ways. She notes her volunteering is her way of saying "Thank You" to the school and teachers who helped shape her into the successful person she is today.

Having been on the Fast Track Program of Nursing at Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, **Amanda** will graduate in December 2019. She has maintained a 3.77 GPA, and remained on the Dean's List and President's List. Amanda started volunteering at a young age and has volunteered at an assisted living home, animal shelter, St. Mary's Food Bank, and through a national mother-daughter volunteer organization. Amanda currently volunteers at least 12 hours a week in Valley hospitals. Immediately after graduation, Amanda plans to volunteer abroad for a while on a medical mission trip where she "can volunteer her time and skills to help others who wouldn't be able to have this care and support without volunteers."



SANTA GOODWILL TOURS

For many years, Pioneers have traveled together to international destinations to volunteer in Santa outfits. Call 1-800-338-7673 or email info@incontra.com Dress like Santa! Spread cheer!

November 29 - December 03 Santa Domingo, Dominican Republic

December 05 - 10 Punta Arena, Chile

December 05 - 10 Nice, France

December 07 - 13 Easter Island and Santiago, Chile

42nd ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP NIGHT INCLUDES PIONEERS

Apache Junction High School

Sixty-three seniors out of the graduating Class of 2019 sat on the stage at Apache Junction High School auditorium, 2525 S. Ironwood Drive, Apache Junction, May 06, 2019, in anticipation of receiving scholarships. The students did not know which scholarships they were to be awarded – they just knew they were there to be presented with a scholarship to help with their post-secondary education. Many organizations (including Pioneers), colleges, and universities were there presenting scholarships. Telecom Pioneers Patti Pace, Chapter Treasurer, Louise Rebholz, Scholarship Chair, and Ellen E. Miller, Phoenix Thunderbird Club President attended.

When **Arizona Telecom Pioneer Madalyn Rollins** passed away, a portion of her monetary estate was designated by her husband to be an ongoing fund for \$1000 scholarships awarded to ten deserving seniors at Apache Junction High School. This year the students who benefited from the terms of her bequest are Nathaniel Candelas, Dominique Capps, Dylan Condra, Jessica Cruz, Riyanh Gale De Guzman, Natalie Erb, Samantha Groneberg, Tyler Knotts, Asadawut “Joey” Soh, and Kaylea Wilsoncroft. These seniors have been accepted by various colleges and universities including ASU, Grand Canyon University, NAU, and Central Arizona College, and will pursue a wide variety of studies this Fall, ranging from Aerospace Engineering to Nursing, Applied Biological Services to Business Administration.

Consider Pioneers in your estate planning !



- **OCTOBER 26, 2019 Saturday**
- **National Make a Difference Day**

This is one day set aside each year for Americans to focus on volunteering. Phoenix Thunderbird Club project this year is to write a card or letter to a deployed member of US Armed Forces. While in the comfort of your own home, just write a “Thinking of you” “Thank you for your service” note. Start with “Dear Deployed Troop”. Write your note, address the envelope to: **Deployed Troop, Operation Gratitude, 21100 Lassen Street, Chatsworth, CA 91311**. Operation Gratitude is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Do not put a date on your note. You do not need to include your address in the note – that’s up to you. The notes we send are put in “Care Packages” and sent to service members of all branches, in all corners of the world. The service men and women say that mail from home is a highlight of their day!

Keep it simple! Keep it light! Keep it supportive!

*** LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS ***

LUNCHEON: WEDNESDAY, **OCTOBER 16, 2019**

*Social hour 11:00 AM *Lunch 12:00 Noon

LOCATION: **GEORGE YANG'S CHINESE CUISINE** 6048 N. 16TH Street

DEADLINE to make reservations FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2019

MEMBER / LIFE MEMBER NAME: _____

PARTNER / GUEST NAME(S): _____

TOTAL NUMBER OF RESERVATIONS: _____ Each reservation is \$15.00

*Please make checks payable to: **Phoenix Thunderbird Club***

Mail to: Lottie Novak, 19043 N. 33rd Way, Phoenix, AZ 85050 or call (602) 569-9470

Cancellations must be made no later than 48 hours prior to the luncheon to be eligible for a refund.

Please send reservations check for October luncheon at the beginning of October



**** LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS ****

LUNCHEON: WEDNESDAY, **SEPTEMBER 18, 2019**

*Social hour 11:00 AM *Lunch 12:00 Noon

LOCATION: **RED DEVIL ITALIAN RESTAURANT AND PIZZERIA** 3004 E. Bell Road

DEADLINE to make reservations FRIDAY, September 13, 2019

MEMBER / LIFE MEMBER NAME: _____

PARTNER / GUEST NAME(S): _____

TOTAL NUMBER OF RESERVATIONS: _____ Each reservation is \$15.00

Please make checks payable to: Phoenix Thunderbird Club

Mail to: Lottie Novak, 19043 N. 33rd Way, Phoenix, AZ 85050 or call (602) 569-9470

Cancellations must be made no later than 48 hours prior to the luncheon to be eligible for a refund.

Please send reservations check for September luncheon at the beginning of September.