

PHOENIX THUNDERBIRD CLUB

Arizona Chapter #66

* NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER *



NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

Don't miss out on reading the Newsletter!

Members can enjoy reading the Phoenix Thunderbird Club Newsletter by receiving a hard-copy in the U.S. Mail and/or by email and/or by looking at it on the website. Phoenix Thunderbird Newsletter may be accessed directly on the site by entering

<http://aztelecompioneers.org/thunderbird-club/>

The Newsletter, published 5 times a year, contains Phoenix Thunderbird Club Pioneer news.

A subscription for the hard-copy Phoenix Thunderbird Club Newsletter, to be mailed to your door, is only **\$10.** for the 2021 subscription year (January / December 2021). This \$10. helps defray the costs of printing the Newsletter, buying envelopes, and postage.

You may choose to send your \$10. check in **November or in December 2020.**

Mail your check to Secretary/Treasurer Caron Personke, 13034 N. 100th Ave., Sun City 85351. **If you choose to send more than \$10** the additional money will be considered a donation to the Newsletter fund.

If you want to receive the Newsletter only by **email**, send your name, mailing address, telephone number, and email address in an email to eem4tbird@outlook.com.



Please include this information slip in the envelope with your check so we are able to verify that our Newsletter records are current. Thank you!

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Email: _____

In addition to COVID-19 still looming, Flu Season is also upon us! For vaccinations, apparently there are Standard doses and doses designed for those over 65 years



of age. The CDC and its Advisory Committees on Immunization Practices highly recommend getting vaccinated, whichever dose is chosen. This season's flu vaccines were updated to match viruses expected to be circulating in the United States. *Consider getting vaccinated!*

SANTA GOODWILL TOURS 35TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT



A special informal get-together is being held to celebrate the **35th anniversary** of Santa Goodwill Tours. The event is in Omaha, Nebraska December 3 – 6, 2020. Call 1-800-338-7673 for more information. Applications and hotel information may be found at www.Incontra.com

[Face coverings and social distancing are required for all who attend]

Hope Women's Center

Because of the pandemic, a Face-to-Face Chapter Meeting will not be held in January 2021. At the 2020 meeting, each club contributed items to be donated to non-profit Hope Women's Center. For over 36 years, this non-profit organization has provided a variety of helpful curriculum to vulnerable at-risk women and teen girls. Their programs are based on incentives and clients earn "points" for attending educational classes, life skill classes, meeting 1-on-1 mentoring or participating in support groups. Earned points may then be used to obtain items in the "center store" or the Boutique. There are 5 centers in Arizona which include Phoenix and West Valley. Perhaps donating items for the clients could even boost your holiday spirits during pandemic! Information at **hopewomenscenter.org**

HUG – A – BEARS

Throughout this time of COVID-19 curtailment of activities, the Hug-A-Bears Group has continued full speed ahead. They consistently contributed between 65% and 70% of the volunteer hours reported for May, June, July, and August for Phoenix Thunderbird Club. Of the 3476 volunteer hours reported for the summer months, 2471 were contributed by Hug-A-Bears group; 71% of those hours from *WANDA COTHRAN*, and 17% of the hours from *KAREN TILLSON*. Photos of some of the cute and cuddly Hug-A-Bears they've created may be seen on the Chapter 66 website, Thunderbird Event Photos. www.aztelecompioneers.org

NEIGHBOR MOVING = FABRIC DONATION

Mary, a neighbor of Senior VP *CARON PERSONKE*, was closing her upholstery business and moving to Portugal. Caron told Mary about our various Phoenix Thunderbird Club Pioneer projects using fabric. Mary was duly impressed and, after her final sales were concluded, she donated fabric to Pioneers. Over **160** yards of various types of material was distributed to various Pioneers for their charity sewing projects.

LOUISE RAY is making good use of the heavier fabrics by sewing Walker Tote Bags for Veterans and for Hospice of the Valley. These hands-free caddy bags attach neatly to walkers or scooters for carrying items. Louise also makes large bibs and Covid-19 face masks for use by Hospice of the Valley.

The busy Hug-A-Bear group is using their share of the fabric to continue their Hug-A-Bear projects. Hug-A-Bears group is also thankful to *CAROLE SPIESS* for donating a large supply from her collection of fabric. The group currently has over **500** Hug-A-Bears completed and ready to be distributed. There are over **1,050** ready to be stuffed and completed with final stitching. Distribution is on hold until the hospitals have passed the Covid-19 pandemic crisis.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD SUSPENDED

After much discussion, the Board has voted to suspend the awarding of a scholarship to a post-secondary student for the year 2021. The awarding of a college scholarship will be addressed again in 2021 to determine the future of the Club involvement in a scholarship program.



***THINKING OF ALL VETERANS ***

THANK YOU !!

*** VETERANS DAY AND EVERYDAY***

VETERANS DAY OBSERVED NOVEMBER 11

When COVID-19 first raced into our lives, the veterans at the Phoenix Community Living Center (Skilled Nursing) were moved to Tucson as the 104-bed facility in Phoenix was seen as a possible location for overflow Coronavirus patients. Fortunately, the facility was not needed and the residents have been moved back to their home base CLC. Very strict restrictions at CLC have proven exemplary as there have been zero Covid-19 cases! Although no visitors are allowed, the staff has held such entertaining activities as a pizza party and a birthday party on September 18, celebrating the creation of the Air Force in 1947.

At this time, the VA has no volunteers physically working at any medical care facilities. American Legion Auxiliary Veterans' Christmas Gift Shop, which has been a very successful partnership with our Club, has been cancelled this year. Perhaps sending a Gift Card to the VA Volunteer Office would be your chance to "volunteer" to help a veteran. There is a high demand and continuing need for \$25. Gift Cards from Fry's and Walmart, or a VISA Gift Card. Social services provide these gift cards to veterans who are struggling to meet basic needs. Donations may be sent to: Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center ATTN: Volunteer Office, Michael Achey, Chief of Volunteer Services, 650 E. Indian School Rd. Phoenix, AZ 85012-1839.

<p>SEND A CARD TO A VETERAN IN HOSPICE CARE</p>
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Volunteering during COVID-19 pandemic is quite a challenge. Perhaps you can find some way to help from home. Perhaps through "Veteran Last Patrol" - an organization that tends to veterans in hospice care. "Veteran Last Patrol" makes it possible for citizens to send a card or letter to these veterans who have become especially isolated in the pandemic. Send a card or letter, addressed Dear Veteran, in an envelope (with NO stamp), inside another envelope and mail to *Veteran Last Patrol, 140B Venture Blvd, Spartanburg, SC, 29306. Deadline is December 07, 2020.* Based in South Carolina, they send cards and letters all over the US.

Thank you Pioneers for your continued support of Saint Mary's Food Bank

From March 1 – 12, 2020, St. Mary's Food Bank had 3,500 inquiries to their "Get Help" page. From March 12 – 26, that number increased to 25,000 visitors. COVID-19 has had a very large impact on the area's population to maintain food security.

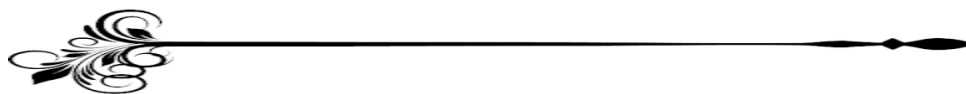
Many people lost their jobs and St. Mary's lost a lot as well. They lost much of the volunteer support and food drives when companies shut down during the pandemic. The inmate labor pool of 35 women was quarantined in March and dozens of partner agencies are closed. St. Mary's Food Bank also lost Phoenix Thunderbird Club donations which were collected each month at the luncheons.

Monetary or food items are gladly accepted by SMFB. They also have a few volunteer opportunities, which are governed by strict Covid-19 controls. For example, a limited number of volunteers are allowed to work restricted hours Monday through Saturday; they are observing "social distancing"; work areas are cleaned and sanitized several times a day; and volunteers are required to wear masks and gloves. Opportunities are available at the Surprise Warehouse (13050 W Elm St, Surprise (W. Bell Rd. and Dysart) and the Administrative Campus (3131 W. Thomas Rd. Phoenix) Contact St. Mary's Food Bank (602) 242-3663 for more information.

THANKS TO A GREAT SALE

A great sale of regulation size

basketballs and soccer balls was found and Phoenix Thunderbird Club was able to purchase **5** basketballs and **5** soccer balls to donate to Acacia Elementary School. Acacia has been using remote learning with plans to re-open for in-person classes October 19, 2020.



CORRECTION: In the September/October Newsletter, it was incorrectly stated that the grants were awarded by Legacy West. **The Pioneers Charitable Foundation Fund** awarded the grants. "This year, our Club was presented a grant by ~~Legacy West~~ The Pioneers Charitable Foundation Fund to purchase the prizes for the Acacia students who excelled in reading and math. After dealing with COVID-19 and all the other perils we have all faced this year, it is not known if ~~Legacy West~~ The Pioneers Charitable Foundation Fund will offer grants again.



Hickman's Wreaths – NO MINIMUM FOR FREE DELIVERY !

Mickman's Wreaths has announced that there is now **NO minimum purchase** amount for **free delivery**! Order one of the beautiful holiday wreaths, door sprays, or table decoration made with fresh Minnesota Balsam Fir, pine boughs, and cedar cuttings. You can even order a LIVE tree complete with decorations! With each evergreen gift, \$8 will be given to the AZ Chapter 66 Pioneers. Order for yourself! Order for friends and family and have it delivered directly to them. Information on website <http://aztelecompioneers.org> **IMPORTANT:** Be sure to enter Fundraising Code: LEGACYAZ002

WISHING EVERYONE A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY SEASON !



Thinking warmly of each of you and wishing you
and yours an extra measure of comfort, peace, and joy.

BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY AND HEALTHY 2021 !

Finally, we get to start over with a new year and can, hopefully, leave chaotic 2020 and its turbulence in the dust!



***No luncheon reservation forms attached
... No luncheons in November or December ...***

With the concerns of Coronavirus still hovering over America, it was decided by the Board to plan luncheons, at this time, for **MAY** and **DECEMBER 2021**. As we get further through the pandemic, we will know more about being able to schedule these luncheons. We will study needs of "social distancing", wearing of masks, and other precautions before any dates are firm. We all miss the wonderful visits with everyone! Our top priority is the safety and wellbeing of our members.

SPEAKING OF NOT HAVING LUNCHEONS ... Perhaps in lieu of sending \$20. for a luncheon ticket, you'd like to send \$20. as a donation to



Phoenix Thunderbird Club?! Thanks to those members who have sent donations to the club. Every donation is very much appreciated. Send donations to P.O. Box 8078 Surprise, AZ 85374



After many, many years of service to Pioneers, to Phoenix Thunderbird Club, **TOM NELSON** has announced his retirement from the Participation position on the Board. The Board members welcome anyone who would like to contribute some time to help. Participation involves monthly reporting of volunteer hours to Chapter. Anyone who has volunteer hours either emails Tom or calls him to give him their monthly total. He records the information and reports the total for the Club. For more information, contact Tom Nelson aznative1893@outlook.com or Ellen E. Miller eem4tbird@outlook.com

IN MEMORIAM

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

CARL DEAN SHANNON 09-12-30 / 08-23-20 "Carl retired from AT&T after a 37-year career."

ROBERT F. AVONDO 1939 / 2020 "After serving in the Army in Vietnam, Robert returned to New York where he was employed by AT&T. In the 1960s, he transferred to Phoenix to continue his career, and, after 40 years of service, retired in 2000."

If you are aware of any deaths or illnesses among our Pioneer family, please notify any Board Member. Thank you.

* PIONEER PERKS SITE *

Several coupons and special offers are available on the Pioneers Perks site. From car washes to Walgreens, from Circle K to Sherwin Williams, from Michaels to Barnes and Noble – a big variety of discounts are offered.

Go to <https://pioneers.perksconnection.com/>

You just create a username and password and you can start scrolling through the many offers.



GROCERY SHOPPING FOR THANKSGIVING?

BE SURE TO USE YOUR
Fry's Community Rewards Card

Thirty-one families in Arizona are enrolled in Fry's Community Rewards program for Pioneers. Every time they purchase groceries, Fry's donates a percentage to Pioneers. All you have to do is shop, Pioneers benefit! If you are not one of those 31 already signed up, please enroll today! Sign up is easy – in-person in the store or through this site:

<https://www.frysfood.com/topic/community/#/new-community-rewards-program>
ORGANIZATION NUMBER **SH877:**

Yes, I still have a landline...or, as I call it, my "Cell phone finder"