

PHOENIX THUNDERBIRD CLUB

Arizona Chapter #66

* JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER *



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT/SENIOR VICE-PRESIDENT

Thanks to the great turnout for the December 8th luncheon, Phoenix Thunderbird Club is back on track for monthly luncheons! It was wonderful to see everyone again – and greet some new faces. We hope everyone enjoyed themselves and are looking forward to our luncheons in the new year. Many volunteer opportunities are opening up after the strict Covid quarantine so please find a need for a helping hand and enjoy your time “Answering the Call of Those in Need” in 2022.

Laura Warren and Caron Personke

• **READ-TO-RIDE PROGRAM** is on!

Bicycles are being purchased and will be assembled for presentation to eight winners in the Spring, usually in May. Students in kindergarten to 6th grade may participate. Hopefully, Acacia School will be open to have visitors and Pioneers will be allowed to attend the awards assembly. That all depends on the status of Covid guidelines. Watch for updates as Spring gets close. It is very exciting and enjoyable to see the students who win bound up onto the stage to claim their prize.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY ACTIVITIES

Coming in 2022 are various “Relay for Life” and “Walks/Runs” as ACS activities. Whether you are a walker, a runner, or an event volunteer, you can help with various activities from Sun Cities to Gilbert, from Queen Creek to Prescott Valley “Quad Cities”. There are a variety of volunteer opportunities. Contact ACS for information: 1-800-227-2345.



HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY !!!



Watch for Scholarship Rules and Application Form for Pioneers Scholarships in March/April Newsletter.

Heads up - DEADLINE to submit is **MARCH 15, 2022 6:00 P.M.**

PHOENIX THUNDERBIRD CLUB - OFFICERS / COMMITTEE CHAIRS	January 2022
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President / Membership / Volunteer Hours:

	Laura Warren	(602) 574-0437	lmwaz@msn.com
Sr. Vice-President/ Secretary/Treasurer:	Caron Personke		cp4tbird@gmail.com
Hug-A-Bears	Caron Personke		cp4tbird@gmail.com
Fellowship:	Ellen E. Miller	(623) 546-9223	eem4tbird@outlook.com
[Get well, sympathy cards]			
Veterans Hospital:	Carole Spiess	(602) 242-1026	onmywayout.76@Q.com
Education	Caron Personke		cp4tbird@gmail.com
Luncheon Reservations:	Barbara Hernandez	(623) 326-0281	bar-jas@msn.com
Luncheon Reservations:	Laura Warren	(602) 574-0437	lmwaz@msn.com
Luncheon Locations:	Patty DeBusk	(602) 943-7773	padebusk@Q.com
Fund raising:	Cindy Krey	(602)672-1932	gjc1956@gmail.com
Treasures for Teachers	Dorothy McShee	(602) 276-7076	Mapatt02@ymail.com
Ronald McDonald House:	Dorothy McShee	(602) 276-7076	Mapatt02@ymail.com

----- PLEASE VOLUNTEER TO BE A BOARD MEMBER ! -----

Pioneers Chapter 66 website – access Board Member information, Phoenix Thunderbird Club Newsletter, discount offers, as well as general Chapter information. <http://aztelecompioneers.org>

***"EMERGENCY" UNDIES PROVIDED
TO***

ACACIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

School Administration was asked what our club could do to further help the students, in addition to our Back-To-School Supplies drive and the Read-to-Ride project. The Nurse's Office advised that sometimes the children still have "accidents" and are taken to the Nurse's Office for cleanup and change of underwear and shorts. A supply for the girls and boys would be a big bonus for the care and comfort of the children.

The balance of the Club's Matching Grant money amount for school supplies was used to purchase these items. **49 PAIRS** of panties and briefs and **14 PAIRS** of gym-type shorts were donated.

Acacia Nurse's Office staff noted buying undies and gym shorts may not be as fun as shopping for toys, but they were so appreciative and thankful that Phoenix Thunderbird Club would help them in this way.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR
2022!**

VETERANS CHRISTMAS GIFT SHOP

Because of continuing Covid precautions, the Veterans Gift Shop was held at American Legion Post No. 1 on December 6, 7, and 8, 2021, instead of at the VA Hospital. In coordination with American Legion Auxiliary, Pioneers were there to help. At least 90 veterans were able to select one gift for each family member and one for themselves, all free of charge.

Pioneers in the past have generously provided rolls of wrapping paper, packets of folded wrapping paper, bags of bows, and rolls and rolls of Scotch tape. Had Pioneers not been so benevolent with their donations, the wrapping items would have had to have been purchased which would have meant less money for purchasing the gifts. The supply of wrapping paper needs to be replenished! Please donate for the Veterans Gift Shop.

Mark your calendar for next year's Veterans Gift Shop **December 5, 6, and 7, 2022**. Call with any questions. Carole Spiess 602 -242-1026

LUNCHEON WINNERS: CASH DRAWING

DECEMBER 2021: Tom Nelson and Jerry Spiess

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

For several years Phoenix Thunderbird Club Pioneers have benefited the Veterans Christmas Gift Shop by donating wrapping supplies. The wrapping items we supply means the American Legion Auxiliary doesn't have to buy any so the money they raise goes totally towards purchasing gifts for veterans in need and their families. **Wrapping paper supply is getting low! Does wrapping paper go on sale after Christmas?! Are there good deals on wrapping paper available during the holiday season?!**

Challenge: Bring at least TWO rolls of wrapping paper - - one in each hand - - to the January luncheon! Packages of folded wrapping paper are also welcome.

Let's do this!

THANK YOU !!

*** T-SHIRTS FOR VETERANS ***

WOW! **SIXTY-FOUR** brand-new factory-packaged t-shirts for veterans were donated at the December luncheon by our generous Pioneers! Thank you so much for your warmhearted response to the T-shirt Drive. Arrangements are pending to deliver the packages of t-shirts to the Community Living Center on the VA Medical campus very soon.



Thanks to you all who have made monetary donations to PTC !

PENCIL PALS CHRISTMAS PARTY

Any Pioneer attending the Pencil Pals Christmas Party, December 15th, at Mountain View School was challenged to some games by their 3rd and 4th grade Pals. For example, one table played "Chutes and Ladders", one played "Go Fish" card game, and another table played "Candy Land". No winners were declared as snack time interrupted the competitions.

The students discussed why they enjoy writing and receiving letters each month. One 3rd grader noted he wants to be a policeman when he grows up and knows he has to be able to read a lot to be trained as an officer. He also wondered if writing letters might help him when he needs to write tickets and reports as a policeman. The children understand that their education is important for their future.

IN MEMORIAM

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

GEORGE JOSEPH REYNOLDS 02-15-39 / 10-13-21

"George started a career with Western Electric in 1961, retiring from upper management from then AT&T in 1989."

ROBERT WESLEY SUTHERLAND 89 years 10-18-21

"Robert had been active in Kiwanis, Telephone Pioneers, the American Legion and the Presbyterian church."

JOHN ZLATICH 03-16-25 / 10-30-21

"Following his service in the US Navy, he was hired by Illinois Bell, where he began his career as a central office technician, later advancing into a supervisory role, and eventually moving to Arizona while working for Mountain Bell/US West. He retired at the age of 60 and remained in Arizona, where he kept very active volunteering for Arizona Friends of Talking Books."

GERALD "Jerry" JOSEPH LITTLE 07-23-27 / 09-29-21

"After he was honorably discharged from the Navy he returned to Ebensburg, PA and went to work for Bell Telephone Company climbing telephone poles in the frigid winters of Pennsylvania. Wanting to leave the wintry weather, Jerry, wife Pat and their five children moved to sunny Arizona in 1970. He continued working for Mountain Bell until he retired in the early 1980s."

MARY KATHRYN SCHINN 12-24-21 / 08-25-21

After graduation from high school, Mary was employed at Northwestern Bell Telephone Company in Duluth as an operator and student instructor. Mary's Bell service was put on hold when she enlisted in military service. One of her WWII duties overseas was working in a room 75 feet underground as a teletype operator. When she returned home, Mary resumed her Bell employment. Mary retired from Bell Telephone after forty years of service. She was active in the Telephone Pioneers.

DONNA BELLE LAUER 12-09-36 / 11-24-21

Donna was employed by Mountain Bell and AT&T for 30 years in Phoenix, AZ and was a Telephone Operator Supervisor. She retired from AT&T. Donna was the sister-in-law of Pioneer Patricia "Patty" DeBusk.

PAUL M. DWYER 04-20-33 / 12-02-21

Paul was the husband of 68 years of Pioneer Patricia "Pat" Dwyer and brother-in-law to Pioneer Pearl Biedrzycki.

THOMAS H. FINNEGAN 06-17-39 / 11-18-21

"He retired from Western Electric (AT&T) and had a second career at America West Airlines."

ROBERT WILLIAM PEACH 08-08-32 / 11-08-21

"In 1969, the family moved to Scottsdale from Illinois, where Bob made his career with Qwest Communications as a phone engineer."

CONNIE CARR 11-2021 Reported as retired telecom employee - No information available.

JEFF ECKERT 10-2021 Reported as retired telecom employee - No information available.



JOIN THE BEAR MAKERS !

January 18, 2022 * 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Hug-A-Bears Group will have their first in-person workshop in at least 18 months!



January 18, 2022, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Join in the activities! There's cutting to be done, sewing to be done, stuffing to be done and chatting to be done! You can also work on the building of bears process in your own home.

Contact Caron Personke for information, 602-670-1743

Maybe pick up some volunteer ideas at the QUILT CRAFT SEW FESTIVAL January 27 – 29, 2022, State Fair Grounds.



Do you know of a CHILD in need of a WHEELCHAIR ?

Legacy West Group received a sizeable donation to be used, through grants, to purchase wheelchairs for children in need. Perhaps a family lacks sufficient insurance and/or funds to buy a wheelchair. Many hospitals, including Phoenix Children's Hospital and County Hospital, do not accept donations. If you are aware of a child – maybe through your church or other community contacts - who needs a new wheelchair, please contact Laura Warren or Ellen Miller. Our Club will be able to submit an application for some of the grant money.

* By vote of the diners at the December 2021 luncheon,
monthly luncheons will continue.

(Club is dark June, July, and August)

Inflation is running amok, but intentions are to keep the ticket price at \$20.

Best Wishes for a Happy and Healthy 2022 !

**** **LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS** ****

LUNCHEON: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2022

*Social time 11:30 AM *Lunch 12:00 Noon

LOCATION: ***MANDARAN SUPER BUFFET*** 1501 W. Bethany Home Rd. Phoenix

MENU: Multiple varieties of buffets

DEADLINE to make reservations FRIDAY, February 11, 2022

MEMBER / LIFE MEMBER NAME: _____

SPOUSE / GUEST NAME(S): _____

TOTAL NUMBER OF RESERVATIONS: _____ Each reservation is **\$20.00**

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

Mail Reservation form and Check to: Barbara Hernandez 6101 W. Desert Cove Ave.
Glendale, AZ 85304 **Telephone Reservations** may be made by calling: Laura Warren
(602) 574-0437 or Barbara Hernandez (623) 326-0281

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

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



**** **LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS** ****

LUNCHEON: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2022

*Social time 11:30 AM *Lunch 12:00 Noon **Please note 11:30 AM Social Time start time**

LOCATION: ***TOP SHELF MEXICAN*** 3301 W. GREENWAY RD. Phoenix.

MENU: Selection of general Mexican food *i.e.* tostada, enchilada, taco

DEADLINE to make reservations FRIDAY, January 10, 2022

MEMBER / LIFE MEMBER NAME: _____

SPOUSE / GUEST NAME(S): _____

TOTAL NUMBER OF RESERVATIONS: _____ Each reservation is **\$20.00**

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

Mail Reservation form and Check to: Barbara Hernandez 6101 W. Desert Cove Ave.
Glendale, AZ 85304 **Telephone Reservations** may be made by calling: Laura Warren
(602) 574-0437 or Barbara Hernandez (623) 326-0281

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

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