

Fort Pitt Chapter
Pittsburgh, PA
Spring Tele-All

Volume II, Issue 39

#### A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT

Hello Everyone and Happy Spring! I feel safe saying that after many months of freezing cold; hopefully that is all behind us and we have some warmer weather ahead. Despite the winter, we accomplished many projects over the past 6 months and you can read about our various activities inside this issue of the Tele-All.

Last year our volunteer hours totaled 46,245 hours increasing our community service hours from 2015 by 11,970 hours! Incredible projects and incredible efforts on the part of our dedicated volunteers who devote their time and energy to those less fortunate and agencies in need. We had a very successful year as we performed historic AND new projects. A very special "Thank You" to the Fort Pitt Chapter Board Members and our volunteers for all of the hard work and long hours it takes to fulfill these projects. I also want to extend a heartfelt thank you to our devoted office staff, Marlene Yurochko and Dorothy Szykowny. I don't know what we would do without your support, managing all that you tirelessly do at the Pioneer Office. You certainly keep me on track! Take some time to read about all of our projects and think about joining in if there is something that grabs your interest. All of the coordinators are listed inside and if you have an idea for a new project, we are always open for suggestions. Have a wonderful summer and if you travel in the coming month, please travel well and stay safe.

Gerry McLaughlin Chapter President, April 2017

Pioneers 2017 – Our Mission Pioneers is a network of volunteers who effect immediate, tangible change in local communities.

Ow Vision 2017 To be recognized as a world-class leader in volunteerism. To continue to be respected and valued by our members, our strategic partners, the global community and our industry. To continue to be committed to the diversity and personal growth of our members, the success of our strategic partners and to continue to improve the quality of life in our communities.

### **OCTOBER 2016 WINNINGS**

#### NOON LOTTERY DRAWING

#### **EVENING LOTTERY DRAWING**

1	No Winner		1
2	Jeffrey Haney	100.00	2
3	No Winner		3
4	Arlene Santillo	50.00	4
5	Matte England	50.00	5
6	James Shealey	50.00	6
7	Phyllis Ahrens	50.00	7
8	Jim Long	100.00	8
9	Rebecca Farabaugh	100.00	9
10	Pat Dettore	50.00	1
11	Joyce Job	50.00	1
12	Yvonne Klick	50.00	1
13	Joe Dougherty	50.00	1
14	No Winner		1
15	Lydia Youler	100.00	1
16	Joe Spieker	100.00	1
17	Donna Rhodes	50.00	1
18	Rick Felton	50.00	1
19	Jeffrey Haney	50.00	1
20	Robert Lowe	50.00	2
21	Pat Damer	50.00	2
22	Dave Richards	100.00	2
23	Dolores Strube	100.00	2
24	Grace Fike	50.00	2
25	Barb lovis	50.00	2
26	Tracey Eadie	50.00	2
27	Roman Solomond	50.00	2
28	Ernie Monaco	50.00	2
29	Barbara Samber	100.00	2
30	Barb Manning	100.00	3
31	Sophia Berdar	500.00	3

1	N.A. area Januar	100.00
1	Marge Jaurt	100.00
2	Gary Grey	100.00
3	Amanda McFadden	50.00
4	Bennie Turner	50.00
5	Sharon Helminiak	50.00
6	Jim Conners	50.00
7	Phil Gallagher	50.00
8	William Scranton	100.00
9	Chris Morris	100.00
10	No Winner	
11	Yvonne Mangan	50.00
12	Neil R Yates	50.00
13	Pete Bills	50.00
14	Miriam Clymer	50.00
15	Judy Casile	100.00
16	William Scanton	100.00
17	Hannah Ritch	50.00
18	J. Ronald Heasley	50.00
19	Carol Felmlee	50.00
20	Noelle Smith	50.00
21	Cel Scott	50.00
22	Marsha Brady	100.00
23	Kelly Scott	100.00
24	Mary Jo Palaisa	50.00
25	Jim Marnell	50.00
26	James Sadler	50.00
27	Robert Lowe	50.00
28	Roman Solomond	50.00
29	Chris Ulmer	100.00
30	Lucille Bauer	100.00
31	Sarah Martin	500.00

#### **JANUARY 2017 WINNINGS**

#### NOON LOTTERY DRAWING

#### **EVENING LOTTERY DRAWING**

1	Lois Cooper	500.00
2	Mark Garrity	50.00
3	Tracy Eadie	50.00
4	Mickey Cerchiaro	50.00
5	Bob Brown	50.00
6	Terry Yaworski	50.00
7	Mary C. Kawalkin	100.00
8	Robert Wisniewski	100.00
9	Maxine Kelley	50.00
10	Ann Nieser	50.00
11	Esther Dietrick	50.00
12	Mary Sue Caldwell	50.00
13	Sharon Buccella	50.00
14	Bonnie Adams	100.00
15	Ruby Holloman	100.00
16	Rosemarie Rogers	150.00
17	Ruth Rubino	50.00
18	Roberta Valentich	50.00
19	Joyce John	50.00
20	Kathy Tylka	50.00
21	Herbert Brown	100.00
22	Marianne Anzovino	100.00
23	Diane Sobon	50.00
24	Chris Solomond	50.00
25	Dutch Chelli	50.00
26	Debbie Krapf	50.00
27	Dorothy C. Johnston	50.00
28	Josh Kupchella	100.00
29	Jan Hansen	100.00
30	Mable Williams	50.00
31	Joseph A. Valenti	50.00

1	Donna Lamanna	500.00
2	Denny Howarth	50.00
3	Helen Tamburro	50.00
4	Kathleen Davison	50.00
5	Pat Karwoski	50.00
6	Lois Cooper	50.00
7	Zack Zummo	100.00
8	Chewy Little	100.00
9	Mary Zalewski	50.00
10	Gloria Secchi	50.00
11	Alice Schneider	50.00
12	C. (Radar) lewis	50.00
13	Lois Cooper	50.00
14	Kathy Hartman	100.00
15	Donna Evans	100.00
16	George Karg Jr.	150.00
17	Bob Brown	50.00
18	Sharon Buccella	50.00
19	Judy Biedzinski	50.00
20	Teri Snyder	50.00
21	Rich Eadie	100.00
22	Andrew Price	100.00
23	Andrea Zummo	50.00
24	Geraldine DeMeo	50.00
25	Sophia Berdar	50.00
26	Yvonne Mangan	50.00
27	Zack Zummo	50.00
28	Phil Jones	100.00
29	Ava Kilgore	100.00
30	Janet Wiegand	50.00
31	Ava Kilgore	50.00



Carol Ambler Flora B. Baker Robert T. Bebout Leah B. Best Clarence J. Betzler Florence E. Boring Ruth M. Borkowski Rita M. Burns Richard H. Butler Ross M. Carson Jr. **Shirley Cousins** Josephine L. Crowe Charles R. Cummings John V. Cusick Dorothy Czak David M. Daily William F. Dankmyer Richard A. Druzak Barbara Garrett Mary Lou Geraci Catherine S. Germ Hope L. Gettemy Joan W. Gloor Robert M. Grainger Grace S. Habay James L. Hall Jr. Donald R. Hamilton Oda M. Hom Evelyn M. Kaney

Belle Vernon Verona Washington W. Mifflin Pittsburgh Greensburg Homestead Pittsburgh Punxsutawney Charleroi Youngwood Washington Florida West Newton Pittsburgh Pittsburgh Monroeville Glenshaw **DuBois** Saxonburg Pittsburgh Harrison City Manheim Ohio Coraopolis Greensburg Monroeville Washington McKees Rocks

William W. Kottner, Sr. Anna M. Lardin Edward J. Leisman Arthur J. Londino Nancy L. Long Thomas C. Mazik C. E. McPoland Robert C. Miller Ronald W. Miller Don W. Muir Russell C. Peckman Robert C. Reed Leonard W. Rodgers Etheletta H. Ruoff Rosemarie P. Ruta Dorothy R. Sabatose Geraldine M. Sandacz Paul W. Sanders James W. Sinclair Sally Small Dolores L. Staley Ruth L. Steffy James L. Swart **Evelyn Turner** Lawrence A. Wallace Dorothy K. Weaver Edward Wigman Victor V. Zang William P. Connor

Washington Tarentum Canonburg Pittsburgh Greensburg Brookville Monroeville Indiana Latrobe Blairsville Elizabeth Pittsburgh Pittsburgh Latrobe **McKeesport DuBois** Latrobe Washington Claysville Latrobe Allison Park Indiana Washington Pittsburgh Pittsburgh Altoona **Prosperity** Pittsburgh Nevada

#### In Memoriam - Barb Cassidy



In memory of our dear friend and fellow Pioneer, Barb Cassidy, the Stephen Foster Council again this year provided Christmas for a family though Project Star with age appropriate gifts and gift cards for food. Thanks to Dianne Madden who did the shopping his year for us and hopefully will continue in the future, Barb had been doing this task for at least 30 years. Sadly, she passed away March 29th, 2016. Barb was the finest example of a Pioneer. She was kind and always willing to do what needed done. She did all the shopping for the children always getting them what they requested from Santa Claus. This wasn't an easy task since she had so many health issues. Barb never complained and enjoyed making the children happy at Christmas. Barb's wonderful friend,

Mary Ann Rittmeyer, accompanied her on these shopping sprees. Thanks to all the donations from fellow Pioneers and Fort Pitt Chapter hopefully, we can continue this project in her memory for many years to come.

Mary Palfy & Sis Arendas

We strive to keep our membership list up to date, so if you become aware of another Pioneers passing, please notify the office with a copy of the obituary.

Thank You!





This year, Fort Pitt Pioneers hosted the 38 Year Anniversary of the Easter Egg Hunt at the Western Pennsylvania School for the Blind in Oakland. It was held on April 10 and as always, it was a big success with over 100 students attending. We had 20 volunteers assisting the children and filling their Easter baskets along with the Pitt Panther cheerleading squad, our own Easter Bunny, the Pitt Panther, and the mascot from WPSB helping too. The Pittsburgh Police Department Bomb Squad assisted us this year by providing brightly flashing Easter Eggs for the sighted students to find.

The event was well organized with the volunteers and teachers helping the children to go in search of the beeping or flashing eggs. Once located, the children were able to trade in their 'found' eggs for Easter baskets filled with treats, stuffed animals and toys especially selected by our coordinator, Sis Arendas. Sis sends along her 'Thanks' to all of the volunteers and staff who were on hand to help. Everyone is welcome to volunteer for this yearly event!



# SOCK DRIVE



ANNUAL HOSPITALIZED VETERANS

Sharing & Caring BOAT RIDE (September 5 thru 8, 2017)

We need white crew socks for our Veterans boat ride. Please collect them at your parties, outings, luncheons and shopping sprees. Lynne Price is coordinating the collection and she can be contacted at 412-795-3767 to coordinate a pick up or drop off. Thanks for your participation!

Deadline for the Sock Drive is August 21, 2017

#### BIRTHDAY BAGS FOR GREATER PITTSBURGH FOOD BANK



Last Fall, Mary Palfy and Pat Szypher presented bags to the agency, overflowing with items for a birthday party including a cake mix, icing, candles, balloons, etc. The Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank was very happy to receive these Birthday Goodie Bags!!



#### Campbell's Labels for EDUCATION



## PROJECT HAS ENDED!!

Late last year, one of our dedicated Pioneers reported that the Campbell's Labels for Education project with Campbell's products was ending. Upon confirmation with their website, we are no longer collecting the Campbell's soup labels or any products with the Campbell's Labels for Education logo.

Many thanks to those of you who faithfully collected the labels for years and years!

Be sure to visit our website for current news:

www.newvision-fortpittpioneers.org

We are now on Facebook and can be found at:

www.facebook.com/FTPITTPIONEERS



## HOLIDAY FELLOWSHIP

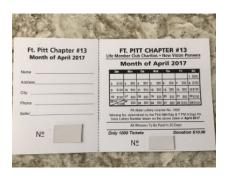


On Tuesday, December 6, 2016, members and friends of Fort Pitt's Gateway Club gathered for a beautiful holiday luncheon at South Hills Country Club in Whitehall. After a delicious luncheon and door prizes, terrific entertainment was provided by Hermie Granati playing piano and singing songs. The

next holiday lunch is **December 5** so **SAVE THE DATE** and look for a flyer in your next issue. We would love to have you join in the festivities and fellowship!

## Quarterly Chapter Lottery Calendar

Each year in January, April, July and October, Fort Pitt conducts our major fund raising event in the form of a lottery calendar. This is our best fund raiser for the Chapter, but it requires much effort to sell 1,000 chances, four times a year. In this issue, as you have seen in past issues, you will see the list of the winners of previous lottery with prizes ranging between \$50 and \$500.



You can help by purchasing a ticket for \$10.00. The July lottery will be our next ticket. We can also put your name on our mailing list to automatically receive your ticket(s) from Marlene & Dorothy at the Pioneer Office. Please call Gerry McLaughlin at 412-823-7777 to purchase a ticket or to be put on the mailing list.

All winners are paid within 30 days of the drawing date.



#### **BOX TOP\$ for EDUCATION**

Help us help the schools by cutting UPC's from the products mentioned below! They are only requiring that you cut the "official coupon" for jBox Top\$ from any of the products below:

#### Baking & Bakeware:

- Annie's® Baking Mixes
- Fiber One™ Mixes
- Reynolds® Products

#### Cereal:

- Annie's®
- Batman™ Chocolate Strawberry
- Basic 4<sup>™</sup>
- Cascadian Farm™
- Cascadian Farm™ Farm Stand Harvest Granola
- Cheerios™
- Chex™
- Cinnamon Toast Crunch™
- Cocoa Puffs™
- Cookie Crisp™
- Fiber One™
- French Toast Crunch™
- Girl Scouts Thin Mint® Cereal
- Girl Scouts Caramel Crunch® Cereal
- Golden Grahams™
- Kix™
- Lucky Charms™
- Nature Valley<sup>™</sup> Oat Cereals
- Nature Valley™ Protein Crunchy Granola
- Oatmeal Crisp™
- Raisin Nut Bran
- Reese's Puffs®
- Star Wars cereal (© & ™ 2015 Lucasfilm Ltd.)
- Superman™ Caramel Crunch
- Tiny Toast™
- Total™
- Trix™
- Wheaties™

#### **Household Cleaning:**

- Finish® Dishwashing Detergent
- Lysol® Bathroom Cleaners
- Lysol® Disinfectant Spray & Wipes

#### Food Storage:

• Ziploc® Products

#### Tableware:

- Hefty® Products
- Kleenex® Dinner Napkins (50 ct.)

#### Meals & Sides:

- Annie's® Products
- Betty Crocker<sup>™</sup> Products
- Green Giant™ Products
- Hamburger Helper™ select flavors
- Old El Paso™ Products
- Progresso™ Soup
- Progresso™ Broths

#### Refrigerated & Dairy:

- Land O'Lakes® Products

- Annie's® Products
- Go-Gurt® Multipacks
- Yoplait® Original and Yoplait® Light Fridge Packs

#### School & Office Supplies:

- Boise POLARIS® Premium Paper
- Boise® FIREWORX® Premium Colored Paper

#### **Paper Products:**

- Select Kleenex® Tissue bundles
- Scott® Bath Tissue
- Scott® Paper Towels

#### Frozen:

- Annie's® Frozen Snacks
- Green Giant™ Vegetables
- Totino's™ Party Pizza®

#### Produce:

- Green Giant™ Fresh Herbs
- Green Giant™ Fresh Vegetables

#### Snacks & Juices:

- Annie's® Products
- Betty Crocker™ Fruit Flavored Snacks
- Bugles™
- Cascadian Farm™ Granola Bars
- Chex Mix™
- Fiber One™ Bars, Brownies, Cookies
- LARABAR™ (multipacks)
- Mott's® Products
- Nature Valley™ Products

#### Waste Bags:

• Hefty® Products

You can send the Box Top\$ in the **US Mail** to:

Gerry McLaughlin

216 Ohio St.

Monroeville, Pa. 15146

MANY THANKS TO THOSE OF YOU ALREADY SENDING THE UPC's & BOX TOP\$!



# Valentine's Day Project - 9th Annual "Hugs From Nan" at the Inter Community Cancer Center in Monroeville

For the ninth straight year, Pioneers hosted a Valentine's Day Project at the Inter Community Cancer Center in Monroeville by honoring 40 patients undergoing radiation treatment with an over-stuffed gift bag. This year we partnered with Coldwell Banker Real Estate Services Select Realty to sponsor the bags. Gerry McLaughlin's daughter Lauren Klein from Coldwell Banker Real Estate Services, organized the event, shopped for the products and prepared the beautiful bags in honor of her Grandmother, Gerry DeMeo, who won her battle with breast cancer nine years ago.

Eat N' Park provided a discount to purchase heart shaped cookies for the bag, which also included Valentine merchandise of socks, mugs, note pads, ornaments, nail file, hand sanitizer, lotion, bath gel, pens, lip balm, mints, stuffed animal, protein bars, and a heart shaped box of chocolates. All of the patients were very grateful for the extra attention they received during their doctor visits and treatments on Valentine's Day!

#### Your 2017 Fort Pitt Chapter #13 Board Members:

 President
 Gerry McLaughlin
 Past President
 Marilyn Stevens

**Secretary** Mary Palfy **Treasurer** Marlene Yurochko

*MAL-1 year* Donna Gallagher *MAL-2 years* Bonnie Adams

Lynne Price Don McIlrath

*Sr Representative* Phil Gallagher

**Club Presidents:** 

Allegheny Esther Dietrick Evergreen Vacant

**Frontier** Kim Easton **Gateway** Marlene Yurochko

Bradford Carol Felmlee DuBois Nancy Williams

Warren Casey Jones Meadville Yvonne Klick

National Trail Pat O'Brien Stephen Foster Mary Palfy

#### **NEW** Greeting Cards Project

When we pack the duffel bags for the Sharing & Caring Boat Ride, one of the items that we include for the veterans are a couple of 'all-occasion' greeting cards for their personal use. Many organizations are now sending new greeting cards in the mail as a solicitation for their fund raiser and we would like to collect them from those of you who choose not to use those cards. We typically run out of the cards pretty quickly because around 500 or so bags are packed, so any donation of <u>unused</u> greeting cards and their envelopes are appreciated! You can send to:

Gerry McLaughlin 216 Ohio Street Monroeville, PA 15146

...and we will be sure to include them in the Sharing & Caring duffel bags! Thank You!

# Support for our Retired and Hospitalized Armed Services Men and Women



Our retired service members are provided assistance through Southwestern Veterans Center which is a residential care facility for over 200 patients. The men and women there are treated with an occasional bingo where we sponsor the prizes, and provide refreshments for the residents. We also support their monthly birthday celebrations with a giant sheet cake that serves about 80 of the residents.

Also, Sharing & Caring sponsors a bingo at Southwestern Veterans Center monthly on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 2:00 PM. Please come along to help serve if you are free, you will have a wonderful time interacting with the men and women there and come away with a smile on your face!



#### kidsHELP .....at the Animal Rescue League



We are now donating dog and cat food to the Animal Rescue League every other month. The kids helped this past year by delivering the food and visiting with the pets. These food donations allow pets, who may be abandoned at the shelter, to stay in their homes with their owners.

We will once again be selling Koeze Nuts during the 2017 Holiday Season.

If you are interested in ordering, please call Marlene at the Pioneer Office for a price sheet.

412-237-3206 or 412-237-3208



#### **Homeless Shelter Report**

In November, a group of Pioneers and friends and family members joined together with Will King from Operation Safety Net to pack over 400 breakfast bags for use by OSN at the overnight night shelter on Smithfield Street in Pittsburgh. Will explained to us that the Severe Weather Emergency Shelter is now open consistently November through March. They house men at one shelter and women and women with children at another location providing them with a hot meal and keeping them warm and dry overnight. A grant



from the Dodd's Fund helped to support this project. We also continue to pack the toiletry kits for OSN, Jubilee Kitchen and Operation Save a Life and have recently added Family Links who provides programs to youth ages 16-21 who are homeless or aging-out of the foster care system.

A donation was made to, Light of Life Rescue Mission on the Northside to help with their programs.

In addition, Nancy Stonis continues to knit hat & glove sets that we distribute to the agencies. This is the 16<sup>th</sup> year that Nancy has been providing these cozy handmade items for the homeless. Over 3,100 homeless folks have benefited from her handiwork. We all appreciate her time and efforts to help those less fortunate.



# ALL DAY RIDE

REGULAR TICKETS: \$ 28.00 (for adults & children over 2)

SENIOR TICKETS: \$ 23.00 (for adults 55+)

(tickets are \$45.00 at the gate!)

#### Send a stamped self-addressed envelope with your order

Tickets will be available at the end of May and on sale until September or until our supply lasts

#### \* ONLY 100 Kennywood Tickets available at this price\*

Any questions, call: 412-237-3206 or 412-237-3208

Make your check payable to:	TP-Fort Pitt Chapter
	Mail request to:
# Regular tickets @ \$ 28.00 each	TP-Fort Pitt Chapter, c/o Kennywood Tickets
# Senior tickets @ \$ 23.00 each	15 E. Montgomery Avenue(1 flr), Pittsburgh, PA 15212
Name:	Address:
Phone:	Total Enclosed:





About 65 new, handmade lap robes were recently donated to Fort Pitt. We delivered them to the men and women residents at the Vincentian DeMarillac Nursing Home in Pittsburgh and also Barco Oncology Center in Meadville.



Have a 'smart phone'....well then here is an APP for you!

Pioneers proudly announced their FREE New Vision Group APP. It is available for download to your Android or Apple smartphones. Simply go to the APP store on your phone and search for New Vision Pioneers. Download and open the APP to have easy access to Fort Pitt Chapter #13 Pioneer stories, offers and other important information. Check it out!





For the past four years we have been doing a project with Hillcrest PreSchool for their educational needs for the 3 and 4 year old students they serve. The teachers there are very creative with their teaching methods and this year they requested Toddler Play Capes, heavy duty construction paper, paints and wipe/ off lap boards, spending only \$200. The director and teachers there are very appreciative.

#### Financial Update – End of-year, 2016

Many thanks to those of you who took the time to read and respond to the articles that were in the two issues of the Tele-All last year regarding our finances. Just to remind you, we are no longer supported by a grant from Verizon to continue volunteer activities and out of about 3,900 Fort Pitt members, only 173 are active employees paying dues (\$20 a year) of which we receive a portion. Also, as employees retire, and there are no more dues collected, even less is received. In 2016, we lost the dues of 49 employees.

From the request in the two articles, there were 66 donations received for a total of \$3,780 which has gone a long way in supporting the many projects our Clubs planned last year and also in support of the printing and mailing of the Tele-All. Our donations were up about \$1,200 from 2015 so I know our members are reading about our projects and choosing to support them! As we enter a new year, we are back at square one with our fund raising (mainly lottery & Kennywood tickets) and reaching out to our members asking for help so that we can continue on with the projects that you will read about in our newsletters. You can see the scope of the projects we perform and hopefully appreciate all of the good work that we carry on for the good of our local communities and to carry on the reputation of "Pioneers - Answering the call of those in need."

You can help us now by making a donation in support of our projects, and the Tele-All printing and distribution Even \$10 goes a long way when many donations are received!

Our goal is to demonstrate our commitment to community service opportunities for children, adults, seniors and veterans in areas of education, health and human services, and life enrichment projects. You have been reading about these projects in the Tele-All for years as the Clubs faithfully perform them. Please help us to continue to help these organizations!

Thank You Very Much! Gerry McLaughlin, President

Donation \$	Mail to:	
Check Payable to: TP-Fort Pitt Chapter	Pioneer Office-Fort Pitt Chapter	
	15 E. Montgomery Avenue, 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor	
Do you need a receipt?	Pittsburgh, PA 15212	

#### **CLUB PRESIDENT & COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Allegheny Club:** Allegheny's projects this year include the Little Sisters of the Poor with the bingos at Kane Hospital continuing through the activities coordinator there. We have also added support for the Springdale/Cheswick Food Bank this year. Still selling lottery tickets for the Chapter and collecting tabs, cards and toiletries for the homeless and bingo at Kane. Visiting shut-ins and shopping for them also and taking them where they need to go.

**Frontier Club:** The Frontier Club projects include Big Brothers/Big Sisters Bowl-A-Thon in New Castle, Tri-County Cleanways and The Conservation District in Lawrence County. Kim is also our coordinator for our Lottery License with the State of Pennsylvania and provides the sort on membership names for the mailing list with Pittsburgh Mailing.

**Gateway Club**: Gateway Christmas Luncheon was held Tuesday, December 6 at South Hills Country Club with about 30 in attendance. The food was fantastic as usual and the entertainment was fun. The next holiday luncheon will be Tuesday December 5 so "save the date". We are planning projects with Light of Life Mission on the Northside local to the Pioneer Office, the Western Pennsylvania Humane Society and also added support for training of the Freedom Guide Dogs to our projects for the year.

**Bradford Club:** 2017 projects include McKean County SPCA which she saves old towels for, and McKean County Food Bank. New projects for this year are the Christian Church Food Bank and Smethport Food Bank. We save aluminum tabs, card front and toiletries and sell lottery tickets to help out with the Chapter fundraisers.

**DuBois Club:** Continuing monthly lunches with attendance down. Still tracking volunteer hours and gathering stamps, cards, etc. to turn in at next meeting in Murrysville. Local Pioneers volunteering at church functions, nursing homes, etc. We will be volunteering at the Food Pantry in April. Continuing with our projects also with the DuBois Food Bank and DuBois Salvation Army

Meadville Club: Planning their first meeting for 2017 at the beginning of April. They will be collecting socks, toiletries and pop tabs to turn in at our next face-to-face meeting in May. Projects this year include Community Shelter Services, Erie City Mission, Greenhouse Women's Shelter, the Humane Society, Project Troops (postage), Salvation Army, St. James Shelter for Men, school supplies for Cleveland/Perry Elementary School, and the Pittsburgh Inn Military Care package project. Yvonne will also be utilizing Grant money for Community Shelter Services and Pittsburgh Inn care packages. She also reminded everyone about cutting grocery coupons for the Troopons project.

**National Trail Club:** Pat's projects for 2017 include the First Christian Church of which he is a Member and volunteer, Calvary Methodist Church, Canonsburg Meals on Wheels, and Children's Hospital in Pittsburgh. Pat's Church is serving meals (about 250 guests) for the homeless once a month on the first Wednesday of the month, and a spaghetti supper 2 days a week. Pat is also doing volunteer work now with Christian Outreach, Duncan Miller and City Mission. Their spaghetti supper at Jefferson Avenue First Christian Church is the second and third Friday of every month.



Stephen Foster Club: We are planning on preparing the Birthday Bags again this year for Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. Other projects Mary helped with were Project Star holiday project for the Christmas Family in honor of Barb Cassidy who sadly passed away last year. Barb had been our coordinator for this project for about 20 years. Dianne Madden has agreed to step up to make the purchases for the family going forward. She also finished up 2016 with a donation to Blessings in a Backpack which we will coordinate a future date to help with the weekend packing and Power Women's Shelter. Jean

Laslow donates time to the Plum Food Bank and we have earmarked a donation for them this

year as well.

Still visiting the Animal Rescue League every other month with pet food and supplies and providing the monthly birthday cake for the residents at Southwestern Veterans Center.

**Warren Club:** Projects for Warren include hosting the monthly bingo's at Warren State Hospital. Casey made a personal donation to the United Way of Greenbrier County after the floods in West Virginia.



Member At Large / Sharing & Caring report, Lynne Price: The sock drive this year was unbelievable. Due to the efforts of Pioneers and the Latrobe HOG Group sponsored by Z&M Cycle Sales and Mike Romanelli, we collected a whopping 4,717 pairs. Due to the large number of socks received, I have been giving pairs to various veteran's groups for their projects. Elks, Southwest Veterans, etc. Also, gave some to Donna Gallagher for her Blessing Bags & Lynne Crick for Meadville VFW. The Annual Western Pennsylvania Golf Outing for Sharing & Caring will be July 10<sup>th</sup> at Edgewood Country Club. Monthly meetings are the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month at Holiday Inn in Greentree. Don McIlrath, Gerry and I attend.

Member At Large, Bonnie Adams – Holiday project with the pajamas & toys for children was completed with 5 children, ages 8 to 10 helping to collect toys and pajamas. One of the teachers at her daughter's school donated 60 pairs herself. At her monthly breakfast, 23 Verizon retires donated toys, pajamas, and made monetary donations for whatever was needed to round out the project. In all, over 220 pairs of pajamas and 250 toys were donated to East Hills Community Center, Gandy's & Lady Di, who provide toys, clothing and



food to needy neighborhood families, and Center for Victims. She will continue with the project again this year and has already starting with purchases. Bonnie will also be adding another project this year and will determine the theme later. She is also coaching her grandchild, Eve and her friends on the benefits of volunteering during a weeklong exercise in the summer.



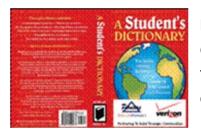
Member At Large & Senior Representative
Report, Donna & Phil Gallagher: We recently
went to the, Vincentian De Marillac Nursing
Home in Pittsburgh, along with our (Happy
Hooker) Shirley Chelli who makes most of our
Lap Robes for us with her busy little fingers in her
Spare Time! We took (48) Lap Robes and (48)
Blessing Bags which we were able to take around

the Facility and pass out individually to all the patients. It was a very good afternoon and there were lots of smiles and hugs. They were very appreciative and thankful for our visit, their gifts and that we had thought of and cared enough to come spend some time with them.

We also completed at project at Shepherds Heart in Pittsburgh, shopping for and donating Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate, Sugar, Powdered Cream and Styrofoam Cups, 30 assorted Men's and Ladies Coats, 15 Blessing Bags, and 15 new Blankets



Member At Large, Don McIlrath: The Sharing & Caring bingo is held the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month at Southwestern Veterans Center. The next bingo is Tuesday March 28 at 2:00 PM. Please come and help if you are free. Don also recently delivered a donation to the Penn Hills Service Association to help with their food bank.



**Dictionary Report:** Our goal is to distribute about 30 dozen of these books! If you are aware of a class of third graders who can use a dictionary or fourth grade class that can use a thesaurus, please contact Nancy Riley at 412-884-4711. If we still have room left in the

budget, we can get those books ordered for your school! Thanks for putting the word out!





#### Military Care Packages

Since 2007, Robin Weunski and her husband Tom, owners of the Pittsburgh Inn in Erie, Pennsylvania, have been shipping care packages to soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan. Their son Joshua was deployed at that time and even though he has returned home, they continue to ship packages despite their innkeeper and restaurant responsibilities. Robin's motto is: "Until they ALL come home". In addition, the Meadville VFW sends care packages every month to Afghanistan and asked our Meadville Club for support. We previously had only provided postage but the Telecom Pioneers Charitable Foundation grant allowed us to purchase the products they needed to round out their holiday packages. We subsidized both of these groups by purchasing the food, toiletry items and Holiday products they requested for the care

packages they pack.

In addition, we became aware of the deployment of a local group of 40 soldiers to Kandahar Air Field. In December, we got together and packed each of them a holiday gift box complete with food, toiletries, gifts and holiday decorating supplies.

# HELP WITH WEBSITE & **FACEBOOK**

HELP.... WE HAVE LOST OUR WEBMASTER AND HAVE BEEN STRUGGLING TO KEEP OUR WEBSITE UP TO DATE. FACEBOOK HAS ALSO BEEN ADDED FOR FORT PITT AND WE ARE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE WHO CAN DO THE UDPATES. IF YOU CAN HELP, PLEASE LET ME KNOW AT:

INFO@NEWVISION-FORTPITTPIONEERS.ORG



You may remember an article we published in last Spring's Issue about a visitor to Fort Pitt Chapter from County Mayo, Ireland, a Mr. Michael Larkin. Mr. Larkin's ancestor, Thomas Larkin, was a career Bell of Pennsylvania employee and a Life Member of the Telephone Pioneers of America. He retired in 1930, returned to Ireland, and continued to do volunteer work in the spirit of Pioneering for many more years. While visiting Pittsburgh in October 2015, Michael Larkin walked Larkins Way in his Great Uncles' South Side neighborhood and participated in a Chapter community service project. We hosted a luncheon for him and he shared with us Pioneer memorabilia from his Uncle's years of volunteering in Pittsburgh.

My husband and I recently toured Ireland and made a visit to Westport, County Mayo where Michael Larkin very generously shared his time and vast knowledge by showing us the highlights of the area. While were there, a Pioneer Memorial service was held at Thomas Larkins gravesite at Killawalla Cemetery. Another highlight of our trip was a Westport Hall of Fame presentation and introduction to the famous Irish author, Michael Mullen. We also had the great pleasure and honor to meet the Irish Prime Minister, Mr. Enda Kenny. We had great fun with Prime Minister Kenny as he joked about the County where my husband's ancestors may have come from. Courtesy of our host, we also took a horse and buggy carriage ride with Kevin O'Reilly manning the reigns of the Westport Jarvey.









Tell us what you would like to see in the Tele-All! We welcome any suggestions for consideration by our Board.

info@newvision-fortpittpioneers.org

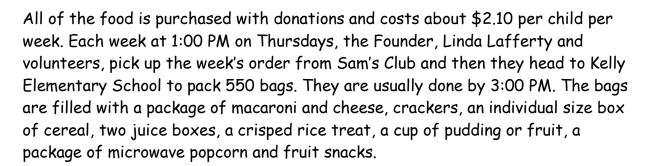


- from Jeremiah's Place: Thank you so much for your kind and generous donation. As you may know, everything is provided free of charge to our families in crisis. Your donation allows us to provide excellent care to our families.
- from Sharon at Our Lady of Grace Catholic School: Thank you so much for the donation of dictionaries and thesauruses to our third and fourth grader students. We greatly appreciate the books as well as your continued mission of good works.
- from Mollie at Vincentian deMarillac: We would like to thank you for your extraordinary generosity and kindness for the goodie bags and lap robes for our resident for the Christmas season and especially for taking the time to visit and help distribute your wonderful gifts! The residents were in awe that someone would be so nice. One resident asked, "Who would do such a nice thing for someone they don't even know. They must be angles." How very true.
- from Senior Master Sergeant Garry Sheets "Gunny" at Bagram Air Field: I received some care packages today thank you so much! It is a funny sight, grown men and women acting like little kids. People just started grabbing boxes as they arrived and now everyone has a huge smile on their face, so thanks again. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from an extremely appreciative 455<sup>th</sup> EAES.
- from Gunny when part two of the care packages arrived: We got the remainder of the care packages yesterday. We have so much stuff now and everyone is getting packages. I hope you do not mind but we took a lot of the things that the Pioneers sent and took them to the Marines to be delivered to the guys on the line who are not as fortunate as us. They will put it to good use, You are all AWESONME! I am having a flag flown on one of our missions and I will send it in appreciate of the Pioneers!
- from Maj at Bagram Air Field: Thank you for all the great things. They were wonderful and truly
  appreciated.
  from Sharon at Freedom Guide Dogs: Thank you for your donation! This year is coming to a close and with
  it 38new guide dogs have been placed. We have worked with Veterans and many others in need of a guide
  dog. Thank you for helping us continue our work,
- from Linda whose husband was a recipient at the Valentine's Day Cancer Center project: What a very special and thoughtful group you are! When my husband came home from radiation and kept reaching into his special Valentine's Day bag, he was delighted. You certainly put a lot of thought into the items packed in that bag! Many of the gifts were put to use right away; skin cream, lemon candy, chapstick. Thank you so much.
- from Sister Ligouri at Jubilee Kitchen: Winter has finally arrived...that is, the real cold and snow! This naturally increases the needs of many of our guest and more are coming early and staying late to enjoy the welcoming warmth of our Kitchen. We appreciate your continued support of our ministries and your recent generous donation of 100 toiletry kits and 10 hat and mitten sets.
- from Fidelia at Family Links: Thank you for the 100 hygiene kits, they will be such a huge help to us in our outreach efforts! Your generosity and the efforts of your team a greatly appreciated.
- from Kelli at Yolanda Barco Oncology Institute: Thank you for giving us a lasting memory of your kindness and generosity of the lap robes for our patients.
- from Alice at Hillcrest Pre-School: Thanks so much Pioneers! We appreciate the kindness and the donation of constructive learning items for the students.
- from Krista at Children's Hospital Foundation: Thank you for making a difference in the life of a child! Your gift will enable Children's to continue providing world-class care without financial boundaries; expanding the research frontier, delivering comprehensive family-centered care, and transforming the lives of children.
- from Lynn at the Jon Houy Memorial Fund Celebration of Life Golf Outing: We appreciate your continued and generous support. This year's outing provided support of children's' cancer research and athletic and recreational activities for children with disabilities.

- from Constance at Pittsburgh Mercy Hospital, Operation Safety Net: thank you for your contribution of over 250 pairs of socks, 50 hats, 50 pairs of gloves, 20 scarves and more than 150 hygiene kits for OSN. We are able to continue our ministry because of the thoughtful generosity of supporters like you, By including Pittsburgh Mercy in your giving this year, you have truly made a difference in the lives of our region's most vulnerable individuals.
- from Laurie at Center For Victims: Thank you for your support for our Golf & Sporting Event to raise funds to be used towards our crisis intervention and prevention education efforts and the items for the yearly Shower For the Shelter at our domestic violence housing.
- from Lois at Plum Food Pantry: We sincerely thank you for your recent donation and we appreciate your generous support.
- from Craig at Life Of Life Rescue Mission: I want to extend a deep thank you for your recent support towards Light of Life. Friends like you help provide comprehensive services to the poor, hungry and homless in the Pittsburgh area. On behalf of those we serve, thank you for thinking beyond your own needs and taking action to help others, You have made a difference.
- from Rev. Mike at Shepherd's Heart Fellowship: On behalf of the congregation and staff of Shepherd's Heart Fellowship, I would like to sincerely thank you for your donations of food, blankets, blessing bags, coats, coffee products, cocoa, tea bags and beverage supplies. Our homeless veterans will be greatly blessed by these generous donation.
- from Jane at the Penn Hills Service Association: We would like to thank you for your donation (to the Food Bank). It is your giving that enables us to help those persons in need.
- from Perry Elementary School: It take people like you for our school to succeed. Thank you for the school supply donations. The students appreciate it!
- from Robbin, teacher at Center Elementary School: Thank you so much for the many school supplies your Chapter purchased for my first grade class room! The students and I really appreciate your generosity – thanks again!
- from your Donna, President of West Virginia Chapter: A big thanks to Fort Pitt for all of your support for our people and four legged friends in West Virginia during our 2016 flood disaster. from Peggy at Good Shepherd Catholic Parish Social Committee: Thank you for your generous donation of door prize items for our Chinese Auction. Your generosity helped to make our event successful.
- from Nancy, a recipient of a Valentine's Day gift bag: Yesterday when I finished my radiation treatment, I received one of your Valentine gift bags. I wanted to let you know your gifts and your efforts are much appreciated. I was grateful to discover all the cute, thoughtful, sweet, and helpful items you included. Thank you again!
- from students at Center Elementary School who received dictionaries and thesauruses:
  - I am thankful that we get our own Thesaurus. I love it. I find it useful. It's better than getting up and walking across the room for the classroom thesaurus. I can just pick it up and finds words so easily. Thank you, Kennedy
  - Thank you for the thesaurus. They help everyone when they are confused. One time I was writing a letter and I needed help with a word. Then I used my thesaurus. I want to say thank you for your generosity. Sincerely, Jordan
  - Thank you for the thesaurus. I use it a lot. It is the best thing ever. It is so fun to look up words in it. Sincerely, Gracie
  - Thank you for the thesaurus. I use it all the time. I am grateful for them. It gives me excellent ideas. Thank you once again, Caroline
  - P.S. What does a thesaurus eat for breakfast? A synonym roll!

#### BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK

Since 2005, Stephen Foster Club has been directly involved with the Blessings in a Backpack operation in the Wilkinsburg School District. Blessings in a Backpack is a national program that started with two schools and now serves more than 76,000 students in 44 states. It provides food for elementary school children who quality for the federal free or reduced-cost meal program to take home for food for 38 weekends during the school year. We are proud to be affiliated with this project for over 11 years.



Blessings need help with their packing operation! If you can help, at Kelly School in Wilkinsburg on any Thursday, please contact Linda Lafferty at 412-327-9742.

#### Thank You!

#### ?? CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR REMOVE FROM Tele-All MAILING LIST??

Change of Address	Remove from Mailing List
Print Name:	_ Send to:
Address:	_ Pioneer Office
	_ 15 E. Montgomery Ave, 1 <sup>st</sup> Flr
	Pittsburgh, PA 15212

#### \$\$ FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNTIES FOR FORT PITT CHAPTER \$\$

At the Group level, and as an attempt to help all of the Chapters raise money for their organizations, New Vision Pioneers Resource Development Team has researched and recommended the following two Companies for purchase of their products. Every purchase you make generates a 'royalty' that is directly returned to our Chapter (the ordering codes are unique for each Chapter). These promotions are typically seasonal and great products and values. Thanks for looking and give them a try!



#### **Internet Fund Raising**

RADA Manufacturing Company is located in Waverly, Iowa and has been manufacturing cutlery since 1948 and has earned the reputation of being remarkable.

Their products are 100% American Made, and are used in millions of homes every day. Now Pioneers, their friends and family have an opportunity to purchase this remarkable product and at the same time support Pioneer projects.

Please take a moment to look at the on-line catalog and make a purchase which is "Made in the USA" and has a Lifetime Guarantee. On-line ordering instructions:

- 1. Go to this website: www.helpourfundraiser.com
- 2. Enter the following: Internet Ordering Number: 504282/Password: pioneer (small letters)
- 3. Click on BROWSE and browse the Catalog
- 4. Place your order



#### FLOWER PETAL

**The New Vision Pioneers Fort Pitt Chapter #13** have partnered with flowerpetal.com to provide you a state-of-the-art shopping experience and unparalleled service for purchasing flowers and gifts online.

How does it work? flowerpetal.com is a Las Vegas-based e-commerce provider servicing the flower and gift industry. They handle order processing, fulfillment and customer service, all backed by their 100% Satisfaction Guarantee. Flowers are reasonably priced, available for any occasion and are filled by local florists!

In addition to their website, you can also order by calling toll free: 1-800-444-0531 (24 hours a day/7 days a week) or by FAX at 1-800-530-6059

Many of our members have used Flower Petal for ordering flowers and have been very pleased. Give them a try for your next flower delivery!



# Toiletry Collections



As you travel, please collect the sample size soap, shampoo, lotion and any complimentary items provided by the hotels. These items are used to pack hygiene kits for the homeless folks and sent to Operation Save-A-Life, Operation Safety Net, Family Links and Jubilee Kitchen in Pittsburgh. We are no longer packing at the Verizon Garage in Monroeville and have moved the operation to Linda Schirano's home in Monroeville.

These kits are crucial - the agencies we serve continue to ask for them all year round and we typically prepare and distribute 100 kits a month. Other items that are always needed to complete the kits are washcloths, sample size toothpaste, toothbrushes, razors, combs and quart size zip lock bags.

You can mail the toiletries in the U.S. Mail to me: Gerry McLaughlin, 216 Ohio Street, Monroeville, PA 15146, or if you are local, please call me and we can coordinate a pick up. My number is 412-823-7777.

Thank you all very much

# Cancelled Stamp Collections



We continue to save cancelled stamps on behalf of the American Philatelic Society.

They require the stamp to be cut away from the envelope with a 1/4 inch of paper left around the edge of the stamp (see the sample to the left). APS will also accept all sorts of philatelic collectible material, such

as First Day Covers, albums and boxes of stamps in glassine envelopes.

The American Philatelic Society (www.stamps.org) is the largest, non-profit organization for stamp collectors in the world and is right here in Pennsylvania. They serve collectors, educators, postal historians and the general public by providing a wide variety of programs and services.

Stop pitching those envelopes and start clipping the stamps to save for this very useful organization. All of your donations will be counted towards volunteer hours for Fort Pitt Chapter. No need to mail priority mail since we collect and fill boxes before we forward to the agency.

Your clipped donations can be mailed to: Linda Schirano, 411 Center Road, Monroeville, PA 15146

Thank you for your donations and helping with our volunteer hours!

# Volunteer Opportunities

We have many ongoing projects that we need your help with! Please review the following list and if you would like to get involved with any of these projects, just call the coordinator for the project. Thanks for any help you can provide!

Animal Welfare	Marilyn Stevens	412-243-8454
Big Brothers/Big Sisters Bowl-A-Thon	Kim Easton	724-535-3500
Blessing Bags & Jeremiah's Place	Donna Gallagher	412-441-1842
Card Fronts & Cancelled Stamps	Linda Schirano	412-373-0974
Homeless Projects/Box Top\$	Gerry McLaughlin	412-823-7777
PJ's for Patients	Bonnie Adams	412-731-1641
Western PA School for the Deaf /Pop Tabs /Sharing & Caring	Lynne Price	412-795-3767
POWER & Blessings in a Backpack	Mary Palfy	412-833-5453
Sharing & Caring / Penn Hills Service Association	Don McIlrath	412-793-1603
Sharing & Caring	Frank Lopes	724-339-2111
Shepherds Heart Fellowship	Phil Gallagher	412-441-1842
Talking Books	Jack Goerl	412-366-1641
Western PA School for the Blind	Sis Arendas	724-864-1932

# USED Greeting Cards



Don't you just hate to throw away those beautiful cards that you receive for your birthday and holidays? Well, we have found an outlet for used greeting cards! St. Jude's Ranch for Children is able to recycle your used greeting cards into new cards. Their 'recycled' cards are sold to support their programs and services for abused, abandoned, neglected and homeless children, young adults and families.

The program is beneficial to everyone - customers receive fun, "green" holiday or other occasion cards they can feel good sending to their friends and loved ones, and the children at St. Jude's Ranch receive payment for their work and learn about basic job skills and the importance of recycling.

NOTE: They currently have an increased need for both Birthday and Thank You cards

Just a few rules:

- All types of greeting cards, including Christmas cards are accepted
- They <u>cannot</u> accept cards from Hallmark, American Greeting or Disney
- Cards 5" x 7" or smaller are preferred
- Only the card front can be used (please check to be sure the backside of the front of the card is clear of any writing, etc)
- No need to mail priority mail since we collect and fill boxes before we forward to the agency

*Send the card fronts to:* 

Linda Schirano 411 Center Road Monroeville, PA 15146

Thanks for your participation and helping with our volunteer hours!

25th Annual Maryland Chapter

# PIONEER DAY @ HERSHEY PARK



DATE: SUNDAY, April 30, 2017

TIME: 10:00 A.M. TO 6:00 P.M.

**PRICE:** \$31.00 (\$29.15 + \$.85 Tax) **Per person** Children 2 & under free

(Regular Admission Price Os \$62.95)

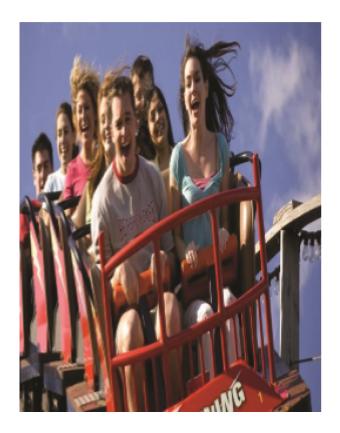
Park is closed to the public **NO REFUNDS OF RAIN DATE.** 

Concession Stands will be open Free Parking be provided. Water Park Rides will not open until Memorial Day

**Lunch: \$18.55** 

Includes Flame broiled all-beef Hamburgers, Hot dogs, Potato chips, pasta salad, fruit salad, lettuce, tomato, Cheese, Ice-ream, novelties, sodas, and lemonade. Lunch tickets will not be sold after April 23, 2017.

Discounted Hotels – Hampton Inn & Suites 717 534-2272 Best Western Inn Hershey - 717 533-5665, Days Inn 717 533-5665 Red Lion Hotel 717 939-7841



Questions... call Mary Weber @ the Chapter message line 443 834-9216

#### **How to order tickets:**

**CREDIT CARD** – use this link and promo code <a href="http://tinyurl.com/nvpsellout">http://tinyurl.com/nvpsellout</a>

Promo Code: 29814 or go to our website: www.newvision-marylandpioneers.org

We have made this the easiest and best way to order tickets. No more standing in line to pick up tickets at the park. After ordering, you will be able to print your tickets. Your proof of purchase will be scanned to enter park.

**New Vision Pioneers** 

15 E. Montgomery Avenue, Floor 1

Pittsburgh, PA 15212 Phone: 412-237-3206

Leave messages on: 412-237-3208

Fax: 412-231-2369

E-mail: FTPITT.PIONEERS@VERIZON.NET

Website: www.newvision-fortpittpioneers.org

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U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

PERMIT NO. 2840 PITTSBURGH, PA

Address Service Requested