

Omaha Pioneers



October 2007
Volume 1 Issue 3

Hug-A-Bears

At our Life Member Luncheon August 7th Douglas County Sheriff Tim Dunning took time out of his schedule to attend our luncheon and thank Marcy and Steve Dawkins and the Heartland Pioneers for the great work that they do with the Hug-A-Bears in our community. He said that time and time again when tragedy or disaster happens they have the bears to give to the children in their time of need.



For a number of years now Marcy and Steve have been the mainstay of the Heartland Pioneers Hug-A-Bears. Marcy is the chair but says she would never be able carry it off without the help of her partner

Steve and all the volunteers. Together they all make a great team that represents the Heartland Pioneers in the Omaha area.

For years now the 3M Company located in Valley, NE has provided us with the fluff (free of charge) that we use to stuff the bears with. We would like to tell them "thank you" very much again.

To become a member just call Marcy at 402-445-0715.

Electronic Maps

The Pioneer Electronic Map was introduced by Pioneers in Boise, Idaho, and designed by Fred Riddle. They are gaining popularity as a useful and innovative teaching tool in our schools.

Its primary purpose is to teach the correlation between the 50 United States and their capital cities in the US and the Providences and their capitals in Canada. The portable 22-by-21-inch US and Canada map enables it to be used in virtually any location and is a valuable complement to the Playground Map project.

Each state has a metal tab located in it which is wired to another metal tab located next to the state's capital name below. There is a battery operated continuity tester with a light and probes located to the right of the map and when a correct match is made a light will come on. We would like to thank Fred Riddle and the Treasure Valley Pioneers in Idaho for their assistance with the Electronic Maps.

Our chairman Ray Fugger has assembled our first map and is ready to make more. If you would be interested in helping



Ray on our Electronic Map project please let us know. It involves wood working, wiring, gluing and laminating.

Hooks & Needles

The Hooks and Needles group is meeting again now after summer vacations are over. They had many items turned in to be distributed in the community.

Rhonda Boger and Betty Golmanavich made two large donations of yarn this summer which made many projects possible and the officers would like to thank these two ladies for the donation.

The ladies also made some special deliveries with some of the items this summer. Here are some of the things that were made. We had lots of baby blankets and quilts turned in for the pregnancy crisis center.

Over 50 pet blankets were turned in for the animal shelter and Elaine made little catnip mice toys for the kitties. There were hats and scarves turned in for the Salvation Army.

This year we are considering giving some of our project items to the Open Door Mission and the Salvation Army. We now have 47 lap robes on hand for our upcoming winter project. We will be delivering all of the lap robes we have to a local rest home at Christmas time. The ladies will decide where the winter projects will be donated later on.

Project Connect

We are proud to present the fourth Heartland Council Project Connect Contest. As we continue our successful program we'd like to celebrate our first year of more than 30 subscribers by offering TWO COMPAQ LAPTOP COMPUTERS!

Here's our contest:

1. Open to any and all current subscribers from now until November 30, 2007.
2. Entrants must fill out the "Official" contest entry sheet.
3. The intent is to find out which Project Connect games are most popular - That's it!
4. We have two brand new COMPAQ LAPTOP COMPUTERS! One of these will go to a teacher/technology leader at one of our Project Connect family of facilities and one to a user.
5. All entry forms must be completely filled out (Note: The CORRECT answer for "Our Project Connect is provided by" is **Heartland Council of TelecomPioneers.**)

We have plenty of time to get started. Anyone who hasn't even tried the games can still participate. There may be additional locations subscribing while the contest is in progress. Only one entry per student will be allowed.

Teachers/coordinators must have a child entered to be eligible! Entries must be RECEIVED BY November 30th! If you have not obtained a new login and password since September 1st, please contact headquarters to obtain one (kbiesendorfer@telecompioneers.org).

We will be signing up additional organizations at this year's conference of the Nebraska Association of Teachers of Science conference at Calvin Crest in October.

Please direct any questions to Jerry Golmanavich, Heartland Council Project Connect Chairman, telecompioneer@cox.net, 402-390-9834. Thanx very much and GOOD LUCK!

Jerry and Niki Reed, the administrator at the North Omaha Girls and Boys clubs



Register your email with us:

We want to communicate with our members as cost effectively as possible. We're finding that email is very cost effective, but in order to ensure that email messages are delivered, we need your help:

1. Please register your email address at www.heartlandpioneers.com

Presidents Message: I have been out of town traveling and we just got home. I would like to remind everyone about TurkeyFest and if they would like to help it would sure be appreciated. This month's newsletter has our annual election ballot. Please read it over and send it back. It is very important that we receive these back. See you at the December Life Member Luncheon.

Christmas Pioneer Luncheon



WESTSIDE COMMUNITY
CONFERENCE CENTER
3534 SOUTH 108TH ST.
OMAHA, NE 68144

Tues. December 11, 2007

DOORS OPEN 10:30 A.M.
PROGRAM 11:00 A.M.
LUNCH 11:30 A.M.

MENU

or

SWISS STEAK

Salad
Oven baked potatoes
Seasoned Vegetables
Dinner Roll
Special Surprise Dessert
Coffee/Tea

ROAST TURKEY BREAST

Salad
Mashed Potatoes & gravy
Seasoned Vegetables
Cranberry Sauce
Dinner Roll
Special Surprise Dessert
Coffee/Tea

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO HEARTLAND PIONEERS

SEND CHECKS TO:

HEARTLAND PIONEERS
P.O. 541233
% JUDY COFFEY
OMAHA, NE 68154

RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY DECEMBER 4, 2007

PLEASE RESERVE _____ SEATS AT THE CHRISTMAS LIFE MEMBER LUNCHEON

STEAK _____ @ \$12.50 EACH TURKEY _____ @ \$12.50 EACH

NAME _____ TELEPHONE NO. _____

GUEST(S) _____

SORRY, NO PAYMENT WILL BE ACCEPTED AT THE DOOR
LIFE MEMBER REPRESENTATIVE - JUDY COFFEY 496-7734

**Heartland Council
Postage Fee**

The Heartland Council no longer receives any financial assistance from a sponsoring company and has been unable to collect dues through payroll deduction since pre-2000.

The Council is also absorbing mailing and printing costs as well.

The Pioneer board has elected to request a \$5/year fee to cover the associated costs with the newsletter and flyers, if you wish to have them mailed to you. This fee will be collected every December beginning in 2007.

If you want to continue receiving a newsletter please send a check payable to the Heartland Council before Dec. 15, 2007. You may also use the enclosed envelope with the newsletter. Our address is:

Heartland Council
PO Box 541233
Omaha, NE 68154

or you may bring it to the Winter luncheon on Dec. 11th.

If you choose not to have a newsletter sent to you, all Pioneer events and news are available on the Heartland Council web site at www.heartlandpioneers.com. Or, the newsletter can be e-mailed to you if you provide us with your e-mail address.

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I want to receive the Pioneer newsletter in the mail. Enclosed is a check payable to the Heartland Pioneers for \$5. Send newsletter to the following:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State & Zip: _____

I want to receive the Pioneer newsletter by e-mail. My e-mail address is:

Email Address: _____

Name: _____

Official Election Ballot For 2008 Officers

ELECTION BALLOT NEW FRONTIER CHAPTER AND HEARTLAND COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2008 (All are one year terms)

VOTE FOR ONE

New Frontier Chapter President - Gil Mothershed ()

Write in _____ ()

Vice President - Paul Perez ()

Write in _____ ()

Heartland Council Life member Representative (Vote for two)

Judy Coffey ()

Doug Thoms ()

Write in _____ ()

Regular Board Members (Vote for 3)

Deb Grady ()

Joyce Jensen ()

Write in _____ ()

Life Member Board Members (Vote for 3)

Joe Bonaiuto ()

Steve Miller ()

Bob Gaddie ()

Write in _____ ()

Board members At Large (Vote for 2)

Marcy Dawkins ()

Steve Dawkins ()

Write in _____ ()

**** For those of you that aren't aware the Heartland board elects the President and Sr. Vice President from the current board for each year. Please return before November 30, 2007****
Heartland Pioneers, P.O. Box 541233, Omaha, NE, 68154

Our new co-chairs this year are Douglas Thoms, Linda Mitas and Deb Grady. After several conversations with the Salvation Army they told us they had decided to take a different approach to TurkeyFest this year. The Army has made the decision that they will prepare all of the food for TurkeyFest.

We will no longer be purchasing the supplies, cooking any turkeys or baking any cookies. They have asked for our help to slice the turkeys the night before, assemble the brown bags in the auditorium and provide drivers to deliver the meals on the morning of Thanksgiving.

So our needs this year will be fourfold:

1. Provide 5 volunteers to slice the turkeys on Wed. evening
2. Provide 5 volunteers to work in kitchen on Thanksgiving morning
3. Provide 50 volunteers to assemble the brown bags Wed. evening
4. Provide many volunteer drivers to deliver on Thanksgiving Day

If you have any questions please contact Doug Thoms at 493-8046 or Deb Grady at 691-3114. Please return the form by November 10, 2007. The committee will be in contact with you with your instruction.

If you can volunteer this year please fill out the form below, circle the number 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 that you can help with and mail the form to the Pioneers. There is an addressed envelope enclosed. Please use it. The committee will call you back with the instructions or email them to you.

We would appreciate it if you would please print when filling out the form.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-Mail _____



TeamMates is a school-based, one-to-one mentoring program that matches adult mentors with students who are at risk of academic failure for one or more of the following reasons: poor academic performance, poor attendance, difficulty with peer relationships, discipline issues, and personal issues. The program was founded in 1991 through a partnership between Dr. Tom Osborne and Nancy Osborne and the Lincoln Public Schools and is now statewide.

In 2001 the Heartland Pioneers partnered with OPS to help find mentors for the program. One mentor to be was George Parkerson as he inquired about the program at a Pioneer Life Member Luncheon. The following is George's account of his hand at mentoring.

I first heard of TeamMates during a Pioneer Christmas Luncheon back in December 2001. It sounded interesting and I looked into it through either Doug Thoms or the late Norma Korff....it took about a month for Omaha Public Schools to assure themselves I was a law abiding citizen and I was asked to visit the TeamMates Counselor at Norris Middle School. I met the teacher who was serving as counselor and she showed me "bios" of several boys at the school looking for a mentor. She mentioned she had one that no one had volunteered to mentor and asked if I would be interested and I said "Sure".

A few days later I was introduced to Schyulor, a 12 year old African-American boy who lived with his mother and three older siblings. Mom was the sole support of the family of four growing teenagers. I started meeting with Schyulor at the school....we would meet during one class period, usually study hall, each week and talk and play games like checkers or whatever.

Initially, conversation was difficult....what does a 12 year old black boy talk about with an old white man almost 50 years older? We had nothing in common! I guess every man or woman who tries to mentor has his or her goals in mind....try to motivate the youngster to want to learn....try to impart a sense that opportunity is there if the child is willing to try, although success may not be easy.... try to increase the child's awareness of what is "out there" in the world....what are the opportunities and options and trying to get them to understand that if you wanted to be or do something, it helps knowing where you want to go,

at least in a general direction. We met every week and played a lot of games....and at the beginning I got my share of runny noses and flu bugs....my doctor said I didn't have any immunity against the bugs that go around in schools that kids carry but that I soon would!

Over the years, Schyulor has grown from a 5'9" 12 year old in the 7th Grade to a 6'8" starter with OPS Northwest high school varsity basketball team. Although, like most teenagers, he's never shown any emotion expressing thanks for my efforts trying to mentor him, his mother says he has told her he really appreciates my sticking with him these last five years. One can only hope and pray that the experience was appreciated and that in the years to come it will have made a real difference in his life. I know he has made a difference in mine.

The Heartland Pioneers are no longer involved or partnering with OPS but if anyone is interested in the TeamMates Mentoring Program just go to the local high in your area and you can volunteer your mentoring skills if interested.

Adopt-A-Family

This year the Salvation Army is asking for our help on Friday, November 30th, 2007. This year's coordinator Patti Carmilla is asking for our generous help. The Pioneers will be the only group on Friday, and will successfully help in another Adopt-A-Family program for 2007.

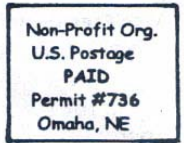
For many years, the successful Star 104.5 FM along with the Salvation Army is holding the annual Adopt-A-Family Radiothon asking listeners to adopt a needy family this Christmas. Those who wish to adopt a family must call on those days and will be asked to purchase new gifts for each child in the family, as well as a gift certificate for groceries.

Steve Miller, chairman for the past three years, and the Heartland Pioneers are asking for your help on **Friday, December 7th from 6-8 and 8-10 A.M.** Steve is asking for volunteers to contact him if you can help with the following:

1. Answer phones
2. Match the right family to the request of the caller
3. Address envelopes and proper follow-up information for both adoptee and adopter

To help out this year you may call Steve anytime at home 778-5784 or his cell 490-4747. You may also email him at stephenmiller@cox.net

Heartland Pioneers
P.O. Box 541233
Omaha, NE 68154



Heartland Pioneers

In Memoriam of those in the
third quarter 2007

Ruth Y. Czaja
Dennis L. Todd
Roland K. Epperson
Wayne J. McIntosh
Gerald F. Alfons
Lee Fischer
Robert J. "Bob" Coufal
Barbara Jean Reuter
Robert D. "Bob" Frisbie
Delmer M. Bartkowitz
Thomas E. Wacha III
Marilyn M. Kohlbeck
Charley C. Johnson
Peggy Parr
Lloyd W. Warren
Laurin L. Mongar

The full obituaries are
listed on our website at
www.heartlandpioneers.com

We receive no official notice
and we could miss some and if
we do we apologize.

Last Frame

The fall of the year is when most
of the projects that we still have
participation in take place. We
would like at this time to make you
aware of some of these projects.

The Heartland Council has voted to
go back to the old format of
holding four Life Member
Luncheons a year. You can plan
on a luncheon every quarter again
in 2008.

Bill Peters and Dick Maxwell still
staff our **Bell Ringing** group at
Sam's on 132 and L Street. Give
them a hand in Dec. on Saturday's
of the 1st, 8th and 15th from 10am
to 8pm. For a time slot call Dick @
572-8474 or email him at
ramcem@cox.net

The next blood drive at CSMI will
be on Friday, Oct. 26th from 7am
to 12 noon. Please contact Connie

Carlson at 691-4954 or
ccarlson@csmfg.com for an
appointment. All retirees are
invited to donate and are welcome.

A little over a year ago we held
what was most likely our last
parking lot sale. These sales were
what kept our treasury funded for
many years.

Now CSMI has contacted the
Pioneers about being an agent for
them and selling items similar to
what they used to donate to us on E
Bay.

This will be a new adventure for the
Pioneers but a chance to make a
few dollars. We will be forming a
new committee that will sort these
items, take pictures, write
descriptions and place the ads on E
Bay for sale. Once we sell the
merchandise we will then prepare
the items for shipment to the
buyers of the items. Here's hoping
we make a buck or two.