

Omaha Pioneers



May 2008
Volume 2 Issue 2

Annual Meeting

Pioneers went back to school on the "campus" of Pioneer U as nearly 700 "students" gathered to continue their volunteer education during the TelecomPioneers Annual Meeting in Austin, TX this past February. This is the time of the year that all in Pioneering are recognized for their outstanding projects and volunteer efforts for the past year. It was reported that New Outlook Region had 50 delegates at the meeting this year.

This year Heartland Council was recognized at the national level for the work Jerry Golmanavich does with "Project Connect". Jerry was a runner up for the National Award for innovation



Past President Joe and Jerry

with a project.

At the region level, Heartland Council was recognized for "Hug-A-Bears", "Hooks and Needles and Joe and Deb accepted them for Heartland.

New Frontier VP Paul Perez and Debbie Grady accepted the award from the new region Vice President for New Outlook Region, Dan Katze. Past president Joe Bonaiuto presented these awards to Jerry, Marcy and Elaine at our last council meeting.

Pioneer Leadership Insight by Dan Katze

The New Outlook Pioneers went into 2007 facing many challenges. We identified continued financial strength, strong officer slates and interesting project selection.

We decided our focus should be on the new membership, since it ties into and supports the other areas of concern.

New membership is important in any organization. Our chapters rely on fresh ideas brought into their units. Some of our flagship projects – Project Connect and Power Up To Read – are attractive to potential members and can

blossom under their enthusiasm and their family/school activities.

The perpetuity of our local Boards can best be served by energized and engaged new members rising into leadership positions.

An added benefit to growing membership is financial. Dues support has diminished in the past few years and would be welcome growth to our chapters. New Outlook signed 114 new member last year and will be aiming to improve on that in 2008

At the end of 2007 Bob Pohly completed his term in office as Vice President of the New Outlook Region. An election took place at Headquarters and Dan Katze, past president of New Frontier chapter, succeeds Bob. Dan will serve a two year term. Welcome Dan



The Presidents Message



With the completion of one of our four scheduled Pioneer luncheons this year, the March attendance was at 165. I applaud Bob Gaddie for some last minute "wisdom of words", and hope he may continue into the future luncheons. A personal note of appreciation to Judy Coffey and Marcy Dawkins and all the helpers who organized and devised many awards for those attending. Also, at this luncheon we had an opportunity to present some well-deserved awards to our committees. Thanks to the following committees who wish to encourage your assistance, be it financial or volunteering to help.

Ray Fugger - Maps USA

Jerry Golmanavich - Project Connect.

Marcy and Steve Dawkins – Hug A Bear

Joyce Jensen and Betty Golmanavich - Hooks and Needles.

I hope their displays gave our membership an idea of where we need financial help for now and the future.

The funding for our committees comes from those parking lots sales of old. Now that the sales are gone, and to some extent - the company, we still need funding for our groups of Hooks and Needles, Hug a Bear, Driving for the Blind, Vision Screening, Project Connect, Power Up To Read and many more.

Some volunteers at the next luncheon will be asking for donations to support our many local projects, which will be on display. Please consider a donation to help with our national and local projects. The next issue, I will include a separate list of each committee, when they meet and other details. These are the committee's that work many thousands of hours each year, in providing service and material goods for the community betterment. If any questions arise, please contact the committee chairman or myself.

Another item that the Pioneers support is the New Outlook Pioneers-Joe Cleres Memorial Scholarship – with application for students with disabilities. At this moment all chapters of the New Outlook Pioneers are in the judging process by each chapter to determine a worthy recipient...again supported by the Telecom Pioneers and all the chapters of the New Outlook Pioneers, which Omaha is a proud member.

I've recently attended some Qwest Pioneers Retirees group monthly luncheons. They, like us, are retirees from the breakup of Ma Bell many, many years ago. They keep the spirit of service going, like we do, and have many support groups and committees. As Heartland Pioneers, we are welcome to attend their monthly lunches for a minimal cost, and as president I will extend an invitation to the Qwest retirees and active members to attend our quarterly luncheons as paying guests. Maybe by cross volunteering the Pioneers units, we both will come out with

more committee helpers and fun!

Keep watching the newsletters and web site for more information. Some exciting and informative new adventures are in the future. As always, we appreciate any donations you care to make to the Pioneers. Don't forget, we can add new members to our membership roster. Contact any of our officers or me personally for the details.

Smile for the "camera", and continue volunteering for Pioneers in 2008.

President Steve Miller

Correspondence and Donations to Pioneers

During the first quarter of this year the Heartland Council has received some very helpful cash donations that will be used to help fund some of our current projects. We continue to try recognizing the bereavement of our life members with a donation to a charity in the Omaha area and many of the families take the time to write and tell us thank you so we know it is appreciated.

Help Needed

Ray Fugger, Chairman of the group for Electronic Maps, has a order for 25 of our maps and needs someone experienced in woodworking and framing of the Electronic Maps.

If you can help him out please call him at 391-0210 or President Steve Miller at 490-4747. You can also reach Steve at stephenmiller@cox.net



SUMMER PIONEER LUNCHEON

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

Tues. June 17, 2008

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

MENU

HONEY PECAN CHICKEN

or

BEEF STROGANOFF

Salad
Wild Rice
Seasoned Vegetables
Dinner Roll
Surprise Dessert
Coffee/Tea

Salad
Egg Noodles with
Sour Cream Sauce
Dinner Roll
Surprise Dessert
Coffee/Tea

SEND CHECKS TO:
HEARTLAND PIONEERS
% JUDY COFFEY
P.O. 541233
OMAHA, NE 68154

RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY June 10, 2008

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO HEARTLAND PIONEERS

PLEASE RESERVE _____ SEATS AT THE SUMMER LIFE MEMBER LUNCHEON

CHICKEN _____ @ \$12.00 EACH BEEF _____ @ \$12.00 EACH

NAME _____ TELEPHONE NO. _____

GUEST(S) _____

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

Hooks & Needles

The Hooks & Needles group has been together for over 25 years and during that time two of the ladies have specialized in making things for the ESP (Essential Pregnancy Services) and cancer children here in the Omaha area.

The two members that have done so many exceptional projects for the cancer kids and the Essential Pregnancy Services are Sharron Bailey and Helen Visocky. Chair-lady Elaine said that if she were to put a number to the quilts that Sharron Bailey had quilted, in the past five years, it would be over 500 quilts for the children with cancer as well as several adults.



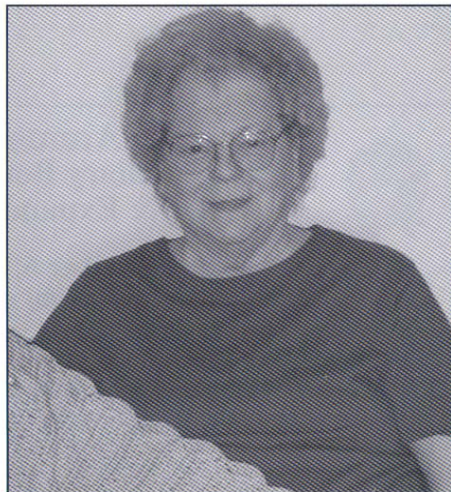
Sharron Bailey

Next Elaine said she would dare to guess that Helen Visocky, in the

past five years has crocheted over 1,000 baby afghans and other items, for the Essential Pregnancy Services. Helen also makes the deliveries each month to the ESP services, for our group.

As a staff member from the services wrote on the thank you card, our group receives every month, "Thank you so very much for the faithful support of our clients and their babies. You are so very kind." I think the word faithful support says it all about these two ladies.

Thank You "Heartland Hooks & Needles."



Our EPS moms and babies appreciate the hard work of the "Heartland Hooks & Needles." Helen Visocky (pictured above) drops off bags of the beautifully hand knit afghans ever month.

Helen Visocky

New BEAR DEN for Hug-A-Bears by himself

Ahah a new BEAR DEN has been found at the Maple Ridge Retirement Community Center.

The Maple Ridge Retirement Community is located at 3525 N. 167th. Volunteers please use the MAIN entrance on the EAST side. Go in and then LEFT to the Elevator and choose LL. At the LL go RIGHT and listen for the ladies laughing and having fun. Come help us to get in on the JOY of doing this great project. We have given 17,000 Bears away so far.

The group meets each TUESDAY during 8:00 AM - Noon when the Hug-A-Bears are lovingly constructed in the LL by "Trimming, Stitching, Stuffing and Packaging". Marcy and Stephen Dawkins are the leaders. To help, call them at 445-0715.

For a thumbnail of MARCY and the project... look at Heartlandpioneers Council Activities main menu and select: Get to know... Marcy.

After spending several years at the County Extension office we have a new home and must not forget Sheriff Dunning and the folks at the County Extension office for the many years we were allowed to assemble these cherished items there.

We thank Annette Herron MRRC for making this all possible



WANTED/NEEDED for the new Bear Den: used storage cabinet in great shape preferably a size of 5' x 3' x 2' or larger....will be used as additional storage for Hug-A-Bears materials at Maple Ridge Retirement Community, contact Steve Miller 490-4747.

Blood Drive

We had a successful blood drive on Friday the 8th of February. The goal was 44 pints, and 51 good pints were collected. Of the 58 donors interviewed, 31 were from CSMI, 20 were from Netshops, and 7 were retirees. The next blood drives will be the 2nd Friday mornings the 9th of May, the 8th of August, and the 10th of October. Canteen chair Dick and Cathy Maxwell encourage you to come in and donate. Retirees that would like to donate should contact Connie Carlson at 691-4954 or at CCarlson@csmfg.com to set up an appointment. Please try and set one up before coming in if at all possible.

WE MUST DECIDE! by**Fellow Pioneers,**

During the last several years the board has had recurring discussions about the future of our Heartland Council. Last year we appeared to have turned over control of Turkeyfest to the Salvation Army. Our Octopuff program has also scaled back quite a bit. Preceding that we have discontinued our disaster kits and several other projects. We are currently building our programs for Project Connect (for which our Chapter received an award from the "Association") and Playground and electronic maps. While all of this goes on we continue to provide services such as Driving for the Blind, Hooks and Needles and Hug-a-Bears. There are several other activities, many of which take place during the holiday season.

While all of this happens we continue to spend money, slowly eroding our bank accounts. Our income stream is meager now and one of the ways we could grow this is to increase our membership. We currently have only 4 "regular" members (those who pay dues).

To refresh your memory, the rules state that Life Members (e.g. retirees) are not obliged to pay dues.

We have until the end of the year 2009 to recruit new members FROM ANYWHERE. Have you asked anyone?

If you were one of the slightly less than 200 Life Members attending our latest luncheon you may have noticed that the average attendee is retired and can qualify for membership in AARP. The luncheons are always enjoyable; however, we attempted to recruit participants for Hooks and Needles and Maps and the result was that NOBODY came forward. The total income from the donation box at the luncheon was approximately zero (\$0). Where do we go from here?

WE MUST DECIDE if we want to try to promote the Heartland Council for the years to come....or do we passively accept the fact that our numbers are shrinking and continue to scale back on operations until our treasury is used up?

Our legacy is something to be proud of and I believe much of what we are doing is appreciated by the community.

It would be nice if everyone helped - even just a little! Are you asking yourself, "What can I do?" Well, here are a couple of options:

1. Call people and try to recruit members for some of our committees (What are their talents?).
2. Recruit new members for the Heartland Council.

This can be done for anyone until December 31, 2009. Applications are available on our web site www.heartlandpioneers.com and dues are still only \$15 per person (or \$25 per family).

Get in touch with our board members and tell us what you think! The board may have to decide soon, and the best decision will be made based on YOUR input. Please let us know what you think.

Driving For The Blind

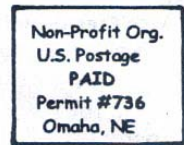
The Driving for the Blind Team has been around for at least thirty years and our most important service the Heartland Pioneers provides is getting the members of the Omaha Chapter of the National Federation of the Blind (NFB) to their monthly meeting on the third Thursday of every month.

This service work is fun if you enjoy meeting interesting people who are like you and me but who can't see. During their meeting, we volunteer drivers usually go to a local restaurant and enjoy supper together. It is always fun talking with "old friends" over a meal! The volunteer drivers these days are Heartland Pioneers Kevin Arnold, Don Dirks, Ann Drebot, Darwin Fager, Vern Klaumann, Frank Markesi, Bill McCormick, Bob Lorenz, Pat Oliver, Fred Cook of ConAgra and Oscar Alvarado of the US Postal Service.

Sometimes, we Pioneers fall short of our goal. Due to travel or social commitments or illness, we only have six or seven who can pick-up the blind on the Third Thursday. With an average of three blind clients per car, that means we can only pick-up 18 to 21 members when 27 requested transportation. We could use two or three more volunteers. The commitment is only from about six o'clock to ten o'clock on the Third Thursday of the month. If you itemize when filing your income taxes, you can take the volunteer service driving deduction.

If you are interested, please call Darwin Fager @ 670-4449 or George Parkerson @ 346-8367.

**TelecomPioneers
Heartland Council
P.O.Box 541233
Omaha,NE 68154**



Heartland Pioneers

In Memoriam of those in the first quarter 2008

Francis L. "Frank" Barak
Laverne William "Shorty" Hunt
Charles A. Aufenkamp
Gladys Mueller
Darlene Glesmann
Boyd G. Swarts
Marie E. (Deremer) (Mason) Ivey
Daryl J. Schleisman
Kathy E. Bartkowitz
*Ralph H. Brewer
*(Past President of Cornhusker #92)
Roger Vincent
James E. Heckman
Gordon L. Harlow
Charlene Tolson
Philip Stubbe
JoAnn Voboril
Sheila C. Filipiak
Sharon A. Justsen
Walter A. Jingleski
May Fishler
Frances Linnie Ross

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 Get To Know Jerry and Betty

By Qianna Bradley
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER



Jerry and Betty Golmanavich
Ages: Jerry is 59, and Betty is 61
Family: a cat, Sweetie
Jerry and Betty pour themselves into volunteer work with many organizations.

Jerry and Betty Golmanavich enjoy volunteering for so many things; it's hard for them to devote all of their time to just one.

Betty volunteers with the local Red Cross doing data entry. Jerry volunteers with the Omaha Visitors Bureau. Betty helps serve lunches after funerals at St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church. Jerry is secretary of the Omaha Magical Society.

Since moving to Omaha in 1983 from Baltimore, the two have submerged themselves in the volunteer community. They don't have children or work full time anymore, so the Golmanavich's do what they enjoy. "You get to pick and choose what you do," said Betty, 61. "I can do whatever I want."

Jerry, 59, retired in February 2000 after 30 years with Lucent Technologies.

Betty, who worked full time as a bookkeeper in Baltimore, opted for part-time hours when they moved here because of Omaha's cheaper cost of living. She currently works part time for the Omaha Archdiocese doing data entry. Jerry works part time at the Qwest Center Omaha, ushering and taking tickets, among other jobs.

The couple said they love Omaha's volunteer atmosphere and close-knit community, especially compared to the unfriendly feel of the East Coast.

Together, the couple's volunteer service includes the Omaha Community Playhouse, Omaha Performing Arts, Salvation Army and the Holiday Lights Festival.

Betty has also volunteered with the Child Saving Institute and the American Lung Association of Nebraska.

But what they enjoy most is volunteering with the Heartland Council of the TelecomPioneers, an organization of telecommunication employees and retirees.

Jerry coordinates Project Connect, a program within the group that teaches telecommunication technology to students through computer games.

They also participate in Hug-A-Bear, a Telecom Pioneers project that gives stuffed bears to children who have suffered bad times, and Hooks and Needles, which donates knitted items to local organizations. Jerry likes the warm, fuzzy feeling he gets from doing things for other people.

"I wish that everybody has had 10 percent of the experiences that we've had," he said. Betty just wants to pass along the good that has come to her. "We've been very fortunate," she said, "and God's been good to us."