Travelers
The Magazine of The Travelers Protective Association | September 2022 | Vol. 60 Issue 2

Feature State:
TENNESSEE

Twilight at the Old Mill along the Little River in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee.

contents
From the CAO ...................... 2
From the President .............. 3
2022 Convention Winners .... 4-5
Approved Amendment .......... 6
American Flag Program ...... 6
Amazon SMILE Program ...... 6
Through My Eyes ................. 7
Planned Giving ................... 8
2022 Convention Photos ...... 9 & 32
Convention Raises $22,000 .... 10
Hearing Trust .................... 11
Hearing Trust Donor Recognition 12
Hearing Trust Spotlight Recipients 13
Hearing Trust—Thank You .... 14-15
Tennessee—Feature State .... 16-19
2023 Convention .............. 20-21
2022-2023 Excitement Program 22-23
Merit & FOTY Winners ...... 24
TPA Discounts .................. 25
Members in Action ............. 26-31
Thank you to all the members of the Michigan Division for your help at the 132nd Annual Convention in Grand Rapids, Michigan and to all the volunteers for assisting and making sure the event was successful. It was my pleasure to meet many of the first-time delegates: Shirley Calvin from Nebraska; Ronald Bauman from Wisconsin; Wayne Warnecke from Wisconsin; Karl “Skip” Wolf from Pennsylvania; and Priscilla Wolf from Pennsylvania. People were already asking about making reservations for next year’s meeting in North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina at the Beach Cove Resort. We currently have promotional videos on our website. To watch, simply click on the Current Members tab and then the Annual Meeting tab. The property is spectacular and affordable, with a weekday rate of $115 per night, and a weekend rate of $140, plus fees and tax.

Congratulations to the new board members who were elected and thank you to those whose terms have ended. Elwood “E.L.” Reed from Missouri was re-elected national president and Joel Lederman from Colorado was elected vice president. Four directors were elected to serve two-year terms on the national board, including Kay Aycock from North Carolina, Dean Costello from Illinois, Brad Cunningham from Missouri, and Rollin “Bill” Mills from South Carolina. Four directors return for the final year of their term, including Tom Davis from Kentucky, Julie Kupper from Texas, Alfred Moore, Jr. from Louisiana, and Wayne Wentworth from Michigan.

The convention raised more than $22,000 for our charitable arms. We raised more than $17,000 for the organization’s Hearing Trust. Established in 1975, the Trust provides financial aid to those who are deaf or hard of hearing. Grants are used for mechanical devices, medical and specialized treatment, and education that includes speech classes and interpreters. To date the Trust has distributed over $2.3 million to more than 6,000 recipients. It’s because of your generous contributions that we can continue to help children like Ashley, Allison, and Anna McGowan. Additionally, more than $5,000 was raised for TPA’s Homer T. Wilson Humanitarian Fund, which provides emergency financial aid to TPA members in need.

The board of directors approved the membership incentive program Excitement Continues starting on May 1, 2022 and ending on April 30, 2023. The incentives are similar to the previous program, with a few additional perks. For posts and divisions to be eligible to receive funds they must be 100% compliant with reporting requirements. All meeting minutes, financial reports and bank statements must be on file at national headquarters as defined in our governing documents, the standing rules, and the restated bylaws. These can be found on our website on our Publications page. Payments will be disbursed in November and May. There are additional incentives to reduce membership loss, too. Turn to pages 22-23 for the complete rules and list of the awards available to posts, divisions, and individual sponsors. Let’s get serious about writing new applications!

We continue our commitment to improving the quality of life in the communities we live in through community service and safety programs, to our members in need through the Homer T. Wilson fund, and to those with hearing loss through Hearing Trust grants. Membership is the key to future success, and I encourage you to share the good news outlined in this article with your family, friends and associates.

Fraternally,
Albert M. Shoemaker, Jr.
Chief Administrative Officer
Great . . . Great! What a tremendous convention. The convention committee did an excellent job planning the TPA 2022 132nd annual convention at the Amway Grand Plaza in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Despite unforeseen and difficult circumstances. Albert Shoemaker, Jr. as CAO, the office staff, Paula Shoemaker, and others worked hard to make the convention a success. Thank you to all who participated in the Sunday night auction and to all that donated and purchased items. It brought in a considerable amount of money along with fun for our charitable arms. The convention raised more than $17,000 for the Hearing Trust and more than $5,000 for the Homer T. Wilson fund.

The business of TPA would not have been accomplished without the delegates who attended. We appreciate your attendance as this is a vital part of the convention. You gave me the privilege again for the 2022-2023 year to serve as president. Congratulations to Joel Lederman from Colorado as vice president and four directors to the National Board of directors: Kay Aycock from North Carolina; Dean Costello from Illinois; Brad Cunningham from Missouri; and Rollin “Bill” Mills from South Carolina. I’m looking forward to working with the entire board with enthusiasm this coming year.

Thank you to Sandy Wentworth and her helpers in planning and providing various forms of entertainment for the youth in attendance. The service project for the youth was to take small totes and fill them with a doll or a truck, a book, snacks, and other items for children in need. They were excited about assembling them. Those in attendance were honored to see and meet this year’s ambassador family—Ashley, Allison, and Anna McGowan and their parents. They joined us at the evening banquet and the dancing that evening.

The reports from the actuarial firm and the auditors were very good. We continue our commitment to improving the quality of life in communities in which we live through community service and safety programs. We help our members in need through the Homer T. Wilson and those with hearing loss by issuing Hearing Trust grants.

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH is still the major concern for TPA. We need each of you to work hard on writing new members. The future of TPA is in danger if we cannot stop the decline in membership. It’s time to get motivated to write new members.

Fraternally yours,
E.L. Reed
National President
COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARDS

Small Division
1st Place  Iowa
2nd Place  No second place
3rd Place  No third place

Small Post
1st Place  Post O – Iowa
2nd Place  Post SC – Missouri
3rd Place  Post A – Illinois

Intermediate Division
1st Place  South Carolina
2nd Place  Minnesota
3rd Place  Texas

Intermediate Post
1st Place  Post K – South Carolina
2nd Place  Post A – South Carolina
3rd Place  Post B – South Carolina

Large Division
1st Place  Michigan
2nd Place  Pennsylvania
3rd Place  North Carolina

Large Post
1st Place  Post I – Michigan
2nd Place  Post L – Pennsylvania
3rd Place  Post W – Pennsylvania

Mega Post
1st Place  Post A – Michigan

SAFETY COMMITTEE AWARDS

Small Division
1st Place  Iowa
2nd Place  Tennessee
3rd Place  No third place

Small Post
1st Place  Post D – Kentucky
2nd Place  Post O – Iowa
3rd Place  Post G – Pennsylvania

Intermediate Division
1st Place  South Carolina
2nd Place  Indiana
3rd Place  Louisiana

Intermediate Post
1st Place  Post K – South Carolina
2nd Place  Post H – Michigan
3rd Place  Post O – Kentucky

Large Division
1st Place  Pennsylvania
2nd Place  Michigan
3rd Place  Kentucky

Large Post
1st Place  Post V – Pennsylvania
2nd Place  Post I – Michigan
3rd Place  Post E – Pennsylvania

Mega Post
1st Place  Post A – Michigan

Merit Award
Congratulations to Patricia Palencar from Pennsylvania named the TPA Merit Award winner. Pictured left to right: Julie Kupper; Pat Palencar; and Tom Davis.

Fraternalist of the Year
Congratulations to John Hunolt from Iowa named the TPA Fraternalist of the Year. Pictured left to right: John Hunolt and Ken Venables.
COMMUNICATIONS AWARDS

**Small Division**
1st Place          Iowa  
2nd Place          Tennessee  
3rd Place          No third place

**Small Post**
1st Place          Post O – Iowa  
2nd Place          Post G – Pennsylvania  
3rd Place          Post SC – Missouri

**Intermediate Division**
1st Place          South Carolina  
2nd Place          Illinois  
3rd Place          Louisiana

**Intermediate Post**
1st Place          Post K – South Carolina  
2nd Place          Post H – Illinois  
3rd Place          Post F – Louisiana

**Large Division**
1st Place          Michigan  
2nd Place          Pennsylvania  
3rd Place          Kentucky

**Large Post**
1st Place          Post I – Michigan  
2nd Place          Post Q – Pennsylvania  
3rd Place          Post E – Pennsylvania

**Mega Post**
1st Place          Post A – Michigan

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**Hearing Trust Platinum Donors**
*Pictured left to right:* E.L. Reed; Joel Lederman; Post E – Illinois; Missouri Division; and Post SC – Missouri.

**Hearing Trust Gold Donors**
*Pictured left to right, front row:* Julie Kupper; Post A – Michigan; Dixie Burdett; Dolores and Edwin Miller; Post – D Pennsylvania. *Back row:* Michigan Division; Post – I Wisconsin; Post P – North Carolina; Post L – Pennsylvania.

**First Time Delegates**
*Pictured left to right:* Ronald Bauman; Shirley Calvin; Wayne Warnecke; Karl Wolf; and Priscilla Wolf.

**The Past and Present Officers Group Award**
*Pictured left to right:* Tom Davis, Richard Martin, and James Ruppe selected Douglas Jackson for the award, who was unable to attend.
The following proposed amendment to the Restated Bylaws of TPA was submitted to the bylaws committee for consideration, approved by the delegates, non-disapproved by the Missouri Department of Insurance, and ratified by the national board of directors at the July meeting.

**Proposed Amendment Number 1**

Article V: Officers; Section 5. Duties of officer; Paragraph D; Line 233

Line 233 currently reads: “D. Directors: The directors sit as members of the board of directors and perform such duties as the bylaws or any standing rules and policy may require, serving in a position of trust to represent the best interests of all members of the association. The duty to attend meetings is a solemn duty. The National Board of Directors has the right to recommend to the convention delegates the removal of any national board members that misses two meetings during their term in office.”

Delete: “sit as members of the board of directors and”

If adopted Line 233 would read:

“D. Directors: The directors perform such duties as the bylaws or any standing rules and policy may require, serving in a position of trust to represent the best interests of all members of the association. The duty to attend meetings is a solemn duty. The National Board of Directors has the right to recommend to the convention delegates the removal of any national board members that misses two meetings during their term in office.”

Rationale: To eliminate repetitive wording.

Submitted by: Tom Davis, Julie Kupper, Joel Lederman, Alfred Moore, and Wayne Wentworth
January 4, 2022

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**TPA and Amazon Partnership**

The TPA Scholarship Trust for the Hearing Impaired (now known as the Hearing Trust) has partnered with Amazon. Welcome to AmazonSmile, where Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of eligible smile.amazon.com purchases to the charities selected by customers. Our registration is now complete. When customers click on our unique link, they skip the charity selection process and are taken to smile.amazon.com and are automatically asked if they want to support the Trust. Feel free to contact national headquarters at 636-724-2227 and we will email the hyperlink to you.

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**American Flag Program**

The Community Service Committee has the responsibility of promoting patriotism through the “American Flag Program.” We do this by displaying and distributing the American flag at various events within our local community whenever possible. Not all events will display the American flag. Points are given through the reporting form for each American flag that is displayed or distributed. We encourage every post and division to participate in this commendable program.
When Debbie Medley started at TPA over 30 years ago, she didn’t know she would find more than a job—she found a fraternal family.

Debbie had worked different temp jobs, and knew she needed a steady job with benefits. “I applied to TPA because I needed benefits—but the reason I’ve stayed so long is I believe in the mission. I like what they (the posts and divisions) do for their communities. That’s what TPA stands for and I agree with it.”

As the Data Control Supervisor, Debbie takes care of the bookkeeping and the data processing. Her responsibilities include updating all membership records, so if you need your beneficiary updated, your address changed, your payment processed or a refund check issued, she’s your go-to. She also assists with the bookkeeping of the Hearing Trust.

When Debbie started her career with TPA, she recalls the volume of mail her department would receive. Tons of checks and forms would come through each week. Now with online submissions and the TPA website, a lot of requests are submitted online. “That’s the biggest change since I started, the technology—it has made things a whole lot easier,” she adds with a laugh, “but at times it can be a lot more work. When I started 30 years ago, we didn’t even have a website!”

The staff at TPA has been like a second family to Debbie. “We always celebrate the holidays together. When we were at the old office, we had big meals for Thanksgiving and Christmas.” To this day the staff continues the tradition of sharing holiday meals and celebrations. Debbie has worked under four different CAOs.

Over the years, Debbie has been a delegate at seven national conventions. She and fellow TPA staff member, Dana Kurtz, both attended their first convention in Pennsylvania together. She’s been to conventions in Virginia, Louisiana, Pennsylvania, Nevada, Illinois, and Kentucky.

When Debbie is not at the office, you’ll probably find her with a bingo dauber in her hand. “I love bingo. Once I took a bus trip with a friend for a whole weekend of bingo.” She always takes her good luck bingo bag with her, a gift from her grandkids.

She also enjoys spending time with her two children and five grandchildren. Debbie feels fortunate that they all live close to her, so she can see them often. Her dog Sky, part min-pin and part terrier, is also part of the family.

Debbie is a member of Post SC of the Missouri Division. She is preparing to take over as president for the first time. In the past, she also volunteered with Post SL. Her favorite TPA volunteer activities include picking up trash on the side of the road, distributing food baskets during the COVID pandemic, and participating in the Post 5K walk.

“That’s what TPA does. Each post sees different needs in their various communities and has the ability to help … and that’s all over the United States.” Debbie has enjoyed meeting people from all around the country.

To her fellow TPA members, Debbie’s advice is simple, “Stay safe, keep up with your membership and take advantage of all the benefits it provides.”
Dear TPA Members:

My name is Joel Lederman and I am appealing to you as chair of the Planned Giving Committee and past national president of the Association. My colleagues on this committee are Tom Davis, national director from the Kentucky Division and Kay Aycock, national director from the North Carolina Division.

Our committee hopes you will consider creating a planned or deferred gift to the TPA Hearing Trust and/or The Homer T. Wilson Humanitarian Fund. Donors can deduct contributions they make under Internal Revenue Code Section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi). As public charities, we are also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers, or gifts under Section 2055, 2106, or 2522. Gifts may come from the following: estate planning donations; IRA contributions; legacy gifts; memorial gifts; stock; or property. Many receiving this letter have previously donated to one or both of these wonderful charities and we sincerely thank you for your support!

The mission of the TPA Hearing Trust is to provide aid to individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing for resources that will allow them to achieve their full potential. To date, the Trust has distributed over $2.3 million, benefiting more than 6,000 individuals. Recipients utilize the funding from these grants to obtain the assistance and resources needed to advance the skills of deaf and hard of hearing individuals, including technology, assistive services, specialized education and classes, note takers, interpreters and much more.

The mission of The Homer T. Wilson Humanitarian Fund is to provide financial assistance to TPA members in need. Funds come from voluntary contributions and from investment income. Many TPA members have been helped confidentially in previous years and recently due to damage to their homes from storm disasters in various states.

Your consideration of a gift to either or both charities will be sincerely appreciated and enable these two funds to grow, which will allow TPA to continue making grants to those in need. What a wonderful form of community service! If you need assistance with your estate planning, we recommend contacting your family attorney or qualified financial advisor specialized in estate planning in your community.

General questions may be addressed to me, Tom Davis, Kay Aycock, E.L. Reed, or Albert Shoemaker by email at Joell55@yahoo.com, tdavismayor@hotmail.com, mksba@aol.com, elreed37@gmail.com, and ashoemaker@tpahq.org.

Fraternally yours,

Joel Lederman, Chair
Planned Giving Committee
The Travelers Protective Association recently held its 132nd national convention at the Amway Grand Plaza hotel in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Seventy-two voting delegates representing 13 divisions located throughout the country attended the three-day conference. An auction and reception raised more than $17,000 for the TPA Hearing Trust. More than $5,000 was also raised for the Homer T. Wilson fund, which provides emergency financial aid to TPA members in need. The Association’s national election was held, Elwood Reed from Missouri was elected as president and Joel Lederman from Colorado was elected as vice president. Four directors were elected to the national board of directors, including Kay Aycock from North Carolina, Dean Costello from Illinois, Brad Cunningham from Missouri, and Rollin “Bill” Mills from South Carolina.

“This year’s convention was a wonderful celebration of our organization’s accomplishments over the past year,” said the TPA’s Chief Administrative Officer Albert M. Shoemaker, Jr. “I am overwhelmed with the amount of support and generosity we received as we strive to improve the quality of life for others, and the communities we live in.” TPA proudly thanks our corporate sponsors for their generous donations, with a special thank you to the Amway Grand Plaza hotel for hosting the spectacular event.
Travelers Protective Association Awards $14,150 in Financial Aid to Deaf and Hard of Hearing

The TPA Hearing Trust issued 23 grants, totaling $14,150, to applicants requesting assistance during the second quarter of 2022. Established by TPA in 1975, the mission of the TPA Hearing Trust is to provide aid to individuals that are deaf or hard of hearing for resources that will allow them to achieve their full potential.

To date, the Hearing Trust has distributed over $2 million, benefiting more than 6,000 individuals. For this quarter, recipients plan to utilize their funding to obtain hearing aids, batteries, hearing service dogs, medical bills, interpreters, transportation, school tuition, and travel expenses. Recipients are also able to use these grants toward other hearing devices, and much more.

“With roughly 20% of Americans being deaf or hard of hearing, we want to continue making sure they receive the support they need and the respect they deserve,” said Albert Shoemaker, TPA’s Chief Administrative Officer. “The goal of the Trust is to aid and assist people. With the help of our generous donors and members of our communities, we know that we will continue increasing the number of individuals we can offer support to.”

Grants this quarter varied in size from $100 through $900, benefiting recipients from 13 states and ranging in age between three and 94 years old, including grant recipient Molly Krause from St. Louis, Missouri. Molly intends to use her grant for tuition at the Central Institute for the Deaf.

An independent 501(c)(3) organization, the TPA Hearing Trust accepts tax deductible donations from TPA members, posts and divisions, nonmembers, businesses, foundations and all other legal entities. To learn more, make a contribution to the TPA Hearing Trust or to apply for aid, please visit www.tpahq.org/tpa-hearing-trust/.

The Homer T. Wilson Humanitarian Fund

Homer T. Wilson began his association with The Travelers Protective Association of America in 1894 as chaplain of Post J, Fort Worth, Texas. In 1895 he became chaplain of the Texas Division and in 1897 was elected as national chaplain. In 1910 Reverend Wilson became aware of the need to help TPA members in times of need and emergencies. At the national convention in 1910 approval was given for the creation of the Homer T. Wilson Fund, and members voluntarily contributed. The fund was created to help indigent members, widows, widowers, and orphans in the Association. Members can apply for emergency financial aid by contacting their post secretary or post president. Requests are then forwarded to the division secretary, who is responsible to verify that there is true need. The division secretary then forwards a written request to the chief administrative officer of TPA. Today, contributions are promoted through post and division fundraising, through individual donations, and investment income. If you would like to help fellow members in financial distress please send your contributions to:

Homer T. Wilson Fund / The Travelers Protective Association of America / Attn: Chief Administrative Officer
2041 Exchange Drive • St. Charles, MO 63303

The Homer T. Wilson Benevolent Fund has changed its name to
The Homer T. Wilson Humanitarian Fund.
**Donor Recognition**

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the Trust. ALL donations are greatly appreciated.

### 2022 Donor Recognition as of July 12, 2022

#### DOUBLE PLATINUM LEVEL
($2,000 and above)

- Dixie Burdett
- Dorothy Knight
- Joel Lederman
- E.L. & Patricia Reed
- Wisconsin Division
- Post P – North Carolina Division
- Post W – Pennsylvania Division
- Post K – South Carolina Division
- Post BB – Texas Division
- Post J – Texas Division
- Post W – Texas Division

#### PLATINUM LEVEL
($1,000 – $1,499.99)

- Rachelle Jackson
- Ronald Possehn
- Michigan Division
- Post P – North Carolina Division
- Post W – Pennsylvania Division
- Post K – South Carolina Division
- Post BB – Texas Division
- Post J – Texas Division
- Post W – Texas Division

#### SILVER LEVEL
($250 – $499.99)

- Bailey & Diane Bledsoe
- John Chmielewski
- Dean Costello
- Terry & Kathryn Hoeppner
- George Kern & Peggy Landis
- Benjamin & Amy Klepser
- Christina Knott
- Mark & Beth Koster
- Michael Lepore
- William Mason
- Tony McGowan
- Edward Michael
- William & Ann Pearce
- Randy Rouse
- Carol Ruffner
- James & Wanda Ruppe
- Thurman Stone, Jr.
- Duane Thomas (Stifel)
- Ed & Marilyn Tonak
- Wayne Wentworth

#### PLATINUM GOLD LEVEL
($1,500 – $1,999.99)

- Charles & Kay Aycock
- Woody & Julie Kupper
- Jeff Malek
- Missouri Division
- Post H – North Carolina Division
- Post D – Wisconsin Division

#### PLATINUM LEVEL
($1,500 – $1,999.99)

- Ronald Possehn
- Michigan Division
- Post P – North Carolina Division
- Post W – Pennsylvania Division
- Post K – South Carolina Division
- Post BB – Texas Division
- Post J – Texas Division
- Post W – Texas Division

#### BRONZE LEVEL
($100 – $249.99)

- William Mason
- Tony McGowan
- Edward Michael
- William & Ann Pearce
- Randy Rouse
- Carol Ruffner
- James & Wanda Ruppe
- Thurman Stone, Jr.
- Duane Thomas (Stifel)
- Ed & Marilyn Tonak
- Wayne Wentworth

#### GOLD LEVEL
($500 – $999.99)

- Bailey & Diane Bledsoe
- John Chmielewski
- Dean Costello
- Terry & Kathryn Hoeppner
- George Kern & Peggy Landis
- Benjamin & Amy Klepser
- Christina Knott
- Mark & Beth Koster
- Michael Lepore
- William Mason
- Tony McGowan
- Edward Michael
- William & Ann Pearce
- Randy Rouse
- Carol Ruffner
- James & Wanda Ruppe
- Thurman Stone, Jr.
- Duane Thomas (Stifel)
- Ed & Marilyn Tonak
- Wayne Wentworth

#### CONTRIBUTOR
($10 – $99.99)

- Waymouth & Jo Ann Allen
- Sharon Biondo
- Janice Boller
- Revonda Brady
- Martin Brown
- Gay Dickson
- Unafern Gorham
- Helen Helms
- John Hood
- Glenna Horn
- Leslie Karsten
- Haywood Lee

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To donate to the TPA Hearing Trust online go to tphaq.org/donate/
Ashley
Ashley was two-and-a-half-years-old when she was diagnosed with profound hearing loss. She has hearing aids. Without her aids, she can only hear if someone is screaming. Ashley is described as a social butterfly. She plays clarinet and the piano. She is very smart, does well in school, and when she is focused her mother says she can do anything. Ashley would like to be a teacher for kids with hearing loss.

Allison
Allison was deaf from birth, but luckily her condition was immediately caught. She was just three months old when she was fitted with hearing aids. She received her first cochlear implant at nine months, and the second at one year. Since she was diagnosed so early, she developed just like other children her age. Allison enjoys playing video games, she loves art, draws beautifully and is always experimenting with color. “She looks at life in a different way,” her mother comments, “her smile can light up a room and her sweet personality makes you feel at peace.”

Anna
When Anna was young, her mother noticed that she wasn’t talking. At three-and-a-half she was diagnosed as deaf and received cochlear implants. At four years old, Anna could barely talk. After her first cochlear implant surgery it was determined that Anna needed another surgery. Thanks to that successful surgery at the University of Michigan, Anna is thriving. Anna is an avid reader and loves music from the 50s and 60s. Anna has her driver’s license, and she has special seat belt covers that say she has a cochlear implant, to notify emergency personnel. She is an avid advocate for people with hearing loss.

Pictured back row, left to right: Ashley McGowan; Allison McGowan; and Anna McGowan.
Front row, left to right: Parents Alexandra and Tony McGowan.
Mr Shoemaker:
It was a pleasure to meet you during the convention, great event and we were so lucky to be part of it!

Once again we thank you for all you and the TPA have done for our family.

Looking forward to see you next year at the convention!

Alex McGowan
Thank you so much for a check from the Trust. I really appreciate it. Your organization is GREAT, helping so many hearing impaired people. I will use the funds to purchase supplies for my cochlear implant. Thanks again.

Sue Tiffany Stowell

I greatly appreciate the grant money I received from you organization. Hearing Aids have tremendously improved my lifestyle. Thanks to all of you at T.P.A Hearing Trust.

Sincerely, Caritas L.
The Treasures of Tennessee

Legend’s Corner, one of the many music venues in Nashville, Tennessee.
Dollywood Amusement Park

In Pigeon Forge, you’ll find that Dollywood Amusement Park Tennessee is home to a variety of adventures including live stage shows, unique restaurants, many festivals and authentic crafters. The park also features roller coasters—everything from kid rides to water rides to thrilling rides that reach 60 miles per hour.

Get a glimpse into Dolly Parton’s life by visiting the Chasing Rainbows Museum, which features authentic costumes from her closet and artifacts from her life. After a day of fun, you’ll want to be sure to stop at one of the many gift shops located in the park to pick up a hand-crafted souvenir to remember your trip.

Great Smoky Mountains National Park

One of the best places to visit in Tennessee for nature lovers is the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, one of the most visited national parks in the United States! The park stretches out over 500,000 acres. You will enjoy cascading waterfalls, roaming wildlife and an amazing view.

Enjoy the majestic mountains and forests as you travel the trails. There are paths for every level of hiker, including easier trails for families.

Located in the park is Cades Cove, which is well-known for its beautiful view. You’ll definitely want to take the Cades Cove Scenic Loop drive where you will see mountain peaks and green forests.

You can also hike to Clingmans Dome, which will allow you to see over 100 miles in the distance as it is the highest point in the park in Tennessee. While the trail is steep, it is paved and has plenty of benches to rest. The Observation Tower stands 6,643 feet high and offers a 360-degree view.

Don’t forget Laurel Falls, one of the most popular hikes in the park. This hike is right around a two-hour trip both ways, but is worth it to experience the beautiful waterfall and true beauty of the Smokies.

continued on next page
The Parthenon

See The Parthenon without leaving the United States by visiting Nashville. In Centennial Park you will find full-scale replicas of the of the 42-foot statue Athena and the Parthenon. Part of the reason these replicas were built is because Tennessee’s nick name is the “Athens of the South.” The Parthenon also serves as Nashville’s art museum, and is home to a huge collection of American art and special exhibits.

Graceland

Graceland is one of the most famous landmarks in the state of Tennessee. It belonged to the King of the Rock ‘n Roll, Elvis Presley, and is now in the possession of his daughter. Since Graceland opened to the public in 1982 thousands of fans and tourists visit annually. Graceland is on the National Register of Historic Places and is a National Historic Landmark. This is the perfect time to visit Graceland because it is holding special events all year to mark the 45th anniversary of Elvis’s passing.

Ruby Falls

Ruby Falls is the tallest and deepest underground waterfall in the country and one of the best places to visit in Tennessee. Ruby Falls is located near Chattanooga, and it is always 60 degrees in the cavern. You can journey deep inside historic Lookout Mountain to see the waterfall, which descends more than 260 feet.

There is a glass-front elevator to see ancient cave formations. Above ground, you can enjoy the surrounding park which features ziplining and shopping.

Clarksville

As the song goes, take the last train to Clarksville—which is home to one-of-a-kind shopping, restaurants, breweries, art galleries, professional theatre, and stunning historic architecture. You’ll also enjoy outdoor art with statues, murals, fountains and sculptures spread throughout the city.

Some of Clarksville’s most well-known outdoor attractions include the Dunbar Cave, the Cumberland River, and the Clarksville Greenway. The Clarksville Greenway is a nine-mile abandoned railway that is completely paved and is the perfect place to bike, skate, run, or just enjoy a leisurely walk.
Lynchburg
This little town located to the southeast of Nashville is known as the birthplace of Jack Daniels, the world-famous Tennessee whiskey. More than 250,000 visitors flock to Lynchburg each year to enjoy the scenery and to tour the Jack Daniels distillery, which is the oldest registered distillery in the United States.

After touring the distillery, be sure to visit the old courthouse, shop in the many antiques stores, enjoy country dining, or just drive around and take in the beautiful surrounding countryside, vintage homes and churches.

Nashville Music Attractions
You can’t visit Nashville without taking in some of its rich musical history. The Country Music Hall of Fame is home to 2.5 million artifacts, and has two floors of galleries featuring permanent and special exhibits. The tour also includes a visit to RCA’s Studio B the “Home of 1,000 Hits,” where Elvis Presley, Dolly Parton, and Willie Nelson all made recordings. Across the street from the hall of fame are granite stars embedded in the sidewalk to honor famous celebrities in country music.

Another of Nashville’s unique musical treasures is the Grand Ole Opry House. Catch a show or take a backstage tour to see how the music is made, learn about the special effects, and hear insider stories about some of the biggest names in music.

Celebrating 130 years, the Ryman Auditorium is known as the spot where bluegrass was born. Originally named the Union Gospel Tabernacle, the theater was later renamed for the man who built it, Thomas Ryman. It celebrates all genres, welcomes everyone to come together to experience music.

Civil War History
Tennessee was divided during the Civil War with one part of the state aligned with Confederate forces, and the east sided with the North.

History buffs will enjoy visiting Fort Donelson National Battlefield, the first major Union victory. This includes a cemetery, fort and visitors center.

With more than 9,500 acres, the Chickamauga-Chattanooga National Military Park is the country’s largest military park. It is famous for the battle that was considered the end of the Confederacy.

Sources: nashvilleparthenon.com, graceland.com, nps.gov, lynchburgtenn.com, visitclarksvilletn.com, countrymusichalloffame.org, opry.com, ryman.com

Photo Credits: dreamstime.com

Please note: Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic the schedules for some attractions may vary and special visitor restrictions may be in place. Be sure to check with the individual attraction prior to visiting.
Join Us for the 2023 TPA National Convention

June 4 – June 8, 2023
North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina
$115 Room Rate + fees and taxes
Weekend rates $140 + fees and taxes

Beach Cove Resort
4800 S. Ocean Boulevard
North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina 29582
Phone 888-974-5531
www.beachcove.com

Join us for the four-day convention starting with the Sunday Night Welcome Party. The business sessions begin on Monday, with a day off on Tuesday to enjoy the area attractions, but be sure to be back for the President’s Banquet that evening. The business session will resume on Wednesday and concludes with the officer and director elections on Thursday morning.

Beach Cove Resort is conveniently located in North Myrtle Beach, close to all the Grand Strand has to offer. With easy access to Barefoot Landing and other Myrtle Beach area attractions and amusements, this North Myrtle Beach resort is one of the most popular in the area. Featuring all oceanfront suites and condos, guests can enjoy fabulous views of the Atlantic Ocean and all of the familiar comforts of home.

Guests will experience the very best of North Myrtle Beach resorts at Beach Cove Resort. Amenities are plentiful and include three outdoor pools, oceanfront whirlpools, kiddie pool and a 350-foot lazy river, all surrounded by lush landscaping. Indoor water features allow for relaxation in the whirlpool, pool or sauna. Guests also have access to the exclusive Town Center featuring dining, a state-of-the-art arcade and more. The resort amenities at Beach Cove are endless. Relax and get away from it all with your family and loved ones at Beach Cove Resort in North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

Town Center
Exclusive for our front desk rental guests, the Town Center is a fun and exciting hub for families of all ages! Featuring the Winner’s Circle arcade and Grab N’ Go Grill & Coffee Bar, the Town Center is the place for families to unwind after a day at the beach and enjoy the cool air conditioned fun zone. Watch the game on large flat-screen TV’s and grab a pizza or 12 wings while you sit back and relax!

Oceanfront Condos and Suites
Beach Cove Resort offers the best in affordable North Myrtle Beach oceanfront condos and suites. Perfect for any visitor, our oceanfront suites are available in one, two and three bedrooms, and the three bedroom suites sleep up to ten people! All accommodations include a private oceanfront balcony, kitchen with utensils and cookware, and complimentary WiFi.

Reservations should be made by the individual guests making their own reservations at Beach Cove Resort by calling 888-974-5531 and referencing the group name, Travelers Protective Association—TPA. Oceanfront executive suites weekday rates are $115 plus fees and taxes totaling $150.08 per night, and weekend rates are $140 plus fees and taxes totaling $178.08 per night. The room block will be held until May 12, 2023. Be sure to make your reservations early! Check-in time is 4:00 p.m. and check-out time is 11:00 a.m. Convention attendees will be given a free parking pass when they check in.

Air Transportation
Myrtle Beach International Airport (airport code MYR) serves the air travel needs of the community. Air service is provided by Allegiant, American, Avelo, Delta, Frontier, Porter, Southwest, Spirit, Sun Country, and United. The airport is conveniently located approximately 16 miles from the Beach Cove Resort.

20 SEPTEMBER 2022 TRAVELERS
**Attractions**

Barefoot Landing is a mile away and offers more than 40 stores, restaurants and attractions. Relax, unwind and browse to your heart's content as you discover a wealth of unexpected treasures, from ice cream, candies, pretzels and fudge, to pastas, pizza, seafood, burgers and tacos. Barefoot Landing is home to an impressive selection of area restaurants and eateries. Visit the many national retail shops and unique boutiques as you stroll around the outdoor setting, exploring fun and fashion. Catch a live show at Alabama Theatre, the only live entertainment theatre in North Myrtle Beach and one of the best in the area. Enjoy live music at House of Blues, or take a scenic walk along the Intracoastal Waterway. The excitement never ends, there's always something new and exciting to do at Barefoot Landing.

**See you in Myrtle Beach!**
LET’S GET EXCITED ABOUT
2022-2023 Membership Incentive Pro

Starting Date: May 1, 2022

Post and Division Awards
The prize money will be based on the Membership count as of April 30, 2022.

Post Award: $3.00 per member
Write 5 applications in your Post and receive ONE THIRD of the prize money.
Write 10 applications in your Post and receive the SECOND THIRD of the prize money.
Write 15 applications in your Post and receive the FINAL THIRD of the prize money.

Division Award: $3.00 per member
Write 10 applications in your Division and receive ONE THIRD of the prize money.
Write 15 applications in your Division and receive the SECOND THIRD of the prize money.
Write 20 applications in your Division and receive the FINAL THIRD of the prize money.

ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE LONG TERM TO QUALIFY!!!

Note:
➢ Your Post and Division will earn an extra $2,500.00 when 25 applications are written.
➢ Your Post and Division will earn an extra $2,500.00 when 50 applications are written.
➢ Your Post and Division will earn an extra $2,500.00 when 75 applications are written.
➢ Your Post and Division will earn an extra $2,500.00 when 100 applications are written.
➢ Applications that you write into other Posts do not count for prizes in your Post.
➢ A written request for prizes must be submitted in writing to the CAO from the Division Secretary.
➢ Prizes will be paid semiannually in November and May.

MEMBERSHIP LOSS
We will also strive to cut membership loss again this year. If you cut membership loss from last year the prizes will be as follows:
➢ Cut your membership loss by 25%, a total of $300.00 will be awarded;
➢ Cut your membership loss by 50%, a total of $400.00 will be awarded;
➢ Cut your membership loss by 100%, a total of $500.00 will be awarded.

Awards can be achieved and disbursed at the Post and Division level.

The first three phases of the 2022–2023 Excitement Program are increased by $0.25 per member for all posts and divisions with 100 members or less as of April 30, 2022. The increase does not apply to 25 Applications Written and Membership Loss.
WRITING NEW APPLICATIONS!
gram—Goal of 2,500 new applications

— Ending Date: April 30, 2023

Note:

➢ The Posts and Divisions will receive their prize money after qualifications are met.
➢ All applications must be approved by National Headquarters to qualify.
➢ Posts MUST notify their State Secretaries when they have qualified for any level of prize money. Their request will then be forwarded to National Headquarters for processing. The Division Secretaries shall notify the CAO in writing by either U.S. Postal mail or email when they qualify.
➢ Prizes for reduction in membership loss will be paid at year-end and mailed no later than July 28, 2023.
➢ Applications for either contest MUST be post marked from your State Secretary no later than April 30, 2023 to be eligible.
➢ Remember, there are no limitations on the number of applications that can be written by a sponsor.
➢ Posts and Divisions MUST be in 100% compliance with all reporting, including financial statements, bank statements, and minutes in order to receive membership incentive funds.

INDIVIDUAL SPONSOR AWARDS FOR THE 2023 NATIONAL CONVENTION

➢ Write 2 new long-term members and receive $20.00 in expense money.
➢ Write 5 new long-term members and receive $50.00 in expense money.
➢ Write 10 new long-term members and receive $100.00 in expense money.
➢ Write 15 new long-term members and receive $150.00 in expense money.
➢ Write 20 new long-term members and receive $200.00 in expense money.
➢ Write 25 new long-term members and receive $250.00 in expense money.
➢ Write 50 new long-term members and receive $500.00 in expense money.
➢ Write 100 new long-term members and receive $1,000.00 in expense money.
➢ Write 500 new long-term members and receive $5,000.00 in expense money.

The deadline for submitting all requests for prizes will be June 30, 2023.

Note:

➢ Convention attendance is required to receive your prize for individual sponsor awards.
➢ Prizes for individual sponsor awards will be paid at year-end and mailed no later than July 31, 2023. Awards are not cumulative.
➢ This program has been approved for two years through April 30, 2024.

Fraternally submitted,
The Membership Committee
Meet our 2022 Fraternalist of the Year ... John Hunolt

John is the president of Post O of the Iowa Division, and a former member of the Iowa Division Board of Directors. You can often find John happily providing transportation to members, taking them to the doctors or just out for a cup of coffee. Under his leadership, the post holds an annual breakfast, donates crossing guard vests and ponchos to several elementary schools, picks up trash in the community, and assists the local fire department with fire safety donations.

In addition to volunteering with TPA, John volunteers with two local food pantries, helps with the set up/tear down of the annual holiday light displays, volunteers with the Kiwanis, and serves as an usher at his church. He has served on the Ottumwa’s cemetery board and the Indian Hills Community College Diversity committee.

John retired in 2010 after more than 35 years as a State of Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, where he helped clients become employable and find financial support to attend college.

Congratulations Pat Palencar 2022 Merit Award Winner!

Pat is a member of Post L of the Pennsylvania Division, where she serves as the secretary, altruism chair, communication chair, and as the Post L’s Deaf and Near Deaf Fund chairperson. She has helped with the post’s Halloween Trunk or Treat service project, memorial program, and Christmas party where they recognized 50-year members.

Pat helped support TPA membership by writing more than 10 new members and collected more than 50 delinquents. She regularly attends post and division meetings, as well as the state and national conventions.

As communications chair, Pat produced four bulletins which provided valuable information to Post members.

The Post L Altruism Program was held in April 2022, with more than 75 people attendance to see 15 students receive their awards. As chairperson, Pat created programs, made all the arrangements for the dinner, coordinated the meal, and helped get publicity in the local papers.

While the Merit Award is specifically based on activities over the last year, Pat’s service to TPA has been ongoing for decades. We would like to thank Pat for her continued service to TPA and congratulate her on being named the 2022 Merit Award Winner!
TPA Members
Your discounts are waiting!

With your membership you can save more on hotel and car rentals, insurance programs, prescriptions and more. Preferred member rates on a wide variety of TPA transactions can quickly return the cost of a membership.

Enjoy discounts from the providers below

Start Saving Today at tpahq.org/member-benefits!
Post P of Gaston County held its annual Flag Day program at the Boys and Girls Club of America. Six members shared various information about our flag to 65 children and three staff members. The kids enjoyed a question-and-answer session. TPA members were thrilled to learn how much the children knew! Most of the kids knew that our flag symbolizes freedom and that the red stripes represent courage; the white stands for purity and goodness; and the blue for justice. The Flag Day program is a special presentation by Post P to help promote patriotism and the significance of this day.

Post B of the Wisconsin Division sponsored a bike rodeo for Boy Scout Troop 16 and their annual 50-mile bike hike along the Elroy/Sparta Bike Trail. Several members performed the bike inspection and the Post supplied bicycle safety pamphlets. The assistance from the Post was greatly appreciated by the Scouts. The story was submitted by TPA member, Terry Hoeppner.
Members of Post I participated in their “MDOT Adopt-A-Highway” community service project in Ionia. Volunteers help realize our vision by improving the quality of life for our members and their communities.

Pictured left to right: Lee Crater; Kurt Hartman; Richard Mackowiak (in hat); Barb Mackowiak; Mary Lou Goodman; Gary Piercefield; Bruce Hummel; and Wayne Wentworth. Sandy Wentworth snapped the photo.

Members of Post I partnered with St. Joseph Catholic Church in Pewamo to hand out 30 bags of food. Volunteers Kurt Hartman, Megan Gay, Darrel Kempf, Aaron Epkey, and Nickie Wentworth assisted Post I Secretary Wayne Wentworth during the event.

Members of Post A of the Michigan Division participated in the Amway River Bank Run Jr. The post donated four bikes to the winners of the Feeling Good Mile Club, distributed CHAD stickers, Officer Ollie stickers, coloring books, and popcorn. John Chmielewski of the Michigan Division was interviewed on local television during the event.
John Hunolt was recently honored by the North Central Missouri College Foundation by being announced as one of three people inducted into their Distinguished Alumni Class for 2021. John is a native of Trenton and graduated from Trenton Junior College, now named North Central Missouri College. Additionally, in 2021, he was awarded the Iowa Governor’s award for volunteering. Through the years he has devoted numerous hours volunteering and serving in his community. John is currently the president of Post O of the Iowa Division. Congratulations John!

Pictured is John Hunolt.

Two members of Post O in Ottumwa received the Iowa Governor’s Volunteer awards at Indian Hills Community College. Marcia Venables and John Hunolt were recognized for their church food pantry that served 295 families in two and a half hours. That’s a new record number. Congratulations Marcia and John!

Pictured left to right: Iowa Lieutenant Governor, Adam Gregg; Marcia Venables, Post O; Iowa Governor, Kim Reynolds; John Hunolt, Post O; and Ottumwa Mayor, Rick Johnson.

Members in Post Q in Mahanoy City were proud to keep with the tradition of honoring graduating high school students. The Altruism Award is given annually to students who give of their time and talents unselfishly to help others. No banquet was held this year, but graduates from nine schools in Schuylkill County received altruism certificates, a recognition certificate from Pennsylvania Senator David G. Argall, and a monetary grant of two hundred dollars each.

Pictured left to right: Edwin Miller; Allyson Babinsky (award recipient); and Catherine Gatto.
Members of Post L recognized fifteen Northampton County high school students at their Annual Altruism Banquet. The awards recognize students who have demonstrated altruism in and out of the classroom. TPA member Cathy Stephens said, “Our organization has led the charge for societal changes that protect the health, safety, and wellbeing of children.” Pat Palencar added, “The evening was reassurance that the Association’s volunteerism will live on in the actions of future generations.”

Members of Post W in Williamsport collected 155 pounds of aluminum cans and tabs. Those metal pieces on the top of aluminum cans may be recycled for money to support programs and those in need. Collecting tabs is also a friendly competition between posts and divisions.

Jim Miller of Post W in Williamsport was honored and received a 40-year pin commemorating his years of service with the Association. Vera Epler and Marie McGee were in attendance to thank Jim.

Pictured left to right: Paul Burkhart and Vivian Siegel.

Pictured left to right: Paul Burkhart and Helen Mayer.

Pictured left to right: Vera Epler; Jim Miller; and Marie McGee.
Ted Daniel was the speaker at a Post D monthly meeting in South Boston. Mr. Daniel, now retired, was the South Boston town manager and consultant. He discussed the town’s Covid Relief Fund and how those funds would be used.

_Pictured left to right: Gary Newcomb; Ted Daniel; and Carlyle Wimbish._

Tom Rabb was the speaker at a recent Post D monthly meeting in South Boston. Mr. Rabb is the South Boston Town Manager. He provided an update on the restoration of the John Randolph Hotel and the progress of making Riverdale the gateway to South Boston. He also gave status reports on several other projects the town is working on.

_Pictured left to right: Carlyle Wimbish; Tom Rabb; and Bill McCaleb._

The Virginia Division held its board of directors meeting at Wilson’s Barbecue in South Hill. Due to the loosening of Covid restrictions in the state, the group was able to meet in person to have their business session.

_Pictured left to right: Roy Carpenter; Carlyle Wimbish; Wade King; Gary Newcomb; Shirley Jacobs; Ann King; Jo Wimbish; Rose Jory; and Harrell Jory._

The Honorable James Edmunds was the speaker at a Post D monthly meeting in South Boston. Mr. Edmunds is a member of the Virginia House of Delegates. He spoke about the recent General Assembly session, the state budget, and re-districting.

_Pictured left to right: Carlyle Wimbish; James Edmunds; and Gary Newcomb._
R. Bryan David was the speaker at a recent Post D monthly meeting in South Boston. Mr. David is the program director for “GO Virginia” Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service located on the campus of the University of Virginia. The acronym stands for Growth Opportunities. He discussed how GO Virginia funding will attract business, support infrastructure and workforce development in Region 3, which includes Halifax County.

*Pictured left to right: Carlyle Wimbish; R. Bryan David; and Gary Newcomb*

Following a regular monthly meeting of Post D, some members accepted the invitation of South Boston Town Manager Tom Rabb to tour the old John Randolph Hotel. Built in 1930, the hotel is scheduled for renovation starting in August. The interest of members in the old hotel dates to the founding of TPA by traveling salesmen. In its early years TPA lobbied to get hotel sanitation laws passed, something we take for granted today.
CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED.