Feature State: TEXAS

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San Antonio, Texas
River Walk
The holiday season is upon us, and it is a time for joy and celebration. We must remember those who are not with us anymore and rejoice in the lasting memories they have provided.

As we look back at the 2022 year in review there are several topics worthy of reflection. As a nonprofit organization we should be proud of the goals and accomplishments we’ve reached by following our vision and mission statements. In January, through the TPA Hearing Trust, you provided $11,850 in grants to 18 recipients. In February, through the Homer T. Wilson Humanitarian Fund, you donated $1,000 to a member in need. In March a TPA member was honored by a college foundation by being inducted into their distinguished alumni class. In April you provided $12,680 in financial assistance to 21 individuals through grants from the TPA Hearing Trust. In May you provided community service through the “Adopt-A-Highway” program, donated bicycles at an event, and honored high school students with Altruism Awards, recognizing them for their selfless acts of kindness. You raised more than $22,000 for our charitable arms in June at the annual convention in Michigan. In July you honored members, held a bike rodeo, honored graduating high school students, and held a Flag Day program. In August you prepared meals for the residents of the Ronald McDonald House, distributed more than 200 backpacks filled with supplies in back-to-school drives, and honored a TPA staff member for 30 years of service at national headquarters. In September you participated in community service events. During the month of October, you took part in a Chamber of Commerce expo and assisted several individuals once again through grants from the TPA Hearing Trust. Since inception the Trust has provided financial aid to more than 6,100 individuals totaling $2.4 million dollars. In November you honored our military veterans who served in the United States Armed Forces.

In May, I posted the job description for chief of staff and the search committee began looking for candidates to fill the position. After four months of searching and interviews the position was offered to Amber Heinle. Her first day on the job was September 21. Her primary responsibilities in this role will be to support me as chief administrative officer, provide support to the executive team to ensure that company goals and objectives are accomplished, and operations run efficiently. As a member of an agile executive team, she will contribute to evolving our processes, act as mentor to members in the field, and bring best practices to our Association. Please welcome Amber as the new chief of staff at national headquarters. To learn more about her turn to page four of the magazine.

We continue to make every effort to uphold the mission and vision statements of this Association. It is because of you, the members of The Travelers Protective Association of America, that I can proudly say in 2022 we have improved the quality of life for our members and the communities we live in across the nation.

I wish you and your families Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays, and hope your coming year is filled with peace and happiness.

Fraternally,
Albert M. Shoemaker, Jr.
Chief Administrative Officer
Happy Holidays to you and your families. May the holiday season and new year bring you joy. The national board and staff have been working diligently toward moving forward this year. In the coming years we will be reviewing old ideas, new ideas, and ideas yet to be discovered. We are reaching out to you for new ideas, please contact us!

We desperately need to obtain more members for TPA to survive. It will take every active member to achieve that goal. The past is in your head but the future is in your hands.

We are happy to welcome our new Chief of Staff, Amber Heinle. We welcome her into the fraternal family of TPA.

Again, Happy Holidays to you and your families.

Fraternally yours,
E.L. Reed
National President

Welcome New State Secretaries

Please welcome two new state secretaries to the Association, Paula Shoemaker of the Missouri Division and Wayne Warnecke of the Wisconsin Division. Their contact information is provided below.

**Missouri Division**
Paula Shoemaker
1417 Piper Street
Saint Peters, MO 63376
Phone: (573) 645-7047
Email: tpamodivision@gmail.com

**Wisconsin Division**
Wayne Warnecke
1627 Black Walnut Trail
Sheboygan, WI 53081
Phone: (920) 207-1804
Email: tpawidiv@gmail.com
My phone rang late in the evening on September 19, 2022. The person who greeted me on the other end of the line was Chief Administrative Officer, Albert M. Shoemaker, Jr. “The Board of Directors would like to extend you an offer of joining TPA as Chief of Staff…” that’s all I can remember as I started to scream internally and to my surprise (and probably Mr. Shoemaker’s)—externally too! I originally applied for the job in June of 2022 because I thought it would be a great step for my professional development. The opportunity offered was to come into a company as chief of staff with a mentorship and hands-on training for a chance to eventually step into my dream job—chief administrative officer.

What I learned through hours of research and numerous rounds of interviews was that this position was so much more than just a job. The first thing I did was research TPA via the website and pulled up the vision and mission statements, followed by reading the history of TPA, the community outreach programs and ending with information on the Hearing Trust and Homer T. Wilson Humanitarian Fund. After reading this information, my passion for the job intensified. My personal beliefs and values came to fruition with each new fact I learned about TPA. During each interview I learned about the people I’d have the chance to work with on a daily basis and heard their stories on why they joined TPA—which just solidified my interest in becoming part of this amazing organization.

To explain why my beliefs and values are so closely aligned with TPA’s vision and mission, I feel as though I should share some information on myself and hopefully give you all a better understanding of who I am! I graduated from the University of Missouri–Columbia with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a focus in management. In my short stent at Mizzou, I was able to graduate with honors and join a non-Greek, community service sorority. I held multiple leadership positions within the sorority to include president and secretary. The whole purpose of this sorority was to go into the community and give back. I accumulated over 500 hours of community service while volunteering with charities such as Ronald McDonald House, Relay for Life, and Phoenix Family Children’s Care. Getting to my point—I love giving back and helping those in need and feel this is right on par with what TPA does.

I am very excited and thankful to be given the opportunity to serve the community and take on a special role here at TPA headquarters. Thank you to the board of directors and staff who spent many hours interviewing numerous candidates and having the confidence in choosing me to help lead TPA into a new era. My role as chief of staff is to train under Mr. Shoemaker, support staff at headquarters, and serve as an ambassador for TPA, the TPA Hearing Trust and Homer T. Wilson Humanitarian Fund.

I have had the pleasure of speaking with many of you via phone, email, or interview and I am so grateful for such a warm welcome. There are many more of you to meet and I am looking forward to seeing you at the annual convention in North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. For those who are unable to attend, I sincerely hope we get to speak soon. I am always able to be reached during TPA business hours, so please feel free to introduce yourself, I’d love to hear your stories! You can reach me via email at aheinle@tpahq.org or via phone at (636) 724-2227.

Thank you for everything you do for TPA and your local community. I look forward to many years at TPA and the chance to help guide the organization to continued success. Happy Holidays!

Fraternally,
Amber D. Heinle
Chief of Staff
Since 1953, Julian “Coach” Pressly has been an Odessa fixture. During an October 2021 interview, Coach stated he hoped Odessans would remember his slogan, “Life is not important except for the impact it has on other lives.” And what an impact he made!

Born in Fort Worth, Texas in 1924 Coach was the son of Josh and Fern Pressly. He graduated high school from Fort Worth Technical High before attending college at Allen Academy/Texas A & M and McMurray College. Following his marriage to Edith G. Williams in April 1948, he completed his master’s in education from McMurray.

Prior to his coaching career, Pressly played semi-professional baseball for seven years. In 1953, he joined the coaching staff at Odessa High School and in 1965 he became the first baseball coach at Odessa College. His successful coaching career led to his induction into both the National Western Jr. College Baseball Hall of Fame and the Texas High School Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame. He was honored in 1996 when the Odessa High baseball field was renamed to J.E. “Coach” Pressly Field.

He served his country as a U.S. Marine from 1943-1946.

Based on his early experiences with the Fort Worth Boys Club, he became a founding board member of the Odessa Boys Club. Continuing to serve his community, he was elected as Ector County Commissioner from 1973-1984 during which time he was appointed to chair the development of the first Senior Citizens Building. From 1986-1998 he was elected as the Justice of Peace for Precinct 3. From 2002-2022 he served on the Odessa College Board of Trustees. Coach was also actively involved with several local, state, and national organizations: Travelers Protective Association (National President in 1983), Kiwanis International, Odessa Shrine Club and Odessa Scottish Rites (Past Worshipful Master at Andy Vaughn in 2004 and Odessa 955 in 2005). He was a member of the American Legion and the Texas A & M Letterman’s Association. He was an active member in the Odessa Chuck Wagon Gang for over 60 years. For almost 70 years, he was a proud member of First Baptist Church in Odessa.

He is survived by his four children: Julie Kupper, Elaine Coulson, Debbie Henderson, and John Pressly; eight grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; his sister Martha Wilson; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by Edith, his wife of 73 years; his parents; and his three brothers (Wayne, Donald and Jimmy).
Five Home Safety Practices You Need to Adopt

Your home is your sanctuary and you want to do everything you can to protect it. When it comes to home safety, fire prevention and home security are top concerns, and rightfully so; however, a comprehensive home safety plan should address any factors that pose risks to your family and property. Here are five actions you can take to keep your home safe and secure.

1. Switch to Chemical-Free Cleaners
Rid your home of harsh cleaners. Countless cleaning products on the market contain harmful chemicals that, according to experts, can cause a range of serious health issues, including respiratory problems, skin burns and even certain types of cancers. Natural alternatives can get your home just as clean without posing a health hazard. With little more than baking soda and vinegar, you can have your home sparkling from top to bottom. The superpower combination of baking soda and vinegar lifts stains and cuts through grease, making it the perfect all-purpose cleaning solution. Add a little lemon juice or tea tree oil for a refreshingly clean scent.

2. Clean the Air
Conversations about poor air quality often revolve around the outdoor environment, but pollution is a major problem in indoor settings, too. Pollutants such as mold, dust and dander can trigger allergies and affect your lungs. Dangerous contaminants like carbon monoxide and radon can be lethal. Use these tips to improve the air quality in your home:

- Change the filters in your AC and household appliances regularly.
- Vacuum your rugs and carpets frequently.
- Use a dehumidifier to contain moisture.
- Add air-purifying plants to your decor.

3. Regulate the Temperature Indoors
Make sure your heating and cooling systems are running efficiently to keep your home office, and the rest of your living space, comfortable all year long. Service your AC in the early spring and your heating system at the start of the fall season. Seal any drafts that may be allowing air to escape. Filter out sunlight by using window treatments like reflective blinds and sheer curtains.

Performing regular maintenance on your heating and cooling systems prevents you from overheating during summer scorchers and freezing on cold, wintry nights.

4. Periodically Inspect Home Systems, Parts and Major Appliances
Maintenance is a key component of any solid home safety plan. Carefully inspect the structure of your home as well as its systems and appliances for any signs of damage or deterioration. Address problems immediately. Delaying necessary repairs not only worsens issues, but can also create safety risks. A frayed wire left untouched, for example, can cause a devastating fire. Keeping up with home maintenance can prevent many household mishaps.

continued on next page
5. Connect With Your Community

Building relationships with your neighbors and other members of your local community offers many benefits, including an extra layer of protection for your home and family. Whether you’re home or away, watchful neighbors can help keep you informed about goings-on in the neighborhood and alert you about anything suspicious concerning your home.

Neighbors and community members can also lend support during emergencies. Get to know your neighbors and become involved in your community.

You want to enjoy your home and not have to worry about potential hazards lurking around every corner. In addition to taking steps to prevent common household safety risks like fires and intruders, focus on actions that eliminate less obvious dangers such as chemical cleaners, air pollutants and faulty appliances. Find an added safety measure in your neighbors and local community and you’ll have peace of mind that your home is as secure as can be.

The **Travelers Protective Association** is dedicated to improving the lives of people. Join us for support and resources.
The Travelers Protective Association of America is keen on discussing and implementing safety measures within the community. One safety precaution a lot of Americans don’t give a second thought to is the habit of washing their hands. Take a moment to think of all the different things the average person touches throughout the course of a day. Now imagine how many of those items were touched by other people’s hands. Remember—germs don’t care what age you are or what time of day it is! It is more important than ever to recognize the role handwashing plays in preventing the spread of diseases, especially during times of COVID-19 uncertainty.

December is National Handwashing Awareness Month

About 1.4 million children worldwide under the age of five die from diseases such as pneumonia, which can be mitigated by proper handwashing.

In a study conducted by the CDC only 31% of men and 65% of women washed their hands after using a public restroom.

A typical sneeze exits the body at around 200 miles per hour and emits around 40,000 droplets into the air.

According to the CDC’s latest research, 80% of communicable diseases are believed to be transmitted by human hands.

TPA recognizes the significance of good hand hygiene and will be providing personal hand sanitizer for the 2023 Annual Convention in North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina!

This is a reminder that you can order TPA merchandise from our website at tphaq.org/merchandise. Here are just a few of the items that you can purchase.

TPA Coloring Book  
$0.95 + s/h  
Practice Bike Safety Coloring Book, includes Four (4) Crayons

TPA Mouse Pad  
$5.00 + s/h  
Mouse Pad 8”x7¼”

TPA White Polo  
$25.00 + s/h  
White Polo

TPA Navy Blue Polo  
$25.00 + s/h  
Dark Navy Blue Polo

TPA Luggage Tags  
$1.00 + s/h  
TPA Luggage Tag includes insert where you can write your name and address

TPA Steel Tumbler  
$6.00 + s/h  
TPA Steel Tumbler with Color Trim and Logo 16 ounces

TPA Coloring Book  
$0.95 + s/h  
Practice Bike Safety Coloring Book, includes Four (4) Crayons

TPA Wristband  
$1.00 + s/h  
Silicone Wristband ½” Wide

TPA White Polo  
$25.00 + s/h  
White Polo

TPA Navy Blue Polo  
$25.00 + s/h  
Dark Navy Blue Polo

TPA Luggage Tags  
$1.00 + s/h  
TPA Luggage Tag includes insert where you can write your name and address

TPA Tee  
$8.00 + s/h  
White Crewneck T-Shirt sizes S-M-L-XL (pictured front and back)

TPA Steel Tumbler  
$6.00 + s/h  
TPA Steel Tumbler with Color Trim and Logo 16 ounces

TPA White Polo  
$25.00 + s/h  
White Polo

TPA Navy Blue Polo  
$25.00 + s/h  
Dark Navy Blue Polo

TPA Luggage Tags  
$1.00 + s/h  
TPA Luggage Tag includes insert where you can write your name and address

TPA Tee  
$8.00 + s/h  
White Crewneck T-Shirt sizes S-M-L-XL (pictured front and back)
Travelers Protective Association Awards $12,120 in Financial Aid to Deaf and Hard of Hearing

The Travelers Protective Association (TPA) Hearing Trust issued 17 grants, totaling $12,120, to applicants requesting assistance during the third 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 Trust has distributed over $2.4 million, benefiting more than 6,100 individuals. For this quarter, recipients plan to utilize their funding to obtain hearing aids, batteries, speech therapy, cochlear implant supplies, hearing molds, specialized school tuition, portable receivers, smoke alarm, motion detector, and doorbell flasher. Recipients are also able to use these grants towards 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 $110 through $900, benefiting recipients from 12 states and ranging in age between three and 89 years old, including grant recipient Harold Germann from Idaho Falls, Idaho. Harold intends to use his grant for hearing aids.

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-hearingtrust/.

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.
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.

Donor Recognition

2022 Donor Recognition as of October 31, 2022

DOUBLE PLATINUM LEVEL
($2,000 and above)
- E.L. & Patricia Reed

PLATINUM GOLD LEVEL
($1,500 – $1,999.99)
- Dixie Burdett
- Dorothy Knight
- Joel Lederman
- Post E – Illinois Division
- Post H – North Carolina Division
- Post D – Wisconsin Division
- Post I – Wisconsin Division

PLATINUM LEVEL
($1,000 – $1,499.99)
- Dixie Burdett
- Dorothy Knight
- Joel Lederman
- Post E – Illinois Division
- Post H – North Carolina Division
- Post D – Wisconsin Division
- Post I – Wisconsin Division

GOLD LEVEL
($500 – $999.99)
- Charles & Kay Aycock
- Woody & Julie Kupper
- Jeff & Melanie Malek
- Missouri Division
- Nebraska Division
- Rhode Island Division
- Texas Division
- Wisconsin Division
- Post A – Michigan Division
- Post A – Oklahoma Division

BRONZE LEVEL
($100 – $249.99)
- Bailey & Diane Bledsoe
- John Chmielowski
- Dean Costello
- Terry & Kathryn Hoeppner
- Benjamin & Amy Klepsner
- Christina Knott
- Mark & Beth Koster
- George Kern & Peggy Landis
- Michael Lepore & Kathleen Magbag
- William Mason
- Tony & Alexandra McGowan
- Edward Michael
- William & Ann Pearce
- Randy Rouse
- Carol Ruffner
- James & Wanda Ruppe
- Thurman Stone, Jr.
- Edward & Marilyn Tonak
- Wayne & Sandy Wentworth
- Louisiana Division
- Minnesota Division
- Pennsylvania Division
- Post A – Colorado Division
- Post H – Illinois Division
- Post O – Iowa Division
- Post C – Kentucky Division
- Post D – Kentucky Division
- Post I – Michigan Division
- Post D – Missouri Division
- Post SC – Missouri Division
- Post B – Nebraska Division
- Post P – North Carolina Division
- Post I – North Carolina Division
- Post C – Pennsylvania Division
- Post G – Pennsylvania Division
- Post L – Pennsylvania Division
- Post B – South Carolina Division
- Post G – Texas Division
- Post C – Virginia Division
- Network for Good
- Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, Incorporated – Duane Thomas
- Veltman Investment Services

CONTRIBUTOR
($10 – $99.99)
- Waymouth & Jo Ann Allen
- Sharon Biondo
- Janice Boller
- Revonda Brady
- Martin Brown
- Gay Dickson
- Louis Girardin
- Unafern Gorham
- Helen Helms
- John Hood
- Glenna Horn
- Leslie Karsten
- Haywood Lee
- Kimberly Lohmann
- Daniel & Nicole Martin
- Leslie McAtee
- Sharon Mock
- Albert & Paula Shoemaker
- Robert & Jean Smoker
- David Steffen
- Karl & Anna Van Dyk
- Andrea VanProyen
- Donald & Jane Weaver
- Carlyle Wimbish, Jr.
- Jacob Wood
- Colorado Division
- Kentucky Division
- Post G – Kentucky Division
- Post C – North Carolina Division
- Post E – Pennsylvania Division
- Post D – Virginia Division
- Post L – Wisconsin Division
- Amazon Smile

To donate to the TPA Hearing Trust online go to tpahq.org/donate/

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.
The remarkable sights and sounds of the holidays are meant to be shared with loved ones. But some are unable to hear what most of us take for granted: happy voices singing while decorating a tree or caroling through the streets, sleigh bells far off in the distance, and the sweet sounds of a child's laughter. That’s where your help comes in.

Please consider giving the gift of hearing this holiday season for those who cannot. The TPA Hearing Trust, a non-profit organization dedicated to those who experience hearing loss, has allocated more than $2.4 million to approximately 6,100 recipients throughout its history. Individuals used the money for hearing aids, batteries, school tuition, audio equipment, and medical bills. These grants made the holidays much brighter—and definitely much clearer—for so many.

Help bring home the holidays to someone who deserves to hear the sounds of the season. We gladly accept donations of any size and appreciate your assistance.

Please send donations to the address below or donate online at tpahq.org/donate/

TPA Hearing Trust
C/o The Travelers Protective Association
2041 Exchange Drive • St. Charles, MO 63303

Thank you in advance for your generosity in sharing the joy of hearing with others this year.
Since 1975, the TPA Hearing Trust (formerly known as The Scholarship Trust for the Hearing Impaired) has provided financial assistance to over 6,100 people with deafness or hearing loss.

We have helped thousands of people with hearing loss receive the help and resources they need, including hearing devices, specialized treatments, speech classes, note takers, interpreters and more.

Please help us reach our goal of assisting at least 6,200 individuals during our...

47th year!

To donate online visit tphaq.org/donate/
Interested in applying for a grant?
Visit www.tphaq.org/tpa-hearing-trust/ for more information and eligibility requirements.

The TPA Hearing Trust Donation Slip

Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation to the TPA Hearing Trust.

☐ $10  ☐ $20  ☐ $50  ☐ $100  ☐ $500  ☐ $ _____________

Please make check payable to “TPA Hearing Trust.” Do not send cash.

Name ____________________________________________________________________________________________________
Division _____________________________________________________ Post ___________________________________________
Address __________________________________________________________________________________________________
City _____________________________________________________________ State _________ Zip _____________________
Email _____________________________________________________ @ ____________________________________________

Send to:
2041 Exchange Drive
St. Charles, MO 63303
636-724-2227
Hearing Aids: Now Available Over-the-Counter

Congress passed a bill that took effect Monday, October 17, 2022, that allows for hearing aids to be purchased over-the-counter (OTC) without a need for a prescription for consumers with mild to moderate hearing loss. Those with severe hearing loss are cautioned against purchasing OTC aids and self-diagnosing due to over-amplification of sound causing more damage by purchasing the wrong hearing aid.

Statistically, 67% of people over the age of 70 have hearing troubles, yet only 20% of those with hearing loss actually go through the process of becoming qualified for a hearing aid prescription. The average cost to get a pair of prescription hearing aids in the United States is $4,700 dollars—two thirds of such cost are made up of doctor and audiologist consultations, customization of molds, and follow-up appointments. Professional healthcare providers hope that this law will cause a significant increase in quality of life for many people with hearing loss due to the affordability and availability of hearing aids.

The new federal law creates a new class of hearing aids with less restriction on who can sell them. Over-the-counter aids will be available for purchase at major retailers such as Walmart, Walgreens, CVS, and Best Buy. These retailers aim to provide products with features like built-in microphones, phone apps for customization, and noise cancelling technology. With some OTC hearing aids starting at just $199, the lower cost option is attributed to consumers setting up the devices themselves, although manufacturers of the aids do plan on offering some assistance via phone apps or customer service phone numbers. Buyers are encouraged to try at least three different OTC aids to see which is best for them.

Getting an over-the-counter hearing aid may be even more affordable because traditional fee-for-service Medicare and other health insurers usually cover routine hearing tests. Those with hearing difficulties could see an audiologist for an initial consultation to see their degree of hearing loss and obtain a recommendation of which OTC aid would be most suitable for their hearing needs. A one-time consultation could replace a series of appointments, further decreasing medical expenses. Experts expect the price of hearing aids to fall even further in the future due to more manufacturers and competition entering the market, creating a surplus of options.

Sources: https://www.cbsnews.com/news/hearing-aids-over-the-counter-without-prescription-lower-cost-law-takes-effect/?ftag=CNM-00-10aab6i&linkId=185918055&fbclid=IwAR1ZrG-VI-MRdbIU1L3ZRm_UBQAhBdyrmnQe-bkPYrXz4GTTY8zeluFzNJV0
https://www.cbsnews.com/video/the-latest-in-hearing-aids/?ftag=CNM-00-10aab6i&linkId=185921490&fbclid=IwAR2c3LptfeMu5iX3THAsh2V409i0Bss80EApCnpT8xlIdH4dj9cYekmjP54
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.

Our committee asks for your consideration to create a planned or deferred gift created by a donor and communicated to the Travelers Protective Association of America. Gifts may be designated for the TPA Hearing Trust and/or the Homer T. Wilson Humanitarian Fund.

Gifts or donations to these funds are tax deductible as both funds are 501(c)(3) tax exempt charities. We are happy to provide sample bequest language below to assist you in leaving a gift to communicate your legacy; it tells a story of what you hold as very important and valuable in your life and community.

Leaving a gift to the Homer T. Wilson Humanitarian Fund and/or the TPA Hearing Trust through your will or trust, life insurance proceeds, or individual retirement account (IRA) is an easy and impactful way to sustain the work of the funds helping our members in dire need and helping those with hearing issues that need assistance.

Note the sample language below that shows how a bequest can be accomplished. This is not provided as legal advice and we suggest you contact your legal counsel.

**UNRESTRICTED GIFT** A Gift that can be used by the fund where need is greatest.

I give to the Homer T. Wilson Humanitarian Fund (tax ID #43-6195695), a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation located in St. Charles, Missouri the sum of $____________, for helping TPA members in need.

I give to the TPA Hearing Trust (tax ID #51-0173451), a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation located in St. Charles, Missouri the sum of $____________, for helping individuals that are deaf or hard of hearing.

The mission of the TPA Hearing Trust is to provide financial 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 provided over $2.4 million, benefitting more than 6,100 individuals. Recipients utilize the funding from these grants to obtain the assistance and resources needed, including technology, assistive services, specialized services, specialized education and classes, 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 investment income. Many TPA members have been helped confidentially in previous years and recently with damages to their homes from storm disasters in various states.

If you need assistance with your estate, we recommend contacting your family attorney or a qualified financial advisor dealing with estate planning in your community.

General questions may be addressed to me, Kay Aycock, Tom Davis, E.L. Reed, or Albert Shoemaker by email at joell55@yahoo.com, mksba@aol.com, tdavismayor@hotmail.com, elreed37@gmail.com and ashoeemaker@tpahq.org.

Lastly, again our committee sincerely thanks you for helping either or both worthwhile TPA charities.

Fraternally yours, Joel Lederman, **Chair**

Planned Giving Committee
Houston

Houston is one of the top cities to visit in Texas. With year-round nice weather and festivals, it’s always the perfect time to visit.

Houston, there is not a problem—when you visit the Johnson Space Center. The 250,000 square foot facility includes the “Mission Mars” exhibit, a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket booster, a walk-through replica of the Space Shuttle Independence, exhibits of spacesuits and more. Visitors can touch a moon rock and a rock from Mars. Take a break from walking with one of the narrated tram tours around the center.

Another must-see in Houston is the Museum District. Along this stretch of downtown Houston, you will find 19 museums. If you are traveling with children or grandchildren, they have a huge Children’s Museum and Museum of Natural Science, both featuring interactive exhibits perfect for little hands. You can find beautiful works of art at the Museum of Contemporary Art or Fine Arts Museum. If you are interested in history, you will not be disappointed. The district includes the Holocaust Museum, the Buffalo Soldiers National Museum and the Czech Culture Museum. Many of the museums are free to the public, or have designated times when admission is free, so be sure to check with the individual museum before visiting.

They say everything is bigger in Texas, and that includes the malls. The Galleria Mall has more than 400 stores and restaurants. You could easily spend a whole day shopping and enjoying its dining options. With chain stores and boutiques, you will be sure to leave with many treasures and a dent in your wallet.
San Antonio

According to U.S. News, San Antonio is the top place to visit in Texas. It’s a place where history and modern city meet for a truly unique vacation experience.

The most famous historic site in San Antonio is the Franciscan mission known as the Alamo. You’re sure to “Remember the Alamo” as you walk this historic battle site, famous for the 1836 battle where Davy Crockett, James Bowie and others led a 13-day stand against the Mexican Army. You can walk the grounds and museums at your own pace or take one of the guided tours. The Alamo is free to visit; however, reservations are required for the church.

Another great historic site is San Antonio Missions National Historical Park. There are four distinct visitor areas, including the Mission Concepción, Mission San José, Mission San Juan, Mission Espada, the first of which is about three miles from downtown San Antonio. Each of the missions offers a unique look back in history with religious and Native American artifacts. There are
hiking and biking trails between the missions, with the visitors center located at Mission San José.

For a change of pace, take a stroll down the famous River Walk, also known as Paseo del Rio, which runs along the San Antonio River. Considered the “center of the city,” the River Walk is lined with restaurants, boutiques, hotels and sidewalk cafes. The walk is often lined with street performers who fill the air with music. Ready to give your feet a rest? You can also take a tour cruise down the San Antonio River and see the River Walk from a different perspective.

Two of the major attractions accessible from the River Walk are Brackenridge Park and the San Antonio Museum of Art. At more than 340 acres, Brackenridge Park is home to cobblestone bridges, shaded walking trails, a golf course, a zoo, outdoor theaters and much more. The San Antonio Museum of Art boasts its collections of Native American, Spanish Colonial, Asian and Latin American art. In addition, the museum features many rotating exhibits.

While in San Antonio you can visit the SeaWorld theme park and Aquatica water park. Enjoy pools, lazy rivers, water slides, water rides, and kid-zone attractions at Aquatica, one of the state’s top water parks. You can challenge your family members to a race down the Taumata Racer. This water slide features six side-by-side lanes where you ride a water mat down a 55-foot slide headfirst. For a relaxing ride, you can take a raft through Stingray Falls, where you’ll go under a grotto filled with tropical fish. Stay dry at SeaWorld, which features numerous roller coasters, animal shows, educational presentations and animal encounters. Younger children will love the Sesame Street kids’ area with family-friendly activities just for them.

**Austin**

Next on the list of must-see cities is Austin, which is known for its lively music scene and quirky but laid-back atmosphere. The city’s motto is “Keep Austin Weird.” Visit the Austin Visitors Center to find information regarding live musical performances and venues to fit your musical taste.

To see a little of the unique side of Austin, visit South Congress Avenue. Nicknamed the SoCo district, you will find restaurants from nearly every ethnicity, funky vintage shops, stylish boutiques, numerous bars and lots of live music. This area is also home to some of Austin’s most iconic outdoor art, so be sure to keep your eyes open for famous murals. SoCo is a “hot
“Spot” for live musical events at night, so it’s a good place for an adults-only evening out.

Stop and visit the Texas Capitol, which stands 14 feet taller than the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. This pink granite landmark still looks the same as it did when it opened in 1888 thanks to a decade-long restoration project. The Texas Capitol is not only a great architectural sight to see, it is full of history and educational exhibits.

Families with younger children will love the Thinkery museum, where kids can explore unique hands-on learning experiences that teach about light, water and color. The Thinkery also boasts a huge outdoor playground and yard.

A museum where you can have unlimited ice cream? Sign me up! The Museum of Ice Cream features an animal cookie ride, sprinkle pool, exhibits about the history of ice cream and more. While the admission fee is a little high, it comes with all you can eat ice cream served in five different forms.

Sources: thealamo.org, travel.usnews.com, nps.gov, brackenridgepark.org, seaworld.com/san-antonio, austintexas.org, houmuse.org

Photos: 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 four-day convention starting with the Sunday Night Welcome Party. The business session begins on Monday, with a day off on Tuesday to enjoy the area attractions. 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 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.

**Beach Cove Resort**

4800 S. Ocean Boulevard  
North Myrtle Beach  
South Carolina 29582

Phone 888-974-5531  
www.beachcove.com

**June 4 – June 8, 2023**  
$115 Room Rate + fees and taxes  
Weekend rates $140 + fees and taxes

**Town Center**

Exclusive for our 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 10 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 Beach Cove Resort.

**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 North Myrtle Beach!**
**Myrtle Beach SkyWheel**
Take a ride on the 187-foot tall observation wheel overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. It is the sixth-tallest Ferris wheel in the United States.

**Family Kingdom Amusement Park**
The seaside amusement park has 37 rides and go-karts. There is no admission price to enter the park, and ride tickets may be purchased separately.

**Barefoot Landing**
The large shopping and dining complex is located just across the street from the Beach Cove Resort. The tourist attraction has more than 40 stores and restaurants.

**Myrtle Beach State Park**
The 312-acre state park includes camping, a fishing pier, the beach, and equestrian trails. The pier stretches into the Atlantic Ocean to prime fishing. A South Carolina fishing license is not required, but you will have to pay a daily fishing fee.

**Alligator Adventure**
Watch live feedings where 15-foot alligators leap out of the water and clamp their powerful jaws down on dinner. Sometimes “The Croc Doc” will be there to answer your questions.

**Myrtle Beach Boardwalk**
The oceanfront boardwalk stretches for more than a mile. In the summer, it is home to festivals and events, and always a family favorite. The boardwalk
offers spectacular views of the beach line and has numerous shops and restaurants along the way.

**Dolphin Watching**
Myrtle Beach offers dolphin watching and ocean sightseeing cruises. Look for Atlantic Bottlenose Dolphins and other aquatic life playing in the ocean.

**Duplin Winery**
The winery offers the perfect way to end the day, with a glass of something cool and sweet. Their $15 wine tasting allows you to sample 10 preselected Duplin wines, homemade crackers and gourmet cheese dip.

**Sunset Cruise**
Myrtle Beach is known for its clean, sandy beaches and captivating shorelines. You can take in the astonishing beauty by taking a sunset cruise through the saltwater Murrells Inlet.

**Alabama Theatre**
The theatre has been entertaining locals and tourists with variety shows on the Grand Strand since 1993. Check out some of the biggest stars while visiting Myrtle Beach.

**Oceanfront Dining**
Enjoy a steak, shellfish or gourmet burgers while enjoying the views of the Atlantic Ocean.

**Ripley’s Aquarium of Myrtle Beach**
Enter into the underwater world of Ripley’s located at the beach. Travel along the moving glide to see rays, sea turtles, penguins, exotic fish, barracudas, eels and sharks. For the brave, they even have touch tanks. The Glass Bottom Boat Adventure launches every 20 minutes.

**Sunset Happy Hour Cruise**
For $35 – $39 you can enjoy unlimited wine, beer, soft drinks, and punch, with a cheese and fruit tray from the deck of a boat.
LET’S GET EXCITED ABOUT
2022-2023 Membership Incentive Pro

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
Members of Post C donated 50 backpacks filled with school supplies to three elementary schools in Springfield. Connie O’Neil delivered supplies to Robberson school, Dennis O’Neil brought supplies to Fremont school, and Dennis and Colton O’Neil provided supplies to Pleasant View school. Post C also thanks Larry Voris for his assistance with this back-to-school project.
Members of Post SC donated 30 backpacks filled with school supplies to Bermuda Elementary School in St. Louis. Albert Shoemaker delivered the backpacks to Principal Samohya Stallons. Office Manager Leondra Clay graciously snapped the photo. The school was extremely grateful for the donation. Game on!

_Pictured left to right: Albert Shoemaker and Samohya Stallons._

Members of Post SC donated 20 backpacks filled with school supplies to East School in Jefferson City. Paula Shoemaker wanted to give back to the community and delivered the backpacks to the elementary school that she attended. The school staff and children in the “Capital City” were very appreciative.
Missouri Division Backpack Project

When E.L. Reed brought home 50 backpacks his wife Pat quickly bought school supplies to fill them up. She gave 10 backpacks to five small schools around their hometown in Chillicothe. The small schools were Chula, Southwest, Hale, Winston, and Jamesport. Pat gave them to a teacher who would know the students who needed a backpack and school supplies. The elementary schools were grateful for the donations.

Pictured left to right: Pat Reed and Stephanie Baldwin.
Members of Post D donated backpacks filled with school supplies to Hurricane Deck Elementary School in Sunrise Beach. The TPA branded backpacks were provided from the Missouri Division and supplies were secured by the Post. Family members took time out of their vacation to help fill the backpacks.

*Pictured left to right: Principal Christina Moulder; Warren Masters; Brad Cunningham; Ivie Bray; and E.L. Reed.*

The Missouri Backpack Project started with the goal of providing backpacks filled with supplies to elementary students in need. Local schools provided a list of the supplies that are commonly needed such as crayons, notebooks, markers, pencils, and glue. The Missouri Division purchased 50 backpacks for each post with the TPA logo for $8 per backpack. Every backpack included an invitation packet and CHAD stickers from the division. The posts were charged with purchasing the supplies and hand-delivering the filled backpacks to local schools. The schools and student recipients of these backpacks were extremely grateful, which made this project fulfilling and worthwhile. Other posts and divisions are encouraged to adopt a similar program and can reach out to Albert Shoemaker, chief administrative officer, with any questions on how to get started. You can contact Albert via email at ashoemaker@tpahq.org or via phone at (636) 724-2227.
Board members in Post B of the Wisconsin Division held their annual Corn Roast and Brat Fry at Marx Park in the town of Brookfield. The meeting was full of fun, socializing, eating, and enjoyed by all.

_Pictured left to right: Don Hoeppner; Nancy Hoeppner; Bob Lusardi; Fred Ebling; Jane Ebert; and Kathy Hoeppner. Terry Hoeppner was the photographer._

Dana Jones was the speaker at a Post D monthly meeting in South Boston. Ms. Jones discussed the process of reopening the C.H. Friend School as a non-denominational Christian school. C.H. Friend previously operated as an elementary school until its closure in 2008.

_Pictured left to right: Carlyle Wimbish; Dana Jones; and Gary Newcomb._

Dr. Betty Adams was the speaker at a recent Post D monthly meeting in South Boston. She is the executive director at Southern Virginia Higher Education Center (SVHEC). Dr. Adams discussed the five ways the center is advancing economic potential in southern Virginia, including college degrees, job training college/career readiness, support for industry and entrepreneurs, and capacity building. She also discussed the growth and future of the center.

_Pictured left to right: Carlyle Wimbish; Dr. Betty Adams; and Gary Newcomb._

Melanie Cornelison-Jannotta was the speaker at a Post D monthly meeting in South Boston. She is the executive director at The Prizery. Ms. Cornelison-Jannotta explained her background and highlighted the fall season at The Prizery, which plays host to performers from throughout the world, provides space for events, and makes classes available for music and art.

_Pictured left to right: Carlyle Wimbish; Melanie Cornelison-Jannotta; and Gary Newcomb._
Members of Post A of the Michigan Division prepared meals for the residents of the Ronald McDonald House of Western Michigan. Last month Post A donated a new dishwasher for their kitchen.

Loading the new dishwasher, left to right: Connor Tonak; Tina Tonak; and Barb DenBraber.

Preparing the meal, left to right: Connor Tonak; Barb DenBraber; Marilyn Tonak; Tina Tonak; and Roger DenBraber.

Members of Post I participated in the first outdoor Ionia Chamber of Commerce Expo in Ionia. Vendors filled three city blocks with 30 businesses and 50 area organizations and had attendees of all ages. This wide-spread event gave Post I the opportunity to promote the local post and division, encourage membership, and spread the word about other community events. Volunteers Gary Piercefield, Richard Mackowiak, and Wayne Wentworth assisted Darin Elliott during the event.

Pictured left to right: Gary Piercefield; Wayne Wentworth; and Richard Mackowiak (standing).

Members of Post SC filled 15 TPA tote bags with coloring books, You’re Invited packets, CHAD stickers, and Halloween bags filled with candy. The totes were given to individuals who attended the All Generations Adult Day Center as part of their Halloween Train event in Saint Charles. Tiffany Mays is the owner and director of the day care and Debbie Arnold is the activity coordinator. This was the October community service program for the post.

Pictured left to right: Donna Badgley; Ryan Jenkins; Albert Shoemaker; Debbie Medley; and Amber Heinle.
HAPPY HOLIDAYS
FROM ALL OF US AT TPA