

Travelers

tpa TRAVELERS
PROTECTIVE
ASSOCIATION

The Magazine of The Travelers Protective Association | December 2023 | Vol. 61 Issue 3

Feature State:

NORTH CAROLINA

Fountains at Thomas Polk
Park, in Uptown Charlotte,
North Carolina.

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JOEL LEDERMAN
National President

I would like to wish you all and your families a very Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays! May the month of December bring holiday joy and happiness to you, your friends and family. May everyone be blessed in 2024 with best of good health and happiness.

After more than a decade of wonderful service to TPA, our CAO, Albert Shoemaker, elected to retire in July and has started retirement. We wish him all the best, good health, and many years of an enjoyable retirement.

Past National President and National Director John Chmielewski, Michigan, served as Chairman of Search Committee with assistance from committee members Thomas E. “Tom” Davis, National Director from Kentucky and Kay Aycock, National Director from North Carolina. After the review of more than 100 applications of qualified candidates provided by TRC Staffing firm, the final candidate was approved at the National Board of Director’s meeting on September 7, 2023.

Special thanks to Doug Johnson, Operations Manager; Donna Badgley, Finance and Compliance Administrator; Debbie Medley, Data Control Supervisor; Dana Kurtz, Claims Manager; Brittany Rebello, Data Processor and Hearing Trust Secretary; Ryan Jenkins, General Office Assistant; Angela Robinson, Claims Assistant; and Lisa Moore, Office Clerk. Each day this outstanding headquarters staff stepped up to help continue the operation at National Headquarters, keeping it running smoothly and providing assistance to myself as your National President. They kept TPA operating with the National Board of Directors’ help and the full cooperation of our marketing firm, our bank and brokerage firm, Magazine Editor Christina Knott and our general counsel.

It is my pleasure to welcome our new CAO Robert L. Schapp, Jr. I believe our state division officers, post officers and members will enjoy meeting and working with Bob. I believe our office staff will enjoy working with him, as well as our vendors, suppliers, and National Board of Directors. Bob brings to TPA experienced leadership, his educational background including a Master of Business, and many years of experience as an officer of Tangier Shrine Center in Omaha, Nebraska (a fraternal organization). Bob also has previous experience dealing with annuities and mutual funds, as well as operations manager experience for a firm selling life, annuity, disability, long-term care insurance and investment products.

I intend to work closely with Bob this year and with our national staff members, national officers and national directors, as well as our wonderful state secretaries, officers of state divisions and all TPA members.

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH in all our divisions must continue to be a priority for our current members. Applications are on our website, tpahq.org. Please invite friends or family members to join as a new member to enjoy the accident benefits or fraternal benefits as a fraternal member.

Again, Happy Holidays to you and your families!

Fraternally yours,

Joel H. Lederman, *National President*

Cell: 303-505-9236

Email: joell55@yahoo.com



Joel Lederman, President
Julie Kupper, Vice President
Robert L. Schapp, Jr.,
Chief Administrative Officer

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Dean Costello, IL
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Rollin "Bill" Mills, SC
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THE TPA TRAVELERS MAGAZINE

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It is my honor and great pleasure to introduce myself as the new Chief Administrative Officer of the Travelers Protective Association of America. For me, this is an answer to a prayer. At TPA, I will have the opportunity to combine numerous aspects of my life and work experience to further TPA's Vision and Mission. I firmly believe in the concept of servant leadership, focusing on helping others and meeting the needs of every constituent, be they staff, TPA members, grant recipients or members of the greater community.



ROBERT L. SCHAPP, JR.
Chief Administrative Officer

My experience includes insurance and investment management as well as information technology systems development and support. For six+ years (including two as Chair), I was a Board Member of a United Way member agency providing adoption, foster care, day care, counseling and other services. I also served five years as Board Secretary of a 2,000-member branch of a fraternal organization with a major charitable mission, and that role included responsibility for the office staff.

Speaking of staff, I wish you could see firsthand the fine work your Headquarters Team performs in support of the Board of Directors and the various functions of TPA. They handle fraternal membership matters for individuals, posts and divisions while processing insurance claims in a timely fashion and enabling the charitable work of the Homer T. Wilson Fund and the TPA Hearing Trust. You and I are blessed to have them!

Financially, your Association's situation is stable and more than meets our present regulatory and operational requirements. To remain relevant and viable, however, we must deal with the long-term and ongoing decline in our membership. We are not alone among fraternal and other membership societies in this regard, but that doesn't change the fact that we must turn it around. We have many dedicated members and leaders, but not enough of them. I believe that the solution that evolves will have several components. We must both attract new members and retain them and our existing members on the rolls. A key part of retention is engaging members in the activities of TPA and its Posts. As more members become more involved, we will have a larger pool from which to draw our future leaders. People will become and remain members if they have a "WHY," meaning, "This is WHY I am a member of TPA." The WHYs will come from a combination of fraternal activities, charitable service and membership benefits. With outside assistance, we are developing

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Through My Eyes BY CRAIG BROWN

Hello! My name is Craig Brown, member of Missouri Post SL. Many of you may remember meeting my family and myself at one of the past national conventions. My wife, Rebecca, and I attended our first convention in 2018 in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. Since then, we have paired our annual family vacation with



attending TPA national conventions. This year we brought our newest family member, Oliver, to the convention in South Myrtle Beach. My mother and brother, also TPA members, joined us at the convention this year as well.

Unfortunately, this year, I was not a voting delegate during the convention.

For those who do not know the process to being a delegate, I didn't meet the minimum requirement of five new members to list my name as their sponsor, even though, I thought I had. Fortunately, Rebecca was an alternate delegate upon arrival and was told the night before she would be a voting delegate.

I saw and learned much from the back of the room that week until I was asked to leave for the business session. Which as a member, I was confused about but exited the meeting room as instructed. I write this today to share with you, "Through my Eyes, the potential of TPA."

TPA has potential! Let's use it!

As an organization, it's time to modernize!

By modernizing, what we do in a social aspect we can refresh what people know about

our great group. Growing TPA membership through social media IS the way of the future! The time is NOW to change. We NEED our young people to WANT to be TPA members. We want them to see what TPA has to offer for so many. I know that sounds like a record on repeat, and you are right.

TPA has been "talking about" improving membership numbers for years, actually, for generations. Motivating young people to be a part of this organization is how we make those numbers increase.

Delivering information and educating a younger audience about TPA must be done by reaching people on a forum that is currently in use. By doing this we can continue the activities we are engaged in and *grow* our numbers!

I encourage our new leadership and our National Board to start listening. Pay attention to how and where people are communicating. Are we effectively using these avenues? We must go where people are getting their information and participate! By making and posting short videos and quick links to events, and sharing our successes with just one click, we'll be reaching huge audiences. These are a few examples of the direction TPA needs to be heading.

I encourage you to go online to youtube.com and search "random acts of kindness." You will likely be amazed to see the plethora of videos as well as the views of everyday people, posting positive content.

We all share the same passion for the ongoing existence of our beloved TPA. People are busy. Families are busy. Recognize that the number of people seeking TPA is small.

The number of people TPA has the potential to reach is vast. By bridging our organization into the modern era of social media, we will increase the knowledge of TPA and all it has to offer.

Dear TPA Members:

The Trustees of the TPA Hearing Trust and the TPA Planned Giving Committee encourage you to consider participation in this program.

We ask 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 by email to Edwin Miller at esmtpa@yahoo.com, Kay Aycock at mksba@aol.com, Joel Lederman at joell55@yahoo.com, Julie Kupper at tpatxdiv@gmail.com, or Robert Schapp at rschapp@tpahq.org.

Once again, we sincerely thank you for helping either or both worthwhile TPA charities.

Fraternally yours, Edwin Miller, Chair
Planned Giving Committee

Share THE Joy Of Hearing This Holiday Season

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...

48th year!



To donate online visit tpahq.org/donate/

Interested in applying for a grant?

Visit www.tpahq.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





**THIS REPLACES THE PROGRAM THAT BEGAN
MAY 1, 2023. LET'S GET EXCITED ABOUT
WRITING NEW APPLICATIONS!**

**2023-2024 Membership
Incentive Program...
goal of 1,000 new
applications**

Starting Date: November 1, 2023—Ending Date: April 30, 2024

Scoring of Applications for Posts, Divisions, and Individual Sponsors

The incentive awards will be based on the number of points earned between November 1, 2023 and April 30, 2024.

Earn 1 point for each Class A application.

Earn ½ point for each Class D application.

Earn ¼ point for each Class E application.

Each application will count toward both Post and Division point totals.

Post and Division Awards

Earn 5 points in your Post and it will receive a FIRST TIER award of \$200.

Earn 10 points in your Post and it will receive a SECOND TIER award of an additional \$200 (total \$400).

Earn 15 points in your Post and it will receive a THIRD TIER award of an additional \$200 (total \$600).

Earn 20 points in your Post and it will receive a FOURTH TIER award of an additional \$200 (total \$800).

Earn 25 points in your Post and it will receive a FIFTH TIER award of an additional \$200 (total \$1,000).

For each additional 25 points earned in your Post, it will receive an additional \$1,000 BONUS TIER award.

Division Award

Earn 5 points in your Division and it will receive a FIRST TIER award of \$200.

Earn 10 points in your Division and it will receive a SECOND TIER award of an additional \$200 (total \$400).

Earn 15 points in your Division and it will receive a THIRD TIER award of an additional \$200 (total \$600).

Earn 20 points in your Division and it will receive a FOURTH TIER award of an additional \$200 (total \$800).

Earn 25 points in your Division and it will receive a FIFTH TIER award of an additional \$200 (total \$1,000).

For each additional 25 points earned in your Division, it will receive an additional \$1,000 BONUS TIER award.

INDIVIDUAL SPONSOR AWARDS FOR THE 2024 TPA NATIONAL CONVENTION

Earn 2 points and receive \$20 in expense money to be used for 2024 convention expenses.

Earn 5 points and receive \$50 in expense money to be used for 2024 convention expenses.

Earn 10 points and receive \$100 in expense money to be used for 2024 convention expenses.

Earn 15 points and receive \$150 in expense money to be used for 2024 convention expenses.

Earn 20 points and receive \$200 in expense money to be used for 2024 convention expenses.

Earn 25 points and receive \$250 in expense money to be used for 2024 convention expenses.

Earn 50 points and receive \$500 in expense money to be used for 2024 convention expenses.

Earn 75 points and receive \$750 in expense money to be used for 2024 convention expenses.

Earn 100 points and receive \$1,000 in expense money to be used for 2024 convention expenses.

Earn 200 points and receive \$2,000 in expense money to be used for 2024 convention expenses.

ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE LONG-TERM TO QUALIFY!!! NOTES AND RULES CAN BE FOUND ON THE NEXT PAGE

THE MEMBER RETENTION INCENTIVE PROGRAM

NEW APPLICATIONS ARE GREAT—SO IS KEEPING OUR EXISTING MEMBERS!
Our goal is to turn membership loss into membership gain!
Ending Date: April 30, 2024

Post Awards

The incentive awards will be based on the net change in membership between May 1, 2023 and April 30, 2024.
If net membership loss in 2023-2024 is 25%-49% less than the net membership loss in 2022-2023, receive \$250.
If net membership loss in 2023-2024 is 50%-74% less than the net membership loss in 2022-2023, receive \$500.
If net membership loss in 2023-2024 is 75%-99% less than the net membership loss in 2022-2023, receive \$750.
If there is a net membership GAIN in 2023-2024, receive \$1,500!

Division Awards

The incentive awards will be based on the net change in membership between May 1, 2023 and April 30, 2024.
If net membership loss in 2023-2024 is 25%-49% less than the net membership loss in 2022-2023, receive \$250.
If net membership loss in 2023-2024 is 50%-74% less than the net membership loss in 2022-2023, receive \$500.
If net membership loss in 2023-2024 is 75%-99% less than the net membership loss in 2022-2023, receive \$750.
If there is no net membership loss or a net membership GAIN in 2023-2024, receive \$1,500!

NOTES AND RULES FOR INCENTIVE PROGRAMS

NOTES/RULES FOR THE NEW MEMBER AND MEMBER RETENTION INCENTIVE PROGRAMS:

- Post and Divisions **MUST** be in 100% compliance with all reporting, including financial statements, bank statements and minutes to receive awards.
- Applications you write into other Posts do not count for awards in your Post.
- Applications you write into other Divisions do not count for awards in your Division.
- All applications must be approved by National Headquarters to qualify for incentive awards.
- Individual Sponsors and Posts **MUST** notify their Division Secretaries when they have qualified for awards. Requests for Individual Sponsor, Post and Division awards must be submitted for review and approval in writing by email or USPS to the CAO from the Division Secretary. The deadline for email or USPS postmark is May 31, 2024.
- Post and Division Awards will be paid as soon as possible after May 1, 2024.
- 2024 Convention attendance is required to receive Individual Sponsor Awards. Awards will be paid by July 31, 2024.

ADDITIONAL NOTES/RULES REGARDING THE PRIOR INCENTIVE PROGRAMS:

- The prior incentive program will end on October 31, 2023.
- Individual Sponsor, Post and Division awards under the prior program must be submitted for review and approval in writing by email or USPS to the CAO from the Division Secretary. The deadline for email or USPS postmark is December 31, 2023.
- Post and Division awards will be paid as soon as possible after January 1, 2024.
- 2024 Convention attendance is required to receive Individual Sponsor Awards. Awards will be paid by July 31, 2024.

JOIN US

for the 2024 TPA National Convention

Doubletree by Hilton

6809 North Loop 1604W • San Antonio, Texas 78249

Phone 210-690-0300

June 16 – 20, 2024

\$149 Room Rate + fees and taxes available beginning June 14.



Grab your cowboy hats and start practicing your “yeehaw” as we get ready for the 2024 TPA National Convention in San Antonio, Texas. Join us in the Lone Star State for fraternalism and fun.

The convention will begin Sunday, June 16 with registration and hospitality. The convention business sessions will begin Monday, June 17. Tuesday, June 18 will be a free day to enjoy the local attractions and spend time with your fraternal friends. Business sessions will resume Wednesday, June 19 with the President’s Banquet that night. The convention will conclude at the end of the Thursday, June 20 business sessions.

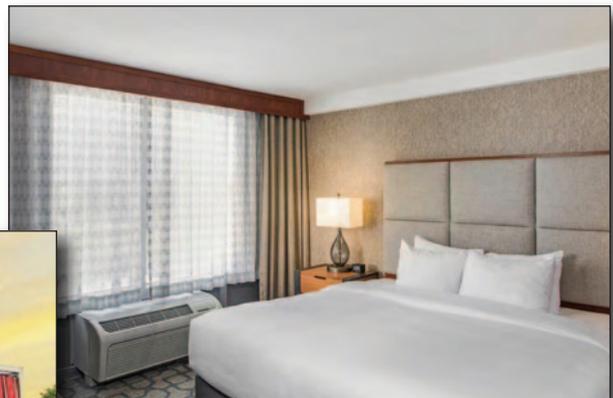
Our convention hotel is the Doubletree by Hilton, approximately 20 minutes from the San Antonio Airport and 30 minutes from downtown. Located in a very nice area, the property is well maintained on the outside and includes gated parking. It was recently renovated in 2019. Every sleeping room has a comfortable chair, desk, coffee maker, refrigerator, microwave, safe and armoire.

The room rate for TPA members and guests is \$149 per night which includes a free breakfast with omelets, French toast, bacon, sausage, potatoes, oatmeal, biscuits and gravy and avocado toast, as well as free gated parking. This special hotel rate has been extended to include June 14-20, 2024.

TPA members will be able to enjoy a complimentary shuttle service within a two-mile radius of the hotel. There will also be two free shuttle trips downtown to the Riverwalk on our Tuesday, June 18 free day—one each in the morning and the afternoon. Because the shuttle can accommodate up to 11 people, the free day Riverwalk trip will be limited to the first 22 people who sign up. If you are driving, the Riverwalk is easily accessible from most streets—just be sure to remember where you parked! The Riverwalk has stones and uneven surfaces and has no railings along the river, so please keep this in mind as you make your plans.

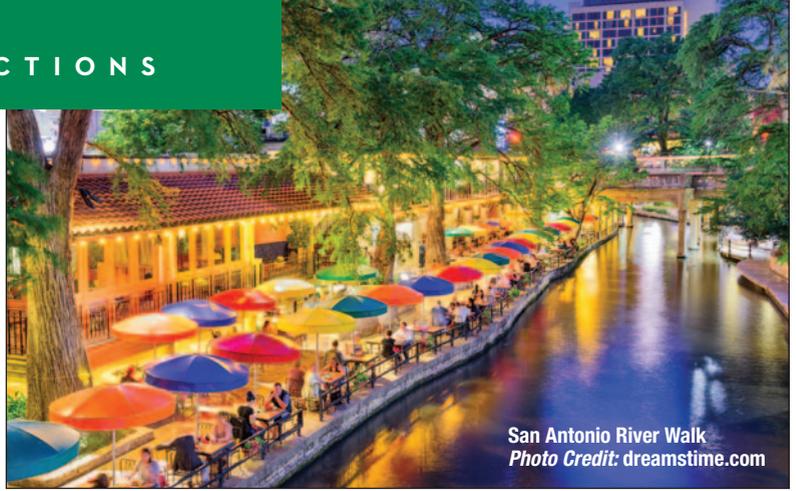
From the hotel there are several area attractions within a short distance. The San Antonio Aquarium is only about 10 minutes away. This interactive aquarium allows you to feed the animals and even get into the cages and enter the water. Youth members will enjoy the Six Flags amusement park and the San Antonio Zoo. Downtown San Antonio includes the Alamo, the Riverwalk, riverboat tours, the Alamodome and the La Cantera Shopping Mall.

We’re looking forward to seeing you in San Antonio!



San Antonio River Walk

The top-visited attraction in San Antonio is the River Walk. Along its nearly 15 miles of riverbanks, you'll find restaurants, shops, art galleries and hotels. There are always special events occurring like parades, artisan displays, musical performances and festivals. For a unique perspective, take a ride on one of the many tour boats that travel the river. The River Walk is a free public park, but there may be charges for the various attractions.



San Antonio River Walk
Photo Credit: dreamstime.com



The Alamo
Photo Credit: dreamstime.com

The Alamo

You'll be sure to "remember the Alamo" after visiting this 300-year-old historic site. During your visit, you'll see the iconic Spanish mission church, stroll along the beautiful gardens, learn from live demonstrations presented by the Alamo's historians, and view rare artifacts and collections located in the Alamo's museum. Youngsters will love the model of the 1836 Alamo fort made with over 50,000 LEGO® bricks! While the Alamo is free, reservations are required for some of the attractions.



San Antonio Zoo
Photo Credit: dreamstime.com

San Antonio Zoo

A must-see for those visiting the city, the San Antonio Zoo has animals from amphibians to zebras. As you walk through the zoo, you'll be transported through the Savannah, Big Cat Valley, Asian Forests and "down under" to Wild Australia. For some extra fun, you can take a spin on the Zootennial Carousel, or enjoy one of the many behind-the-scenes experiences that allow you to interact with the animals. You'll need to purchase a ticket for the zoo, but they offer many discounts (including military and senior) and offer special pricing for weekday tickets.

La Cantera Shopping Mall

An award-winning open-air market, La Cantera Shopping Mall is home to more than 180 shops and restaurants. You'll want to plan a whole day to "sip and shop." Whether you enjoy department stores or specialty shops, you're sure to find the perfect souvenir. And you won't go hungry at La Cantera Shopping

Mall—you can snack at one of the many pastry shops, have a sit-down meal at Whiskey Cake Kitchen or grab a to-go drink from Tiny Cantina.

San Antonio Aquarium

The San Antonio Aquarium lives up to its' slogan, "It's not just an aquarium—it's an exciting adventure!" In addition to fresh and saltwater fish, you'll find birds, reptiles, lemurs and even sloths. You can feed the animals and fish, roll up your sleeves to experience the touch tanks, and enjoy the beautiful bird performances. On the weekends you can enjoy a special pirate performance. They also have a large arcade. You'll need to "sea" it to believe it.

Sources: thealamo.org, thesanantonioriverwalk.com, sazoo.org, sanantonioaquarium.net, and theshopsatlacantera.com



San Antonio Aquarium
Photo Credit dreamstime.com



Donor Recognition

Donor Recognition as of October 31, 2023

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

PLATINUM GOLD LEVEL
(\$1,500 – \$1,999.99)
Stephen Olinick
Robert Schapp

PLATINUM LEVEL
(\$1,000 – \$1,499.99)
Caterpillar Foundation
Dean & Cathy Costello
Joel Lederman
Edwin & Dolores Miller Foundation
Harold S. Rhodes Estate
Missouri Division
Pennsylvania Division
Post E – Illinois Division
Post H – North Carolina Division

GOLD LEVEL
(\$500 – \$999.99)
Dixie Burdett
Woody & Julie Kupper
Dana Kurtz
Michigan Division
Rhode Island Division
Wisconsin Division
Post B – Nebraska Division
Post P – North Carolina Division
Post C – Pennsylvania Division

Post D – Pennsylvania Division
Post Q – Pennsylvania Division
Post V – Pennsylvania Division
Post W – Pennsylvania Division
Post I – Wisconsin Division

SILVER LEVEL
(\$250 – \$499.99)
Wilton Aebersold
Charles & Kay Aycock
Roy Carpenter
Christina Knott
Richard Martin
Clyde Miller

James & Wanda Ruppe
Post D – Missouri Division
Post J – Texas Division
Post W – Texas Division
Post D – Wisconsin Division

BRONZE LEVEL
(\$100 – \$249.99)
Armand & Ruth Apa
Bailey & Diane Bledsoe
Robert Brown
Mark & Annamarie Cassis
John Chmielewski
Joe Costello

Donald & Patricia Daugherty
Tom Davis
Frank Ellender
GBU Life
Edward Graves
Raymond & Julianne Hendrix

David & Sara Howren
Mark & Beth Koster
Cecelia Lookner
Leslie McAteer
Janet Stanley Mooneyham
William & Ann Pearce
Robert Pietroske
E.L. & Patricia Reed
Timothy & Rose Replogle
Morey Lee Ronson
Gary C. Schmitz
Albert & Paula Shoemaker
Terri Sipes
Scott & Gail Stambaugh
Valerie Taylor
Wayne Wentworth
Louisiana Division
Nebraska Division
Virginia Division
Post A – Michigan Division
Post I – Michigan Division
Post SC – Missouri Division
Post L – Pennsylvania Division
Post K – South Carolina Division
Post BB – Texas Division
Post L – Virginia Division
Post B – Wisconsin Division

CONTRIBUTOR
(\$10 – \$99.99)
Weymouth & Jo Ann Allen
AmazonSmile
Revonda Brady
Craig Brown

Don & Donna Duke
Robert & Vivian Fitzkee
David Geller
Boyce & Sue Hager
Amber Heinle
Donald & Helen Helms
Terry & Kathryn Hoepfner
Howard & Jean Hughes
Rachelle Jackson
Harrell Jory
Eugene & Elaine Knaus
Charles Liberty
Virginia Miller
Tina Niederman
Gloria Riffe
Frank & Vivian Robertson
Samantha Sarnes
State Secretaries
David Steffen
Jack Van Manen
William & Marcia Venables
Suanne Vieceli
Karl Wolf III
Frank Yonce
Frank Yonce & Sonya Urban
Post H – Illinois Division
Post O – Iowa Division
Post C – North Carolina Division
Post G – Texas Division
Post L – Wisconsin Division

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

Fire proof your home for the Holidays!

Make your household safe during this holiday season by practicing these sensible safety rules:



- Keep your tree in water at all times and away from your fireplace, radiator and heater.
- Check your tree lights. Repair or throw away lights with frayed or exposed wires. Turn off all the lights when you leave home or go to bed.



- If you are planning to use your fireplace during the holidays, make sure to keep your tree, decorations and gift wrappings away from it.
- Use flame-proof decorations and spray your tree with a fire retardant mixture. Get rid of your tree when it dries out.



- Give children only toys which are safe. Avoid toys with sharp edges and points. Keep all electric toys away from your tree.
- Have a reliable fire extinguisher in your home. Know where it is and how to use it.



“Make safety first and make it last” and always “Watch That Child.”

This safety message by The Travelers Protective Association.

NEW YEAR'S EVE SAFETY



Hosting a party...

When alcoholic beverages are served, make sure food and soft drinks are available too!

Some people prefer a soft drink instead of an alcoholic beverage but are hesitant to ask during a party.

Minimize the amount of alcohol in drinks, and close the bar at least one hour before people leave to drive home.

Avoid refilling a drink every time someone's glass is empty. They may know when they've had enough, but feel obligated by your gesture.

If someone has had too much to drink, it is your duty to get that person home safely even if it means taking away their keys.

Remember: Friends don't let friends drive drunk!

IF YOU HAVE TEENAGERS, BE AWARE OF FACTS:

Drunk driving is the number one killer of men and women in their teens. Despite the rumors, alcohol is still their number one choice of drugs.

Discuss without lecturing them that you could never justify driving after excessive drinking and you consider their safety more important than getting the car home.

This safety message is sponsored by ...

The Travelers Protective Association who reminds us of the simple steps which can be taken to prevent a needless tragedy.

Before going out on the town...

Discuss in advance who will drive the car home. This will alert the driver-to-be on the necessity of keeping his alcohol consumption to a minimum. Anyone who assumes the responsibility of driving home will realize in advance the important role to which he has to himself and his passengers. Let us not forget the responsibility we have to our loved ones awaiting our safe return.

Think twice...

About the burden placed on the remaining family and how it could affect their course of life.

***Let's all do something about it,
the responsibility is ours.***

DID YOU KNOW...

Automobile accidents kill more people under 40 than either heart disease or cancer?

Alcohol has been implicated in nearly half of all fatal accidents?

It takes about an hour for the body to dispose of just one ounce of whiskey or a single bottle of beer?



The Treasures of

North Carolina



Hanging Rock State Park

Come enjoy nature's beauty in North Carolina

North Carolina is a state with something for everyone, which is why it's such a popular vacation destination—from sandy beaches to forest-covered mountains and everything in between. Check out some of the many state attractions you'll want to visit on your next North Carolina trip.

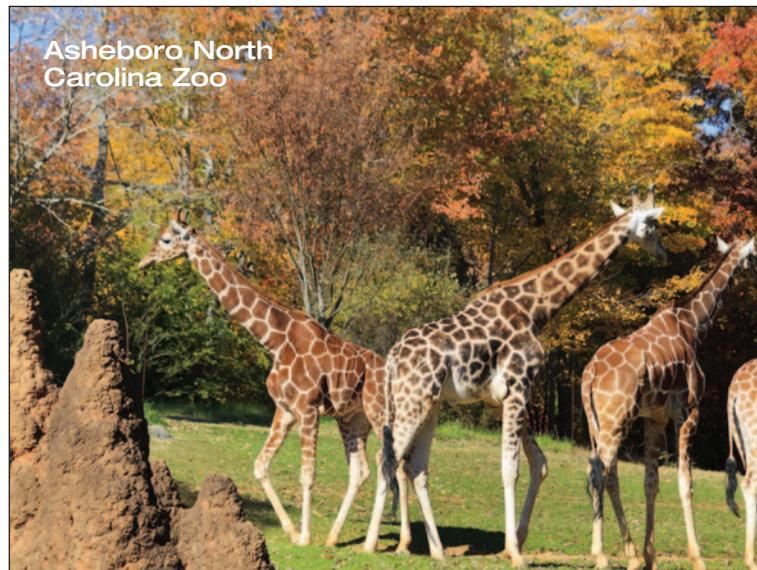
Not your average zoo

A visit to North Carolina would not be complete without stopping at the North Carolina Zoo, which you'll find located just outside of Asheville. With 500 developed acres, surrounded by more than 2,500 acres of forest, it's the world's largest natural-habitat zoo. You'll be able to view more than 1,700 individual animals representing over 200 species living in natural environments, where they have room to roam.

In addition to enjoying the animals that call the zoo home, families can enjoy a ropes course, kidzone, carousel, playground and hiking trails.

Children can register to become a Zoo Trekker. Through this program, if they complete six activities during their visit they'll earn a souvenir pin.

After a day at the zoo, why not visit downtown Asheville? This city offers a wide variety of shopping areas, restaurants to satisfy almost any hunger, and coffee shops to sit back and savor the city's beautiful atmosphere.



Just hanging around

If you travel just over 30 miles north of Winson-Salem, North Carolina, you will find Hanging Rock State Park. This state park features rushing waterfalls, miles of trails and abundant wildlife. All this is in addition to the beautiful mountain view you'll enjoy. Some of Hanging Rock's top activities include fishing, rock climbing, paddling, camping, swimming, horseback riding and boating. From expert to easy, you'll find walking and biking trails to meet your activity level. It's no wonder Hanging Rock State Park is one of North Carolina's must-visit travel destinations.

After visiting the park travel over to Old Salem. Old Salem is re-creation of what life was like in the Winston-Salem area of North Carolina during the 18th and 19th centuries. Take a step back in time as you watch Old Salem's reenactors, including shoemakers, gunsmiths and tailors, who go about demonstrating their trades. As you stroll the streets of this National Historic Landmark, you'll see and experience the culture of the Moravian settlers who lived in this area, and have the opportunity to participate in hands-on activities.

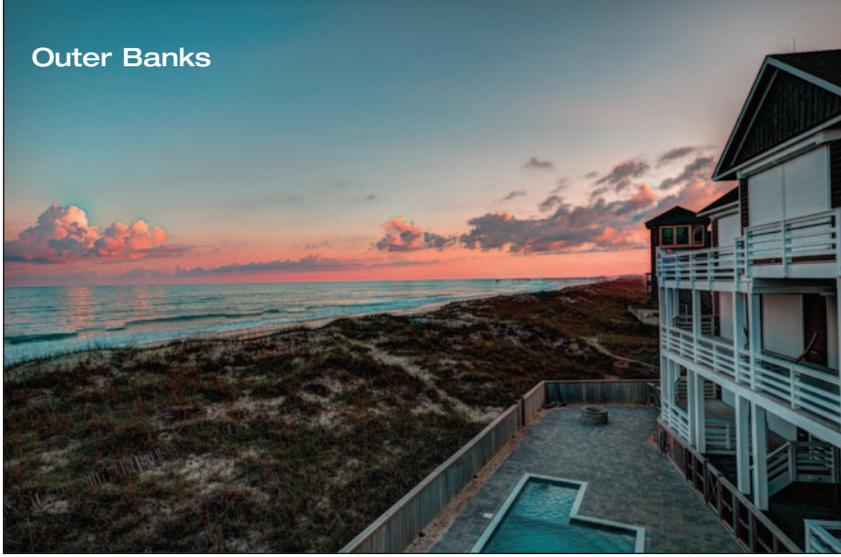
This park is smokin'

The Great Smoky Mountains National Park spans both Tennessee and North Carolina. With more than half of its vast acreage in North Carolina, each year more than 10 million people visit this free park. This park includes scenic drives, roads to Cades Cove and along the Roaring Fork Motor Nature Trail. You can also enjoy outdoor activities like hiking, biking, birding and fishing. Forget hotels, the Great Smoky Mountains National Park has campsites and camping grounds, and some additional sites that you can only get to by hiking several miles. Stop at one of the park's four visitor's centers for souvenirs, maps and educational displays. The park rangers will also be happy to assist you.

The best 'bank' in North Carolina

The Outer Banks are full of history including being the famous site of Orville and Wilbur Wright's famous

Outer Banks



Old Salem

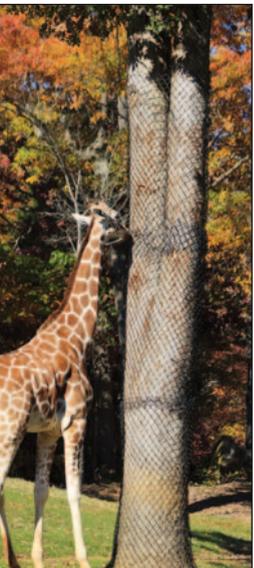


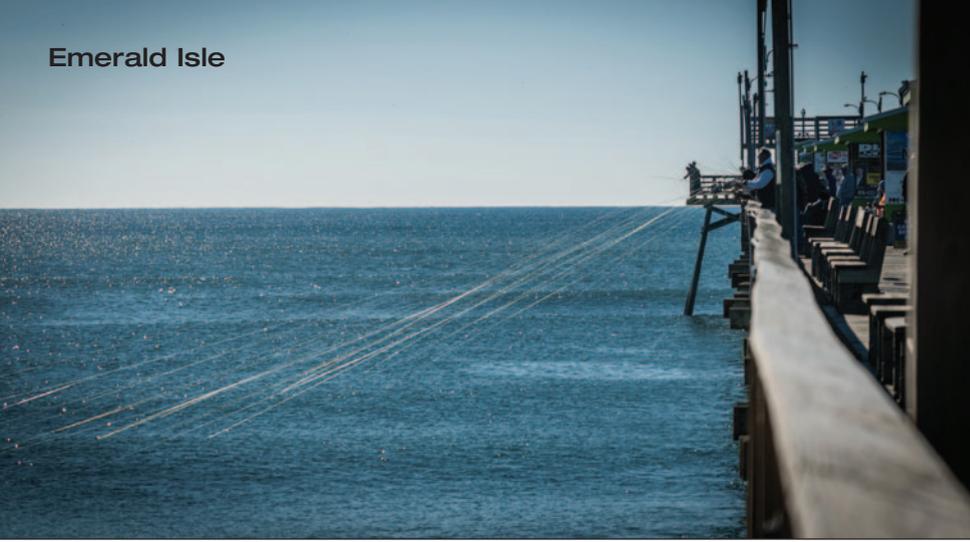
flight, the pirate Blackbeard's last battle and home of the legend of the mysterious Lost Colony that disappeared. Enjoy the ocean from these banks, as well as fishing, windsurfing and wildlife watching. The Outer Banks is the location of roughly 3,000 shipwrecks, explorable by snorkeling or scuba diving, which is why it has the nickname "the graveyard of the Atlantic."

The ocean isn't the only beautiful sight in the Outer Banks—you'll want to see the Wild Colonial Spanish Mustangs that call both Corolla and Shackleford Banks home. These mustangs swam to shore centuries ago when Spanish ships carrying them wrecked off the coast. They've been free to roam the area ever since. To help with the preservation of the herd, please keep a 50-foot distance between you and the horses.

Families will love the North Carolina Aquarium, where you'll find alligators, sharks, otters, frogs and plenty of fish. There are hands-on experiences for

continued on page 18





children and a Sea Turtle Rescue exhibit. This is the place where you can do everything from touching stingrays to seeing sharks up close and personal in one location.

Another must-see attraction is the Elizabethan Gardens. You'll see beautiful statues, including a special monumental bronze sculpture of Queen Elizabeth I. No matter what time of year you go, you'll see blooming seasonal flowers throughout the garden. Enjoy a guided tour of the park or walk through at your own pace.

A North Carolina 'jewel'

Emerald Isle features a small-town atmosphere for a family beach vacation. The Emerald Isle contains 12 miles of beaches along the coastline, providing uncrowded beaches for surfing, swimming, sandcastle building and kiteboarding. If you like water, but not sand—try the Salty Pirate, Emerald Isle's water park with tons of slides and activities. It is also considered a year-round fisherman's paradise. Emerald Isle is a great place to take in the local culture, with its many museums and art galleries.

A taste of city life in Raleigh

Raleigh is home to the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences, which has two parts: Nature Exploration Center and Nature Research Center. One of their unique displays are the skeletons of several whales. Some of these skeletons have been on display for more than 100 years. Be sure to say "hi" to Trouble, the nickname for the massive blue whale skeleton.

Other exhibits include the History of North Carolina, Terror of the South (dinosaurs exhibit), Underground North Carolina (gemstones and geology displays), and Snakes of North Carolina.

The North Carolina Museum of Art offers a variety of exhibits, including artwork from the Italian Renaissance and baroque periods, Egyptian funerary art, sculpture and vase painting from ancient Greece and Rome, American art and much more. The art museum also includes a beautiful garden.

As you explore the city, you can't miss the beautiful display of outdoor art with more than 30 murals spread throughout the city.

Raleigh is the capital city of North Carolina, and the Capital building is a site to see! This National Historic Landmark stands as one of the best-preserved examples of a civic building in Greek Revival-style architecture. Guided tours are available at no cost.

Don't forget Charlotte

The city of Charlotte is a great place for families and tourists of every age to visit. Charlotte is home of the NASCAR Hall of Fame where you'll get to explore everything about the sport of NASCAR. You'll learn about the all-time great drivers, owners and broadcasters. You'll see a collection of former racing cars, ride in a race car simulator and enjoy other interactive displays. The NASCAR Hall of Fame was opened in 2010 and is located near the Charlotte Motor Speedway.



Raleigh Museum of Natural History

Children will have an incredible time exploring the interactive exhibitions of Discovery Place, a museum to explore science and technology. Walk through a simulated rain forest, get up close and personal with animals, and watch live science experiments and demonstrations. Learn about the solar system in the state-of-the-art Accenture IMAX® Dome Theatre. All this in addition to their special traveling exhibits.

Asheville and the Biltmore

The Biltmore is a one-of-a-kind destination. Sitting on more than 8,000 acres on the edge of the Blue Ridge Mountain, just outside of Asheville you will find the home of the Vanderbilt family. The Biltmore is a 250-room castle and is considered to be America's Largest Home with 250 rooms including 35 bedrooms, 43 bathrooms, and 65 fireplaces. The estate includes an award-winning winery, a four-star inn, dining, shopping, 20+ miles of nature trails and much more.

Tour the Biltmore in style by taking one of the guided horseback rides or sit back and relax in a horse-drawn carriage led by Belgian draft horses.

Biltmore is still family-owned, and prides itself on being a welcoming place to celebrate family and friends.



Sources: nczoo.org, ncparks.gov, travel.usnews.com, visitraleigh.com, discoveryplace.org, ncartmuseum.org, exploreasheville.com
Photos: dreamstime.com

CORRECTION

First Time Delegates

The name identification on the photo of the first time delegates to the 2023 National Convention at North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina was incorrect. We apologize to Dianne Fossen for the omission.



Front row: Peggy Thomas; **DIANNE FOSSEN**; Thomas Taylor; and Frank Yonce.
Back row: Dale Knott; William "Britt" Brady; Joseph Hughes; Robert Brown; and Walter Jeffers.

TPA Member Benefits

As a member of TPA you can enjoy the following benefits. For more information visit tpahq.org/member-benefits.

AAA Discount

If you have AAA Auto Insurance, you may be eligible for a 10% discount. Contact your AAA agent and mention that you are a member of TPA and ask for the discount.

Avis Drive On Program

TPA members always receive up to 25% off your rental when you use AWD# A672075, plus enjoy additional offers like dollars off, a complimentary upgrade, or a free weekend day.

Budget Awaits You

TPA members always save up to 25% off Budget base rates with offer code (BCD) B079586, plus get other great offers like dollars off, a complimentary upgrade, or a free weekend day. Plus with a complimentary membership in Budget Fastbreak, enjoy their fastest, easiest rental experience!

Emergency Assistance +

You'll get medical assistance that's invaluable: emergency medical evacuation, transportation home, travel assistance, personal security services and many other benefits! Best of all, as a TPA Member you are GUARANTEED low group rates and cannot be turned down.

Life Insurance Central

Life Insurance Central provides a service with licensed insurance representatives who work to find the best coverage for you.

Life Line Screening

Life Line Screening comes to your community to provide you a wide variety of comprehensive screening packages at a discount. Select the health screening package that's right for you.

LifeStation

TPA members have access to LifeStation's Medical Alert System. With the push of a button, trained care specialists quickly assess the situation, alert family members, and deploy first responders when necessary.

Long Term Care Global

LTCG will save TPA members time and money on their insurance quote. As a TPA Member you may be eligible for a premium discount. Extended family members are also available for coverage.

Nationwide Pet Insurance

Nationwide® provides affordable pet health coverage from preventive care to significant medical incidents.

ODP Business Solutions (formerly Office Depot)

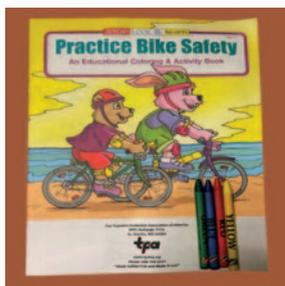
Your TPA Office Depot® Member Benefits Program, previously Office Depot Business Solutions Division, has been rebranded to ODP Business Solutions™. You'll receive savings of up to 75% on the Best Value List of preferred products.

Start Hearing

TPA members and their families receive discounts up to 48% on today's latest technology, including hearing aids and tinnitus options. Plus more benefits!

VSP Individual Vision Care

The VSP Standard Plan offers members comprehensive coverage for exams and glasses (or contacts) with additional savings. VSP members will get a basic pair of glasses to suit their prescription needs while saving over \$200. PLUS additional savings are available.



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



TPA Wristband
\$1.00 + s/h
 Silicone Wristband
 ½" Wide



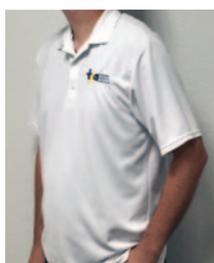
TPA Mouse Pad
\$5.00 + s/h
 Mouse Pad
 8"x7¼"



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



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



TPA White Polo
\$25.00 + s/h
 White Polo



**Long Sleeve Button
 Down Oxford**
\$30.00 + s/h
 Long Sleeve Oxford
 with logo



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



Coffee Mug
\$3.50 + s/h
 Coffee Mug with
 TPA Logo



Foil Sticker 3"x4"
\$0.19 + s/h
 TPA Foil Sticker



CHAD Sticker
\$0.03 + s/h
 CHAD Sticker



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

*This is a reminder that you
 can order TPA merchandise
 from our website at
tpahq.org/merchandise.*

*Here are just a few of the
 items that you can
 purchase.*



FROM THE CAO *continued from page 3*

a marketing plan and website redesign to move us in this direction. I and your Board's Membership Committee welcome any thoughts and insights you might offer.

I would be remiss if I did not thank and congratulate Al Shoemaker upon his retirement after many years of dedicated service to TPA. He has left the organization in excellent order and well positioned for the future. We have a superb internal staff and well-documented processes. TPA also has in place a top-notch network of outside resources that help us function like a much larger organization while staying in full regulatory and ethical compliance.

We don't have to wait until the Convention to get acquainted. Feel free to call or email. Better yet, invite me to a Post or Division activity, and I will do my best to make it happen. I am looking forward to meeting each of you!

I wish each of you a most blessed holiday season!

Kind fraternal regards,

Robert L. Schapp, Jr., *Chief Administrative Officer*

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 TPA members in need.



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 for verifying 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:

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



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.

Project and Event Planning Tips

Every successful project or event starts with good planning and, of course, good people willing to help others. We hope you find this checklist helpful.

Choose a Committee

- Designate a project leader, who in turn will select a group of people who can help recruit volunteers.
- Determine who will be the main project coordinator and contact person.

Choose a Project or Event

- Posts and divisions are encouraged to host events and community service projects that align with TPA’s vision and mission statements by improving the quality of life for our members and their communities.
- Determine if the post or division should partner with another post, division, or organization.
- Choose a location, date, and time.

Promote the Project or Event

- Contact the media in advance and distribute press releases.
- Use social media and email.
- Post flyers and signs on church bulletin boards, community boards and in local businesses.
- Include local VIPs to help: the mayor or local, state, or federal legislators.
- Send postcards to members, friends, and family.
- Recruit volunteers.
- **Notify TPA headquarters** about your event so it can be promoted on the website and through social media.

Have Fun

- After careful planning, your project or event is sure to be a success.
- Enjoy the day and take pride in your accomplishments.
- It is leaders like you who make the world a better place.
- Recognize and thank your volunteers.

Report Your Success

- Volunteer hours generated by post and divisions are required to be reported.
- Complete and submit your safety, community service, and communications reports.
- Record the time that each volunteer spent planning, promoting, engaging in the event, and cleaning up.
- **Send high resolution photos** of your project or event to your post secretary, division secretary, and chief administrative officer to be posted on the TPA website, TPA Facebook and in the *Travelers* magazine.



LOUISIANA



The Louisiana Division and Louisiana Post F teamed up to support Post F member and Registered Nurse Ramona McCorquodale's participation in a medical mission trip to Africa in June, 2023. After arriving at Makindu, Kenya by bus, the group spent a day at each of five villages. They saw patients and offered basic medical and dental care. There was also a veterinary team to care for the animals in the villages. A pastoral team talked to the villagers about Jesus and set up churches in each village. Over the course of five days, 1,802 patients were seen, 10,694 packages of medication were dispensed, 25 surgeries were performed, 343 teeth were extracted and 1,407 animals were vaccinated. The mission was sponsored by Church Missions Network and assisted by Trinity Baptist Church of Lake Charles, Louisiana.

Above pictured left to right: Interpreter Tom; Post F member Ramona McCorquodale RN; and a patient.

Below: The scene at one of the villages when the mission team arrived to set up the clinic.

Post F of the Louisiana Division donated 50 TPA backpacks filled with school supplies to A.A. Nelson Elementary School just in time for the start of the 2023–2024 school year. The backpacks were distributed to children in need of school supplies to help them have a successful school year. School administrators were very happy to get them.

Pictured left to right: Post F members Jerry Moore; Al Moore; and Sena Theall.



Pictured left to right: Jerry Moore; Karen Sullivan of Nelson Elementary; and Al Moore.

LOUISIANA

Post F of Louisiana provided and distributed 300 Halloween Bags and Halloween Inserts to A.A. Nelson Elementary School in Lake Charles, Louisiana.

Pictured left to right: Al Moore; Karen Sullivan of Nelson Elementary; and Sena Theall.



MICHIGAN



Post A West Michigan donated 150 TPA backpacks filled with school supplies to various school districts and church outreach programs in the Grand Rapids, Michigan area. Thank you to everyone who helped with this backpack program.

Pictured are students at Ken-O-Sha Elementary School in Grand Rapids, Michigan with their new backpacks.

Photo Submission Hints

We love to receive photos from our posts, divisions, and members about all the wonderful things that TPA is doing.

To help ensure that your photos are the right quality to be printed, here are some helpful photography do's and don'ts for submitting photos to the *Travelers* magazine.

WHEN TAKING PICTURES PLEASE TRY TO:

- Include kids in the picture (if possible).
- Have people engaging in activities.
- Have people smiling.
- Avoid things that might affect your flash or background (a bright sun in the background, or mirror on a wall, etc.).

DO:

- Send original photos from your camera or phone as an attachment to the email.
- Make sure that your camera has the quality of photos on the highest setting.
- Turn off the feature to have the date and time appear on your photo.
- Send more than one photo.
- Send a professional print (if you are unable to send a digital file).

DON'T:

- Embed photos in an email, attach them instead.
- Embed photos in a Word file.
- Embed photos in a PDF file.
- Resize the photos to make them smaller.
- Send photo links from Facebook, or other online sites.
- Send photos from newspapers.
- Print photos from your home printer.
- Use paperclips on photos or write on the back.

We look forward to receiving your pictures!

MISSOURI



Some of the many school supplies donated by the Post.

Post C of the Missouri Division donated backpacks and school supplies to three Springfield, Missouri schools. They were delivered one day before the school year started—just in time to help spread cheer to returning students. Special thanks to Larry Voris and the members of Post C who helped make this project possible.



Pictured are the principal and librarian from Robberson Community School accepting donations from Connie O'Neil (center).



Pictured are the principal and secretary from Pleasant View School accepting donations from Colton O'Neil (center).



Pictured are Dennis O'Neil presenting the donated backpacks to the principal of Fremont Elementary School.

MISSOURI



Post D of the Missouri Division donated backpacks and school supplies to the Morgan County R-II School District in Versailles, Missouri. Post D worked with the district to help determine what supplies students would need and the district was very grateful for the donations. The post is hopeful that they have started a relationship that can benefit both the post and the school district moving into the future.

Pictured are students with the backpacks and school supplies donated by Post D of the Missouri Division.

Post K of the Missouri Division donated backpacks and school supplies to five small schools around Chillicothe, Missouri. Pat Reed helped lead the project. As a former teacher for more than 30 years, Pat knows firsthand the amount of money teachers spend on school supplies that are needed in their classrooms, and how much TPA's donations to the schools are greatly appreciated.

The Post donated 50 backpacks full of supplies. A majority of the students in these schools are on the free breakfast and lunch program due to financial need. These donations will help provide much needed supplies. Schools who received donations included Chula, Hale, Tina-Avalon, Jamesport and Winston.

Post K received the following thank you note from the faculty and staff of Chula School:

"Thank you so very much for the backpacks and school supplies that were donated to the kids at Chula School! Chula has many low-income families that struggle with finances and supplying school supplies to their kids, so your donations are truly welcome. Thank you!"



Pictured is Stephanie Baldwin, a special education teacher at Chula, with the donated supplies.



Pictured are principal of Tina-Avalon School and Pat Reed with the donated supplies.



Pictured is Post K member Pat Reed with donated supplies

MISSOURI

On Saturday, Oct. 21, 2023, members of Post SL of the Missouri Division sponsored a booth at the West (St. Louis) County EMS and Fire Fall Festival. The Post distributed 2,400 pieces of safety material, which included Halloween bags, CHAD stickers, safety flyers, Hearing Trust brochures, membership applications and lots of candy! The Post also donated \$500 to the West County EMS & Fire Protection District.

Visitors were offered numerous activities and safety demonstrations including a pumpkin patch, coloring contest, water hose games, face painting, CPR mannequins and free food. The fire department provided tours and the fire trucks and an EMS ambulance were on display for everyone to see and touch.



TPA National Headquarters was visited on Halloween by a group of scary but happy hobgoblins from the neighboring All Generations Adult Day Care. They each received a special treat bag including candy, TPA coloring books and flyers! Missouri Post SL and SC members who work at headquarters stuffed and distributed the bags.



Pictured left to right: Post SL officers Angela Robinson, Rebecca Brown and Dana Kurtz, with Captain John Navin of the West County EMS & Fire Protection District.



Volunteers distributing Halloween bags.



Pictured left to right: Brittany Rebello, Lisa Moore, Bob Schapp, Angela Robinson, Debbie Medley, Ryan Jenkins, and Dana Kurtz.

IOWA

Members of Post O of the Iowa Division distributed 50 TPA backpacks on Saturday, August 5, 2023 at a back-to-school event. Post volunteers manned the booth and distributed the backpacks to children. The backpacks were filled with school supplies to help the school year start on a positive note. Thank you to all the post volunteers who helped make this possible.

Pictured left to right: John Hunolt; Ken Venables; and Jim Williams.





T E X A S

Members of Post W of the Texas Division worked at the West Texas Food Bank sacking peaches for distribution. After volunteering, members were encouraged to sign the wall to show support for the West Texas Food Bank. Altogether, Post W members were able to sack a total of 17,280 peaches. Everyone enjoyed volunteering and helping.

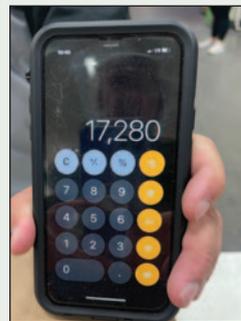
Pictured: Sorting peaches are Post W members Julie Kupper, and Larry Eichinger with his wife Debbie.



Pictured from left to right: Julie Kupper; Joe Acuff; Jo Ann Acuff; Larry Eichinger; Woody Kupper; and Debbie Eichinger.



Joe and Jo Ann Acuff signing the wall.



Volunteer efforts really added up! They sacked 17,280 peaches.

W I S C O N S I N

Wisconsin State Secretary, Wayne Warnecke, joined Post B officers, Bob Lusardi, Dan Dennis, Don Hoepfner and Terry Hoepfner at the August Corn Roast & Brat Director's Meeting, held at Marx Park in the town of Brookfield, Wisconsin. An invitation was extended to the Post B membership to attend. Members attending included Kathy Hoepfner, Nancy Hoepfner, Marie Lusardi, Ron Bauman and Dick Kneprath.

Pictured are members, officers and guests at the roast.



PENNSYLVANIA

At their recent regular meeting, TPA Post Q (Anthracite Region, Mahanoy City, Pennsylvania) recognized members with 25-, 30-, 50-, 55- and 60-years of service. Those in attendance enjoyed dinner after the meeting.

We recognize and appreciate their dedication to TPA!



Pictured left to right front row: Lois Davis; Dorothy Lewis; Dolores Miller; Nancy Johns; Post Q President Cathy Gatto; Donna Opie; Kathy Wufsus; and Linda Fetter.

Pictured left to right back row: Post Q Secretary Edwin Miller; William Kern; Joseph Caulfield; John Messer; Champ Holman; Charles Dries; Raymond Peters; Robert Opie; and Frank Fetter.



Post W held a monthly meeting in Lycoming County, Pennsylvania. Post President Gail Eppler presented a 50-year pin to member Jim

Miller. Congratulations to Mr. Miller on this milestone and thank you for your years of service to our Association.

Pictured left to right: Jim Miller and Gail Eppler.

Post Q of the Pennsylvania Division would like to congratulate Bill Kern, Jr. on 60 years of membership with TPA. Recently Post Q held their annual summer picnic, where Bill was recognized for being a 60-year member and was thanked for all his work and countless hours volunteering on the post, division and national levels of TPA.

Pictured: Bill Kern, Jr. with the plaque he received from Post Q of the Pennsylvania Division for his 60 years of membership.



WISCONSIN



Post B of the Wisconsin Division donated three TPA school backpacks filled with school supplies to St. John's Lutheran Church of Brookfield, Wisconsin for their Backpack Donation Program. The backpacks were sent on to the All Peoples Gathering Church located in the inner city of Milwaukee. Thank you to the Post B volunteers who helped make this outreach possible.

Pictured: Receiving the packs from Post B officers, Don and Terry Hoepfner, is St. John's Family Coordinator, Joanna Salinas.

Dianne Fossen, member of Post I of the Wisconsin Division, personally purchased 10 TPA backpacks. She filled the bags with school supplies and distributed them to students at the Menomonee Elementary School, a tribal school located in Keshena, Wisconsin. As a retired kindergarten teacher, Dianne understands how important school supplies are for students. Thank you to Dianne for supporting our backpack program!

Pictured: Dianne Fossen with the donated backpacks.



VIRGINIA



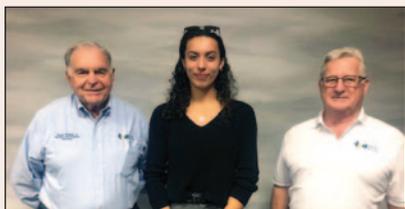
Carl Espy, Halifax Town Manager, was the speaker at a monthly meeting of South Boston Post D of the Virginia Division. Espy discussed the Halifax Downtown Revitalization Project, the Halifax Village Association and the Houston Street Encasement which was revealed on September 21 with the "Light up Houston Street." The post would like to thank Mr. Espy for his informative presentation.

Pictured left to right: Carlyle Wimbish, Virginia Division TPA Vice President; Carl Espy, Halifax Town Manager; and Gary Newcomb, South Boston TPA Post D President.



Ginger Weaver, Disaster Specialist at the American Red Cross was the speaker at a recent Post D monthly meeting in South Boston, Virginia. Weaver discussed the many types of disasters that happen around the world and how the Red Cross quickly responds and that they are the first on the scene coordinating the help of other disaster teams. She also discussed the many services of the American Red Cross, from the aid to our service men to the blood banks. Volunteers are a high percentage of the Red Cross work force.

Pictured left to right: Kevin Chandler, Red Cross volunteer; Ginger Weaver, Disaster Specialist, American Red Cross; Carlyle Wimbish; and Bill Haley.



Intern Jollie Mason of the Good Hope Equestrian and Regenerative Farm was the speaker at the monthly meeting of Post D South Boston, of the Virginia Division of the Travelers Protective Association. Mason discussed the purpose and mission of the Equestrian Center. The Good Hope Center is a non-profit organization located in Halifax County that provides quality equine and regenerative farming practices to children, youth and adults with and without disabilities.

Pictured left to right: Carlyle Wimbish, Virginia Vice President; Jollie Mason, Intern with Good Hope Equestrian and Regenerative Farm; and Gary Newcomb, Post D President.



NORTH CAROLINA

Post A of Greensboro, North Carolina Division presented school supplies to Vandalia Elementary for the 2023-2024 school year. Principal Dr. Calandra Davis received the supplies from Revonda Brady. They were very appreciative for these supplies on behalf of the students. Dr. Davis was excited to learn more about TPA and what our society does for children.

Pictured: Principal Dr. Calandra Davis received the supplies from Revonda Brady.



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