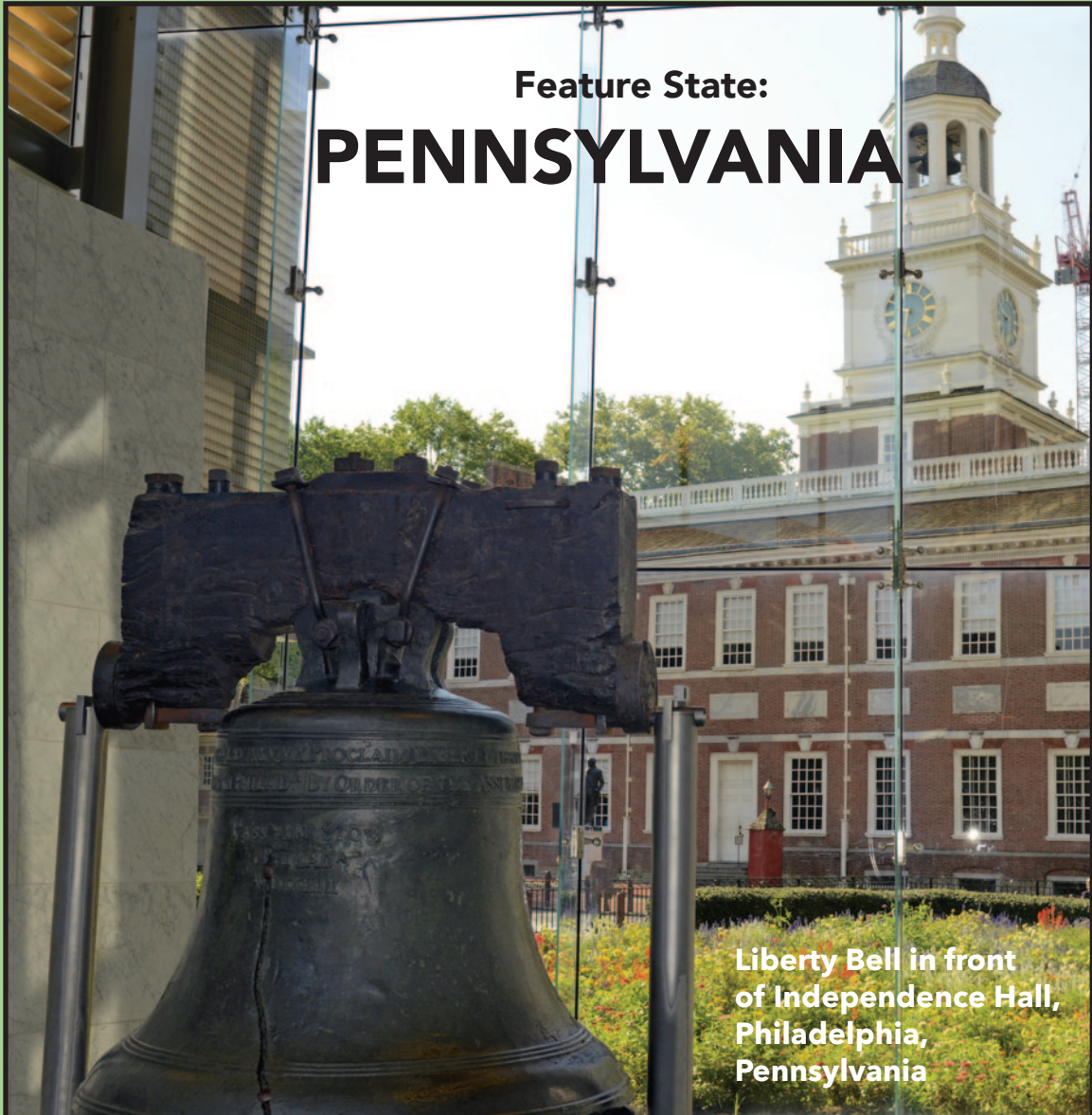


Travelers

The Magazine of The Travelers Protective Association | December 2024 | Vol. 62 Issue 3



Feature State:
PENNSYLVANIA

**Liberty Bell in front
of Independence Hall,
Philadelphia,
Pennsylvania**

contents

From the President	2	Thank You Hearing Trust	13	Maria Verbeck Retirement	19
From the CAO	3	Donor Recognition	14	TPA's New Website	20-21
2025 National Convention	4-5	Memorial Donations	14	Members in Action	22-30
History Minute	6-7	Homer T. Wilson Humanitarian Fund	15	What TPA Can Do For You	31
Membership Incentive Program	8-9	American Flag Program	15	Happy Holidays from TPA	32
Share the Joy/Hearing Trust Donations	10-11	Photo Submissions	15		
Pacesetters Club	12-13	Pennsylvania—Feature State	16-19		



JULIE KUPPER
National President

MERRY CHRISTMAS and happy holidays! As we come to the end of 2024, we can reflect on all the blessings we have in this country. We should also remember the blessings that we have as members of

Travelers Protective Association. We are able to award financial grants through the Hearing Trust to those who need assistance for travel, doctor visits, and necessary equipment including batteries. We also have the opportunity to assist members and their families who have emergencies and need financial assistance through Homer T. Wilson Humanitarian funds. We are blessed to provide assistance to our communities through community service, communications and safety projects. Through all of these, we are blessed to have friends who have shared in making memories.

Some of these memories include attending post and division meetings as well as the annual convention. Other memories may be the special projects that the posts and divisions have invested

time, money and effort into and the results that are achieved. Following the theme of change, there is the “new” PADS program that can assist posts and divisions to increase their presence in the communities and hopefully increase their membership. If you have an idea and need some assistance, just ask!

Speaking of asking, have you invited someone to join you in being a member of TPA? We have so many opportunities as well as benefits that we should be sharing which leads to adding new members to our rosters. Have you checked out the new website for the affinity program? These services as well as insurance benefits are free with a membership. YOU can be the one who shares the blessings of being a member of TPA. In the words of two of our 25-Club Members, “Just ask.”

From my family to yours, may your holiday season bring you joy, memories and blessings.

Fraternaly yours,
Julie Kupper
National President



Julie Kupper, President
Richard Martin, Vice President
Robert L. Schapp, Jr.
Chief Administrative Officer

NATIONAL DIRECTORS

Kay Aycock, NC
John Chmielewski, MI
Dean Costello, IL
Thomas E. Davis, KY
Edwin Miller, PA
Rollin "Bill" Mills, SC
Alfred Moore, Jr., LA
Wayne Warnecke, WI

NATIONAL COMMITTEES

COMMUNICATIONS

Brad Cunningham, Chair

SAFETY

Kay Aycock, Chair

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Helen M. Helms, Chair

CONSULTANTS

Armstrong Teasdale, LLP Law Firm,
Clayton, MO
Black Twig Marketing and
Communications, LLC
Clayton, MO
Lewis and Ellis, Inc.
Actuaries, Kansas City, MO
Kerber, Eck, & Braeckel, LLP
Independent Auditors,
Springfield, IL
Stroh Ballweg, LLP
Regulatory Compliance
Middleton, WI

THE TPA TRAVELERS MAGAZINE

(ISSN 0039-8454) A Publication of
The Travelers Protective
Association of America
Christina L. Knott, Editor
Editorial Mailing Address:
2041 Exchange Drive
St. Charles, Missouri 63303
Phone: 636-724-2227
Fax: 636-724-2457
Email: support@tpahq.org
Website: tpahq.org

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to:
The TPA Travelers Magazine
c/o The Travelers Protective
Association of America
2041 Exchange Drive
St. Charles, Missouri 63303



ROBERT L. SCHAPP, JR.
Chief Administrative Officer

As I reflect on my first 14 months with TPA, I am pleased to say we have made good progress. There is, of course, much more that we as an organization will do in the months and years ahead.

Please help me welcome Carolyn Agnew to the Headquarters staff as our new Membership Coordinator (formerly called Data Processor). She will be a major contributor in the handling of new and renewal memberships as well as processing and filing various reports from the posts and divisions. Like all of us in Saint Charles, she is here to serve and support the entire TPA membership!

After decades of loyal and excellent service to TPA and our *Travelers Magazine*, Maria Verbeck has decided to retire after this issue goes to press. It has truly been a delight to work with her, and I will miss her talents and caring attitude. See more about Maria and her contributions on page 19.

I am excited about developments concerning the TPA Hearing Trust. We are making personal connections with people and organizations that can help us reach more potential grant recipients. The granting process is also being updated to make grants timelier and extend our reach in the community. Please consider supporting this beautiful philanthropy which expresses our altruism and makes TPA more visible.

Remember that the Homer T. Wilson Humanitarian Fund exists to help TPA members in financial distress. See page 15 for more information about requesting grants and making contributions to support them.

Don't overlook opportunities for your post or division to request HQ-PADS (Headquarters Post and Division Support) funding. Money is available to support programs that encourage membership growth and retention. Share your ideas with your State Secretaries and encourage them to apply!

Thank you for your continued efforts and support. Please accept my sincere wishes for a Blessed Holiday Season!

Kind fraternal regards,
Robert L. Schapp, Jr.
Chief Administrative Officer



**Join
us**

**for the
2025 TPA
National
Convention**

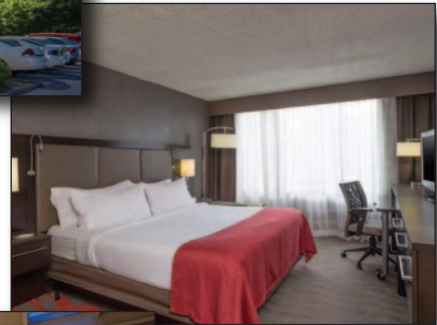
Holiday Inn Harrisburg-Hershey

604 Station Rd. • Grantville, PA 17028

Phone 717-469-0661

June 15 – 19, 2025

\$129 per night plus tax



It's not too soon to make plans to attend TPA's 135th National Convention from Sunday, June 15 through Thursday, June 19, 2025!

Some of you will remember past conventions held at the Holiday Inn Harrisburg-Hershey Area in Grantville, Pennsylvania. Conveniently located 18 miles from the Harrisburg International Airport just off I-81, the property is currently undergoing an interior renovation of the guest rooms and meeting spaces. We are looking forward to a fresh look and feel when we arrive! Call 717-469-0661 to make your reservation. Mention TPA to get our special room rate of \$129 per night plus tax, which includes breakfast and parking. This rate is effective June 13-20.

In addition to fellowship and fraternalism, you'll find lots of local attractions so you can turn your trip into a family vacation!

Hersheypark

Hersheypark was originally created by Milton Hershey as leisure grounds for employees of his famous chocolate factory. It's now a family amusement and water park on 121 acres. Although the original chocolate factory is no longer in town, Hershey's Chocolate World still offers a free tour with sweet samples and free parking for up to three hours. You'll find a restaurant, ice cream parlor and confectionery kitchen, in addition to amusement rides that range from family-friendly to thrilling! Or, you can sit back and relax as you enjoy live shows, including "Our Friends from the Sea" sea lion show.

In 2025, Hersheypark will introduce the Twizzlers Twisted Gravity™, the world's tallest Screamin' Swing, which will defy gravity at speeds reaching 68 MPH.

Antique Automobile Club of America

The Antique Automobile Club of America (AACA) Museum includes many exhibits dedicated to the

preservation and presentation of motor vehicle history that will provide education and entertainment for guests. Car buffs may be interested in the museum's Tucker automobile collection, one of the most extensive in the world. They also have a special exhibit of busses, as well as many limited-time displays making every visit unique. Get behind the wheel and participate in the Model T Driving Experience program, where you'll get several hours with an experienced instructor(s) behind the wheels of the museum's Model T Fords.

Memorial Lake State Park

Located only a few miles east of the hotel, Memorial Lake State Park is a great place to enjoy the outdoors. The park sits on 230 acres and is open every day of the year from sunrise to sunset. Take an afternoon hike, enjoy a picnic, ride in a boat or try your luck at fishing. If you're feeling adventurous, you can get a bird's eye view while hang-gliding high above the park's trees. Trails vary in length and difficulty so you are sure to find one that will fit your needs.



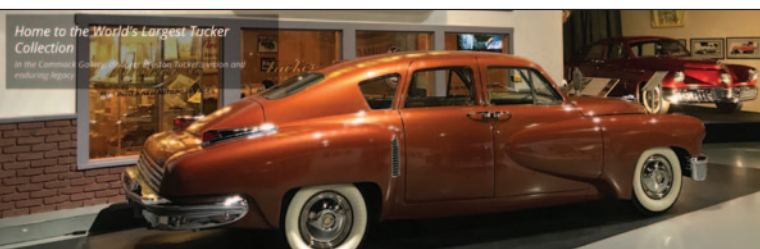
Harrisburg

Just a short trip from the convention hotel is Harrisburg, the Capitol of Pennsylvania. It features an interactive welcome center, special exhibition hall dedicated to the history of the Senate, restaurant and gift shop. Guided tours are available on a limited basis, or you can download the free app to learn more about the Complex's history.

Close to the Complex is the State Museum of Pennsylvania. Explore the exhibits to learn more about the unique contributions and influence that Pennsylvania has made to the nation. You'll also learn more about William Penn, the state's founder. The three level museum features exhibits on: Native American history, the Civil War, industrial and automotive achievements, geology, ecology and Pennsylvania icons.

Sources: harrisburgpa.gov, visithersheyharrisburg.org, statemuseumpa.org, aacamuseum.org

Photos: dreamstime.com; aacamuseum.org



Meet Me on the War Path*, Jamestown Exposition 1907

HISTORY MINUTE

On May 14, 1607, Christopher Newport led a group of roughly 100 people to found the first permanent English settlement in North America on the banks of the James River. Three hundred years later the Jamestown Ter-Centennial Exhibition of 1907, a world's fair, was held at Sewell's Point on Hampton Roads, Norfolk, Virginia, to commemorate the event.

Of the many fraternal and social organizations that were invited to establish exhibits at the Jamestown Ter-Centennial, the Traveler's Protective Association was the only one to accept. The Traveler's Protective Association Building was built at the cost of \$9,000 (\$301,155.32 today) and a reception was held there shortly before completion on the Exhibition's official TPA day. Writing of the Exposition, one historian concluded that, "...it is safe to say that few Exposition efforts were

as creditable that was this single fraternal participation."

But the story of the TPA Building did not end there. The United Daughters of the Confederacy gained possession of the structure in 1909 and, shortly thereafter, it was dismantled and moved to Middleburg, Virginia, where it was rechristened Confederate Hall. The building was sold in 1947, and in 1952 it was moved to the back of the lot to make room for a filling station. Once there, it was converted into apartments. In 1972 the structure was then moved for a third time to Hickory Tree Farm, a 304-acre estate located within a mile of Middleburg. Now known as Hickory Tree Hall, it is used as an event venue.

**Cutting through the center of the fairgrounds was a thoroughfare known as "The War Path."*





I would be remiss if I did not write to tell you how much I enjoyed the TPA History Minute in the last issue of the TPA Travelers Magazine. I am a new member and have yet to hear from my local Post. In the meantime, I am interested in learning more about the history, traditions, and people of the TPA.

With kindest regards,

Matthew Weitendorf

Be sure
to check
out our

NEW

WEBSITE

tpahq.org



2024-2025 Membership Incentive Program ... goal of 1,000 new applications

Starting Date: May 1, 2024—Ending Date: April 30, 2025

Scoring of Applications for Posts, Divisions, and Individual Sponsors

The incentive awards will be based on the number of points earned between May 1, 2024 and April 30, 2025.

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 2025 convention expenses.

Earn 5 points and receive \$50 in expense money to be used for 2025 convention expenses.

Earn 10 points and receive \$100 in expense money to be used for 2025 convention expenses.

Earn 15 points and receive \$150 in expense money to be used for 2025 convention expenses.

Earn 20 points and receive \$200 in expense money to be used for 2025 convention expenses.

Earn 25 points and receive \$250 in expense money to be used for 2025 convention expenses.

Earn 50 points and receive \$500 in expense money to be used for 2025 convention expenses.

Earn 75 points and receive \$750 in expense money to be used for 2025 convention expenses.

Earn 100 points and receive \$1,000 in expense money to be used for 2025 convention expenses.

Earn 200 points and receive \$2,000 in expense money to be used for 2025 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, 2025

Post Awards

The incentive awards will be based on the net change in membership between May 1, 2024 and April 30, 2025. For purposes of this award, transfers from closed posts will be excluded from the calculation of membership gain or loss. If net membership loss in 2024-2025 is 25%-49% less than the net membership loss in 2023-2024, receive \$250. If net membership loss in 2024-2025 is 50%-74% less than the net membership loss in 2023-2024, receive \$500. If net membership loss in 2024-2025 is 75%-99% less than the net membership loss in 2023-2024, receive \$750. If there is a net membership GAIN in 2024-2025, receive \$1,500!

Division Awards

The incentive awards will be based on the net change in membership between May 1, 2024 and April 30, 2025. For purposes of this award, transfers from closed posts will be excluded from the calculation of membership gain or loss. If net membership loss in 2024-2025 is 25%-49% less than the net membership loss in 2023-2024, receive \$250. If net membership loss in 2024-2025 is 50%-74% less than the net membership loss in 2023-2024, receive \$500. If net membership loss in 2024-2025 is 75%-99% less than the net membership loss in 2023-2024, receive \$750. If there is no net membership loss or a net membership GAIN in 2024-2025, 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, 2025.
- Post and Division Awards will be paid as soon as possible after May 1, 2025.
- 2025 Convention attendance is required to receive Individual Sponsor Awards. Awards will be paid by July 31, 2025.

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.

49th year!

The TPA Hearing Trust Donation Slip

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

Amount \$25 \$50 \$100 \$500 \$ _____

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

Name _____

Division _____ Post _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ @ _____

Gift in Memory of / Honor of *(please circle one)*

Name of person in memory of / in honor of _____

Please send acknowledgment of my gift and its occasion to:

Name _____

Address _____

City / State / Zip _____

I wish to make my payment by credit card:

VISA MasterCard AMEX Discover

Name on card _____

Card # / Expiration Date / CVC _____

Billing Address _____

Make supporting us easier by setting up monthly auto billing.

I would like \$ _____ debited to the credit card listed above. All debits will be made on the first of the month, unless otherwise specified.

Send to:



2041 Exchange Drive
St. Charles, MO 63303
636-724-2227

Thank You





The TPA Hearing Trust Trustees and the TPA National Board are excited to endorse the establishment of the **Pacesetters Club**, our new Donor Recognition Program! By supporting the TPA Hearing Trust, our major TPA charity, you can help provide financial grants to children and adults with hearing loss. Our aim is to improve their hearing as much as possible and thereby raise their quality of life. By joining the new **Pacesetters Club** with a donation of \$25 or more during 2024, you will be recognized in the *Travelers* magazine as a member of the **Pacesetters Club**. Higher recognition levels begin at \$100 (Bronze Pacesetter) and range up to \$2,000+ (Double Platinum Pacesetter). The final list for 2024 will appear in the first issue of 2025. Donations of any amount are always welcome.

Each issue of the magazine will also have a separate list of “Memorial” and “Honorarium” donations. Memorialize or honor a friend or loved one with a minimum \$25 donation, and they will be included in this

section. You will be further recognized for your donation as a member of the **Pacesetters Club**. We will also send an acknowledgment to the family or honoree as you request.

Whether or not you are able to attend your post meetings and get involved at the post level, this is your opportunity to help our TPA Hearing Trust by belonging to the **Pacesetters Club**. We cordially invite you to join.

We thank you in advance for your consideration. Also, a big **THANK YOU** to those who have already contributed!

Fraternaly yours,
Edwin Miller, *Trustee*
TPA Hearing Trust

Thank You



To donate online visit tpahq.org/donate/ or scan the QR code

Interested in applying for a grant?

Visit www.tpahq.org/tpa-hearing-trust/ for more information and eligibility requirements.

The Travelers Protective Association and the TPA Hearing Trust are pleased to announce the establishment of the new PACSETTERS CLUB for donors to the Trust!

While we will continue to recognize and thank all donors, 2024 donors of \$25 or more will be recognized as PACSETTERS in the *Travelers* magazine beginning with the September 2024 issue. Recognition levels range up to DOUBLE PLATINUM PACSETTER (\$2,000 and above). Also new this year: donations of \$25 or more given In Memory of or In Honor of will be listed separately in the Magazine and will qualify for

Pacesetter membership.

TPA's major charity and primary beneficiary of our altruism is the TPA HEARING TRUST. We hope the existence of the PACSETTERS CLUB will encourage TPA members to both continue their membership and increase their support of the Trust. We want everyone to know how good it feels to help children and adults who need financial assistance to improve their hearing and thus their quality of life.

Thank you for considering membership in the PACSETTERS CLUB, and for being a Member of our Great Fraternal Organization, TPA!



Thank you so much for the grant to help pay for my new hearing aids. I received them this week and they have helped me hear everything so much better. Without your generosity, my family would not have been able to afford these life changing devices. Again, thank you so much for everything!

Sean Verbosky



Donor Recognition

Donations Received Through September 30, 2024

DOUBLE PLATINUM PACESETTER

(\$2,000 and above)

- Joel Lederman
- E.L. Reed
- Robert Schapp
- Odessa Westside Lions Club
- Pennsylvania Division

PLATINUM PACESETTER

(\$1,000 – \$1,499.99)

- Edwin & Dolores Miller
- Caterpillar
- Michigan Division
- Post E - Illinois Division
- Post H - North Carolina Division

GOLD PACESETTER

(\$500 – \$999.99)

- Dixie Burdett
- Dean & Cathy Costello
- William Kern
- Robert Kroenke
- Woody & Julie Kupper
- Maria Verbeck
- Post C - Pennsylvania Division
- Post G - Louisiana Division
- Post I - Wisconsin Division
- Post Q - Pennsylvania Division
- Rhode Island Division
- Wisconsin Division

SILVER PACESETTER

(\$250 – \$499.99)

- Charles & Kay Aycock
- Bailey & Diane Bledsoe
- Robert & Kristine Brown
- Mark & Jean Kastenholz
- YourCause, LLC
- TPA Headquarters
- Post A - Michigan Division
- Post D - Missouri Division
- Post J - Texas Division
- Post K - South Carolina Division
- Post W - Pennsylvania Division
- Post W - Texas Division

BRONZE PACESETTER

(\$100 – \$249.99)

- Ruth Apa
- Ralph & Carolyn Becker
- Brenda Belt
- John & Mary Bernadyn
- Revonda Brady
- Mitch Bridges
- Rebecca Brown (KY)
- Marshall Carr
- John Chmielewski
- Fay Christenberry & Richard Martin
- Mike & Debbie Henderson
- Raymond Jr. & Julianne Hendrix
- Dale & Christina Knott
- Rudolph Kolarik

- Leslie McAteer
- William & Ann Pearce
- Lee Ronson & Cecelia Lookner
- James & Wanda Ruppe
- Nebraska Division
- Virginia Division
- Post B - Nebraska Division
- Post C - Virginia Division
- Post CC - North Carolina Division
- Post D - Wisconsin Division
- Post E - Pennsylvania Division
- Post I - Michigan Division
- Post L - Wisconsin Division
- Post P - Texas Division
- Post P - Virginia Division
- Post SC - Missouri Division

PACESETTER

(\$25 - \$99.99)

- Waymouth Jr. & Jo Ann Allen
- Reatha Blackwell
- Britt & Tari Brady
- Craig & Rebecca Brown
- Cynthia Buckles
- Brad Cunningham
- Peggy Donald
- Juanita Featherstone
- Boyce & Sue Hager
- Faye Hartzell
- Donald & Helen Helms
- Teresa Hendrix
- Haywood Lee
- John & Rosalind Lohmann
- Kimberly Lohmann

- Dennis Meader
- Debra Medley
- Jerry Moore
- Lisa Moore
- Barbara Potuznik
- Bambi Rice
- Brittany Rebello
- Karen Simons
- David Steffen
- Steven Sternberger
- Karen Uetweiller
- Matthew Weitendorf
- Carlyle Wimbish
- Frank Yonce
- AMVETS Ladies Auxiliary
- Dept of MO
- Oxford House of South Carolina
- St. Louis Community Foundation
- Post B - Wisconsin
- Post C - North Carolina Division
- Post D - Virginia Division
- Post P - North Carolina Division

CONTRIBUTOR

(\$10 - \$24.99)

- Janet Blakley
- Jane Dauber
- Emma Hettler



MEMORIAL DONATIONS RECEIVED JULY 1 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

In Memory of Bernard Rice

Bambie Rice

In Memory of Frank Gourley

Carlyle Wimbish
Virginia Division

In Memory of Marilyn Ambrose

Steven Sternberger

In Memory of Harrell Jory

Post P - Virginia Division
Virginia Division



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

HOMER T. WILSON



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.

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!



The Treasures of **Pennsylvania**

Your “Key” to a great family vacation: Pennsylvania

One of the original U.S. colonies, Pennsylvania is full of rich history and culture. The “Keystone State” is waiting for you to come and unlock its many treasures.

Philadelphia

Philadelphia is famous for more than just cheesesteak! Since colonial days, people have been visiting this timeless city full of history, culture and food. Visit the all-in-one Independence Visitor Center and their box office for free tickets, information on local attractions and public restrooms. Your first must-see stop is the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall. In 1776, Independence Hall is where they signed the Declaration of Independence and then years later the U.S. Constitution. Visit this national treasure for free, but reservations are required to tour the Hall. Even though it is cracked, the Liberty Bell is still considered one of our

country’s most iconic symbols of freedom. Located in its own center, you can view the bell, walk through historic exhibits and take a seat in the theater to view a film on the bell’s history.

This is considered the start of the “Official Trail of Philadelphia’s Historic District,” a list of 24 must-see historic landmarks and sites, many of which are free. Along the trail you’ll see the Betsy Ross House, the Ben Franklin Museum, Franklin Square and many other historic stops.

The Philadelphia Museum of Art is home to the 72 famous steps that Rocky Balboa ran up in triumph in the Rocky movie. At the stairs you’ll find a bronze Rocky statue perfect for a vacation photo. If you like the stairs, you’ll love the

museum itself. It’s home to more than 240,000 pieces of art including paintings by such famous artists as Renoir, Van Gogh and Picasso.

Just outside of Philadelphia is the Brandywine Battlefield. Explore the 50-acre battlefield





The iconic Pittsburgh skyline

which commemorates the Revolutionary War's largest land battle. View historical exhibits of uniforms, weapons and artifacts found on the battleground. You can view a short film on the battle and its historical significance at the park's visitor center. You'll also get to tour George Washington's headquarters during the battle.

Gettysburg

From its Civil War battlefields to haunted tours and reenactments, Gettysburg is filled with history and a favorite destination among tourists. Start at the Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitor Center to get an overview of the battles and speeches. Tour the many historic buildings located throughout the city, and see the home of the only civilian casualty of the war. As you explore, you'll

see individuals in historic clothes providing tours and demonstrating time-period activities.

The Eisenhower National Historic Site provides a personal look at the home life of Dwight Eisenhower, our 34th President. During his presidency, the home was used for weekend retreats, until Dwight and Mamie Eisenhower retired and moved to the farm in 1961. Enjoy this historic site at your own pace, with a self-guided tour of the home (when open seasonally), its gardens, teahouse, skeet range, putting green and Angus cattle barns.

Downtown Gettysburg has many antique and collectable shops. It also has many excellent



Gettysburg National Military Park



Eisenhower National Historic Site
Gettysburg

continued on page 18



Carnegie Museum of Natural History



Ohiopyle State Park



Lebanon Valley Rail Trail

restaurants and craft breweries. Depending on when you visit, be sure to stop and shop the farmers markets where you can purchase produce and fruit grown locally.

Pittsburgh

One of the most iconic skylines in the country, Pittsburgh has attractions for everyone. Nicknamed the “Steel City,” it is home to many incredible museums including the Andy Warhol Museum and the Carnegie Science Center and Sports Complex.

During the summer, catch a Pittsburgh Pirates baseball game at PNC Park, where the outfield opens up to a beautiful view of the river and mountains. After the game, catch a ride on one of the city’s two inclines. Designed to haul cargo and residents up Mount Washington, these historic inclines are still used by tourists and residents on a daily basis. The breathtaking view from the top of the mountain makes it worth the \$2.50 ticket.

Located in downtown Pittsburgh, the Carnegie Museum of Natural History should top your to-do-list. It is home to 22 million specimens, a testament to the history of Earth’s life and evolution. You’ll find exhibits of all walks of life, from dinosaurs to Native American exhibits to geology.

You’ll also want to visit Pointe State Park, located where the three rivers meet. This National Historic Landmark was the location of Fort Duquesne, which was used during the French and Indian War. Located in the park is the Fort Pitt Museum, which tells the story of western Pennsylvania’s role during the French and Indian War, and the American Revolution War.

Take a walk on the wild side at the Pittsburgh Zoo and Aquarium, home to more than 8,000 animals representing over 600 species. Tour through the African Savannah, Forest Passage, Tropical Forest, Jungle Odyssey, Water’s Edge and more. In the aquarium, you’ll find penguins, stingrays, jellyfish, sea turtles, sharks and fish of every color!

The Great Outdoors

With 124 free, gorgeous state parks that include thousands of campgrounds, 2,000 lakes and more than 86,000 miles of rivers and streams, you can take your pick of activities to enjoy. From the waters of Lake Erie to the rapids at Ohiopyle State Park for whitewater rafting, you’ll find the perfect park for your outdoor adventure. Pymatuning State Park is the largest state park in Pennsylvania and with 17,088

continued on bottom of page 19

Congratulations on your retirement—Maria Verbeck!

happy Retirement

The TPA *Travelers* Magazine will never be the same! For more than 30 years, Maria Verbeck has been the typesetter and then graphic designer, shaping the look of our TPA Magazine. This issue is the last one she will design, as she retires to spend more time with her family and enjoy some well-deserved rest and relaxation.

In early 1992 Pete Genovese, owner of Midwest Technical Publications, approached Maria to typeset the magazine. The early magazines were 16 pages and were typeset on repro paper with paste-ups done on boards. The boards were submitted to the printer who then created negatives and subsequently plates to be put on the printing press. She'd lovingly adhere the typeset sheets and images to boards using melted wax, carefully arranging the pieces of the puzzle that would become our magazine.

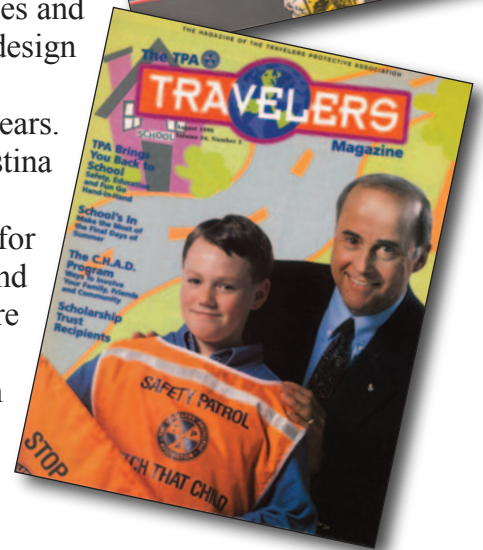
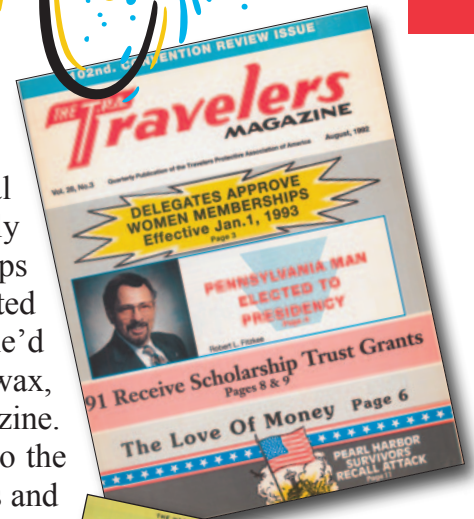
In 1996 Maria converted to not only doing the typesetting, but also the design. The magazine then grew to 24 pages. Now, she changes images and rearranges articles with just clicks of a keyboard and mouse, using design software to produce a print-ready, digital magazine file.

"I have been working with Maria on the magazine for nearly 19 years. She is a gifted designer, and I'm glad to call her my friend," states Christina Knott, TPA Magazine Editor.

CAO Bob Schapp said, "Maria has been a true blessing to TPA for over three decades. With every issue, she combines her knowledge and love of TPA with her consummate professional abilities and a deep desire to do whatever is necessary to produce a first-class publication."

Maria is an active member of Post SC of the Missouri Division where she helps the post hold successful events and service projects. She also volunteers regularly at the St. Louis Area Food Bank and is treasurer and active at her church.

Thank you for your years of service Maria!



Pennsylvania *(continued from page 18)*

acres, it is considered a "must see" state park. Pennsylvania is also home to 229 miles of the famous Appalachian Trail, which spans 14 states.

Rail Trails

Railroads played a key role in Pennsylvania's history. "Rail trails" are paths that follow the long-abandoned tracks of local trains across the state. They're the perfect way to experience the great outdoors and see the state's beautiful scenery.

Located in Altoona, learn about the history of railroads at the Horseshoe Curve National Historic

Landmark. Carved into the mountains known as the Allegheny Ridge, the Horseshoe Curve is considered one of the top engineering marvels of the world. Altoona is also home to the Railroaders Memorial Museum and a historic district with hundreds of buildings from the late 1800s.

Sources: Pa.gov, visitpa.com, phila.com, visitphilly.com, tripadvisor.com, railroadcity.org, nps.gov, destinationgettysburg.com, dcnr.pa.gov

Photos: dreamstime.com; google.com; Harvey Barrison

Stay CONNECTED

Update Your Contact Information & Get Connected!

Help Us Stay Connected

Have you updated your email address? Changed your phone number? Moved to a new home?

Don't miss any important TPA information or news. Accurate contact information is essential for us to keep you informed. Please submit any updated information to us through the website—it's easy! **Update your email, phone, and address at tpahq.org/update-contact-information or scan this QR code today!**



Join Our Social Community

Stay updated, engage with posts, and be part of our vibrant online community.

Follow, like, and comment on our social media pages! Engage with TPA on Social Media.



Explore Our Fresh New Look! Discover the All-New TPA Website!

Test Drive Our New Features—Take a Tour of the New Website! Dive into our new and improved website. Check out the:

- **Events page** to find activities near you.
- **Member resources** that include TPA publications, forms and bulletins.
- **Contact us** page to send TPA headquarters a message with your questions.
- **Mission, Vision and Values** of our great fraternal.

Simplified New Member Sign-Up

Signing up new members is now easier than ever. Just enter their details directly on our website as you speak with them. Members can sign up for any one of the three classes of membership. You can pay directly on the website with a credit card (small service fee applies).

Renew today!

In addition to being able to sign up new members, existing TPA members can easily renew their membership online with just a few clicks of the keyboard.



Visit tpahq.org now and explore the upgrades!

Click "Donate" on any page to contribute directly to our charitable funds.

welcome



to the New TPA Website!



Explore Our Fresh New Look! Discover the All-New TPA Website!

Addition of AccessiBe

TPA is excited to announce the addition of **AccessiBe** to our website, a significant step toward enhancing inclusivity for all our members and visitors. This innovative, AI-powered solution will ensure that our online presence meets the highest accessibility standards, adhering to the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 at the AA level and complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). By making our website more navigable and user-friendly for individuals with disabilities, we are not only expanding our reach but also reinforcing our commitment to serving every member of our community.

Incorporating **AccessiBe** offers TPA a streamlined and efficient approach to web

accessibility. **AccessiBe's** ongoing maintenance features include continuous scanning and adjustments for new content, ensuring that our website remains accessible over time.

Additionally, we gain access to their Litigation

Support Package, which provides protection and legal assistance in case of any accessibility-related challenges. By embracing **AccessiBe**, TPA is dedicated to fostering an inclusive online

environment while

safeguarding against potential legal risks associated with web accessibility non-compliance.



Click this icon at the bottom of any web page to access the features of **AccessiBe**.

Visit tpahq.org now and explore the upgrades!

NORTH CAROLINA



Pictured left to right: Vice President James Ruppe; Aaron Main; President Linda Payseur; Secretary/Treasurer David Payseur; Committee Member Abby Gathings; Jenna Nicholson; Sammari Tate; and Committee Member Audrey Hunt.

North Carolina Post P in Gastonia recently presented its Annual Scholarships. This year, Post P was able to present \$500 scholarships to three Gaston Christian School graduating seniors! This year's recipients were Jenna Nicholson, Aaron Main, and Sammari Tate.

At its September meeting, North Carolina Post A heard about Haynes-Inman Education Center from post member Lea Shore. A special education school that has 130 students aged 3-22, the school needed supplies such as diapers, batteries, tissues and wipes. The post voted to help, and State President Revonda Brady contacted school counselor Joanna Sherron. In short order, Revonda was delivering diapers and getting a tour of the school. She also brought a bundle of CHAD stickers to be used on child car seats, bikes, helmets and the like.

After hearing about the benefits of TPA, its community service programs, and the TPA Hearing Trust and Homer T. Wilson Fund charities, Ms. Sherron was moved to join TPA and Post A!

Post A members brought even more items for the school to their October Meeting, and Revonda promptly delivered them. She said, "They were overwhelmed by everyone's generosity and kindness. I am so very proud of Post A."



Pictured left to right: Joanna Sherron and Revonda Brady.



Pictured left to right: Teacher Assistant Lea Shore, Revonda Brady; Nurse Charity Ngozies, Teacher Christi Collins with students.



Pictured left to right: Revonda Brady; Counselor Joanna Sherron; and Principal Kevin Carr.

NORTH CAROLINA

North Carolina Post A in Greensboro was represented by Revonda Brady and Lea Shore at Haynes-Inman Education Center's Fall Festival. This was a wonderful event with a fire truck, games, lots of costumes, and candy, too! At the TPA table, children could receive candy, pudding and applesauce. Their parents learned about TPA and its history and could pick up CHAD stickers to attach to car seats, bikes and helmets. Revonda met a parent who works with hearing impaired children and another parent who wants her to present a program about TPA to her sorority. It's been gratifying to the post's members to support Haynes-Inman's mission in various ways this year. They are also making TPA more visible in the community and attracting new members!



Attendees at the North Carolina state board meeting in Myrtle Beach learned that 53 new members have joined in the state this year! State President Revonda Brady presented Rocky Mount Post H, represented by Willie Green, with the TPA Hearing Trust's Platinum Donor Award (\$1,000+). State Secretary Bailey Bledsoe presented Revonda her State President pin and Teresa Hendrix her Past President pin.

SOUTH CAROLINA



Post K, Rock Hill of the South Carolina Division handed out Trick-or-Treat bags to many kids during a Halloween giveaway. They put candy, safety flyers, and safety tips in each bag. Post members distributed as many bags as possible before the rain came.

Participating were: Helen (Post K Secretary/Treasurer and National Community Service Chair); Donald Helms (Post Safety Chair); Peggy Thomas (Post Vice President and Chaplain); Jen Woods; Fay Christenberry (Post Community Service Chair); and National Vice President Richard Martin.

ILLINOIS



Richard Snowden (right) receiving his 60-year TPA Membership Pin from National Director Dean Costello (left).

Illinois Post E honored two long-time members at their annual potluck meeting in September. Richard Snowden (60 years) and David Reed (65 years) received pins from National Director Dean Costello. They were thanked for their support of the post's activities and reminded of the great accident benefits they continue to have as members of TPA.

At the meeting photos were also shown of Post E's July delivery of backpacks filled with school supplies to the Dream Center and the Friendship House.

David Reed (left) receiving his 65-year TPA membership pin from National Director Dean Costello (right).



Illinois Post E in Peoria filled TPA clear backpacks with school supplies and two CHAD (Children Have An iDentity) stickers for use on car seats and bike helmets. On Tuesday, July 30, they delivered 25 to the Dream Center and 25 to the Friendship House in Peoria to help the homeless and families in need.

More photos on page 25.

ILLINOIS



Dean Costello, right, dropping off 25 filled TPA backpacks at Dream Center in Peoria.



50 TPA backpacks ready for delivery!



School supplies for a TPA backpack.

PENNSYLVANIA

Thank you Post L!

Post L of Lehigh Valley, PA invited all 50-year members to attend their annual picnic. One of these members, Tom Inger, was unable to attend but extended this kind note of appreciate to the Post:

I wish you could have seen the look on my face when I opened your letter a few weeks ago and saw 50-years of membership in TPA! I guess my renewals have been so automatic that the years completely escaped me. Indeed, it has been my honor to be associated with our fine organization for so long!

My father was a member before me, and I still recall the afternoon he encouraged me to join, a no brainer at the time. He was right! I had just completed college and my service years, and was beginning my business career. The decision to join made sense on several levels and I never regretted it.

...I unfortunately will be unable to attend the picnic. However, my thoughts will be with you that Sunday afternoon, and I offer my congratulations to all other fifty-year members past and present ...

Thank you for the opportunity to be counted among you all for so long and I wish you continued success in years to come!

Best Always, Tom Inger



Pictured from left to right: Honoring 50-year members. Dale Brinker; John Obrecht; Neil Merkel; Henry Heil; Anthony Verrasto; two children accepted the 50-year pin for their brother, Todd Stephens.

Not pictured is Milton Stevens receiving a 70-year pin.



Virginia Post D in South Boston welcomed Ken Mathis, General Manager, Hitachi Energy, to their monthly meeting. Mathis spoke about the history of the local operation and Hitachi's dedication to being a part of the community. He explained in detail how most of the generators built at the South Boston facility were one-of-a-kind and made-to-order.

Pictured left to right: Virginia Division Vice President Carlyle Wimbish; Hitachi Energy General Manager Ken Mathis; and Post D President Gary Newcomb.

Carl Espy, Halifax Town Manager, was the speaker at a monthly meeting of South Boston Post D. Espy discussed the Halifax Downtown Revitalization Project, the Halifax Village Association and new businesses coming to the Town.

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



Matthew Candland, South Boston Town Manager, was the speaker at the October meeting of Virginia Post D in South Boston.

Candland spoke of his experience prior to becoming South Boston's Town Manager. He also reported on the redevelopment of the South Boston 501 southern entrance and the renewal of the old John Randolph Hotel that will soon be under construction.

Pictured left to right: South Boston Town Manager Matthew Candland and Post D President Gary Newcomb.



VIRGINIA



Virginia Post P in Suffolk and State Secretary Rose Jory donated 15 coats on behalf of the Post to the Morgan Memorial Library and S.T.A.R. Haven for their Coats and Cookies coat giveaway.

Pictured is Rose Jory.



Three members of Virginia Post I in Martinsville in collaboration with AMVETS, the American Legion, VFW, and AUSA, distributed over 130 goody bags to veterans residing in assisted living facilities within the community. Additionally, Retired Colonel John Miller awarded 13 commemorative pins marking the 50th anniversary to veterans from the Vietnam era.

Pictured left to right: Col. John Miller, Retired (AUSA and American Legion); Sean Mello (AMVETS); Brian Hiner (TPA, AMVETS, American Legion, VFW); Jimmy Carter (TPA, AMVETS, American Legion, VFW); Roy Carpenter (TPA, AMVETS, American Legion, VFW, AUSA).



LOUISIANA



Louisiana Post F in Lake Charles recently collected almost 60 coats, and worked with the Lake Charles Kiwanis Club to distribute them to local children.

Standing left to right: Don McCorquodale; Al Moore; Ray Chavanne; Sena Theall; Juanita Featherstone; and Russell Ewalt.

Seated left to right: Ramona McCorquodale; Bobbie Kelley; Rueann Marras; Christine Young; and Debbie Briley.

Not pictured: Jerry Moore and John Theall.

MICHIGAN

Approximately 80 members of Posts A and I of the Michigan Division enjoyed their annual summer picnic. In addition to brats and hot dogs, various games and a kids' bounce house were provided. Items were collected for Foster the Family, a local agency that helps families who are displaced from their homes.

Beth Koster (pictured with National Director John Chmielewski) was recognized as 2024's TPA Fraternalist of the Year!

TPA member Carol Rhoads collected 4,440 pop tabs at River Ridge Retirement Village, where she now lives. Carol (pictured to the right of Marylin Tonak and a friend from River Ridge) brought them to the picnic for donation to the Ronald McDonald House.



MICHIGAN



Michigan Post A participated in the annual Amway Junior River Bank Run held at East Kentwood High School in Grand Rapids. They distributed CHAD stickers and other TPA information along with around 1,000 bags of popcorn. State President Mark Koster and National Director John Chmielewski joined Wood TV8 personality Maranda to present bicycles and helmets to two girls and two boys.



Members of Post I, Michigan Division participated in Michigan Dept of Transportation Highway Clean up. TPA at work!

MISSOURI

Missouri Post C presented backpacks with school supplies at two Springfield schools on the first day of classes. Connie O'Neil (center) was helped by Larry Voris, Colton O'Neil and Dennis O'Neil.



Ethony E'va Pelt on Tristin
 Harmonie Emma Kaseia
 Dawn
 DeJa Jaiara
 King Lilly
 Dori
 Cayden
 Stevie
 Jeazii
 Germanii
 Thank you for the donation of school supplies. It was greatly appreciated!
 Wesley-Smith Chapel UMC
 Annie 2024

Post SC of the Missouri Division helped purchase school supplies for the Wesley-Smith Chapel United Methodist Church, which helps serve children in the Warrenton, Wright City and Wentzville school districts. The post purchased pencils, markers, crayons, highlighters, notebooks, binders, folders and more. Thank you to all the post members who helped purchase items and donated money towards the purchase of the supplies.



Members of Missouri Posts SL and SC at TPA Headquarters distributed Halloween treat bags to some special visitors. All Generations Adult Day Care Center is a good neighbor, and this has become a nice tradition!

Over 100 years

Incorporated in 1890, in its first century TPA has grown from humble beginning in Denver, Colorado, to a national organization. Since its inception, TPA has paid over \$109,600,000 in accident benefits.

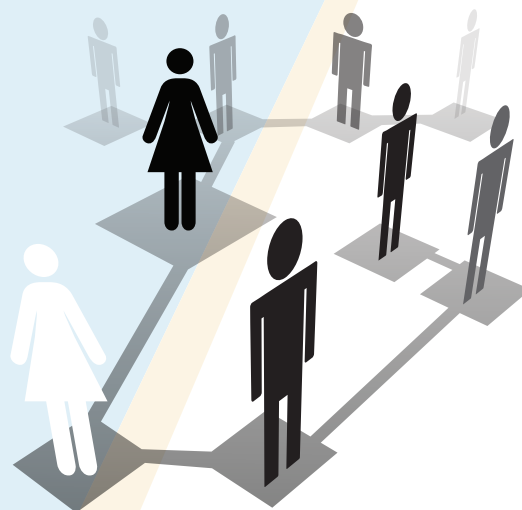
How it operates

TPA consists of Divisions (States), each composed of Posts in various cities, with National Headquarters in St. Charles, Missouri. There are no paid salesmen costs; growth is achieved by word of mouth and the voluntary efforts of existing members, one member inviting their friends and relatives to participate.

> Major Benefits

- Accident Benefits
- Disability Benefits
- Accidental Death Benefits
- State and Local Community Service Programs
- National Child Safety Programs
- Programs for the Safety, Education and the Guidance for making improvements for travelers
- Hearing Trust for people experiencing total or partial hearing loss
- Homer T. Wilson Humanitarian Fund
- And many more benefits ...

What TPA Can Do For You!



tpa TRAVELERS
PROTECTIVE
ASSOCIATION

2041 Exchange Drive
Saint Charles, Missouri 63303

636.724.2227

www.tpahq.org

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED.

HAPPY Holidays



FROM ALL OF US AT