

# Travelers

The Magazine of The Travelers Protective Association | September 2023 | Vol. 61 Issue 2



**Feature State:**

## OKLAHOMA

**Sky Dance Bridge  
Oklahoma City, OK**

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JOEL LEDERMAN  
National President

I am writing this letter as your newly elected national president for 2023–2024. What a wonderful honor and privilege it is for me to serve as TPA national president again, as I did in 2015–2016.

It is my desire to help reverse our membership loss, as well as continue the two great charities connected with TPA: the Homer T. Wilson Humanitarian Fund (which provides confidential financial grants to our members in financial need); and the TPA Hearing Trust.

This year our 133rd annual convention was held in North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina at a beautiful resort on the beach and close to all the city's exciting attractions. Approximately 121 delegates, guests and children were present from June 3–8. Special thanks to our delegates who attended this convention from all over our great country. The convention committee did a great job planning this annual event for our delegates and deserves special thanks. National headquarters staff members worked very hard to make sure the convention was well organized and a success. Special thanks to: Albert Shoemaker, Jr., CAO; Doug Johnson, Operations Manager; Donna Badgley, Finance and Compliance Administrator; and Ryan Jenkins, General Office Assistant. Special thanks to Sandy Wentworth for planning and entertaining the children who attended with their parents.

Congratulations to newly elected national vice president Julie Kupper, Texas and national directors Edwin Miller (past national director from Pennsylvania) and John Chmielewski (past national president Michigan). Tom Davis was reelected as national director. Carry-over national directors include Kay Aycock, North Carolina; Rollin "Bill" Mills, South Carolina; Dean Costello, Illinois; Brad Cunningham, Missouri; and Al Moore, Louisiana. I pledge to work closely with our national staff members, national officers and national directors as well as our wonderful state secretaries, state officers, division officers, and all TPA members.

Sunday night delegates and guests attended a fun auction with dinner and dancing to raise funds for our national TPA Hearing Trust. Beautiful gifts donated by members, posts and divisions for the silent and live auctions, and along with floor donations, raised approximately \$18,000. Monday the convention delegates conducted business and Tuesday was a free day for delegates and children to enjoy activities in the fun resort city. Wednesday was a business meeting again, followed that evening by an enjoyable reception and beautiful banquet for all with dancing and dinner. Thursday was an election and the close of business for the annual convention.

As our longtime members are aware, TPA has been offering wonderful accident benefits as well as performing safety and community service activities nationwide for over 100 years. We proudly had over 100,000 members in our Association for many years. MEMBERSHIP GROWTH in all our divisions must be a real priority for our current members. As your president it would be fantastic if every member nationwide would just invite at least one new member to join our Association to enjoy the accident benefits or fraternal benefits as a member.

Thanks of course to our current sponsors nationwide who help by sponsoring new members every year, but we also need all members to invite friends, employees, relatives and others they know to join. Everyone can help our membership grow. Thanks for considering this request to help TPA grow nationwide. If you have never sponsored a TPA member before and need help, please contact your state secretary or any active member in your post or division. Applications are easy to complete (only one page) and available on our TPA website. I can also help you complete an application in your state anytime. If I can be of assistance, you can reach out to me for help.

Fraternally yours,  
Joel H. Lederman, *National President*  
Cell: 303 505 9236  
Email: joell55@yahoo.com



Joel Lederman, President  
Julie Kupper, Vice President

**NATIONAL DIRECTORS**

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

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

**COMMUNICATION**  
National Chair—Vacant

**SAFETY**  
National Chair—Kay Aycock

**COMMUNITY SERVICE**  
National Chair—Helen M. Helms

**CONSULTANTS**  
Armstrong Teasdale, LLP Law Firm,  
St. Louis, MO

Kerber, Eck, & Braeckel, LLP  
Independent Auditors,  
Springfield, IL

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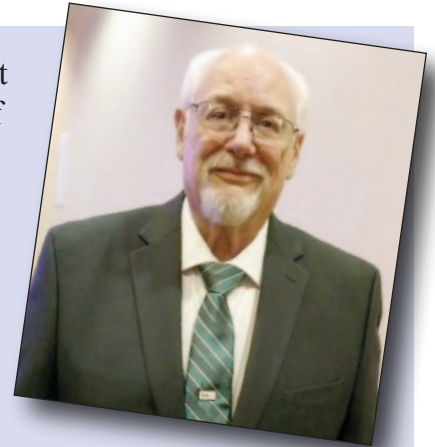
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# Through My Eyes

 BY ALFRED MOORE

I have been a TPA member for almost 40 years. I started out like many of you. For many years all I did was pay my dues and did not go to any functions or meetings. But once I went to a meeting and saw how much fun they were, I started going to as many meetings as I could. The members met and played games, and had a social hour before the meeting. After a few years I asked my brother-in-law John Theall, who was the Louisiana State Secretary, if there wasn't something that I could do in Post F. He said that the post president's position was open—so I became Post F President. Once I became involved in the post, I learned about all the programs there were in TPA.

Since that time I have been lucky enough to hold a few offices in TPA. I started out as Post F President, then I became state president. I held both offices for a number of years. One year the post secretary asked me if I wanted to go the national convention in Memphis, Tennessee. I said yes. After a few conventions I added a new position in TPA, sergeant-at-arms serving for the next several conventions. Then in 2018 I was approached to run for the national board of directors. I ran and I was elected. I have been on the board ever since. About the conventions—as a TPA member you have not lived until you experience a national convention. The fun of going to different parts of the country and meeting new people is a lot of what TPA is all about!

Over my time in TPA I have written a lot of new members, the thrill of writing 25 or more new members is unbelievable. You need to try it!

To finalize my journey in TPA I have added three new adventures. In 2019 I was the Chairman of the National Convention, held in my home town of Lake Charles, Louisiana. And I also was the Chairman of the 2020 Convention. Now for my last adventure, in 2021 I became the Louisiana State Secretary.

As you can see, I have become active in TPA and loving it! With my wife and family at my side, I will continue to live the life of a TPA family!

— Al Moore



# CONGRATULATIONS

## to our WINNERS



### Merit Award

Left to right: Kay Aycock; Julie Kupper; Revonda Brady (Merit Award winner); Albert Shoemaker; and E.L. Reed.

### COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE AWARDS

#### Small Division

- 1st Place Iowa
- 2nd Place Rhode Island
- 3rd Place No third place

#### Small Post

- 1st Place Post O – Iowa
- 2nd Place Post D – Kentucky
- 3rd Place Post X – Pennsylvania

#### Intermediate Division

- 1st Place South Carolina
- 2nd Place Minnesota
- 3rd Place Texas

#### Intermediate Post

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

#### Large Division

- 1st Place Michigan
- 2nd Place Pennsylvania
- 3rd Place Kentucky

#### Large Post

- 1st Place Post W – Pennsylvania
- 2nd Place Post I – Michigan
- 3rd Place Post I – Indiana

#### Mega Post

- 1st Place Post A – Michigan



### Fraternalist of the Year

Left to right: Julie Kupper; Alfred Moore; Patricia Reed (FOTY winner); and Albert Shoemaker.

### SAFETY COMMITTEE AWARDS

#### Small Division

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

#### Small Post

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

#### Intermediate Division

- 1st Place South Carolina
- 2nd Place Indiana
- 3rd Place Texas

#### Intermediate Post

- 1st Place Post K – South Carolina
- 2nd Place Post P – North Carolina
- 3rd Place Post E – Pennsylvania

#### Large Division

- 1st Place Michigan
- 2nd Place Pennsylvania
- 3rd Place North Carolina

#### Large Post

- 1st Place Post I – Michigan
- 2nd Place Post V – Pennsylvania
- 3rd Place Post A – Indiana

#### Mega Post

- 1st Place Post A – Michigan





**COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE AWARDS**

**Small Division**

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

**Small Post**

- 1st Place Post O – Iowa
- 2nd Place Post D – Kentucky
- 3rd Place Post SC – Missouri

**Intermediate Division**

- 1st Place South Carolina
- 2nd Place Wisconsin
- 3rd Place Illinois

**Intermediate Post**

- 1st Place Post K – South Carolina
- 2nd Place Post E – Pennsylvania
- 3rd Place Post H – Illinois

**Large Division**

- 1st Place Michigan
- 2nd Place Pennsylvania
- 3rd Place Kentucky

**Large Post**

- 1st Place Post I – Michigan
- 2nd Place Post Q – Pennsylvania
- 3rd Place Post I – Wisconsin

**Mega Post**

- 1st Place Post A – Michigan



**Hearing Trust Platinum Donors**

*Thank you to the Platinum Donors who were in attendance at the national convention.*



**Hearing Trust Gold Donors**

*Thank you to the Gold Donors who were in attendance at the national convention.*



**First Time Delegates**

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



**25 Club Writers**

*Left to right: Patricia Palencar; Linda Payseur; Edwin Miller; Dolores Miller; Wayne Wentworth; Sandy Wentworth (not pictured); Revonda Brady; and Jack VanManen. In the center of the photo are Brad Cunningham, Bill Mills, and Dean Costello of the membership committee.*



**The Past and Present Officers Group Award**

*Left to right: Richard Martin; Edwin Miller (award recipient); James Ruppe; and Tom Davis.*



## Meet Pat Reed our 2023 Fraternalist of the Year!

With her sweet and quiet disposition, Pat Reed is a fraternal leader. Currently, Pat is serving as the Secretary/Treasurer of Post K of the Missouri Division. To help encourage membership growth, she sponsored 13 new members in 2022.

To support the TPA Hearing Trust, she and her husband E.L. donated \$2,500. They also donated to the Homer T. Wilson Fund.

Outside of TPA, Pat volunteers her time at the Cultural Corner Art gallery.

She also helped pack more than 1,500 backpacks with supplies and food for the summer for children who were on the free school meals program. The backpacks were donated to small rural schools in Winston School District in Winston, MO.

Pat also donates and volunteers with the House of Prayer Rescue Mission helping families in need, many of which have foster children. Pat helped furnish their kid's room. She regularly helps with PATCH (Parents And Their Children), which helps incarcerated mothers have quality visiting time with their children.

At the United Methodist Church of Chillicothe, Pat volunteers at the God Squad, which teaches 3rd-5th graders to learn about their faith and she assists with vacation bible school. She sings with the Chancel Choir and is in the handbell choir.

Thank you Pat for all you do for TPA and the community!



## 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.



## Meet Revonda Brady our 2023 Merit Award Winner!

**R**evonda Brady currently serves on the Board of Directors for Post A and the North Carolina Division. She is also currently serving as the Safety and Community Service chair. Revonda attends as many of the monthly board and regular meetings as possible, as well as Division meetings. She diligently completes and submits the required reports.

To help spread the word about TPA and safety, Revonda distributes decals, CHAD stickers, signs and TPA safety materials. She also distributed Halloween bags to children in her area.

Revonda is a member of the 25 Writers Club and makes every effort to support TPA membership. She helps support her fellow TPA members by sending cards, visiting those who are sick, and delivering meals.

In addition to making a monetary donation, Revonda helped raise money for the TPA Hearing Trust by coordinating an auction basket for the 2023 National Convention.

Outside of TPA, she supports her church's Christmas Adopt-a-Family program and donates to the Red Cross. She also collects the tabs off of aluminum cans for the Ronald McDonald House.

Thank you Revonda for your service to TPA and the community!



## 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



# The Excitement Program

**LET'S GET EXCITED ABOUT WRITING NEW APPLICATIONS!**

## **2023-2024 Membership Incentive Program Goal of 2,500 new applications**

**Starting Date: May 1, 2023 — Ending Date: April 30, 2024**

### **Post and Division Awards**

Post Award: \$7.50 for each application written up to a limit of 100 applications.

Division Award: \$7.50 for each application written up to a limit of 100 applications.

**ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE LONG-TERM TO QUALIFY!!!**

#### **Note:**

- Applications that you write into other Posts do not count for prizes in your Post.
- A written request for prizes must be submitted in writing to the CAO from the Division Secretary.
- Prizes will be paid semiannually in November and May.

### **MEMBERSHIP LOSS**

We will also strive to retain membership. If your Post or Division does not have a decrease in membership it will earn a \$100.00 bonus.

#### **Note:**

- The Posts and Divisions will receive their prize money after qualifications are met.
- All applications must be approved by National Headquarters to qualify.
- Posts **MUST** notify their State Secretaries when they have qualified for any level of prize money. Their request will then be forwarded to National Headquarters for processing. The Division Secretaries shall notify the CAO in writing by either U.S. Postal mail or email when they qualify.
- Prizes for reduction in membership loss will be paid at year-end and mailed no later than July 31, 2024.
- Applications for either contest **MUST** be post marked from your State Secretary no later than April 30, 2024 to be eligible.
- Posts and Divisions **MUST** be in 100% compliance with all reporting, including financial statements, bank statements, and minutes in order to receive membership incentive funds.

### **INDIVIDUAL SPONSOR AWARDS FOR THE 2024 NATIONAL CONVENTION**

- Individuals will receive a convention expense reimbursement of \$10.00 for each application written up to 50 applications if they attend the national convention.

**The deadline for submitting all requests for prizes will be June 27, 2024.**

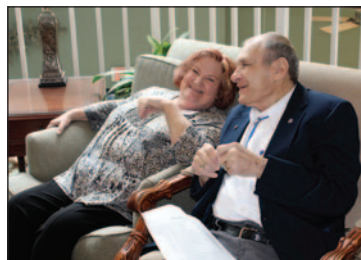
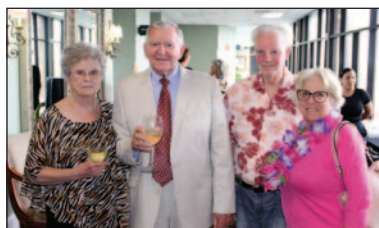
Fraternally submitted, The Membership Committee

*Brad Cunningham*

*Dean Costello*

*Bill Mills*







# Join Us

## for the 2024 TPA National Convention

by Albert Shoemaker

**Doubletree by Hilton**  
6809 North Loop 1604W  
San Antonio, Texas 78249

Phone 210-690-0300

**June 14 – June 20, 2024**

\$149 Room Rate + fees and taxes



Paula and I were up at 2:30 a.m. and at the airport at 4:07 a.m. We boarded at 5:35 a.m. Unfortunately, and unbelievably, our flight was delayed. We had a mechanical problem that delayed our departure to our connecting flight in Nashville, Tennessee. We barely made it to the connecting gate with seconds to spare.

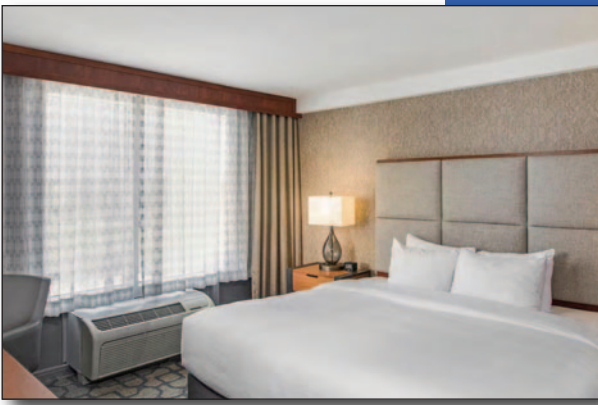
After Paula and I landed we rented our vehicle and took the highway to the Doubletree by Hilton. We made it from the airport to the hotel in 17 minutes. The property was located in a very nice area. The outside of the hotel was well maintained and included gated parking.

We checked into our rooms and then met with the hotel general manager and the sales manager (Aaron Zimmerman and Judy Sandoval). We went over our previous verbal agreements and held some final negotiations. The preliminary terms include room rates of \$149 per night which includes a free breakfast and free gated parking. Considering the breakfast has a value of \$15 and parking \$10, we are basically getting the hotel room for \$124 per night. The agreement includes 70% attrition, food and beverage requirement of \$9,000, and free audio/visual with a sound patch (incredible). The dates are June 14-20, 2024. Group rates will be extended before and after the convention dates.

The property agreed to provide shuttle services at no cost for TPA members within a two-mile radius of the hotel and agreed to provide two free shuttle trips downtown to the Riverwalk, one session in the morning and one session in the afternoon. The shuttle can accommodate 11 people, so the free day Riverwalk trip will be limited to the first 22 people who sign up. The Riverwalk has stones and uneven surfaces, has no railings along the river, and is not suitable for all TPA members.

We toured the property, which was recently renovated in 2019. It was immaculate. Not too many people were out and about in 2020 due to Covid, and 2021 had limited use, so the property was looking spectacular. The property





agreed to allow TPA to use the breakout session room for hospitality and agreed to waive the outside food restriction, provided TPA signed a liability waiver to exempt the property from any potential food poisoning claims. The Texas Division can bring in outside food for the three-hour period.

Every sleeping room has a comfortable chair, desk, coffee maker, refrigerator, microwave, safe, and armoire.

We went to lunch at a local smokehouse and enjoyed a great meal. We went downtown during five o'clock traffic and it only took 32 minutes. We walked a portion of the River Walk. Each street in the downtown area has an entrance to the River Walk, but you must remember how to get back to the street where you parked.

We had dinner at the hotel, which was very nice. We had chicken alfredo, chips and dip, and quesadillas. We finished dinner around 8:00 p.m. It was a long day for each of the weary travelers, nearly 16 hours for most.

The next day we met for breakfast in the hotel. The food was very reasonably priced, under \$15, the limit for the travel policy. Omelets, French toast, bacon, sausage, potatoes, oatmeal, biscuits and gravy, avocado toast—more than enough to satisfy your taste

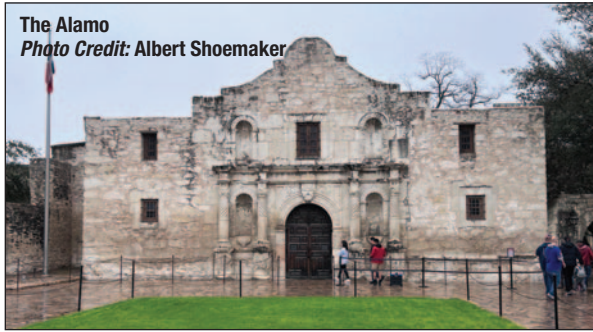
buds. But, for the convention, breakfast is free.

Then we were off to downtown. We stopped at the San Antonio Aquarium, which was only 10 or so minutes away. This was an interactive aquarium where you could feed the animals and enter their domain. Yes, you could get in the cages and enter the water. Nearby was a Six Flags amusement park and the San Antonio Zoo. Quite a lot of things to do for the little ones. Once downtown, we visited the Alamo, and then went down to the River Walk again. The riverboat tours looked like a fun thing to do. Paula and I investigated the Alamodome that evening, and Julie went to the La Cantera Shopping Mall. This is a very large outdoor mall consisting of 182 stores and restaurants that is within the two-mile shuttle radius provided by Doubletree by Hilton.

Richard and Julie were off early morning on Sunday and took a taxi to the airport for \$53. Paula and I returned the rental vehicle and were at our gate by 9:00 a.m. for our 11:05 departure. We had a one-hour and forty-minute non-stop flight back to St. Louis. We got our luggage and were home at approximately 2:00 p.m.

**2024 TPA National Convention  
in San Antonio, Texas!**





**The Alamo**  
Photo Credit: Albert Shoemaker

## 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.



**River Walk**  
Photo Credit: Albert Shoemaker

## 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.



**La Cantera Shopping Mall**  
Photo Credit: Albert Shoemaker

## 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**  
Photo Credit: Albert Shoemaker

## 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.



Photo Credit: Albert Shoemaker

## 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](http://thealamo.org), [thesanantonioriverwalk.com](http://thesanantonioriverwalk.com), [sazoo.org](http://sazoo.org), [sanantonioaquarium.net](http://sanantonioaquarium.net), and [theshopsatlacantera.com](http://theshopsatlacantera.com)





# Donor Recognition

## Donor Recognition as of July 18, 2023

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

Post C – Pennsylvania Division  
Post D – Pennsylvania Division  
Post L – Pennsylvania Division  
Post Q – Pennsylvania Division  
Post W – Pennsylvania Division  
Post I – Wisconsin Division

GBU Life  
Raymond & Julianne Hendrix  
Mark & Beth Koster  
Cecelia Lookner  
Leslie McAteer  
Janet Stanley Mooneyham

AmazonSmile  
Revonda Brady  
Craig Brown  
John Chmielewski  
Sue Hager  
Amber Heinle

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

### SILVER LEVEL (\$250 – \$499.99)

William & Ann Pearce  
E.L & Patricia Reed  
Timothy & Rose Replogle  
Morey Lee Ronson  
Gary C. Schmitz  
Albert & Paula Shoemaker  
Terri Sipes

Donald & Helen Helms  
Terry & Kathryn Hoepfner  
Howard & Jean Hughes  
Rachelle Jackson  
Harrell Jory  
Charles Liberty  
Virginia Miller

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

Charles & Kay Aycok  
Roy Carpenter  
Christina Knott  
Richard Martin  
Karen Miller

Scott & Gail Stambaugh  
Valerie Taylor  
Louisiana Division  
Nebraska Division  
Virginia Division

Tina Niederman  
Gloria Riffe  
Samantha Sarnes  
David Steffen  
Jack VanManen  
Sonya Urban

Dean Costello  
Joel Lederman  
Edwin & Dolores Miller  
Harold S. Rhodes Estate  
Missouri Division  
Pennsylvania Division  
Post E – Illinois Division  
Post H – North Carolina Division

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

William & Marcia Venables  
Wayne Wentworth  
Karl Wolf III  
Jacob Wood  
Frank Yonce  
Post H – Illinois Division  
Post O – Iowa Division

### GOLD LEVEL (\$500 – \$999.99)

### BRONZE LEVEL (\$100 – \$249.99)

Dixie Burdett  
Woody & Julie Kupper  
Dana Kurtz  
Michigan Division  
Rhode Island Division  
Wisconsin Division  
Post B – Nebraska Division

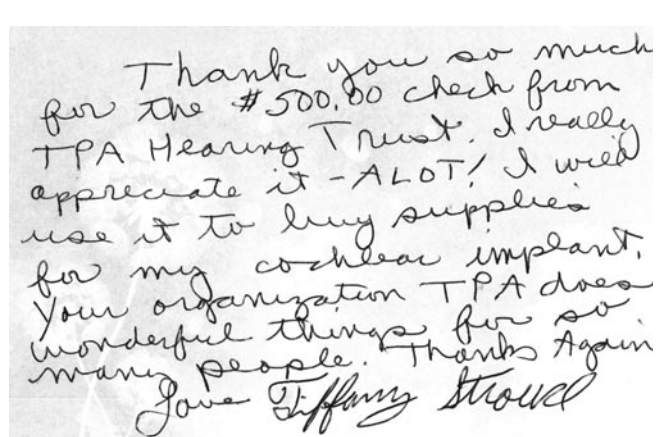
Bailey & Diane Bledsoe  
Robert Brown  
Mark & Annamaria Cassis  
Joe Costello  
Donald & Patricia Daugherty  
Tom Davis  
Frank Ellender

### CONTRIBUTOR (\$10 – \$99.99)

Waymouth & Jo Ann Allen

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/](http://tpahq.org/donate/)



## The Travelers Protective Association Holds 133rd National Convention in North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

### *Organization raises more than \$23,000 for charitable arms*

The Travelers Protective Association (TPA) recently held its 133rd national convention at the Beach Cove Resort in North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Ninety-five voting delegates representing 15 divisions located throughout the country attended the three-day conference. An auction and reception raised more than \$18,000 for the TPA Hearing Trust. More than \$5,000 was also raised for the Homer T. Wilson Humanitarian fund, which provides emergency financial aid to TPA members.

The Association's national election was held, Joel Lederman from Colorado was elected as president and Julie Kupper from Texas was elected as vice president. Two new directors were elected to the national board of

directors, including John Chmielewski from Michigan, and Edwin Miller from Pennsylvania. "This year's convention was a wonderful celebration of our organization's accomplishments over the past year," said TPA's Chief Administrative Officer Albert M. Shoemaker, Jr. "I am overwhelmed with the amount of support and generosity we received as we strive to improve the quality of life for others, and the communities we live in." TPA proudly thanks our corporate sponsors for their generous donations, with a special thank you to the Beach Cove Resort for hosting the spectacular event. For more information on TPA and how to join, visit our website at [www.tpahq.org](http://www.tpahq.org) or call headquarters at 636-724-2227.



**Harley Atwood (grant recipient) and family at the Sunday Night Auction.**







## Travelers Protective Association Awards \$10,500 in Financial Aid to Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Travelers Protective Association (TPA) Hearing Trust issued 14 grants, totaling \$10,500, to applicants requesting assistance during the second quarter of 2023. Established by TPA in 1975, the mission of the TPA Hearing Trust is to provide aid to individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing for resources that will allow them to achieve their full potential.

To date, the Trust has distributed over \$2.4 million, benefiting more than 6,150 individuals. For this quarter, recipients plan to use the funds they received to obtain hearing speech therapy, medical needs, cochlear surgery, hearing aids, hearing aid equipment, speech and language apps, and a microphone pen. Recipients are also able to use these grants towards other hearing devices and much more.

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

Grants this quarter varied in size from \$400 to \$1,000, benefiting recipients from 11 states and ranging

in age between five and 89 years old, including grant recipient Cruz Geary from St. Louis, Missouri. The Geary family intends to use his grant to help with the cost of cochlear surgery on his left ear.

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

### *About Travelers Protective Association of America*

Originally founded in 1890 as a fraternal benefit society to provide fellowship and insurance to traveling salesmen, TPA is a nonprofit organization of men and women who are committed to improving the lives of others. In addition to providing exclusive benefits to nearly 14,000 members, TPA provides programming through its 118 posts across the nation. These post locations promote the betterment of families and communities through child safety initiatives, community service projects and personal development opportunities. TPA is licensed in 29 states to provide accident, disability and death benefits to its members and their beneficiaries. To learn more, please visit [www.tpahq.org](http://www.tpahq.org) or contact TPA Headquarters at 636-724-2227.



To All:

*It seems like June 9, 2012 was yesterday, but how time flies. It's now July 2023, and after 11 years and careful consideration, Paula and I have decided it's time for me to move on to the next phase of life. I retired on August 6, 2023. President Joel Lederman has appointed a search committee and hired a talent acquisition firm to find my replacement. I wish TPA the best in its future endeavors. I've made several friendships over the years, and many will last a lifetime. You have my cell phone number, so please stay in touch.*

*Sincerely, Al*



ALBERT M. SHOEMAKER, JR.  
Chief Administrative Officer  
June 9, 2012–August 6, 2023

The Treasures of

# Oklahoma



Myriad Botanical Garden  
Oklahoma City

The state of Oklahoma is full of rich history, beautiful natural wonders and adventures for visitors of all ages.

## Get up close and personal with wildlife

More than 500 species of birds call Oklahoma home, making it one of the best states for birdwatching. Birders will be able to see Bald Eagles, American White Pelicans, Scissor-Tailed Flycatchers (the state bird), Red-Tailed Hawks, Lesser Prairie Chickens and more. The top recommended locations for birdwatching include Tishomingo Wildlife Refuge, the Red Slough Wildlife Management Area and the Hackberry Flats Wildlife Management Area.

Closer to the ground, the Tallgrass Prairie Preserve offers the opportunity to see large herds of buffalo in a natural setting. Just under 40,000 acres, the preserve is home to more than 2,500 bison. The best time to visit this drive-thru preserve is in May

when the wildflowers are in bloom and bison calves will be playing in the tall prairie grass. Other wildlife you may see include bobcats, hawks, eagles, deer and coyotes.

Take a walk on the wild side with the second largest herd of Asian elephants in North America on a visit to the Endangered Ark Foundation in Hugo. This nonprofit is dedicated to ensuring the future of Asian elephants in North America, providing a retirement ranch for circus elephants, and educating the public about this endangered species. Tours are available most Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. You can get a birds-eye view of the elephants from the observation deck. Guests to the preserve also enjoy interactive educational demonstrations about what goes into caring for an elephant, as well as information on the endangered Asian elephant residents and their behaviors. Don't forget your camera, you'll have the chance to take an "Elephie Selfie" photo.



Tulsa sculpture of Native American elder and child with trees to plant



## Enjoy the rich Native America history

Oklahoma has the second-largest Native American population in the country. Over the years, more than 67 different American Indian tribes have called Oklahoma home, with the first inhabitants settling in the area 30,000 years ago.

Visit the Washita Battlefield National Historic Site, a peaceful and respectful remembrance of the lives that were lost when the 7th U.S. Cavalry, led by Lt. Colonel George

Armstrong Custer, attacked Peace Chief Black Kettle and his people in 1868. The visitor's center includes many artifacts used by the Native Americans, information about the cavalry and a short film. Pick up a brochure and take a self-guided tour on a one-and-a-half-mile hiking trail with 15 historical stops. For a shorter walk, try the Dust and Fire trail, a half-mile paved walking path.

Learn about the collective histories and cultures of the 39 First American Nations in Oklahoma at the First Americans Museum in Oklahoma City. Discover more about their deeply held traditions, history, tribal dances and the collective spirit of Native Americans. This first-of-its-kind museum opened in 2021 and includes hands on exhibits and rare artifacts. Stop by the cafe and coffee shop or the restaurant for a taste of Indigenous-inspired cuisine.

## This city is more than OK

Oklahoma City is the perfect mix of modern day and cowboy culture, earning it the nickname the Modern Frontier.

Although you're in the city, there are plenty of outdoor activities to enjoy. There are five beautiful golf courses, connecting bike trails that cover more than 80 miles and bring your wheels—there are three skate

*continued on page 18*

## Tallgrass Prairie Preserve





parks. You'll also want to visit Myriad Botanical Gardens which includes 15-acres of beautiful and vibrant gardens. This free garden includes ornamental gardens, a children's garden and playground, a lake, an off-leash dog park, splash fountains and walking paths. The Crystal Bridge Conservatory includes a reflection pool, plant collections, overlook terraces and exquisite waterfalls.

Get some thrills at the Six Flags Frontier Park. They have exhilarating roller coaster rides including the Silver Bullet, Gunslinger and Diamondback. Take things a little slower by riding some of their many family and water rides. Frontier Park also includes live shows like Oklahoma Rising Musical Review and a Hollywood Stunt Gunfight Show.

Soak in the local culture by visiting one of the many museums located in the city. See breathtaking Dale Chihuly glass sculptures at the Oklahoma City Museum of Art. Visit the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum to see special artwork by Frederic Remington and Charles M. Russell. You can pay your respects to the victims of the Oklahoma City Bombings by visiting the Oklahoma City National Memorial and Museum.

## Take a tour of Tulsa

Tulsa is famous for being a "foodies" paradise. You'll find restaurants that feature Greek,

Mexican, Native American, Indian, Caribbean and Italian cuisine, just to name a few. Satisfy your sweet tooth at one of the 50 ice cream shops located in Tulsa. From family dinners to fine dining—there's something for everyone.

Walk along the many galleries in the Tulsa Art District. Get a glimpse into the life of one of the most famous artists of all time at the Bob Dylan Center. The facility houses and exhibits more than 100,000 exclusive cultural treasures created and owned by Bob Dylan. Enjoy the performing arts at the Living Arts Center, that houses rotating contemporary exhibits, and music venues like Cain's Ballroom and the Tulsa Theater.

You'll also find outdoor art and murals throughout Tulsa. Look for the Golden Driller statue, ORU Praying Hands, Bison Mural or the Black Wall Street Mural.

Tulsa is home to 24 miles of Route 66. Enjoy shopping at the Mother Road Market, and the hard to miss Buck Atom store which features a 21-foot-tall space cowboy muffler man. See classic neon landmarks like Cities Service Station, Route 66 Historical Village and Southwest Avery Plaza Neon Sign Park. Don't forget to visit the open-air museum at the Historic Route 66 Village.

*Sources: endangeredarkfoundation.org, thegetaway.com, nps.gov, visitokc.com, sixflags.com, route66village.com, visittulsa.com*

*Photos: dreamstime.com*

11th Street Bridge over Route 66 in Tulsa, Oklahoma





# Watch out!

## Scams targeting older individuals are on the rise



**Y**ou receive an official sounding call from someone claiming to be from the IRS about a problem with your taxes. You start to panic. They ask you to confirm your identity by providing your Social Security number and some other basic information ... and just like that you've been scammed.

Scams targeting older adults are on the rise. In 2021, there were 92,371 older victims of fraud resulting in \$1.7 billion in losses. However, because not all victims come forward, the number may be even higher.

Learning about scams can help you be more aware and help protect you from becoming a victim.

### The most popular kinds of scams include:

- Impersonators claiming to be from government agencies like the IRS, Medicare or Social Security stating there is a problem with your taxes or benefits.
- Sweepstakes or lottery scammers stating that you won a large prize.
- Computer tech scams claiming your computer or internet line has been hacked or has a virus.
- Grandparent scammers claim to be a grandchild asking for money.

### Important warning signs you should look for to detect a scam:

- The call seems “out of the blue” and their information is vague.
- They request your bank account, debit card or credit card information, or request you provide your full Social Security number.

- If you are reluctant to provide information, they turn up the pressure saying a warrant will be issued for your arrest, you could lose out on a prize, or you could be charged a fine/fees if you don't pay right away.
- They refuse to provide contact information for you to call them back.
- They insist that everything be done immediately and try to force you to make a rushed decision.

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## Remember—if something doesn't feel right, hang up!

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### What to do if you think you've been a victim:

- Contact your local law enforcement, bank and credit card issuer immediately.
- Check your credit report and let the credit bureaus know.
- Reach out to the National Elder Fraud hotline 833-372-8311, Monday–Friday, 10 a.m.–6 p.m. ET.

Sources: [ovc.ojp.gov](https://ovc.ojp.gov), [ncoa.org](https://ncoa.org), [consumerfinance.gov](https://consumerfinance.gov)



# 2023 Best States for Camping in America

Few things are more relaxing than a night under the stars while camping with your favorite folks.

Which states offer the best spots for a rustic retreat?

To kick off the start of camping season, *Lawn Love* ranked 2023's Best States for Camping in America.

To come up with our ranking, we compared the 50 states based on 25 metrics, such as campsite access, acreage, and trails. We also considered safety, supplies, camper satisfaction, and affordability.

Check out the five best (and five worst) states for camping below, followed by key insights from our report. See where your state ranks.

## Best States for Camping

Rank	State
1	California
2	Washington
3	Texas
4	Florida
5	New York

## Worst States for Camping

Rank	State
1	North Dakota
2	Rhode Island
3	Louisiana
4	Nevada
5	Mississippi



## Key insights:

- **West Coast adventures:** California hikes to first place for the second year in a row, while Washington state trails just behind at No. 2. Both states scored high in access, quality, and supplies, but the Golden State gives campers the most space for a night off the beaten path.

Stay safe if you camp in these two states: They lack phone coverage and have high rates of park deaths. California holds the record for the most park deaths between 2010 and 2020 at 300 — 151 more than the next state, Arizona.

- **Wide-open spaces:** Texas (No. 3) is a big state full of diverse camping opportunities.

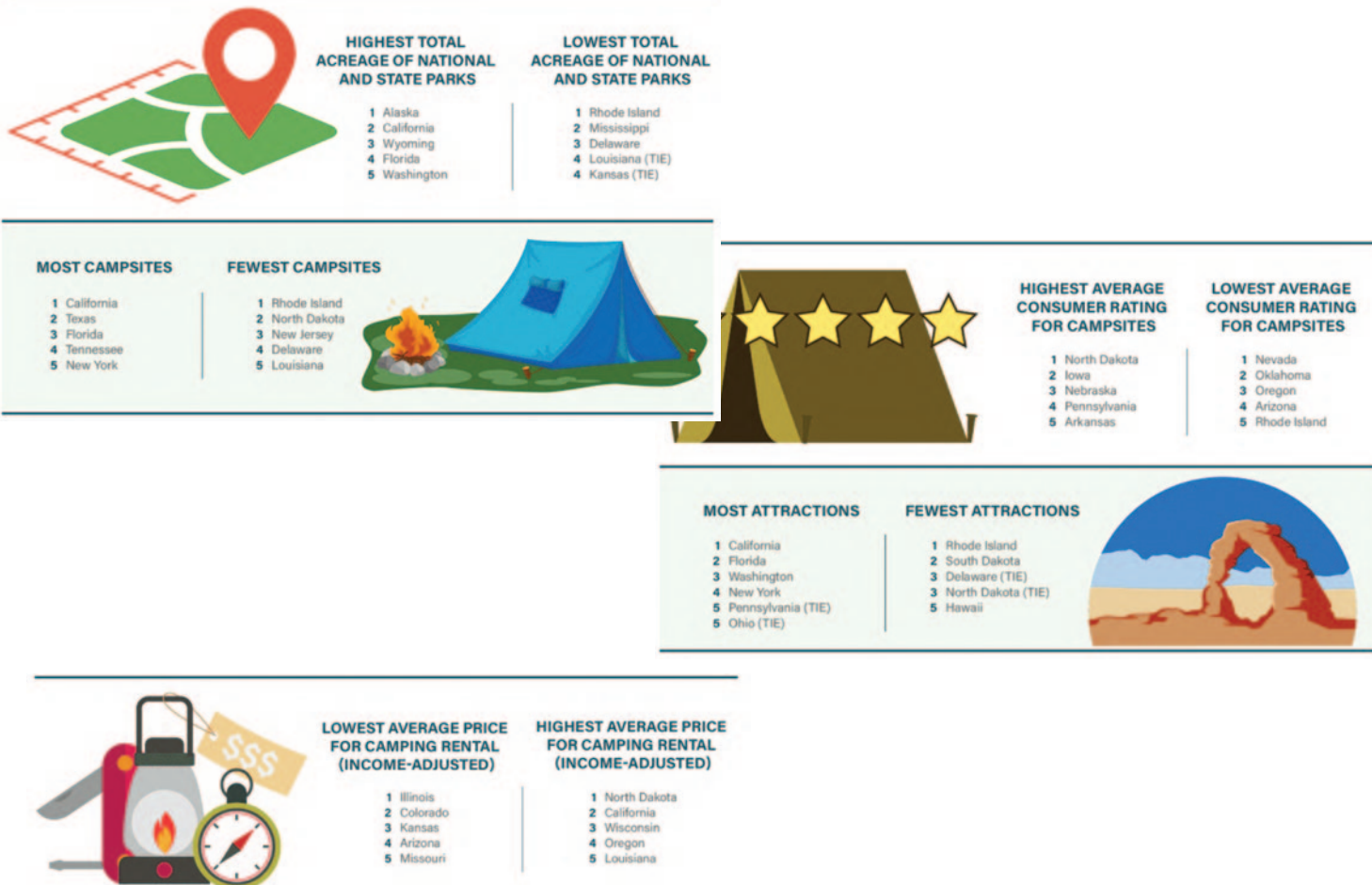
The Lone Star State claims the second-highest number of campgrounds, campsites, and camping supply stores. There’s plenty of room to roam with a high total acreage of campgrounds (No. 4) and state and national parks (No. 6).

- **Trailing behind:** Less populated states like West Virginia (No. 41), Wyoming (No. 42), Rhode Island (No. 49), Delaware (No. 44), and South Dakota (No. 45) land at the bottom alongside North Dakota in last place.

These states aren’t necessarily bad for camping. In fact, with lower populations, you might even have less competition and a better chance of scoring a peaceful campsite. Their low rankings are due to a lack of camping locations, attractions, amenities, and supplies compared with the more populated, higher-ranking states.

Our full ranking and analysis are available here: <https://lawnlove.com/blog/best-states-camping/>

*Reprinted with permission, Lawn Love*



## NEBRASKA

Members of the Nebraska Division held a board meeting at a local restaurant. TPA honors the fraternal spirit and supports community businesses. Regular meetings are held to discuss the ongoing needs of the community and to help foster a bond with follow members working toward a common goal.

*Pictured left to right: Karen Uettwiller; Mitch Bridges; David Steffen; Arlene Vyhldal; Stan Vyhldal; and Erv Steffen.*



Post B members of the Nebraska Division held a meeting in Fremont. State President Karen Uettwiller is shown standing in front of her great grandfathers 1915 Model T along with Vice President Stan Vyhldal, board member Arlene Vyhldal, Post President Erv Steffen, State Secretary David Steffen, and State Chaplain Mitch Bridges. Post B holds regular meetings to discuss the ongoing needs of the community and to help foster a bond with follow members.

*Pictured above Stan; Erv; David; Karen; Arlene; and Mitch.*





## VIRGINIA

Ryland Clark, Community Relations & Engagement Manager at Hitachi Energy, was the speaker at a Post D monthly meeting in South Boston. Clark gave a background on himself and the role he plays at Hitachi Energy, which includes getting the company active in the community. He discussed the positive impact the transition of ABB to Hitachi Energy will have on citizens, as the company's expansion will create 160 new job opportunities for locals.

*Pictured left to right: Carlyle Wimbish; Ryland Clark; and Gary Newcomb.*



A contestant on "Wheel of Fortune," Devin Hall, was the speaker at a recent Post D monthly meeting in South Boston. Hall gave a talk about what it was like to be on the program, from the audition process to a behind-the-scenes overview on the show's production. He discussed his association with Building Buddies, which is a program that helps children develop important skills such as spatial reasoning, fine motor skills, and color recognition.

*Pictured left to right: Carlyle Wimbish; Devin Hall; and Gary Newcomb.*

Tamyra Vest, Executive Director at Downtown South Boston, was a speaker at the Post D monthly meeting in South Boston. Vest discussed the many changes the city is undergoing thanks to grant money donated to help fund the improvements. One focused project aims to get two-way traffic back up and operational on Main Street. She explained how her organization also helps coach several female-owned businesses in the area.

*Pictured left to right: Carlyle Wimbish; Tamyra Vest; and Gary Newcomb.*



Dr. Amy D. Huskin, Superintendent Halifax County Public Schools, was the speaker at a Post D monthly meeting in South Boston. She discussed the opportunities and challenges the school system faces in a changing world. Dr. Huskin answered many questions asked about school buildings, finance, and curriculum.

*Pictured left to right: Carlyle Wimbish; Dr. Amy D. Huskin; and Gary Newcomb.*



Meagan Peterson, Executive Director of YMCA of South Boston/Halifax County, was the speaker at a Post D monthly meeting in South Boston. She gave background information about herself and how it prepared her to become the Executive Director. She also spoke of the many programs and opportunities that the local YMCA offers citizens of South Boston and Halifax County.

*Picture left to right: Carlyle Wimbish; Meagan Peterson; and Gary Newcomb.*





NORTH CAROLINA



The North Carolina Division held their annual meeting with an outstanding turnout of 28 directors, members, and guests in attendance. Elections were held for new officers, and members were voted to attend the national convention in North Myrtle Beach. Each committee presented reports to keep members informed on what the division has done in the past and plans to do in the future. They held their fun-filled annual auction for the TPA Hearing Trust that raised money for those in need.

*Pictured: Willie, JoAnn, Britt, Wayne, James, Revonda, Pansey, Wanda, Linda, David, Theresa, Cheryl, Connie, Howard, Kay, Charlie, Jean, Jill, Joyce, Pete, and Bailey.*



Post P recently presented its annual program on the American Flag to the children and staff at the Precious Moment's Childcare Center. Participating in the program were members Abby Gathings, Audrey Hunt, Becky Dickson, Fonda Denton, Carol Mabee, and Linda Payseur. TPA led the children and staff in the pledge and then presented each child and staffer with a flag and Officer Ollie stickers. CHAD stickers were given to Director Traci Ward for the center.



Post P of the North Carolina Division had a flag program at their local YMCA in York, South Carolina. There were approximately 70 children and four leaders present. Post volunteers gave the group some facts about the flag, recited the Pledge of Allegiance and gave each person a small flag to keep. This is a great program that helped share the spirit of patriotism. TPA members who presented the program were Charlie Aycock, Leslie, Keri, Lawson and Lyric McAteer.



INDIANA



Steve Sternberger presents donated items from Post A to Principal C. Brian Howard of Haley Elementary School of Fort Wayne Community Schools. These items were designated as most needed per the school nurse. Bennet and Madison Lewis show their glee at receiving TPA Bike Safety coloring books.

*Pictured left to right: Bennett and Madison Lewis, and Steve Sternberger with C. Brian Howard.*





## PENNSYLVANIA

Post W held their monthly meeting in Williamsport. Five wonderful ladies were honored at the meeting and received their 30-year membership pins for their participation in the post. Congratulations and thank you for all you do for TPA! Post W is a great example of how important it is to recognize and celebrate the great things members do for this Association.

*Pictured left to right: Helen Mayer; Marie McGee; Vera Eppler; Marie Zurinsky; and JoAnne Rupert.*



Members of Post L held their Annual Altruism Award Ceremony at the North Hampton Community Center. Fourteen schools chose one high school senior to receive this prestigious award for doing unselfish, caring acts for others. Winners received a free dinner and were presented with a certificate and a \$100 check. Post L sets a great example of recognizing the positive impact others make in their community. All posts and divisions are urged to host similar youth programs to spread awareness of the Association. Events like this invoke a passion for TPA and encourage members of all ages to join.

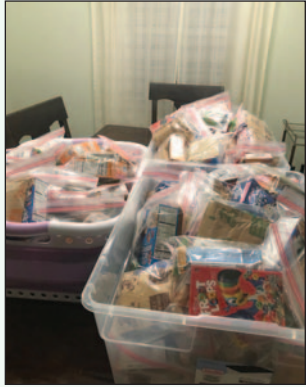
*Pictured: TPA Altruism Award winners.*

Members of Post L presented a \$1,000 check to a local student from their Deaf and Near Deaf Trust Fund. Winner Nathaniel Moya was awarded the funds to further his education and attend college. Nathaniel's teacher, Christine Bloch, worked with him for four years and shared how wonderfully he had progressed throughout their time together. Post L embodies TPA's goal to support community members in need and partake in programs that benefit the youth in their area.

*Pictured left to right: Isabel Ozuna; Nathaniel Moya; and Christine Bloch.*



MICHIGAN



Members of the Michigan Division held their quarterly state meeting where board members discussed division business while volunteers packaged donations. Members assembled 120 packages for the Hand2Hand organization, which sends students home with nutrient-rich foods for families in need.

*Pictured are volunteers and packaged food donations.*

Members of Post I gathered for their annual meeting and enjoyed a delightful meal together. The business session covered important matters within the post and voting was held for new post officers, and delegates for the 2023 Annual Convention. Post I has developed unique ways of operating to keep their members active. To get everyone involved in events, Post I elects couples to co-chair leadership roles, enabling spouses to participate in meetings and community service projects. They send out three mailings a year to delinquents to maintain a steady membership count.

Post I is proactively training a new post secretary to take over in the next few years, with the current secretary providing the training. Post I used their time together to do a community service project where they packaged and placed 200 coloring books, "You're Invited" packets, and applications for membership in TPA bags. These donations were taken to local kindergartens in Belding Church, Sedalia, and Saranac. Pictured is little Landen Elliott who was so thrilled to receive one of these goodie bags that he showed off his new items to everyone at the meeting and got involved bundling bags for other children to enjoy. It goes to show that including people of all ages can spark a passion for everything TPA stands for and bring in a new generation of life-long members.

*Pictured back, left to right: Sandy, Connie, Annamarie, Mark, Ed, Marilyn, Sally, Mark, and Buzz.*

*Pictured front, left to right: Wayne, Richard, Barb, UnaFern, Mary Lou, Landen, and Darin.*



*TPA Michigan Division state secretary Mark Cassis spotted backpacking on the Appalachian Trail on way home from 2023 National Convention.*



## MICHIGAN



The Michigan Division held their annual meeting in Grand Rapids where 23 directors, members, and guests attended a spectacular event inclusive of business sessions and shared comradery between friends. The division voted on delegates to attend the national convention in North Myrtle Beach, participated in making fleece blankets for Project Linus, and held a delightful Kentucky Derby themed party where funds were raised for the TPA Hearing Trust. This division is still extremely active in the community and shared detailed accounts of all they do to make an impact on the lives of others. The Michigan Division is extremely fortunate to be filled with phenomenal members who serve as a perfect example of how fraternalism and community service can do great things, not only for building up fellow TPA members, but for the citizens of the United States of America.

*Pictured back row, left to right: Roger, Barb, Jack, Mariluyn, Ed, Mark, Sallie, Annamarie, Sandy, Wayne, Connie, John, Paula, Albert, Mark and Beth. Pictured front row, left to right Buzz (kneeling), Jo, Cheryl, Bruce and Rachelle.*



Members of Post A of the Michigan Division participated in the Annual Amway River Bank Run Jr. The post donated four bikes and helmets, and distributed popcorn to participants. John Chmielewski and Mark Koster of the Michigan Division are pictured with the event hostess announcing the winners of the bikes. Post A is very active in community service and youth programs. They lead by example by building relationships and creating a positive impact in their community.

*Pictured left to right: Beth Koster; Ed Tonak; Marilyn Tonak; Mark Koster; Annamarie Cassis; Rachelle Jackson; and Connie Kennedy.*







MISSOURI

The Missouri Division held their annual meeting at the Lake of the Ozarks where eight officers and members met to discuss pressing business matters such as the importance of membership and how to get more involved in the community. The group shared a delicious meal between business sessions, which featured a special treat—Post D’s famous ribs. Missouri continues to show their support of the National Backpack Program and will purchase 50 backpacks for each active post to fill with supplies and deliver to schools in need. Delegates were chosen to attend the National Convention in North Myrtle Beach, where the state will have three first time delegates for 2023!

*Pictured back row left to right: Larry Voris; Debbie Medley; and Patricia Reed.*

*Pictured front row left to right: Albert Shoemaker; Paula Shoemaker; Brad Cunningham; and E.L. Reed.*



Members of Post D held their annual meeting at Smoketown BBQ in Overland Park, Kansas. An outstanding turnout of 20 members gathered to discuss upcoming scheduled events. This post is planning a Golf Scramble in June, a Sporting Clay Tournament in October, and a Rib Sale in December. Post D is a prime example of how a small group of people can make a large impact on the community and putting forth the effort pays off with huge rewards!



Members of Post SC gathered at national headquarters to hold their post meeting. After three years of virtual meetings due to the pandemic, it was amazing to catch up, see familiar faces, and discuss important business within the post. Elections were held and members were nominated for national convention, congratulations to all the new and reappointed officers! They discussed upcoming service events and shared ideas on how to get more involved. The post has opted to participate in the National Backpack Program and vows to deliver backpacks filled with supplies to schools in need.

*Pictured left to right: Maria Verbeck; Paula Shoemaker; Donna Badgley; and Debbie Medley.*





## MISSOURI



Post SC, St. Charles, collected school supplies to fill 50 TPA backpacks. These backpacks were donated to Oak Hill Elementary School in St. Louis. Linette Floth, counselor at Oak Hill, said "The teachers and counselors are so grateful for everything you are doing for the children." Thank you Post SC for participating in the TPA National Backpack Project.

*Pictured left to right: Paula Shoemaker; Maria Verbeck; and Amanda Verbeck.*

## IOWA

Post O held a meeting where members participated in a community service project. A small team spent time picking up trash littering the streets for several miles around Second Street in Ottumwa's West End. The city is much cleaner thanks to the hard-working members of Post O, where they embrace the important notion that every little bit helps in making a positive impact on the world. All posts and divisions are encouraged to initiate projects where they can start making a difference in the lives of members of their own community!

*Pictured left to right: John Hunolt; John Maines; Ken Venables; Chris Cunningham; and Tracy Baker.*



## LOUISIANA



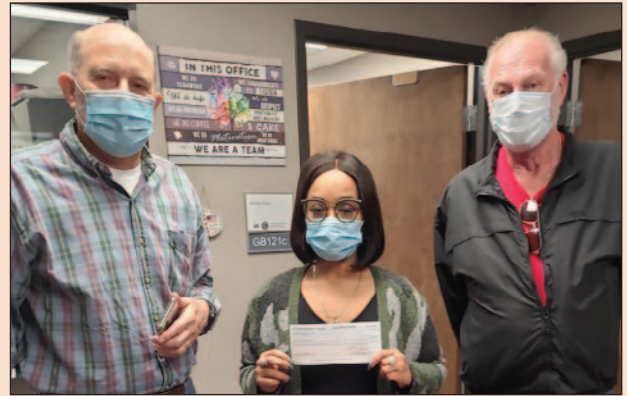
Members of the Louisiana Division gathered to host their state convention. New officers were elected for the division and are proudly pictured with promotional materials such as mousepads, CHAD stickers, and luggage tags. TPA honors the fraternal spirit and regular meetings to discuss the ongoing needs of the local community help foster a bond with fellow members working toward the same cause.

*Pictured left to right: Sena Theall; Beverly Trahan; Jerry Moore; Al Moore; Bobbie Kelley; Ray Chavanne; John Theall; and Elverse Trahan.*

## OKLAHOMA

Post A of the Oklahoma Division made a donation to the VA Hospital of Oklahoma City. Glenn Downing, Rodney Wiedemann, and Fred Berry presented the check to Alana Edwards of the Veterans Administration Volunteer Service Office. Their facility is a 178-bed medical center that provides comprehensive health care for over 60,000 Veterans. Services provided include primary care, rehabilitation, oncology, psychiatry, geriatrics and much more! Just like TPA, the VA hospital offers volunteer opportunities and accepts charitable gifts and donations. Both organizations seek to improve the quality of life for members of the communities in which they serve.

*Pictured left to right: Fred Berry; Alana Edwards; and Rodney Wiedemann*



Members of Post A of the Oklahoma Division provided TPA backpacks to elementary schools in the Putnam City School district in conjunction with New Covenant Christian Church through their H2O School Supply Program. Congratulations Post A for partaking in the national backpack program and providing community service.

*Pictured left to right: Glenn Downing and Fred Berry.*

## SOUTH CAROLINA



Members of Post K gathered in York, South Carolina for their post meeting. They shared a meal at The Old York Seafood Family Restaurant and had an impressive turnout of 22 members, including officers and directors of the post. As the coronavirus starts to fade and the world starts to reopen, we encourage posts and divisions alike to hold in-person meetings to reconnect and forge stronger bonds with those that share a common cause—spreading awareness of TPA and having a positive impact on the communities we live in.

*Pictured left to right: Donald Helms; Bill Mills; Richard Martin; Fay Christenberry; Helen Helms; Hazel Adams; and Peggy Thomas.*



# TPA National Backpack Project

Nineteen posts from 12 divisions participated in TPA's 2023 National Backpack Project. It was a wonderful and easy way to get involved in an amazing cause—helping the children! There were 387 navy blue cloth backpacks ordered at \$7.71 each and 387 clear backpacks ordered at \$10.55 each, for a total of 774 backpacks! The backpacks were shipped directly to the posts from the manufacturer. The goal was to have all backpacks delivered before school started in August. Thank you to those divisions that contributed to the project, including Colorado, Iowa, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Wisconsin.

## How it Started: Missouri Backpack Project

The Missouri Backpack Project started with the goal of providing backpacks filled with supplies to elementary students in need. Local schools provided a list of the supplies that are commonly needed such as crayons, notebooks, markers, pencils, and glue. The Missouri Division purchased 50 backpacks for each post with the TPA logo for \$8 per backpack. Every backpack included an invitation packet and CHAD stickers from the division. The posts were charged with purchasing the supplies and hand-delivering the filled backpacks to local schools. The schools and student recipients of these backpacks were extremely grateful, which made this project fulfilling and worthwhile.

## How to Get Involved Next Year

Start by sharing this article with your division and post members! Put together a plan of action that includes who will participate and how you plan to execute the project. You get to decide which schools will receive these wonderful donations! Some states, counties, or schools may require clear backpacks for safety reasons so remember to check with them first before placing

an order. While you are in contact, ask for the list of items needed most for kids their age! For more information on how to get started, contact:

support@tpahq.org  
636-724-2227



*Cloth TPA logo backpacks are available for \$8.00 each.*



*Clear TPA logo backpacks are available for \$11.89 each.*

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED.



# KNOW YOUR ROAD SIGNS

A safety message by: **The Travelers Protective Association of America**  
2041 Exchange Drive • St. Charles, MO 63303 • 636.724.2227

<p><b>SCHOOL SIGNS</b></p> <p>School Crossing</p> <p>School</p>	<p><b>REGULATION SIGNS</b></p> <p>YIELD</p> <p>DO NOT ENTER</p> <p>Keep Right</p>
<p><b>WARNING SIGNS</b></p> <p>Ped Xing</p> <p>Divided Highway</p> <p>Divided Highway Ends</p> <p>Two-Way Traffic</p> <p>Merge</p> <p>Hill</p> <p>Slippery When Wet</p> <p>Height Restriction</p> <p>Flagman Ahead</p> <p>Bike Xing</p> <p>Cattle Xing</p>	<p><b>TRAFFIC SIGNS</b></p> <p>LEFT TURN YIELD ON GREEN</p> <p>ON RED</p> <p>Don't Use Lane Traffic Approaching</p>
<p><b>PROHIBIT SIGNS</b></p> <p>No Right Turn</p> <p>No U Turn</p> <p>No Left Turn</p> <p>No Trucks</p> <p>No Bicycles</p> <p>The red circle with the diagonal line is used to indicate prohibited movement.</p>	<p>Steady Yellow - Clear the Lane</p> <p>Flashing Yellow - Left turn Permitted</p>
<p><b>CONSTRUCTION SIGNS</b></p> <p>ROAD CLOSED</p> <p>DETOUR</p> <p>ROAD CONSTRUCTION 5 MILES</p> <p>CONSTRUCTION SPEED ZONE</p> <p>ROAD CONSTRUCTION AHEAD</p>	<p><b>SERVICE SIGNS</b></p> <p>Telephone</p> <p>Picnic Area</p> <p>Camping</p> <p>Camping</p> <p>Hospital</p> <p>Travel in Lane</p>