



CONTENTS

From the President

From the CAO

History Minute - Lindell Office Bldg

State Conventions

TPA Central Institute Donation

Donor List

Hearing Trust Anniversary

2025 National Convention

Nominations

Virginia Attractions

Membership Incentive Program

Dana Retirement

Member Interview

Members in Action

Safety Information

The Only Constant In Life Is Change

A very famous quote about change and growth is, “The only constant in life is change,” attributed to the ancient Greek philosopher Heraclitus.

This quote essentially means that change is inevitable and always happening, making it a powerful statement about the ongoing process of growth and evolution in life. As previously stated, TPA has undergone many changes during its 135 years and there will be more.



JULIE KUPPER
National President

Sometimes change means modification and/or revision. For example, the TPA Hearing Trust was established in 1975 and has had several name changes. Another change is that the Board of Trustees has increased the maximum dollar amount of grants to deserving applicants. The board has also begun meeting monthly rather than quarterly to review and award grants. As technology has advanced and treatments have changed, the board has added new items for consideration such as cochlear implants and AR (augmented reality) glasses and will continue to respond to the times. With the 50th anniversary upon us, watch for some special media and programs to help us celebrate and position the TPA Hearing Trust for future growth and success!

The Homer T. Wilson Humanitarian Fund has also experienced a name change since its beginning in 1910. The guidelines for receiving grants from this fund have been revised to better assist our members and their families.

The HQ-PADS program has also been added to help posts and divisions with financial support for new as well as on-going programs. To date, there have been ten posts and divisions who have received HQ-PADS grants.

Have you noticed all the social media changes? Black Twig as well as TPA members have posted events and pictures on Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, YouTube and the TPA website. Speaking of the website, have you noticed some of the changes? We have added accessiBe to the website to improve accessibility for all. You can reach it from the bottom left corner of any page on our site by clicking the icon of a person in a blue circle. It allows accessibility features such as color and orientation adjustment, vision impaired profile, ADHD friendly, cognitive disability profile, and others.

Every year there are changes to the National Board of Directors as well as the Hearing Trust. If you are motivated to serve on the national level, make your interest known to the CAO...sooner rather than later!

Everything is moving forward along with increased visibility of our organization to both members and non-members...everything except membership. We have been discussing the declining membership for years and have tried many “solutions” that could help but we are still losing members. We have several members who invite 25 people or more to join our organization, but it is a small percentage. It is not expected that all members add to the membership with 25 new members, but we can challenge each of us to add at least one new member by the end of April, which is also the end of the membership year for 2024-2025. Can we count on you to help with the change?

Fraternally yours,
JULIE KUPPER, National President

As This Is Being Written,

the snow and bitter cold we've had at Headquarters are starting to recede. Warm thoughts of spring are beginning to bud!

We hope you enjoy the updated look of your Travelers Magazine. While the appearance has evolved over the years, the commitment to quality and informative content has been steadfast.

Your Headquarters staff has been staying busy – except for Dana Kurtz! Our Claims Manager, with almost 50 years of service to TPA, chose to retire earlier this year. You can read and see more about Dana's retirement celebration elsewhere in this issue. Our claims processing is still in good hands though, as Angela Robinson has been promoted from Claims Assistant to Claims Manager. Best Wishes, Dana – and Congratulations, Angela!

Once again, I am pleased to report that the actuarial and financial condition of your Association is strong. We recently completed all annual filings required by the various jurisdictions to which we report and completed an uneventful on-site visit by our independent auditors.

I hope to see many of you at the national convention in June. Registration and other convention information appear in the convention section. There are also a few ideas for things to see and do in the area.

An important part of the convention's business is the election of national office holders. Nominations for national offices that were received by February 28 appear within the convention pages. If you have an interest in serving TPA in this way, please contact me so that we can be sure you navigate the nomination process correctly.

This year marks a milestone for the TPA Hearing Trust, as the 50th anniversary of its founding is coming up in August! Much has happened over the years, and we are excited about the future. In our Hearing Trust section, read reflections from Past National President Joel Lederman and learn about a milestone grant awarded to the St. Louis Central Institute for the Deaf.

I hope you are seeing more of TPA on social media such as Facebook and LinkedIn. This is part of a concerted effort to raise our visibility and interest people who wouldn't otherwise hear about us and what we do. When you see a post by TPA, please "Like" or "Love" it and leave a comment. That can make a difference!

Now more than ever, it's important for each of us to share our love of TPA and its benefits to those we meet. If more people simply knew about us and what we represent, I believe our membership would grow markedly. Think about what you can do to promote TPA to your family and acquaintances. You will be doing them a favor!

May each of you enjoy a beautiful and safe spring and summer!

Fraternally yours,

Bob



ROBERT L. SCHAPP, JR.
Chief Administrative Officer

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
Strohm 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

HISTORY MINUTE

The Lindell Building

For nearly 100 years, TPA called 3755 Lindell Boulevard home. The building was dedicated as TPA's headquarters on Dec. 11, 1924.

There was a strong fraternal presence on Lindell at that time, including the Masonic Temple, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Moolah Shrine, Scottish Rite Temple and the Elks Lodge. Also to be found were the aristocratic St. Louis Club and buildings of the University of St. Louis.

On the ground floor, there was a gorgeous entrance hall and reception room, offices for the National Executive Secretary-Treasurer, the meeting room of the National Board of Directors, filing rooms and printing shop.

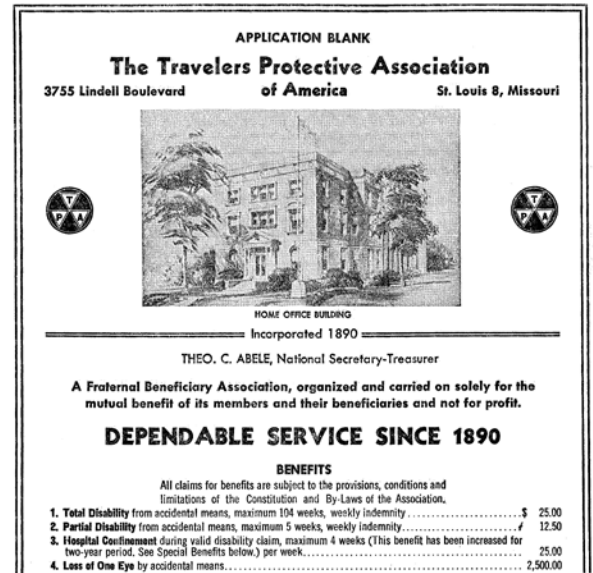
Make your way up the beautiful oak staircase to the second floor that held the office of the TPA Travelers Magazine Editor, Assistant National Secretary, working departments of the association and a large fraternal gathering room.

In the beginning the building was a private residence, the Brown Mansion built in 1895. It's considered a beautiful example of Italian Renaissance architecture, featuring classical iconic columns that frame the main entrance. This was one of dozens of mansions that once lined the street, a location that was close to Forest Park and the 1904 World's Fair. When the building was re-configured from a residence to office space, much of the original furnishings were removed, but they keep many of the original features including the original staircase and the large, beautiful windows that allow lots of natural light.

TPA sold the building in 2013, when it relocated to its new headquarters in St. Charles, Missouri. Since then, the Lindell building has been renovated again, and converted into 12 apartments available for rent.

Although TPA no longer owns the building, its name and logo still appear above the exterior entryway and a large rendering of the logo is embedded in the concrete in front of it. These remain as enduring reminders of our Association's rich history.

Sources: TPA 100 Year history book, stlmag.com/history/the-lindell-place-in-grand-center-a-study-in-doing-things-th/, stlouispatina.com/brown-mansion-3755-lindell-boulevard/



GEN. RICHARD P. DeHART

Lafayette, Ind.

Originator of the phrase "True, Patriotic Americans" from the initials, T.P.A.



2025 STATE CONVENTION DATES

If your State is not listed, please contact TPA Headquarters at 636-724-2227 for more information.

STATE	DATE	CONTACT	PHONE	EMAIL	LOCATION
Colorado	APR 5	Rocco Astuno	303-232-4760	tpacodiv@gmail.com	Astuno Residence
Illinois	MAY 3	Dixie Burdett	309-657-3614	tpaildiv@gmail.com	Saint Sharbel II Hall, Peoria, IL
Indiana	APR 26	Steve Sternberger	260-415-0008	tpaindiv@gmail.com	Hall's Tavern @ Coventry, Fort Wayne IN
Kentucky	MAY 16-17	Boyce Hager	270-304-9350	tpakydiv@gmail.com	Holiday Inn Express, Elizabethtown, Ky 42701
Louisiana	MAY 3	Alfred Moore	713-202-1061	tpaladiv@gmail.com	The Golden Corral, Lake Charles, LA 70601
Michigan	MAY 3	Mark Cassis	616-677-1436	tpamidiv@gmail.com	Candlewood Suites, Grand Rapids, MI 49546
Missouri	MAY 9-10	Angela Robinson	314-441-6658	tpamodiv@gmail.com	TBD
Nebraska	TBA	David Steffen	402-312-8020	tpanediv@gmail.com	TBD
North Carolina	MAY 23-25	Bailey Bledsoe	336-681-1448	tpancdiv@gmail.com	Embassy Suites, Greensboro, NC
Oklahoma	APR 29	Fred Berry	405-248-4338	tpaokdiv@gmail.com	Trappers, 4300 W Reno, OKC
Pennsylvania	MAY 3	Carol Ruffner	717-821-5849	tpapadiv@gmail.com	St Mark's United Church of Christ, Lebanon, PA 17046
Rhode Island	APR 17	Ron Bedard	401-821-9286	tparidiv@gmail.com	Tomaselli's Restaurant, Providence, RI
South Carolina	MAY 3	Robert Brown	803-957-8142	tpascdiv@gmail.com	Lizard's Thicket Restaurant, Lexington, SC 29073
Tennessee	TBA	Danny Harman	423-646-2360	tpatndiv@gmail.com	TBD
Texas	APR 29	Julie Kupper	432-425-2757	tpatxdiv@gmail.com	Webex - Virtual Meeting
Virginia	APR 23	Rose Jory	757-934-0061	tpavadivision@gmail.com	Wilson's BBQ & Seafood, South Hill, VA
Wisconsin	MAY 10	Wayne Warnecke	920-207-1804	tpawidiv@gmail.com	Mineshaft Restaurant, Oshkosh WI

TPA VISION & MISSION STATEMENT

VISION

At TPA, we envision a world where everyone thrives regardless of hearing abilities and where unwavering priority is given to the safety of our children. Our commitment extends to providing accessible accident insurance for peace of mind and building communities through connection via social and service activities.

MISSION

Champion hearing inclusion through financial assistance and advocacy, fiercely fight for safer homes and communities, offer accessible and affordable supplemental accident insurance, and provide social and service opportunities to our members.

Office of Commissioner of Insurance and Safety Fire
 Missouri • Kansas • Arkansas • Louisiana

Insurance Company's Annual Statement for Publication

For the Year Ending December 31 20 24 NAIC# 56006

Kind of Insurance Fraternal Benefit Society - Accident Injury Only

Of the condition of the The Travelers Protective Association of America Insurance

Company of Saint Charles Organized under the laws of the State of Missouri

made to the Insurance Commissioner of the State of Georgia in pursuance to the laws of said State.

2041 Exchange Drive, Saint Charles, Missouri, 63303
 Street Address (P. O. Box Not Acceptable) City State Zip Code

Total Assets (Actual Cash Market Value)	\$ 12,021,899.00
Liabilities: Cash Capital Paid Up	\$ 0.00
Surplus Over All Liabilities	\$ 10,808,368.00
Total Liabilities	\$ 1,213,530.00
Income 12 Months 20 <u>24</u>	\$ 798,438.00
Disbursements 12 Months 20 <u>24</u>	\$ 136,359.00

A copy of the Act of Incorporation, duly certified, is in the Office of the Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner.

Designated Authorized Responsible Party Signature: [Signature] Date: 2/18/25

Personally appeared before the undersigned who being duly sworn, deposes and says that he/she is the Chief
 Administrative Officer of The Travelers Protective Association of America and that the foregoing statement is correct and true.

Sworn to and Subscribed before me this 25 day of February 2025
 Notary Public - State of Missouri
Duke A. Madley (My Commission Expires 12/18/2025)

NOTE: The above affidavit may be made by the Chief Officer of the Company, or Agent residing in this State. Attention is called to the effect which follows from the Act of the General Assembly of the State of Georgia entitled "Georgia Insurance Code of 1965," approved March 8, 1965: "At the time of filing such statement with the insurance and safety fire Commissioner, each company shall post as its own expense in a newspaper of general circulation published in this State a copy of the statement in short form showing income, assets, expenditures, and liabilities in Gross, as of December 31, preceding, to be sworn to by the office or agent making the same."
 NOTE: This statement will not be considered as filed with the Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner until the published statement required by the above-cited act accompanies it.
 IMPORTANT NOTICE: Please attach to this form, the affidavit of Publication. The Affidavit should contain the name of Newspaper and Date of Issue.

TPA HEARING TRUST AWARDS \$20,000 GRANT TO CENTRAL INSTITUTE FOR THE DEAF

The TPA Hearing Trust, established by The Travelers Protective Association of America (TPA) in 1975, is proud to announce a \$20,000 grant to Central Institute for the Deaf. This grant supports the institute's ongoing efforts to provide cutting-edge resources and educational programs for individuals with hearing loss.

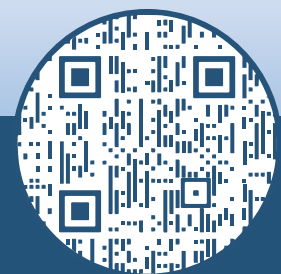
"The TPA Hearing Trust fosters hearing inclusion, provides financial assistance and advocates for accessibility," said Robert Schapp, Chief Administrative Officer of TPA. "By supporting Central Institute for the Deaf, we're investing in innovative programs that empower individuals with hearing challenges to fully engage in their communities. It's an honor for the TPA Hearing Trust to contribute to CID's vital work in creating a more inclusive world where every voice is valued."

"For 110 years, CID has been dedicated to helping children with hearing loss learn to listen, talk, read and succeed," said Executive Director Heather Grantham, PhD. "This generous grant from the TPA Hearing Trust will directly support our state-of-the-art audiological services that empower children to develop the language and communication skills needed for academic and social success. We are deeply grateful for TPA's partnership and support of our mission."

The TPA Hearing Trust provides critical support by awarding grants that help recipients access resources such as hearing aids, American Sign Language classes, and cochlear implants. Since its inception, the Trust has allocated over \$2.4 million to more than 6,100 recipients. Grants are awarded based on need, with applications reviewed monthly. The application can be found on TPA's website, tpahq.org.



CID Executive Director Heather Grantham receives a \$20,000 donation from TPA Hearing Trust Secretary Todd Vono (L) and TPA CAO Bob Schapp.



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

Interested in applying for a grant?

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





2024 DONOR RECOGNITION

DONATIONS RECEIVED THROUGH 12/31/2024

THANK YOU!!

DOUBLE PLATINUM

PACESETTER

\$2,000 +

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

PLATINUM GOLD

PACESETTER

\$1,500 - \$1,999.⁹⁹

Caterpillar Foundation

PLATINUM

PACESETTER

\$1,000 - \$1,499.⁹⁹

Dean & Kathryn Costello
Edwin & Dolores Miller
Michigan Division
Post E - Illinois Division
Post H - North Carolina Division

GOLD

PACESETTER

\$500 - \$999.⁹⁹

Dixie Burdett
William Kern
Woody & Julie Kupper
Robert Kroenke
Joseph Maggini
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
Ralph & Carolyn Becker
Bailey & Diane Bledsoe

SILVER

PACESETTER

\$250 - \$499.⁹⁹

Mark & Jean Kastenholz
Betty Whiteside
YourCause, LLC
TPA
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
Brenda Belt
John & Mary Bernadyn
Revonda Brady
Mitch Bridges
Rebecca Brown (KY)
Robert & Kristine Brown
Marshall Carr
John Chmielewski
Fay Christenberry & Richard Martin
Mike & Debbie Henderson
Raymond Jr. & Julianne Hendrix
James Hennessey
Terry & Kathryn Hoepfner
Dale & Christina Knott
Rudolph Kolarik
Leslie McAteer
Edwin & Dolores Miller Foundation
William & Ann Pearce
Lee Ronson & Cecelia Lookner
James & Wanda Ruppe
Gayle Van Patten
Ken & Marcia Venables
Mary Jane Triplett
Robert Tuuk

BRONZE

PACESETTER

\$100 - \$249.⁹⁹

Frank Yonce
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
Daniel Duncan
Frank Ellender
Juanita Featherstone
Boyce & Sue Hager
Faye Hartzell
Donald & Helen Helms
Teresa Hendrix
Haywood Lee
John & Rosalind Lohmann
Kimberly Lohmann
Daniel & Nicole Martin
Dennis Meader
Debra Medley
Jerry Moore
Lisa Moore
Barbara Potuznik

PACESETTER

\$25 - \$99.⁹⁹

Ray Robertson
Bambi Rice
Brittany Rebello
Rene & Karen Simons
David Steffen
Steven Sternberger
Karen Uetweiller
Donald Weaver
Matthew Weitendorf
Carlyle Wimbish
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 O - Iowa Division
Post P - North Carolina Division

CONTRIBUTOR

\$10 - \$24.⁹⁹

Janet Blakley
Jane Dauber
Randall & Debra Gorske
Emma Hettler
Douglas Johnson
Joseph & Tessie Oros

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

RECEIVED JAN 01 - FEB 28, 2025

Jack S. Lederman
Nadine S. Lederman
Joel Lederman

TPA Hearing Trust An Interview With Joel Lederman

Joel Lederman is a dedicated member of TPA, with more than 60 years of membership in our Association. He is a former National Board member, two-time former National President and Vice President, and has held many positions at the state and post level. He is currently a Trustee for the TPA Hearing Trust.

“The day I turned 18, my dad handed me an application,” Joel recalls, “and said ‘fill this out and you won’t regret it because it is a great organization.’ I didn’t know what I was doing, and my mom had to help me fill it out. But here I am, still a member today.”

Jack Lederman’s influence also extended to supporting TPA’s charitable endeavors. In 1974/1975, the elder Lederman was the TPA National President from Nebraska, and the Vice President was Raymond Johnson from Pennsylvania. Looking for a way to help their fellow man, they worked to create what is now known as the TPA Hearing Trust.

At the time another popular fraternal, the Lions Club, had started collecting eyeglasses that were then shared with individuals who could not afford to purchase them. Their mission was to help spread sight to those in need.

This sparked the idea of helping those who were unable to hear; as there was no organization helping those who were deaf or severely hard of hearing.

“My father considered the Trust the most important thing for TPA,” Joel said. “Taking someone who couldn’t hear and helping them hear - helping them learn to speak.” Often individuals who cannot hear have great difficulty learning to talk.

The Trust was created not only for TPA members, but for anyone who is in need - from young children to those in their 80s and 90s. There are two criteria for receiving a grant: medical need and financial need. The medical need is confirmed by a

professional statement of diagnosis that is required on the application. Applicants are also asked to provide financial documentation so that the Trustees can evaluate financial need.

One day Joel’s father asked Joel to write a check for \$500 for the Trust.

“I was helping a customer and he stood and waited for me to write that check. He wasn’t going to leave without it, even though he needed it that second like he needed a hole in the head.” Joel says with a laugh.

“He accepted the check and said ‘I’m counting on you to write another \$500 check later.’ That’s the way that dad approached it. He wouldn’t give up - that’s just the way he helped.”

Promising to continue the legacy, Joel told his father that he would never stop supporting the Trust, “He would have never been able to comprehend that they have been able to award \$2.2 million in scholarships. It is because of the generosity of TPA members that the Trust is able to help so many people.”

“I thank the Man above that I am able to donate at the level that I can,” Joel states. He annually contributes at the Double-Platinum Pacesetter level. Joel also believes, “If everyone donated at least \$25 to the scholarship trust, think of all to good we could do with the money.”

TPA Headquarters supplies the staff and office space for the TPA Hearing Trust, maximizing the amount of your donation that goes to help people in need. The TPA Hearing Trust continues to change to meet the needs of the applicants. Recently they began awarding grants on a monthly basis instead of quarterly, allowing applicants to more quickly receive funding for their hearing needs. The list of approved items is also continuously reviewed to reflect evolving technology and treatment regimens.



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.



BECOME A PACESETTER!

THE TPA HEARING TRUST DONATION SLIP

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

AMOUNT \$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$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)

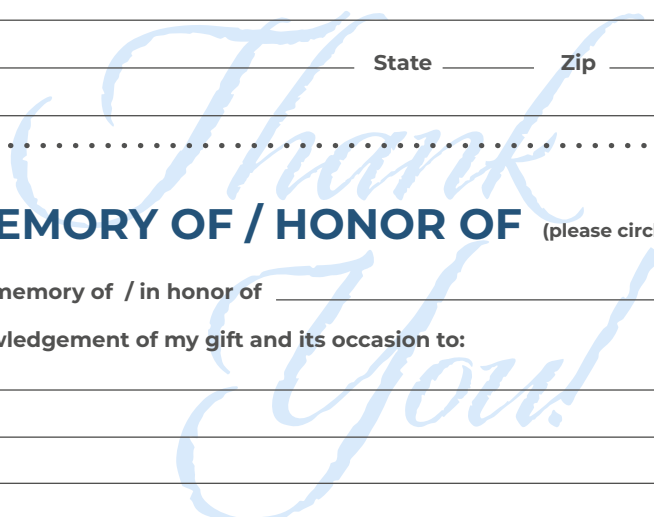
Name of person in memory of / in honor of _____

Please send acknowledgement 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:

TPA Hearing Trust

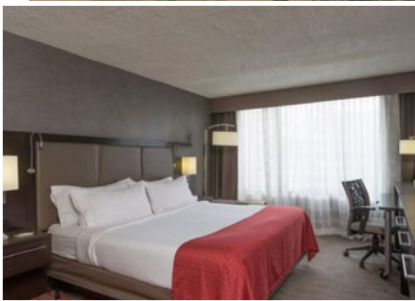
2041 Exchange Drive | St. Charles, MO 63303

636-724-2227



Join Us

For the 2025
TPA National Convention



It's not too soon to make plans to attend TPA's 135th National Convention!

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.



There are so many attractions and places to visit in Grantville, Pennsylvania and the surrounding area, that you'll want to turn your trip to the 135th National Convention into a family vacation!

MEMORIAL LAKE STATE PARK

Get out and enjoy the fresh air at Memorial Lake State Park. Enjoy the more than 230 acres of park, located near the base of Blue Mountain in East Hanover Township, Lebanon County. The park has two miles of trails that allows visitors to take casual walks through most of the park including scenic views of the lake. Birders may observe more than 100 different land and water species in the park, especially during the migratory seasons.

SO SWEET - HERSHEY'S CHOCOLATE WORLD

A must-see attraction is Hershey's Chocolate World. Take a delicious trip to see how chocolate is made - from the cocoa bean to candy bar you'll love this free chocolate factory tour ride complete with samples at the end. You can make a one-of-a-kind treat at the "Create Your Own Candy Bar" experience, satisfy your sweet tooth with a world-famous milkshake or enjoy some traditional bakery treats. Bring your wallet for some shopping in the World's Largest Hershey's Store, filled with unique gifts and all your favorite candy. Hershey's Chocolate World is located next to Hersheypark.

PRESS YOUR LUCK

Hollywood Casino at Penn National Race Course features a variety of entertainment options. They offer live and simulcast thoroughbred racing, and an array of casino games. From casual to fine dining, their restaurants are sure to please. Or, if you are in a hurry, enjoy their grab and go dining options. Sit back and enjoy the music at their Summer Concert Series. It's free to watch a live horse race (specific days). Guests under 21 are permitted in the outdoor race-viewing area and can see the horses up close in the pre-race area and take photos in the winner's circle!

HOP ON OVER TO HARRISBURG

From the convention hotel, it's just a short trip to Harrisburg, the Capital of Pennsylvania.

Visit City Island which has a little bit of something for everyone. Enjoy a Harrisburg Senators baseball games, the AA affiliate of the Washington Nationals, whose baseball diamond has a beautiful city view. You can also take a ride on the red and white Pride of the Susquehanna Riverboat for a unique, panoramic view of Harrisburg's skyline. This 75-minute cruise teaches you about the ecology and history of the Susquehanna River. Or take a nostalgic ride on a beautiful antique Carousel whose painted ponies will transport you back in time. Walk through a beautiful, covered bridge at Fort Hunter Park. The Everhart Covered Bridge was originally built in 1881 and has been preserved for visitors to admire.

Sources: visithersheyharrisburg.org, hersheypark.com, pa.gov

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

2025 TPA National Convention JUNE 15 - 19

Grantville, Pennsylvania

Please provide the information requested below so that National Headquarters may prepare your registration packet prior to arrival in Grantville, Pennsylvania. The information requested is important for the preparation of name badges, President’s Banquet tickets, and other information pertinent to the convention.

NAME OF ATTENDEES – *Please Print names as to how they should appear on name badges*

_____	Cert No. _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Delegate	<input type="checkbox"/> Alternate	<input type="checkbox"/> Guest	<input type="checkbox"/> Youth
_____	Cert No. _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Delegate	<input type="checkbox"/> Alternate	<input type="checkbox"/> Guest	<input type="checkbox"/> Youth
_____	Cert No. _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Delegate	<input type="checkbox"/> Alternate	<input type="checkbox"/> Guest	<input type="checkbox"/> Youth
_____	Cert No. _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Delegate	<input type="checkbox"/> Alternate	<input type="checkbox"/> Guest	<input type="checkbox"/> Youth
_____	Cert No. _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Delegate	<input type="checkbox"/> Alternate	<input type="checkbox"/> Guest	<input type="checkbox"/> Youth

ATTENDEE INFORMATION

Division _____ Post _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____

Phone Numbers Home _____ - _____ - _____ Work _____ - _____ - _____

Cell _____ - _____ - _____

Please send the above listed information to National Headquarters no later than May 14, 2025.

HOST HOTEL RESERVATIONS

- » When making reservations refer to **Travelers Protective Association/TPA** and our Block Code **TP1**.
- » Reservations can also be made using the link on our website at tpahq.org.
- » Room rate is \$135.46 per day, inclusive of taxes and fees.
- » Free parking available on site.
- » **Deadline to make your hotel reservations is May 14, 2025.**
- » Service animals consistent with the law are allowed.
- » Breakfast tickets will be provided by the hotel at check-in.
- » There is no airport shuttle provided by the hotel.

<p>HOLIDAY INN Harrisburg-Hershey Area 604 Station Road Grantville, Pennsylvania 17028 1-717-469-0661</p>	<p>REGISTRATION FEE Host Hotel Registration - \$133.46 Commuter Registration - \$140 Ages 13 - 17 Registration - \$40 Fee for Youth ages 12 and under is waived.</p>
--	--

**DO NOT SEND MONEY TO NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS.
 PAY AT THE REGISTRATION TABLE WHEN YOU ARRIVE.**

TPA ANNUAL MEETING - SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Holiday Inn – Grantville, Pennsylvania

SUNDAY, JUNE 15, 2025

9:30 - 10:50 am	National Board of Directors Meeting	Board Room TBA
11:00 am - 12:00 pm	TPA Hearing Trust - Trustees Meeting	Board Room TBA
1:00 - 4:00 pm	Registration - Delegates and Guests	Lobby
11:00 am - 4:00 pm	Sunday Hospitality Room	Congressional
4:30 - 5:00 pm	Worship Service w/ Richard Martin	Congressional
5:00 - 11:00 pm	TPA Hearing Trust Live Auction	Royal Ballroom
6:00 pm	Entertainment TBA	

MONDAY, JUNE 16, 2025

9:00 am - 12:00 pm	Business Session	Grande I & II
	Memorial Service	
	Exemplification of Ritual	
9:00 am - 12:00 pm	Youth Program	TBA
12:00 - 1:00 pm	TPA Past and Present Officers Group - Luncheon	Royale Ballroom
1:30 - 2:15 pm	State Secretaries Group	Grande I & II
2:15 - 3:30 pm	Open Training / Q&A with Headquarters Staff	Grande I & II

TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 2025

FREE DAY - NO TPA COMMITMENTS

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 2025

9:00 am - 12:00 pm	Business Session	Grande I & II
9:00 am - 1:15 pm	Youth Program	TBA
	NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S BANQUET	
5:00 - 11:00 pm	Happy Hour	Royal Ballroom
6:30 - 7:00 pm	Speech	Royal Ballroom
6:00 - 7:00 pm	Dinner (Ticket Required)	
7:45 - 10:30 pm	Entertainment	TBA

THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 2025

9:00 am - 12:00 pm	Business Session	Grande I & II
9:00 am - 12:00 pm	Youth Program	TBA
1:00 - 3:00 pm	National Board of Directors Meeting	Board Room TBA
	All Holdover And Newly Elected Directors	

JULIE KUPPER Candidate For National President TEXAS

Having “grown up” in TPA due to my dad’s commitment and belief in all that TPA stands for, I became a member in 1993 (when women were invited to be members). In 2023, I was honored to be elected Vice President, and President in 2024. I became the Texas Division Secretary in 2010 and since that time, I have also served on the national board of directors. During my years as a director, I served on the finance committee, membership committee and bylaws committee, both Fraternalist of the Year and Merit Award, as well as being appointed a trustee for the TPA Hearing Trust, where I was honored to serve as chair for several years.



My professional career included 35 years as an elementary school teacher, 19 years in physical education, four years as a classroom teacher and 12 years as the librarian. I have also served as an adjunct at the University of Texas Permian Basin where I have taught methods classes and supervised both student teachers and interns. The grand total of my professional service is 51 years during which time I learned to work with a variety of personalities, including teachers, administrators and students.

I understand the necessity of keeping all channels of communication open... those between the staff at national office and board of directors as well as members of this Association. I believe that we have a great organization that will move forward under the leadership of the current CAO. I believe that I can be a team player on the National Board of Directors and I would give my best effort to those divisions that would be represented.

Julie Kupper | National President 2024-2025

The following National Offices are up for election at the Thursday business session of the 2025 Annual Meeting:

- National President
- National Vice President
- Four (4) National Board Members
- Three (3) National Committee Chairs (Safety, Communications, Community Service)

Nominations must be submitted in good order to the Chief Administrative Officer by noon on the day before the election.

Contact CAO Robert Schapp with any questions or for assistance.



WRITERS CLUB

as of February 28, 2024

44

Revonda Brady
North Carolina

30

Linda Payseur
North Carolina

25

Sandy Wentworth
Michigan

25

Wayne L. Wentworth
Michigan

RICHARD MARTIN Candidate For National Vice President SOUTH CAROLINA

I am a candidate for reelection as National Vice President from the great State of South Carolina. I am seeking this office because of my deep love and respect for TPA. Since I became a member in 1984 many things have changed for TPA and its membership but not our core values of TRUTH, PATRIOTISM and ALTRUISM. We share an unwavering support for our communities we live in, the safety and community service projects we participate in, the Hearing Trust and the Homer T. Wilson Humanitarian Fund. Once I became involved in these activities, I knew TPA would be a great part of my life.



Since 1984 I have served in many capacities for TPA, serving at the Post (Post K, Rock Hill SC), and the Division (South Carolina) level in every position available except Secretary/Treasurer of the Post or Division. On the National level, I served as Trustee of the Hearing Trust for several years, National Welfare Chair, National Safety Chair, member of the National Board of Directors, National Vice President 2009-2010, National President 2010-2011. In 2016 I was the Fraternalist of the Year. I will give my time, gifts and efforts to make sure that TPA continues to grow.

I am a graduate of Rock Hill High, Rock Hill, South Carolina. I graduated from Winthrop College, Rock Hill, South Carolina with BA and a graduate degree from Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia. I served as a United Methodist Minister for 30 years to churches in Georgia and South Carolina. In that capacity I was responsible for all aspects of the church including it's finances. I was co-owner of two used car dealerships where I was responsible for finance, personnel and marketing.

I promise to serve TPA with honesty, integrity, and faithfulness. I ask for your support in this endeavor.

Richard L Martin | National Vice President 2024-2025

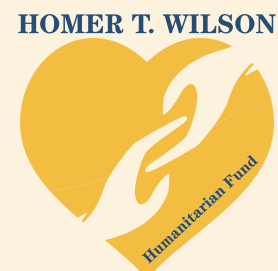
THE HOMER T. WILSON HUMANITARIAN FUND

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 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



Virginia is for Lovers... of Fun!

No matter what you love to do on your vacation, Virginia won't disappoint.

Love History? Virginia is for you!

Colonial Williamsburg allows you to explore dozens of time-period buildings, homes and shops. This historic town is located on 301 acres of land. The buildings have been reconstructed, most of them on their original foundations, to help create an authentic experience.

Located in Williamsburg you'll want to visit the **Governor's Palace**, a 3,380-square-foot Georgian home including a beautiful wine cellar and immaculate grounds hosting a formal garden and natural park. The palace includes a stable, carriage house, kitchen, scullery, laundry and a unique octagonal bathhouse.

Visit the old watering hole **Raleigh Tavern**, once the town's center of events and a gathering place where plans were made during the American Revolution. The **Magazine Yard and Guardhouse** is a colonial arsenal displaying a collection of muskets and cannons. You can watch a musket-firing demonstration, and observe the militia conduct drills.

Also included in Williamsburg, you'll find a Courthouse, Liberty Lounge, Bruton Parish Church, Williamsburg Bray School and Charlton's Coffeehouse.



Step back in time, as you experience the 18th century trades as skilled demonstrators use authentic, time-period tools and techniques in their crafts.

There are opportunities for you to get real, hands-on experiences with different trades including:

- » Blacksmith
- » Brickmaker
- » Engraver
- » Farmer & gardener
- » Gunsmith
- » Tin plate worker
- » Weaver
- » and more!



Love Nature? Their parks are calling.

Shenandoah National Park contains cascading waterfalls, spectacular vistas, fields of wildflowers and tons of wildlife. With over 200,000 acres of protected lands, you'll want to start at the visitor centers, where they can help you can plan your itinerary and choose your adventure.

SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK

There are hikes for individuals of every skill level. If you want a nice light walk that you can do with children or grandkids, try Fort Windham Rocks. It will take you about an hour to hike the trail that runs along the larger Appalachian Trail, leading you through deeply split boulders that rise more than 50 feet above ground. Just over a mile long, Fox Hollow Trail allows you to learn about the cultural history of Shenandoah National Park as you pass by historic rock walls, a cemetery and periwinkles planted by former residents.

For the skilled hiker, **Old Rag** is an adventurous rock hike with 360-degree views that make you feel like you're on top of the world. While hiking to the summit of Old Rag is very physically demanding, it is considered worth it.

Don't like hiking? Stay in your car and enjoy the **Skyline Drive** that runs 105 miles north and south along the crest of the Blue Ridge Mountains. It takes about three hours to travel the entire length of the Park on a clear day.

In addition to hiking, you can enjoy fishing, rock climbing, bike riding, star gazing, birding, horseback riding and camping.

Great Falls National Park is also a must see for nature lovers. There are trails that lead to the falls, where you'll find three scenic overlooks that all provide breath-taking views. Start at the Visitors' Center and follow the paths across footbridges and along the Potomac River to see the falls.

Bring your lunch and enjoy the picnic tables available throughout the park. It also contains hiking trails, multi-use trails for horseback riders and cyclists, climbing and fishing. Because of currents, there is no swimming or wading into the river, but they allow whitewater boating for experienced boaters.



Love Family? Try Richmond

Kids of all ages (even those who are kids at heart) will enjoy **Kings Dominion and Soak City**. The park has more than 60 rides, including thrilling coasters like the Delirium, one of the most powerful pendulum rides on the planet, or the Pantherian, which contains 300-foot drop at an 85-degree angle.

Kids will love **Planet Snoopy** that has family friendly rides and activities. You can cool off at **Soak City**, their water park. You can relax on the lazy river or in the one of the water side cabanas, available for rent. Soak City also has thrilling water slides, a wave pool, water playgrounds and tubing. If you decide to visit this summer, you'll be in luck! Kings Dominion is celebrating 50 years of fun in 2025!

The **Science Museum of Virginia** is a popular family destination. Enjoy their permanent exhibits dedicated to movement, time, the human body and mind, light, math and more. Roll up your sleeves and create in **The Forge**, the permanent Makerspace, by watching demonstrations or working on your own unique creation. Kids will love the **Towers of Tomorrow** exhibit that features A hands-on exhibits around architecture and design with LEGO® Bricks. In addition, the museum hosts many traveling exhibits, so each visit is a unique experience.

From volcano to astronomy, you love to watch documentaries on **The Dome**. This 76-foot screen provides ultimate viewing experience.

The **Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden** has more than 50 acres of beautiful flower and botanicals. Some of their collections include a Children's Garden, Rose Garden, and Asian Valley Garden. Take a stroll along the Cherry Tree Walk, which will lead you around the lake and you enjoy the flowering tree blossoms. Enjoy a light lunch at the Garden Café or find the perfect souvenir at the gift shop.



THE VALENTINE

The Valentine is more than just a museum, it's a historical experience, known for its antique, vintage and contemporary collections. "Signs of the Times" is a collection of neon signs from Richmond businesses which illustrates commercial growth and advertising trends. In January 2024, the "Sculpting History" exhibit opened displaying artwork sculpted by Edward Valentine. The Wickham House is a neoclassical-inspired home, built between 1812-1815 for Richmond attorney John Wickham and his wife Elizabeth. This home presents a glimpse into the Wickham's life and the times of the early Federal period. Tours are about 45 minutes long. Your next stop is the Valentine First Freedom Center, which celebrates the important history of the past, present and future of religious freedom in America. Learn about the important role religion played in our country's history.

KINGS DOMINION & SOAK CITY





Love Sand in Your Toes?

*Try
Virginia Beach*

Virginia Beach is a wonderful destination for families. There's a bustling three-mile long Boardwalk, which is ideal for rollerblading, jogging or casually walking along and taking in the view. During the summer you'll find live entertainment all along the Boardwalk, providing a variety of musical styles. Grab your cameras or cell phones, you'll be sure to want a picture with the iconic 34-foot tall bronze sculpture of Neptune, just outside of Neptune Park. The boardwalk is also lined with quaint outdoor restaurants offering everything from beachy cocktails to fine-dining.

On their beautiful oceanfront, you can try a parasailing adventure where you can look down on the shores from up high or stay closer to the ground and see the shoreline from a distance with one of their many boat tours. After lounging on the beach, try your hand at stand-up paddleboarding, jet skiing or kayaking along the water line. Virginia Beach is also a great place for surfing and there are lots of opportunities for beginners to take lessons.

History buffs will love Virginia Beach, which boasts many museums and cultural attractions. Stroll the six larger than life

bronze sculptures that represent three historic eras in the Naval Aviation Monument Park or take a peek back in time at the Military Aviation Museum that hosts the largest collection of WWI and WWII aircraft in the country.

Sources: colonialwilliamsburg.org, nps.gov, visitrichmondva.com, kingsdominion.com, thevalentine.org, lewisginter.org/visit/gardens, visitvirginiabeach.com





2024-2025 MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVE PROGRAM GOAL OF 1,000 NEW APPLICATIONS

START DATE: MAY 1, 2024 – END 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**

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 NEW MEMBER & 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.



Making a Positive Impact on those who are deaf and hard of hearing

tpa.org/tpa-hearing-trust

grants awarded by the Hearing Trust.

children in the hearing loss



Thank You Dana Kurtz for nearly 50 years of service!

Shortly after graduating high school, Dana went to work in the claims department at TPA headquarters. She started at the notice desk, worked her way up to correspondence, then to claims assistant, and finally, for the past 11 years, as the claims manager, the role she was serving at the time of her retirement.

During her tenure she served under seven Chief Administrative Officers. Dana has compassionately served the members and officers of TPA in a career that would span almost five decades, and the rest as they say, is history!

Dana says working at the home office has felt like being part of a family. She fondly remembers office parties and celebrations, wedding and baby showers and bringing her sons, Jeremy and Andrew, to the office when they were little.

Now that she's retired, Dana is excited about having more time to spend with her family and helping in her community, hoping to volunteer at one of the animal shelters in her area.

Don't worry, Dana still plans on staying active with the association as a member of Post SL of the Missouri Division. She has attended more than 15 conventions and is looking forward to attending many more in the future.

We asked Dana how she felt about her retirement, and she said, "I am excited and scared to be retiring from this job, it has been part of my identity for nearly 50 years. My work at TPA has at times been challenging, but has always been where I wanted to be. I am proud of the Association and I've been honored to be a part of it for my entire career.

"There are many co-workers, members and officers that I have worked with that I consider to be dear friends. After a while I'm sure I will miss going into the office every day, but I will really miss seeing and chatting with my friends in the office and in the field. To all of you, thanks for the memories! Wish me luck!"



"There aren't many among us who can remember a TPA without Dana Kurtz. I personally appreciate her many contributions over these many years. I have enjoyed talking TPA history with her, and am grateful that she is leaving a portion of her TPA memorabilia collection for us to continue to display at TPA Headquarters."

Bob Schapp - TPA CAO



Enjoy your retirement!

DON PREISLER A TPA WORLD TRAVELER

From skiing across his home state of Wisconsin to jogging on the Great Wall of China, Don Preisler puts the “travel” in Travelers Protective Association. Don is a member of Minnesota Post AB. He joined TPA June 1969 and has been a member for over 55 years.

During his professional career, he spent 43 years working for Flambeau Paper Mill, where he was a National Sales Manager. He also owned and operated Park Manor Nursing Home and Eagle Pointe Lodging.

Don loves the outdoors and sports. He’s taken those two passions and shared them with the community. He built and paid for the first tennis courts in Park Falls. He was also instrumental in bringing two county parks to Park

Falls – Tuscobia Trailhead Park, and Smith Lake Park and Campground – as well as the Park Falls Recreation Arena.

He has held number leadership roles in the community, serving on the Board of Trustees for Park Falls Library, Phillips Library, Ogema Library, Indiana Federated Library Systems, Peace Lutheran Church, and Friends of Tuscobia Trail, to name a few.

His world travels led him to many once-in-a-lifetime adventures. Don has gone diving in the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, jogged along the Great Wall of China, shook hands with Pope John Paul II in Rome, and toured Antarctica where he made friends with some penguins. In addition, he has skied the 55K American Birkebeiner and the 28K Hayward Kortelopet in Wisconsin, as well as slopes in Europe. Don has a heart of service, which drew him to Mexico. There he became involved with the Zihuatanejo Roofing Project, that provides roofs for the needy in the community of Zihuatanejo.

Although he has traveled the world, Don only has one home, and it still had a special place in his heart - as you can tell from his poem.

Thanks for sharing your adventures with us Don!

Note: Don Preisler passed away in Feb. 2025. We are sorry that we were unable to complete our interview with him. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Preisler family. Don, and all the departed members of TPA, will be remembered in our memorial service at our Annual Convention.



Park Falls My Hometown

A poem by Don Preisler

*Way up north in Wisconsin where
the trees grow nice and tall,
Flows the famous Flambeau River
through my hometown - Park Falls.
We love it in the Winter, Spring,
Summer and Fall,
We have four seasons and love
and enjoy them all.
Tourists come to see us and always
have a ball,
Especially in the summertime in
good 'ole Park Falls.
Winter has snowmobiling, skiing
and fishing through the ice,
Christmas time is coming so you
better be nice.
Spring has the best darn fishing
in our clear lakes and streams,
With the smell of grass and flowers
it's almost like a dream.
Summer nature walks are popular
with your family,
Deer, bear, ducks and grouse make
their home right here.
Biking, boating, camping and all
the other sports,
When you get back to Park Falls
there is the National Forest.
Fall leaves are bright red and gold,
and when they fall to the ground,
It's time for hunting in the Grouse
Capital of the World.
Then comes bear and deer season
and when the seasons are over,
Another year passes and we start
all over again,
With winter, spring, summer
and fall,
Way up North in good 'ole
Park Falls.*



ACTION

MEMBERS IN



ILLINOIS

Illinois Post E in Peoria collected 200 pairs of socks along with coats, gloves, blankets and sock hats at their dinner program at the Barracks Cater Inn.

Illinois State Secretary Dixie Burdett and National Director Dean Costello delivered the donations to Sophie's Kitchen in Peoria.



MICHIGAN

About 60 people attended Michigan Post A's Fall Membership Event and Silent Auction at the Sixth Street Hall in Grand Rapids.

Over 45 items were donated and included in the auction, raising just over \$1,000 for the TPA Hearing Trust.

Among the many items up for bid were splash park passes, jewelry, books, and wine and appetizer baskets.

Attendees also enjoyed dinner and played bingo for turkeys. Several new members also joined TPA at the event.

SOUTH CAROLINA

South Carolina Post K in Rock Hill recently presented a \$2,500 sponsorship check to Scholastic 3D Archery State Coordinator Sheila Tadlock.

This was made possible by a TPA Headquarters Post and Division Support (HQ-PADS) grant. S3DA is a program to foster, educate and guide youth in the specific areas of indoor target, 3D and outdoor target archery, as well as provide a basic understanding and respect for our natural resources, environment and nature. Several post members are associated with TPA, and Sheila and two members of her family have also joined.

There are plans to work together on a TPA membership drive in the near future. TPA will also raise its local profile with signage and program acknowledgement at S3DA events.



Sheila Tadlock, Helen Helms, Lawson McAteer



Sheila Tadlock, Lillie Auten, Helen Helms, Donald Helms, Fay Christenberry, Kay Aycoc, Charlie Aycoc, Lawson McAteer, Linda Grant, Richard Martin.



Members of SC Post K (Rock Hill) and NC Post P (Gastonia) participated together in the Hickory Grove, SC Christmas Parade on December 7, 2024.

National Director Kay Aycoc and Charlie Aycoc provided the Easy Go and the TPA Banners on both sides. It was decorated in a very festive Christmas way with lights and all the trimmings.

Riding with driver Kay were Fay Christenberry, Lawson and Lyric McAteer, Madison Sampers and Landon Williams.

They gave out lots of MEGA CANDY (the good stuff) along the route. It was a great day for all and TPA was well represented. MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!!!!



SOUTH BOSTON

Virginia Post D in South Boston continues to conduct informative and engaging membership meetings, with regular attendance of 20 or more!

Recent speakers include:

Matthew Candland, South Boston Town Manager, who 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;

Olivia O. Epps, Executive Director of YMCA of South Boston/Halifax County who explained the relationship with the YMCA of South Hampton Roads, programs offered by the local YMCA, membership opportunities and sponsorship opportunities.

Melanie Hastings, Director of CTE, Innovation, and Counseling for Halifax County Public Schools, who discussed the many opportunities that students have through the Vocational and Technical programs offered through the school system.



VA Vice President Carlyle Wimbish, Melanie Hastings, Post D President Gary Newcomb



IOWA

Iowa Post O members in Ottumwa celebrated the retirement of member Tracy Baker (seated) after 43 years with Hy-Vee grocery stores!

Standing L-R: Chris Cunningham, Frank Luke, Ken Venables, John Hunolt, Richard James and Jim Carlson.

KENTUCKY

Kentucky Post C was on Hendersonville's Main Street for Halloween. They distributed about 2,000 pieces of candy and 450 CHAD stickers for helmets and car seats. One young visitor showed that he knew what to do with a TPA bumper sticker!



ACTION MEMBERS IN



TEXAS

Texas Post M members Veronica Parr, Elizabeth Loos and Sharon Hardin delivered stuffed animals to the Cuero Police Department.

When the police are called and children are present or involved, the stuffed animals are given to them to help comfort them.



Ashley Williams, Julie Kupper, Jo Ann Acuff, Joe Acuff

Ashley Williams, Jo Ann Acuff



Joe Acuff

Members of Texas Post W sorted 3180 pounds of food, drinks, and hygiene products at the West Texas Food Bank.

After filling 2-pound bags of cereal for distribution at a later date, they further assisted by loading food into vehicles.



Chaquisha Dawson, Joe Acuff, Woody Kupper, Jo Ann Acuff, Julie Kupper, Ashley Williams, and Erik Hartman.



ACTION

MEMBERS IN



NORTH CAROLINA

North Carolina Post P in Gastonia distributed over 5,300 Halloween bags at the Greater Gaston Boys and Girls Club, the Gaston-Lincoln Partnership for Children, Lingerfeldt Elementary School and Woodhill Elementary School. Members and recipients always look forward to this annual project!

Audrey Hunt; Linda Payseur; Betsy Oakley; Anna Furr, Co-CEO of Greater Gaston Boys and Girls Club.

Post P in Greensboro has developed a beautiful ongoing relationship with the Haynes-Inman Education Center. With help from TPA's HQ-PADS program, the post has provided diapers, batteries, and many other supplies including TPA CHAD stickers to help the very special children at the school. A number of post members, led by NC Division President Revonda Brady, have delivered these items, participated in school programs, and made presentations to staff and parents. So far, nine new members have joined TPA in response to the post's displays of altruistic community service!



ACTION MEMBERS IN



NORTH CAROLINA

Post A in Greensboro had 22 members and 2 guests at their February dinner meeting. Both guests joined and are looking forward to being TPA members! Briana Steele of Environment Services presented an informative program on recycling and how we can help the community by participating.

At the 17th Annual Bikers Diaper Run for local nonprofit New Life, North Carolina Post P in Gastonia once again helped in a number of ways. In addition to serving lunch to the bikers and assisting with decorating, setting up and taking down tables and chairs, helped load and unload all the donated baby items.



L-R: Volunteer Troy Beaty with Post P members Linda Payseur; David Payseur; Audrey Hunt; Alice Horton; Abby Gathings; Fonda Denton; Betsy Oakley and Becky Dickson.



North Carolina Post A adopted 10 students at Vandalia Elementary School and provided clothes, shoes and toys. State President Revonda Brady visited Vandalia and presented the gifts through the school's social worker.

There were 21 in attendance at Greensboro, North Carolina Post A's Christmas party, including one guest and two new members. Gifts and a great dinner were enjoyed by all!



PENNSYLVANIA

TPA Pennsylvania Post W of Lycoming County traditionally makes donations to organizations in the greater Williamsport area. The post voted to give \$500 each to VFW Leroy O. Buck Post 7863 in Duboistown and Royal P. Steinbacher American Legion Post 617 in South Williamsport.



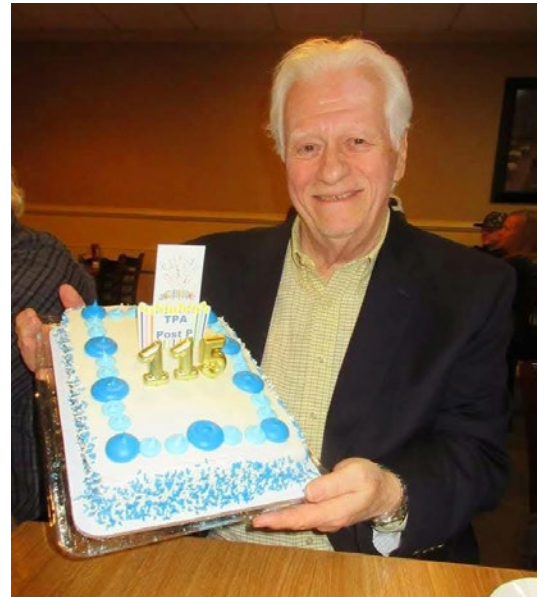
Post W President Larry D. Campbell presented the checks to VFW Post 7863 Treasurer Donna Rearick and American Legion Post 617 Commander Timothy Willits.

Post L, Lehigh Valley of the Pennsylvania Division hosted a holiday party at the Superior Restaurant. Members and guests enjoyed a delicious meal while spreading holiday cheer.



VIRGINIA

Post P of the VA Division recently celebrated its **115th Anniversary!** They read letters of congratulations from National President Julie Kupper and CAO Bob Schapp. Membership pins were presented to Rose Jory (30 years), Eddie Sharp (30 years), Carroll Caravan (5 years) and Woody Carawan (5 years). James McCrary (55 years) and James Hughes (50 years) were unable to attend. Henry Odom, the post's oldest member, was visited at his home by Post President Joe Garlitz and State Secretary Rose Jory to receive his 65-year pin and certificate.



OKLAHOMA

Post A in Oklahoma City donated funds to Freedom City, a non-profit that provides counseling, tutoring and mentoring to students in the OKC public school district. Pictured is State Secretary Fred Berry presenting the check to some of the staff and the little clients of Freedom City. Each week during the school year, Fred volunteers with Freedom City as a tutor and mentor.



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED.

TEACHING YOUR CHILD THE RULES OF SAFE RIDING

GIVE HAND & ARM SIGNALS

Before turning or stopping, give the proper signal in plenty of time to let others know what you intend to do.

RIDE ON THE RIGHT

Ride only on the right hand side of the street or roadway the same as if you were driving an automobile. Watch carefully when passing a parked car or truck. When overtaking a car ahead, pass on the left when the way is clear.

RIDE SINGLE FILE

When on the streets and highways with other bicyclists, ride single file, one behind the other. Keep three bicycle lengths behind the rider you are following.

USE YOUR OWN POWER

Never hitch onto cars or trucks. Bicycle riders or persons on coasters or roller skates must never cling or hold on to moving cars or trucks. Keep a safe distance behind the automobile you are following, ready for a sudden stop.

RIDE ALONE

Don't carry another person on the handlebars or crossbar of your bicycle. It makes balance uncertain and steering unsteady. Only one person should ride on a standard bicycle.

NIGHT RIDING

Night riding is doubly dangerous. Don't ride after dark if you can avoid it. If you must ride at night, ride slowly with extra care and remember you must have a good light and reflector that can be seen clearly.

RIDE STRAIGHT

Ride in a straight line. Don't weave in and out of traffic or try trick riding on the street or sidewalk. Keep your head up.

ENTER THE STREET WITH CARE

Don't ride out of driveways or alleys or ride from behind parked cars without stopping and looking to see that the sidewalks or streets are clear. Walk your bicycle and mount after leaving the driveway.

CARRY THINGS PROPERLY

Keep at least one hand on the handlebars at all times. Never carry bundles that will prevent this. It is best to have a bicycle basket on the front, or a rack on the back with straps, to carry books or other packages.

SLOW DOWN AT ALL STREET CORNERS

Slow down and look both ways before crossing street corners. Walk your bicycle when crossing heavy traffic or busy highways.

YIELD TO CARS

Do not ride in front of a car, even if you have the right of way. Cars are bigger, faster and heavier and more difficult to maneuver than your bike.

OBEY ALL TRAFFIC REGULATIONS

You must observe and obey all traffic rules as drivers of cars and trucks are required to do. Traffic signs, lights, one-way streets and crosswalk markings apply to the bicycle rider as well as to drivers and people who are walking. You must always ride at a safe speed to fit conditions. A red light or stop sign means **STOP**. A yellow or amber light and yield signs mean **CAUTION** or proceed carefully.

LEARN YOUR LOCAL TRAFFIC RULES

Many cities and towns require riders to secure bicycle licenses and obey other local bicycle rules. Some towns and cities permit riders under 12 years of age to use the sidewalks in residential areas. Ask your chief of police to tell you of the bicycle rules for your own town.



MAKE SAFETY FIRST AND MAKE IT LAST

