



## PAUMANOK CHAPTER NO. 85 NASSAU COUNCIL SPRING 2007 NEWSLETTER



### President's Message

Dear members,

We had many successful projects last year and we have taken off at lightening speed this year. We used our Verizon Foundation Grant, membership dues, and fundraising money to help many people in need. We got a lot of cooperation from local Verizon management for our use of buildings, services, and the release of board members and project directors to manage our many activities. We are becoming the face of Verizon in FIOS areas. We work with External Affairs to show that what makes us different from our competition is that our employees and retirees care about our communities

#### **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

We are an integral participant in HOPELINE, the Verizon signature program collecting used cell phones for victims of domestic violence. We collected hundreds of phones in 2006 alone, and will be setting up collection boxes in every garage and building. BRIGHTER TOMORROWS is the Pioneer domestic violence project supported by the Verizon Foundation. We collected, assembled, and distributed over 100 backpacks filled with educational and fun activities for children affected by domestic violence. WELCOME HOME BASKETS were distributed to victims of domestic violence who are starting over in a new location. These baskets are filled with the everyday household necessities that you and I take for granted. The baskets were given to the Nassau County Coalition Against Domestic Violence in Hempstead.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL**

RECYCLING has always been a big part of Pioneering. We collect used batteries, ink toner and cartridges and make sure they are all disposed of properly. GARVIE'S POINT annual clean up will be held in June 9<sup>th</sup> and we are always looking for people to help with this project, as with all of our other projects. GROWING EDUCATION projects are when we distribute over 1000 seedlings and books to school children around Arbor Day.

### **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

POCKET FLAGS FOR THE TROOPS is a new regional project. We have purchased, and are in the process of folding and distributing U.S. flags to our troops overseas. PROJECT LINUS is the making of homemade security blankets for children in need. We are always looking for yarn and people willing to help knit and crochet these blankets. BLOOD DRIVES are constantly underway in a joint effort with CWA Local 1104.

BIRTHDAY IN A BAG distributes a party shopping bag loaded with all the supplies necessary for a needy child to throw a birthday party for family and friends.

HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE is one of our biggest projects where we collect, purchase, and deliver hundreds of toys to area Outreaches.

OUTREACH NECESSITIES is where we purchase supermarket gift cards that are then given over to food pantries to distribute to the needy.

TIME IS PRECIOUS is where we collect and repair used watches to give to the needy.

DISASTER CLEAN-UP KITS are distributed to victims of disasters such as Hurricane Katrina. These kits are buckets loaded with cleaning supplies.

### **EDUCATION**

N.Y. STATE CHILDREN'S LITERACY CENTER at Nassau County Family Court was our recipient this year of over 30 Easter Baskets that we assembled.

U.S. MAP RUGS are given to schools to help teach geography.

MOTHER GOOSE READS is one of our most popular projects where some of our members dress as Mother Goose and go into schools and read to preschool, kindergarten and first graders. These children are then given a book courtesy of Verizon and the Pioneers.

DICTIONARIES are also distributed to upper elementary grade school children.

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT is another area where the Pioneer's train and place volunteers in schools. We are planning another training session and are looking for volunteers.

LARGE PRINT BOOKS are given to nursing homes.

### **VETERANS**

STANDDOWNS are held twice a year. We collect, toiletries, food, boots, shoes, clothing, blankets, suitcases and towels, gloves, and hats and give them to homeless veterans.

POW-MIA MEMORIAL-we purchase and distribute flags and candles for the annual ceremony. This year's ceremony will be held on September 15, and all are welcome.

MEMORIAL DAY weekend will find our volunteers at Calverton National Cemetery where we will be placing flags on our departed soldiers graves.

CARE PACKAGES are collected, assembled, and mailed to our troops overseas.

This is only a part of what the Pioneers do for our communities. We have a lot of dedicated volunteers and are always looking for more. Ask another Verizon employee to join the TelecomPioneers today.

Yours in Pioneering,  
Thomas R. Kennedy

## **SOME OF OUR UPCOMING PROJECTS**

It is time for the Verizon TelecomPioneer annual scholarships that are awarded to graduating high school seniors. We annually award five scholarships in the amount of \$300 each. These scholarships are available to everyone and the applications and guidelines will be posted on our website [www.verizonpaumanokpioneers.org](http://www.verizonpaumanokpioneers.org)

Mother's Day and Father's Day are fast approaching and the Pioneers want to make sure that the residents of nursing homes are not being forgotten. With a donation given to us by our Chapter office, we will be purchasing mementos to give to people in nursing homes who might otherwise be overlooked at this time.

On June 9<sup>th</sup>, we will be doing a cleanup of Garvie's Point. The Pioneers, led by Retiree Dick Doster, devote many hours annually to helping keep this preserve beautiful for us all to enjoy. If anyone is interested in helping, please contact the Pioneer Office at 631 661-5692. Please feel free to contact them with any questions you might have about any of our projects and volunteer opportunities.

In May, we will be having our annual Mother's Day Plant sale fundraiser at some of our buildings. This fundraising event has been very successful in past years and we continue to count on your support. Please check your building bulletin boards for flyers with all the details.

The Pioneer's are always looking for causes that they can take on to and help make a difference in. If you know of something that you think we might be able to help out with please see your local Pioneer representative or contact the office at 631 661-5692. We are always looking for volunteers. If you want to help make a difference and have a lot of fun at the same time, come join us.

There is an ongoing collection to donate "Coupons to the Military" Families of our troops overseas are sometimes left with very little monetary means of support. They are allowed to use cents-off coupons up to six months past the expiration dates as long as they are presented to an on base commissary. Please donate any extra coupons that you have. These coupons must be cut and trimmed to size to cut down on mailing costs.

Please visit the Pioneer store at 741 Zeckendorf Boulevard. They have many interesting items for sale including Verizon branded sweatshirts and T-shirts. Call Hank Nowicki at 516 683-7968 with any questions regarding his merchandise.



Pioneer volunteers distribute food items to the homeless at the Stand-down held this past fall at the Armory in Freeport

Hundreds of turkey dinners with all the trimmings were cooked and distributed



**Pioneering is a great way to support your company's commitment to the community!**

Volunteers  
Bea Combs  
and  
Arlene Pottash  
take advantage  
of a photo-op  
with  
Representative  
Tom Suozzi



**Pioneering provides the opportunity to improve the quality of life in your local communities. You can see first hand the difference you are making.**



**This past Holiday season we assembled over 50 boxes of goodies to be shipped to our troops overseas**

**Pioneering projects enable you to network and bond with your colleagues as you volunteer together in the spirit of giving**



**Easter Baskets are assembled at 741 Zeckendorf Boulevard in Garden City**



**The Easter Baskets were then delivered to the N.Y. State Children's Literacy Center**



**A map rug of the United States is presented to one of our community's elementary schools**



**Louise Protosow, dressed as Mother Goose, and a group of Pioneer volunteers visited the Cherokee School in Ronkonkoma where they presented storybooks to kindergarten children, and dictionaries to third graders**

**It is fun and personally rewarding to be a Pioneer. By volunteering, you continue a long legacy of answering the call of those in need. Why don't you come and join is!**

