

ATT 100th Year Anniversary

In honor of our 100th year anniversary, the AT&T Pioneers international theme this year is **Sparking Pioneers for a New Century of Service**. And our Alabama Chapter selected the theme, **"CONNECTING THE PAST TO SPARK THE FUTURE"**.

To help honor this milestone in our history and our service to the community in the future, our Metro council adopted the theme;

Special Pioneers at ATT Reaching the K^{ommunity} (SPARK) -

Please watch for upcoming volunteer opportunities and events and plan now to help us sparkle.



Betty M Wells
President, ATT Pioneers
Volunteer Network

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President's Message

Welcome back to Metro Council – City Center News – Continuing as ‘Special Pioneers at ATT Reaching the K^{ommunity} (SPARK)’ dedicated to helping to improve the quality of life for all people.

On behalf of the hundreds of members of Metro Council of AT&T Pioneers, we thank you for your time and continued readership! We've decided to make the newsletter a two month edition which we hope to fill with valuable content of both highlights from our programs and projects and helpful information we all can use.

Being a historical year for the organization, I thought I'd share a little of the history and structure of the organization – The Telecom Pioneers, Inc. was founded in 1911 and through to now 2011, the Pioneers have continued to serve our community in the spirit of excellence and making a difference. The Telecom Pioneers organization is divided into chapters. For efficient administration, the chapters were organized into councils, clubs and Life Member Clubs according to geography and population density. The

Pioneers is made up of both active and retired employees and Pioneer partners/associates.

The Alabama Chapter was formed in February 25, 1925 and its headquarters is in Birmingham, Alabama. With much emphasis this year on the AT&T Pioneer organization's 100 years, I think worth noting here that the Alabama chapter has had almost 100 presidents. The current Alabama Chapter president is Bell Rogers. Today the Alabama Chapter consists of seven councils, one club and four Life Member clubs that continues to be a network of volunteers who effect positive change in local communities throughout the state.

We, in the Metro Council, are honored to serve as AT&T Pioneers in the greater Birmingham communities and have embraced our Alabama Chapter's theme, **"CONNECTING THE PAST TO SPARK THE FUTURE."** As we work to continue the long legacy of leadership –our goal is to see a



President's Message continued...

better and stronger metro city by supporting schools and education systems and offering programs and opportunities to volunteer that will help strengthen family and our AT&T brand.

We also invite you to browse the AT&T Pioneers website to learn more about our excellent programs of service to all communities where we, AT&T employees and Pioneers including retirees, live and work.

If you know someone who is currently not receiving the Metro Newsletter, please

forward it to them and ask them to consider signing up to be an AT&T Pioneer – they can do so by clicking the link below to the ATT Pioneers website and clicking on membership tab, the online form and the other information you will need will be there.

For questions or if we can assist you in any way with a project, please contact me at bw1287@att.com and please visit us online at <http://www.attpioneervolunteer.org/HomeRegion/HomeRegion.html>.

Closing food for thought -- May

today there be peace within.

May you trust that you are exactly where you are meant to be. May you not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith in yourself and others. May you use the gifts that you have received to also help others, and pass on the love and support that has been given to you.

We hope you always enjoy the Metro Council Newsletters and welcome your suggestions and comments -- letting us know what you think and how you can help us serve the community at large.

Thank you to the caring VOLUNTEERS for Book Fair, Reading Buddies, Junior Achievement Bowling Classic, Tennis Shoes for Africa, Food Drives for shelters, Kidspark, Birmingham Read and all other Pioneer volunteer activities to date.

Remember No Texting & Driving ... It Can Wait... Let friends and family know too -- another way to show someone that you care.

Volunteer Hall of Fame

Three Hots and a Cots – proudly serving veterans...

"Thank you AT&T Pioneers – Metro Council very much for your monetary gift. These funds will go directly to providing housing and services to the homeless veterans in our program. We currently receive no federal or state funding – we depend 100% on individual and organizational donations to keep the lights on and the fridge full. Our staff is all volunteers – so there is no administrative cost.

Your groups volunteer time and gifts to help us get the Clay Center open is greatly appreciated. The rooms the AT&T Pioneers furnished with linen and comforters all look fantastic. We appreciate the sacrifice of these donations during these economic times. I thank AT&T for helping our veterans – yesterday we depended on them – today they are depending on us. Thank you again and God Bless, Executive Director"

There are roughly 3000 homeless men and women in the Birmingham area. Nearly 800 of them are veterans, men and women who have served our country, living on the streets. One of the two local organizations that are doing what they can to help, -- Three Hots and a Cot is the organization operating the St. Benedict's Veterans Center in Woodlawn. The organization opened its doors in May and have 14 former service men living under one roof. One of their greatest needs is financial. Please consider going online and making a tax deductible contribution.



Reminders/ Save the Date Events:

Pepper Place Saturday Market (Starting April 23, 7 a.m. - 12 noon) Visit our region's farming families at the Pepper Place Saturday Market every Saturday. They grow vegetables and flowers, bake breads and cookies, cakes and pies, tend the bees, and drive into the Lakeview District of Birmingham to sell the fruits of their labors. In addition to farmers, bakers and beekeepers you can enjoy local musicians on The Garden Porch on stage while sipping a fresh cup of coffee or enjoying a light breakfast. There is a cooking demonstration at 9:00 a.m. every Saturday morning by Birmingham's finest chefs. Pepper Place Complex. **Free.** (205) 313-4120

Greater Birmingham March for Babies (April 30, 8 a.m.) When you walk, you give hope to the babies born too soon or sick. The money you raise supports programs in your community that help moms have healthy, full-term pregnancies, and it funds research to find answers to the serious problems that threaten our babies. **UAB Mini Park** and Quad. MarchofDimes.com/Alabama

Earth Day at the Botanical Gardens (May 1, 2011) Alabama's longest continually-running Earth Day event brings education to life with unique, educational activities for kids, families and the young at heart. The day will be filled with hands-on, interactive fun and games provided by The Gardens and like-minded organizations. Learn what makes native plants so vital to our environment, how to help protect plant pollinators, why sustainable gardening matters and how outdoor activities can improve your quality of life. Free and open to the public. (205) 994-5506 or bbgardens.org

Birmingham Life Member Club 100th Year Anniversary T-shirt Quilt (May 1, 2011 deadline) You can be part of history by placing your name on one of the squares. To purchase a square, please contact Sara Cooley @205 744-6265 or Naomi Watkins @ 205 608-0299.

Wheelchair Tennis Camp Presented by the Mayor's Office and Americans with Disabilities **Registration – June 11, 2011** Place: George Ward Park Time: 10:00a – 1:00p For more information, please contact Rudy Roussel, Jr. at (205) 297-8013.

Reminders/ Save the Date
Events Cont:

George Ward Tennis Lessons
Tennis Lessons starting
June 13, 2011. Every Monday,
Wednesday and Friday.
Kids Lesson: 10:00a – 11:00a;
Adults Lessons: 5:30p – 6:00p.
For more Information, please
contact James Lewis Tennis
Scholarship Foundation, Inc. at
tenniszyx@aol.com

Alabama Sports Festival
(June 24-26, 2011) For info
please contact Ricky Parker @
rickyparker01@bellsouth.net

Need Volunteers:
Upcoming Events
Sign up Today:

Membership Drive:
Contact Cheryl Davis @
3686@att.com

Medical Equipment Drive:
Contact Audrey Melson @
am5292@att.com

Musical Instrument Drive:
Contact Jamelle Prewitt @
jp5185@att.com

Habitat for Humanity:
Contact Carl Matzke @
cm4143@att.com

Blue Bird Houses in Parks:
Contact Tanya O'Neal @
to0682@att.com

Literacy Council Historic Loft
Tour:
Contact Zelda Luke @
zl4527@att.com

Job Shadowing:
Contact Ricky Parker @
rickyparker01@bellsouth.net

Yard Sale Fundraiser:
Contact Angela Grigsby @
ag2652@att.com

First Light Shelter Meal:
Contact Roesherrn Williams @
rv9721@att.com

March of Dimes Walk
Contact Susie Conway @
susan.conway@att.com

Alabama Kidney Foundation
Walk-A-Thon
Contact Roz Hood @
rh3669@att.com

Sickle Cell Walk-A-Thon
Contact Ricky Parker @
rickyparker01@bellsouth.net

If you volunteer on behalf of AT&T
Pioneers, we want to hear about
your experience, so that we can
share and or improve it. Please
share your story or make
suggestions – send comments to
Rudy Lewis @ ll0131@att.com



AT&T Pioneers issued FREE calling cards to local military to help our troops call home and our veterans to stay connected...

**Every soldier and sailor has
basic gear except maybe a
way to stay connected with
loved ones and buddies
from wherever they serve in
the world. If you're calling
from a U.S. Military camp,
base, or other land location,
we think one of the best
ways to pay for calls is to
use a pre paid calling card.**

AT&T Pioneers recognized a
need and recently gave over
1000 AT&T Global PrePaid,
100-minute calling cards to
active military personnel from
Birmingham 87th US and 75th
Army Reserve Guard Units,
the Veterans Administration of
Birmingham and the Alabama
Yellow Ribbon Program - a
program for service men and
women who are deployed or
about to be deployed for
service.

AT&T provided these prepaid
cards to the AT&T Pioneers.
And with the AT&T Prepaid;
there are no surcharges per
call. This means each of 100-

minute pre-paid calling card
given to these deserving heroic
men and women equals for
100 actual minutes of calling
time.

Susie Conway, Military and
Veterans Committee Chair and
Betty Wells President for AT&T
Pioneers – Metro/City Center
presented the prepaid cards to
Chief A C Roper, currently the
Chief of Staff the 87th Army
Reserve Support Command,
and Colonel Menendez , 75th
Division Army Reserve's 4th
Brigade, and men and women
of their units on Saturday,

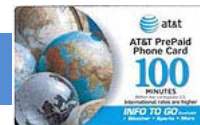


March 5, 2011. In March, they
also presented 100 cards to
Rosie Durham, Chief,
Geriatrics and Extended

Care's group at the VA to be
given to inpatients veterans
and also do mailed hundreds
of cards to other Alabama
AT&T Pioneer cities for the
Yellow Ribbon program.

While we know we can never
pay back our troops for the
sacrifices they make, we hope
that by providing them with a
means to stay connected with
the ones they love we can
make their deployment – and
their time away from family and
friends – a little bit easier.

To see so much appreciation
for the cards from such a
special group of people who
give so much of themselves
was indeed so heartwarming
and kind. And sharing this time
with our very own Birmingham
Chief of Police/Chief of Staff
Roper (87th) and Colonel
Mendez (75th) and them
sharing their sincere
appreciation for the cards for
their units was too a little
emotionally overwhelming.





AT&T Pioneers issued FREE calling cards cont...



We were there too to give away a beautiful flower arrangement to one of the women soldiers in the units and a basket filled with men items to a man in the units. This too was a big hit and much appreciated on all fronts. In addition to giving pre-paid calling cards to our troops, AT&T and AT&T Pioneers has, for many years, supported military

personnel, their families, and veterans through AT&T Veterans and a host of other programs, including the Cell Phones for Soldiers and making its office buildings and each of the AT&T retail outlets across the country drop-off sites for phone recycling to benefit our military. Pictured here too is LIC Vickie Garvin of the 87th and who made the arrangements for us to visit with the units.



2011 AT&T Pioneers Annual Book Donations Reception Benefit Five Area Schools in Partnership with Women off AT&T...

Every year since 1996 the AT&T Pioneers have held book fair in the lobby of AT&T City Center and have earned more than \$50,000 in book credits! Since book credits allow us more credit for new books, we take all proceeds earned from the book fair in credits instead of cash. The book credits are then used to place new books in school libraries and literacy programs in communities where AT&T employees live and work.

Book Fair credit vouchers are given to each school's librarian/media specialist to choose new books that meet their specific school library's needs. School librarians are allowed shop at the book fair warehouse for new book. Once the school representative has selected their designated amount of books, the warehouse staff ships all books to AT&T Pioneers. The AT&T then place 'Donated by AT&T Pioneers' labels in each book.



'Donated by AT&T Pioneers' labels in each book.

This past year the Women of AT&T (WOA) AL were made aware of a great need for books at Charles Hard Elementary School. To help meet the need, WOA held its first book fair and it was big success. After receiving the books selected by the

There's some mighty fine advice in these words,... (passed on to us to share):

ONE. Give people more than they expect and do it cheerfully.

TWO. Marry a man/woman you love to talk to. As you get older, their conversational skills will be as important as any other.

THREE. Don't believe all you hear, spend all you have or sleep all you want.

FOUR. When you say, 'I love you,' mean it.

FIVE. When you say, 'I'm sorry,' look the person in the eye.

SIX. Be engaged at least six months before you get married.

SEVEN. Believe in love at first sight.

EIGHT. Never laugh at anyone's dream. People who don't have dreams don't have much.

NINE. Love deeply and passionately. You might get hurt but it's the only way to live life completely.

TEN. In disagreements, fight fairly. No name calling.

ELEVEN. Don't judge people by their relatives...

TWELVE. Talk slowly but think quickly.

THIRTEEN. When someone asks you a question you don't want to answer, smile and ask, 'Why do you want to know?'

FOURTEEN. Remember that great love and great achievements involve great risk.

FIFTEEN. Say 'bless you' when you hear someone sneeze.

SIXTEEN. When you lose, don't lose the lesson!

SEVENTEEN. Remember the three R's: Respect for self; Respect for others; and Responsibility for all your actions.

EIGHTEEN. Don't let a little dispute injure a great friendship.

NINETEEN. When you realize you've made a mistake, take immediate steps to correct it.

TWENTY. Smile when picking up the phone. The caller will hear it in your voice.

TWENTY-ONE... Spend some time alone..

2011 AT&T Pioneers Annual Book Donations Reception cont...



Charles Hard reading coach, 'Donated by WOA' labels were placed in each book.

After the books are labeled, the AT&T Pioneers host a formal book donation reception (including refreshments) for the schools so to present them their selected books. At which time the schools take the books to their respective schools and process them into their school libraries inventory systems for the students to check out.

Superintendent Jefferson County School, Phil Hammonds; school principals, Jeff co media director, Gloria Denard; media specialists and reading coaches and many students and parents from each school. Additionally several AT&T Pioneers and WOA members were on hand to help welcome our guest.

AT&T Alabama President, Fred McCallum gave opening remarks and helped to welcome the attendee along with Betty Wells, AT&T Pioneers Metro Council President. The AT&T active Pioneers (Metro Council) partners with AT&T retired Pioneers (Birmingham Life Member Club) -- Naomi Watkins is current president of the Birmingham Life Member Club. Florence Coleman (BLMC) member was recognized for her many years of faithful service to the AT&T Pioneer Book Fair as the primary volunteer for the week long all day book fair.

Because of both teams' book fair efforts last year, AT&T Pioneers and the Women of AT&T were able to DONATE over \$5,000 of books to five area schools. The five schools receiving new books at the 2011 reception were: 1) Phillips Academy, 2) Helena Elementary, 3) Chalkville Elementary, 4) Midfield Elementary and 5) Charles Hard Elementary representing Bessemer City, Birmingham City, Jefferson County, Midfield City and Shelby County school systems. The AT&T Pioneers

education projects and especially the book fairs. We hope that it offers a win/win situation -- the employees have the convenience of buying book store quality books at the work location while the schools and libraries receive new award winning up to date books that helps them to better serve the students, improve their reading and develop good reading habits for life.

Please look for book fairs at the AT&T City Center bi annually in the May/June and Nov/Dec timeframes starting in 2012 and make plans to shop so together we can continue to benefit education and make a real difference for thousands of school children in metro Birmingham.



received this nice thank you note (excerpt) from Superintendent Hammonds,

"I enjoyed attending the AT&T Pioneers book presentation and reception . All the schools represented certainly will benefit from AT&T's generosity. Thank you for the great support you continually provide to public education and our school districts. Thank you. Phil"

We the AT&T Pioneers and WOA thank each of you too for your continued support of our

At the 2011 book fair reception, Women of AT&T, AL President, Kate Deloach, also made a \$1000 contribution presentation to Charles Hard Elementary school for a much needed landscaping grounds beatification project to buy the materials.



AT&T Pioneers 2011 Book Fair Reception was held at the AT&T City Center in late February and in partnership this year with WOA. Attendees included Bessemer City Councilwoman, Sarah Belcher,





AT&T Pioneers Reads to Over Eight Hundred Students on Birmingham Reads Day...

On Birmingham Reads Day, every elementary school classroom in the Birmingham City School system was read a story by community volunteers. Each student also received a book to take home!

AT&T Pioneers sent out a request for volunteers for Birmingham Reads and each of you stepped up!

For this event, **700 classrooms were read to and books were distributed to almost 14,000 students.**

AT&T Pioneers/family and friends volunteered to read in 40+ of these classrooms - what an impact!

As we can see, it would not have been possible without our AT&T family of caring volunteers.

- * *Jamelle Prewitt*
 - * *Ella Wells*
 - * *Robert Wells*
 - * *Bertha James*
 - * *Jacquelyn Rice*
 - * *Marsha Sutton*
 - * *Gloria Richardson*
 - * *Tia Turner*
 - * *David Wheeler*
 - * *Rudy Lewis*
 - * *Bettie Williams*
 - * *Kate Daily*
 - * *Nona Relf*
 - * *Mitch Phillips*
 - * *Connie McCallum*
 - * *Tim Pearson*
 - * *Patricia Glaster*
 - * *Lelia Collier*
 - * *Zelda Luke*
 - * *Camellia Dancy*
 - * *Lottie Smith*
 - * *Dora Chatam*
 - * *Sharon London*
- * *Saundra Herren*
 - * *Glyn Agnew*
 - * *Gabrielle Dickerson*
 - * *John Barrett*
 - * *Kimberly Rollins*
 - * *Judith Anthony*
 - * *Tyiese Ross*
 - * *Mary Williams*
 - * *Michael Moore*
 - * *Susan Rinehart*
 - * *Mary Harris*
 - * *Anje Roney*
 - * *Ricky Parker*
 - * *Cissy Stone*
 - * *Casi Ferguson*
 - * *Narice Sutton*
 - * *Arthur Sutton*
 - * *Betty Wells*

Thank you to each of you for helping to make Birmingham Reads 2011 possible!

SAVVY Tips



Home-Grown Savings

You don't have to forgo favorite herbs and spices to tighten your budget. Instead, plant a garden at home. Herbs like thyme, dill and rosemary tend to thrive in home-grown gardens and are great choices for the amateur. Gardening is a relaxing outdoor activity that gets you moving and can help bring the family together.

Vendor Sales:

All Proceeds support charities in Birmingham and the surrounding areas through the AT&T Pioneers - Birmingham Metro Council and Birmingham Life Member Club.

Friday, May 6
Wondrous Works

Friday, May 20
HCI

Monday, May 23
The Good Life

Friday, May 6
Wondrous Works

Friday, May 20
HCI

Monday, May 23
The Good Life

Thursday, June 2
Multiple Streams

Friday, June 3
Multiple Streams

Thursday, June 16
Scentsy

Friday, June 17
Clems

The AT&T City Center Pioneer Store:

The AT&T City Center Pioneer Store will be open Tue, Wed, Thurs** 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Calling All Cooks \$12

Best of the Best \$12
Umbrellas \$15
AT&T T-Shirts \$10
AT&T Polo's \$22

Wanted: New & gently used books - drop off at Pioneer Store

**If you need store items outside this schedule or to volunteer in the Pioneer Store during lunch, please contact Karen Howze-Samuels 205-321-2675 or kh0009@att.com.

Metro Council Highlights

2011 Officers:

President

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Member-At-Large

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Member-At-Large

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Member-At-Large

Rosherren Williams
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Adrienne Gray
Room 25A1
(205) 321-4458
adrienne.gray@att.com

Secretary

Kelley Johnson
Room 25A1
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kelley.johnson@att.com



1. First Annual Valentine Fundraiser. 2. Valentine giveaway to an AT&T employee or family member serving in the military and spouse that had been left behind – donated by Norton’s Florist. 3. Connecting Students to a World of Opportunity: AT&T Pioneers host students from McAdory High School for Job Shadow Day at City Center--Senator Linda Coleman was guest speaker. Thank you for the career and community impact that you made on these students. Please encourage your co-workers to volunteer along with you the next time we schedule a Job Shadow event. 4. Job Shadow Day cont. -- Senator Linda Coleman talk with the students. 5. Job Shadow Speaker – Donna Hartley, AT&T Area Manager. 6. Kidspark: On 4/2, 2011 the AT&T Pioneers in partnership with Junior Achievement sponsored a state-wide event in Birmingham for 8th 9th and 10th grade students and their parents/guardians to help spark their commitment to staying in school and graduate as well as parent concerns related to workforce development and parental involvement in the student’s education. To accomplish this - the students explored a variety of career opportunities, learning from volunteers career coaches representing various career options. Parents/guardians were able to choose from a variety of breakout sessions addressing how to help students succeed in school, prepare for college or the workplace, as well as a number of other issues from personal financial self-reliance to finding resources to fund post-secondary education. 7. Mercedes Marathon 10th Annual - Metro Pioneers President and Vice President volunteers at the early morning Check-in station. AT&T Pioneers Metro Council was recognized for ten years of volunteer service to the Mercedes Marathon event. 8. 2011 Metro Council – New Member Winner, Kenya Clark and Membership Committee Chairs Susie Conway and Cheryl Davis. 9. AT&T Cajun Cook-off Team on April 9th at Railroad Park to Benefit Girls, Inc., Carl Matzke, Glyn Agnew, Betty Wells, Nona Relf and Doug Noote. 10. Three Hots and A Cot Food Drive – Margie Harden, Rosemary Parker, Betty Wells, and Cheryl Davis.