

Life Member Times

August 2009

President's Column

As President of the Life Member Club, I have some good days and I have some bad days. I'd like to share with you one of the greatest days, a day when I did some real Pioneering. On June 3, 2009, at a high school awards ceremony, I was privileged to present, on your behalf, four \$1000 scholarships to four deserving and needy students of Plainfield High School.

The four students were chosen from 37 candidates based on their grade point average, volunteer community service, employment history, plans for the summer, and financial need. Each of the four students has been accepted by several colleges and at least one out of state school. All the awardees were females in the top 20% of their class with intended majors in law, psychology, nursing and teaching.

Because of IRS regulations, the \$1000 checks are submitted directly to the college or university at which the student will matriculate and the monies are deposited into the student's account. The student may elect to use the money for tuition, textbooks, personal computers, or whatever else is relevant to the educational process.

My fun began when I announced the first student's name and she came to the stage smiling at the applause received from parents, friends, school staff and other students and I handed her a certificate indicating that she had won a \$1000 award. I had three more students to go in which the smiles, applause, congratulations and thank you would be repeated. The fact that they did not receive the check directly did not diminish their enthusiasm. These fleeting moments of real emotion assured me that the Pioneer

Mission is right on target. Through education we have helped to make the world a little better and certainly a little happier.

The Scholarship Program was started five years ago in memory of Ralph Schmeier, past president of the Life Member Club and a graduate of the Plainfield School System. Ralph's passion was community service, especially that service which impacted the young people of our communities.

So you can see why June 3, 2009 was a great day for me. We made four young people very happy and made it just a little easier for them to continue their education. And one more time I had the opportunity to honor the memory of an old colleague.

Charlie Polak



P.S. Our golf outing was a tremendous success. The weather was perfect, the facilities at Shawnee were great, the food very good, and the golf scores were respectable. The comment about the scores is similar to the 'fish that got away'.

I want to thank all those who made the event such a success, the 85 golfers, the 12 sponsors, the 4 benefactors, the 12 volunteers and most especially our Golf Committee under the leadership of Ron Glover with the support of Ed McLeane, Bill Luithle and Larry Corsi. This was a real Pioneer effort. The money raised will be well shared through our Pioneer projects. .

THE SPIRIT OF COMMUNICATION



The Spirit of Communication, known as 'Golden Boy,' is the 24-foot bronze statue that stood atop the American Telephone and Telegraph Company's lower Manhattan headquarters for 64 years.

Statistics:

Height of bronze figure 24 feet
Granite Base 21 feet
Weight 32,000 pounds
Wing Span 12 feet
Length of Head 23 inches
Circumference of Head
(forehead) 68 inches
Neck 45 inches
Ear 7 inches

Biceps 42 inches
Forearm 29 inches
Fingernails 2 inches
Chest 130 inches
Leg inseam 89 inches
Thigh 58 inches
Calf 46 inches
Foot 30 inches
Waist 97 inches

Has Anyone Seen ‘Golden Boy’?

Someone might think that ‘Golden Boy’ is an itinerant spirit. He has been ‘transferred’ as many times in the past twenty-five years as AT&T has moved its headquarters’ buildings. He has fallen 465 feet from the top of the 195 Broadway building, where all downtown New York could see him, to the ground level of 550 Madison Avenue where his sightings were limited to employees, guests, and passer bys. And he still had a lot more moves to face.

In 1914 Theodore Vail, founder of the Bell System, commissioned Evelyn Beatrice Longman, to create a symbol, reflecting the mission and greatness of the Bell System. She completed the sculpted image in 1916 and it was raised to the roof of 195 Broadway, AT&T headquarters, where it remained some sixty years, weathering hurricanes, wars, and recessions, as well as overseeing the exponential growth of the Bell System.

The statue, originally named “The Genius of Electricity”, weighs over 16 tons, stands 24 feet high, with wings extending 9 feet from the body. The statue is made of bronze and is covered with 40,000 pieces of gold leaf. Sometime in the 1930’s the name of the image and statue was changed to “The Spirit of Telecommunication”. Facts about the derivation of the nickname ‘Golden Boy’ are difficult to find.

After its descent from the apex of 195 Broadway in 1980, ‘Golden Boy’ was moved to AT&T’s new headquarters at 555 Madison Avenue, New York. After a massive refurbishing effort, along with an effort to make him less offensive to those who abhorred the display of his masculinity, Golden Boy was placed in an alcove in the lobby of 555 Madison Avenue, where the artistry could be enjoyed by employees, guests and passer bys.

In 1992 Golden Boy was moved to Basking Ridge, N.J. and given a royal welcome as it was installed in front of what was to be AT&T corporate headquarters. The buildings and the campus on which it was housed were beautiful, but these pleasantries were not to be enjoyed very long.

Consolidation of AT&T’s human resources and physical assets in 2002 led AT&T to relinquish its

Basking Ridge facility (eventually sold to Verizon) and, of course, ‘Golden Boy’ had to be moved again. At this time there was some discussion of donating Golden Boy to the New York City Parks Department, but cooler heads prevailed and The Spirit of Communication was moved nine miles to AT&T’s Bedminster, NJ location, which housed AT&T’s Long Lines Division and the company’s National Network Operations Center (the NOC). Sightings of ‘Golden Boy’ by the public were difficult since the Bedminster campus was pretty much surrounded by highways and was well secured because of the importance of the NOC to our national security.

And now things really changed for us retirees and ‘Golden Boy’. AT&T was bought by SBC, headquartered in Texas. And guess where ‘Golden Boy’ went? SBC took over not only AT&T’s name and resources but also the symbol of its dominance in the telecommunications industry. Early this year ‘Golden Boy’ was dismantled and sent to AT&T’s global corporate headquarters in Dallas. When an inquiry was made to AT&T about the whereabouts and future of ‘Golden Boy’, the following information was provided by Walt Sharp, who is involved with the planning for the installation of The Spirit of Communication at AT&T headquarters. His E-Mail follows;

As you’re no doubt aware, the statue has generally been a fixture of AT&T’s corporate headquarters and has more or less followed the headquarters around Manhattan, to New Jersey, and now, to Dallas.

I am happy to assure you that Golden Boy continues to be held in high regard and he will be installed in a place of honor in the lobby of AT&T’s headquarters at 208 S Akard in Downtown Dallas. The lobby is currently undergoing renovations in order to be a proper showcase for the statue, and the statue itself is scheduled for extensive and necessary art conservation work, including re-gilding, in coming weeks. The lobby and the statue will be unveiled in ceremonies in July. Once again, Golden Boy will be a symbol of AT&T that will be highly visible to many, many people on a daily basis—in fact, probably to many more people than he was on the closed corporate campus in Bedminster.

Unfortunately, I’m not in a position to share any photos with you at this time since this is all a work in

progress. However, we will most likely have materials we can share after the unveiling.

So, it would appear that our ‘Golden Boy’ is in good hands and that he will continue to represent the industry and company in which we spent a great deal of our lives. Most of us realize that ‘Golden Boy’ is a symbol of the real AT&T spirit, which rests in the hearts of its employees and retirees.

P.S.

Just prior to going to press we learned that ‘Golden Boy’ was unveiled on July 7, and has become an instant landmark in downtown Dallas. If you ever are in Dallas you can view the Spirit of Communication during normal business hours.

JACK HEALY HAS GOLDEN BOY

By Bill Luithle

“I have Golden Boy” was Jack Healy’s response when I told him I was looking for ‘Golden Boy’ in order to write an article about it for the Life Member Times. Jack went on to explain that his statue was a small replica of the original. He graciously invited me to his home to see his Golden Boy. In early June, Harry Hynes and I took Jack up on his invitation. Jack had set up the beautiful eighteen-inch replica (under glass) on his dining room table so that we might take pictures of it. This replica exhibited the precise detail and artistry that went into the original statue. In itself one could see a work of art.

Jack explained that he was given the statue for the work he did on the antitrust task force in 1983. As I looked at the statue and listened to Jack, it occurred to me that Golden Boy has survived the break-up of the Bell System. It has survived all the turmoil of

the telecommunications industry.

Jack, who retired as a Vice President of AT&T, was kind enough to show us his home office in which bookshelves and walls were filled with memorabilia that generates memories of his forty-four year career with the Bell System. There was a story behind each piece and in many respects they reflected Jack’s contributions to telecommunications not just in Long Lines, not just in the Bell System, not just in the U.S. but also throughout the world. He asked that we focus the article on ‘Golden Boy’ and not himself, but I can’t resist writing that Jack himself, exemplifies the real spirit that made our company so great.



Jack’s ‘Golden Boy’

Reunions

The seventh annual NY Telegraph reunion was held on May 7, 2009. Organized by Mauro Fanelli, it attracted retirees from as far away as North Carolina and Florida as well as our surrounding states. It is a wonderful example of the importance and staying power of the relationships developed within a group of AT&T Long Lines employees during the 1950’s and 60’s. The group, initially hired in New York City as technicians (craftsmen then) worked in various telephone and telegraph offices at 32 Avenue of the Americas (AOTA). They learned early on that teamwork, shared val-

ues and personal networking contributed to the success of AT&T and to each of their own personal lives. AT&T brought them together in many ways; they worked and played together and created alliances and friendships that will last their lifetimes. During their 30 to 40 year careers all of them were assigned to different departments, but the early relationships formed and the Bell System Spirit - something that they have not lost - stayed with them through all of the changes that started in 1984. They are proud to say that they maintain their relationships and keep in contact through the AT&T Pioneers.

For pictures and names of the attendees go to <http://att-retirees.org/activities.html>

Do you have reunions that you would like to share with us, or friends and co-workers that that you would like to contact? Send us a message, we will publicize it for you.

Web Site Change

Please make note of our new website address www.attpioneervolunteers.org. AT&T Pioneers consolidated all its Pioneer chapters onto one server. As a result our old chapter website has been shut down and is no longer operational. Many of our original web pages are no longer available in the new web site at this time. However, during the new web site development we hope that we can satisfy your informational needs. If there is anything that you would like to see in a web site for retirees please let us know. You can contact us at lifemembers@attpioneervolunteers.org

The Old and New AT&T: A Perspective

By Hank Marchese

Many of us came to AT&T at a time - when it was a monopoly and the rates were regulated by the federal government - when we had a million employees to help us deal with a business that needed tens of thousands of operators – when we communicated with

overseas countries only by radio because we had no undersea cable and no satellite to communicate over long distances – when we felt assured that our jobs and our medical care were guaranteed by a benevolent employer – when there were no computers, no Internet, no I phones and no I pods. How the world has changed and indeed many of you helped to make some of those changes!

New technologies have burst upon civilization with a vengeance bringing computing power, miraculous advances in communication, medicine and surgery and access to information for hundreds of millions of people. We have seen the breakup of AT&T, intense competition in communication services and a vast reorganization in our industry. From all this, a new AT&T has emerged in spite of the monumental evolution in communications which has placed the greatest importance on cellular and Internet services. Communication will consist of everything from your landline telephone to your cell phone, to E mail, to social networking like Facebook, Twitter and MySpace. The internet will be served by cable and cellular networks as well as WiFi and other distribution systems.

Our new AT&T is surviving with flying colors. It is good to remember our past – our operators at manual switchboards, our rotary telephones, our associates at the various tasks we were involved with as well as the marvelous inventions that came out of Bell Laboratories like the transistor and cellular service itself. The Pioneers help us to remember our work with AT&T and all the wonderful people we worked with. As we look back and consider the enormous transitions we have lived through we may want to consider the wonder of it all!

In Memoriam

Our good friend and co-worker, Gary Stout, passed away in June of this year. He was 54 years old. Much too young for anyone, but especially for someone of Gary's intelligence and wit.



Editors Choice

Within the past few months I have had five e-mails purportedly from banks - even though I do not have accounts with them-asking me to update my account. I forwarded the e-mails to the real banks. Many banks use the e-mail 'abuse@ (the banks correct address)' for people to report 'phishing' e-mails. So beware, the bad guys are out to get your money.

The following is an actual letter from a bank to its customers.

Dear Internet Banking Customer,

There has recently been an increasing number of attempts on the Internet to trick people into revealing sensitive and private information about themselves to con artists who use that information to defraud them. The latest scam, popularly called 'phishing', uses replicas of existing web pages to deceive users. These replicated pages prompt the user to enter personal, financial or password data.

WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO REVIEW THIS COMMUNICATION AS IT APPEARS A PERSON OR PERSON (S) HAVE ATTEMPTED TO REPLICATE OUR SITE FOR THIS REASON.

The following e-mail was received by several of our customers. THIS WAS NOT SENT BY xxxxxxx SAVINGS BANK. PLEASE DO NOT RESPOND TO THIS E-MAIL AND DO NOT CLICK ON THE LOGIN HYPER-LINK.

--Original Message--

From servicv@isbnj.com [mailto:service@isbnj.com]

Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2006 7:05 AM

Subject: Acknowledge: Renew Credit Card on Ale (Ticket/ P7X14920493A2X)**Importance:** High

Dear xx Savings Bank Customer,

Due to recent fraudulent activities on some of xx Savings Bank of New Jersey online accounts we are launching a new security system to make xx Savings Bank of New Jersey online accounts more secure and safe. Before we can activate it we will be checking all xx Savings Bank of New Jersey online accounts to confirm the authenticity of the holder.

We will require a confirmation that your account has not been stolen or hacked. Your account has not been suspended or frozen.

To confirm your account status please **Login**

-complete the required information to authenticate and reset your account -make sure your account balance has not been changed

-make sure your details have not been changed

-review recent transactions in your account history for any unauthorized transfer

If you find any type of suspicious activities please contact us immediately. Please include in your message your account number, your account name and the unauthorized transfer date & time.

Please do not reply to this message. For any inquiries, contact Customer Service. Document Reference: (82751247).

xxxxxxx Savings Bank of New Jersey Copyright © 2006



**The Fall Luncheon
 September 17, 2007
 New Orleans
 1285 Rte 28 North Branch**

Make your reservations early, bring your partner. Enjoy the camaraderie and good food. Use this form to make you reservations and food selection, and attach your check for \$24.00 per person. We need the reservations before **September 8th**. Please bring food for distribution to the needy, or if you prefer, a cash donation in lieu of food.

Reservation Form and Menu selections:

Chicken Marsala (c), London Broil (b), Salmon Mediterranean (f) - desert and coffee

Name	Address	Telephone No.	Meal Selection

MAKE CHECK OUT TO: AT&T PIONEERS CHAPTER 139 LMC

AMOUNT INCLUDED: _____

MAIL TO: **Harry Hynes
 44 Murray Hill Sq.
 New Providence, NJ 07974**

QUESTIONS: **908-464-7543**

RIDE NEEDED

Cutout along line and mail the upper half
 RETAIN

Thursday Sept. 17th

11.00 AM Cash Bar.
 NOON: Program Starts
 12.30 PM Lunch:

Directions to The New Orleans

From East : Take Rte 78 West to exit 26. Make a left turn at the traffic light towards North Branch. Go 3miles (end of road), make a right. New Orleans restaurant is 200 yards on the right.

From West: Take Rte 78 East to exit 26. Follow directions above.

From North: Take Rte 287 to Rte.78 West to exit 26. Follow above directions.

From South: Take Rte 202 or Rte. 206 to Somerville circle. Take Rte. 28 North for approx. 4 1/2 miles The restaurant is on your right just past Lamington Rd.

If you need a ride contact Ron Glover 973-635-1815



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Vice President: Bill Pritchett
Past President: Joe Yee
Secretary: Ellen Byrne

Members-at-Large

Ron Glover
Jessie Bledsoe
Tom Badger
Donna Besignano

Treasurer

Harry Hynes

Projects	Name	Phone
Preschool Hearing Screening	Ron Glover	908-647-5032
Socials/Luncheons	Bill Pritchett	908-638-4325
EI&ES (Reading to the Blind)	Joseph Corea	908-964-0227
Knit a Shawl /Lap Robes	Jessie Bledsoe	908-766-7644
Technology	Harry Hynes	908-464-7543

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Published by the Life Member Club

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Don't Forget

**Fall Luncheon
September 17th.**