

## Celebrating 60 Years...

### Celebrating The Past. Delivering The Future

*"Our pioneer fathers gave us our democratic form of government. The constitution they gave us shows their faith in God and man and their desire to have government based on Christian principles. This same pioneering faith and courage was manifested when nearly 2800 people scattered over 1500 square miles of the rugged timber covered Coast Range mountains of western Oregon decided to construct a modern telephone system for themselves and their neighbors, even though it was advised that it would be too costly and could not be a profitable business. They had been warned by experienced telephone people that no one could succeed with such a plan. After several attempts to get someone else to come in and give them this service, they decided they would organize a cooperative and take full responsibility of doing it for themselves."* - These words were penned in 1961 by the then General Manager of Pioneer, Rodney B. Cummings, as he was trying to put into perspective why Pioneer Telephone Cooperative came about. Despite the adversity, Pioneer Telephone Cooperative did succeed and today, has grown into the largest telephone cooperative (and fourth largest telephone company overall) in the state. Pioneer serves over twenty-six communities and their surrounding areas in four Oregon counties, covering more than 1300 square miles. Our membership has grown to over 11,000 members.

This year, 2010, marks the 60th anniversary of your cooperative and the special bond that was formed sixty years ago between the communities we serve and the employees of Pioneer Telephone Cooperative lives on today. Just as there were challenges during our beginnings, today we face unique challenges that

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continue to draw communities and Pioneer employees together. Sixty years ago, our members needed basic telephone communications and Pioneer was formed to make that happen. Today, our members need high-speed connectivity and, once again, the employees of Pioneer have also risen to the occasion and made it happen. Our employees work hard each and every day to validate the faith that you have placed in Pioneer by providing a state-of-the-art communications network. A model for the State of Oregon and the Nation, Pioneer's network affords everyone, (not just those people who live in the city) but everyone, access to broadband Internet services. However, there are those who would have you believe that the landline telecommunication industry is a dinosaur, dying and has no place in modern communications. Well, nothing could be further from the truth. While we know the loyal members of Pioneer Telephone Cooperative do not subscribe to such notions, let us provide a little food for thought as to what



## Board of Directors Nominations

The 2010 Annual Meeting of Members is scheduled for Monday, June 21<sup>st</sup>. Members of the Board of Directors will be elected from the following three districts:

- District 3 — The Alsea & Lobster Valley exchanges
- District 4 — The southerly portion of the Philomath exchange includes Philomath, Alsea (HWY 34), & the Beaver Creek areas
- District 6 — The Horton & Triangle Lake/Deadwood exchanges

For more information regarding the nomination process and the descriptions of the districts, contact one of our business offices and request a copy of the Bylaws.



## Hurry...College Scholarships Due Soon

Pioneer Telephone Cooperative is once again proud to contribute to and encourage individuals throughout our communities by funding a scholarship program. In order to qualify, the applicant must be a Pioneer member, or a spouse, son or daughter of a member and live in Pioneer's serving area. Hurry, DEADLINE is March 31, 2010.

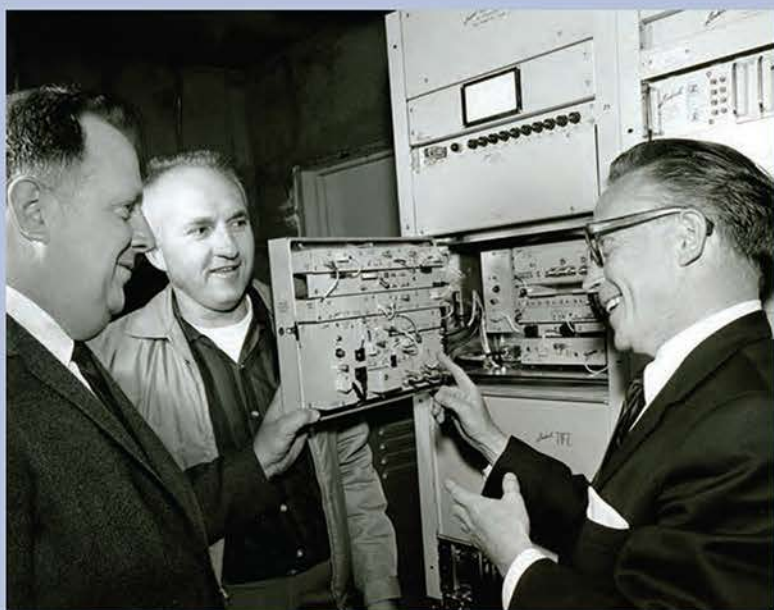
For qualifications, applications and more information, visit our website at [www.pioneer.net](http://www.pioneer.net) or call 541-929-3135. Applications must be returned to Pioneer by March 31, 2010.

pay, not only can you go online to pay your bill,

re simply by reducing paper clutter, you will also never you like, you will be in control!

profile today!





Left to Right: Duane Cummings, Bob Robinson, unknown

your support of your cooperative means to us all. Imagine if you will, what would happen if a switch was thrown and the land-line service went away worldwide. The first word that comes to mind is chaos!...There would be no electronic banking, no ability to transfer funds, the stock exchanges would not operate, no credit card commerce, no Internet, most cell phones would not work, most security alarm systems would no longer work and there would be no 911 calls answered! Whew! And we are just getting started! Think about no or limited contact with friends, family, and neighbors. Even countries would have difficulty communicating. Scary thoughts indeed! Yet, most people take our industry and the service we provide to the world for granted. An industry which has taken us from simply telephone calls to video conferencing, high-speed Internet, television and entertainment over the Internet and whose rates have generally gone down while cable television rates have risen almost every year. Despite the lack of attention, we are not full of sour grapes - quite the contrary. Just as we did 60 years ago, we are happy to play our role in making communications history. After all, Pioneer has been making history all along. Just look at a few milestones that your support has enabled your cooperative to accomplish.

### Pioneer Timeline

- 1954** — In March, the installation of the Lobster Valley exchange meant people no longer have to travel up to 15 miles to use a telephone.
- 1956** — The Bellfountain Telephone Company (established in 1904) merges with Pioneer Telephone Cooperative
- 1961** — Pioneer began offering Mobile Dial Telephone Service.
- 1977** — A new electronic central office is installed in Philomath.
- 1979** — Pioneer installs one of the first digital switches in the state into the South Beach exchange. It is believed to be the first digital switch placed on the Oregon Coast.
- 1980's** — Construction started on our first fiber optic ring.
- 1989** — First Voice Mail system installed.
- 1992** — Delivery of Advanced Services like Caller ID, Last Call Return, etc.
- 1995** — A high-speed service known as ISDN is deployed.
- 1995** — Pioneer's subsidiary starts PioneerNet, an Internet company that brought the first local Internet access to our area. Today, PioneerNet is successfully operating as Peak Internet.
- 1996** — Pioneer's first fiber ring from the Willamette Valley to the Coast is completed. It is also believed to be the first fiber ring connecting the Willamette Valley to the Coast by any company. Pioneer would go on to build multiple fiber rings linking the Valley and Coast, providing more reliable service to our members.
- 1999** — Pioneer is the first to bring high-speed Internet access to our serving area.
- 2009** — Pioneer begins delivering 50 mbps Internet access though fiber optics to the home in some areas.

Through this year we will be commemorating the special relationship we have with our members. Please take the opportunity to stop by during one of our Member Appreciation days and let us thank you for your support!



**Join Us  
March 17<sup>th</sup>**

*for*

**MEMBER  
APPRECIATION DAY**

Stop by either of our offices and  
help us commemorate sixty years of  
service to our members

with a special St. Patrick Day treat  
Wednesday, March 17<sup>th</sup> from  
11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

*We Appreciate You!*

## Why We Ask For Picture ID

Pioneer takes the security of our members' personal information seriously and our Customer Service Representatives are committed to protecting this information from unauthorized access by following rules set forth by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

When a member walks into Pioneer's office, we are required by the FCC to ask for your photo ID. The valid photo ID must match the name on the account. Additionally, we are required to ask you for your name and your password/PIN identification when you call one of our offices. These security measures have been put in place for the protection of our members'.

Earning and maintaining your trust is extremely important to us, we value your business.

