

LMT

Life Member Times



at&t

pioneers
a volunteer network



Winter 2020

The Knitters

The Producers & Providers

The Inquisitives

The Contributors

Life Member Times



Winter 2020

New Jersey Life Member Club

AT&T Pioneers Chapter 139
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President: Sandy Seidorf
Vice President: Marie Zach
Past President: Suzanne Balian
Past Vice President: John Wright
Treasurer: Mike Mulvey
LMC Rep: Machiko Nagata
Secretary: TBD

Members-at-Large

Christine Bird
Richard Eastman
Ron Glover
Bencilla Powell
Bill Pritchett
Madhu Rangi
Ron Seidorf
Leokadia Zach

Life Member Times Editor

TBD

Life Member Times is the magazine of the Life Member Club of New Jersey Pioneers Chapter 139. It is published three times a year, in the Spring, Fall and Winter. We welcome your comments. Please direct these to the telephone number, email address or postal address listed above.



Letter from the President

Hello fellow Pioneers!

Hard to believe it is already January. Hope you are staying safe and positive during these unprecedented times. We hope that you are all continuing to shelter at home, perhaps taking up a new hobby, or doing jig saw puzzles or even decluttering! While key personal events like vacations and family celebrations have been put on hold, it's a small price to pay given the devastating impacts of the virus across the country.

Our board continues to meet virtually via monthly teleconference calls. Please reach out to us if you'd like to join our meetings, we welcome your participation! Although most of our projects and activities including our luncheons were cancelled this year, we have continued to support in school and virtual projects while ensuring the safety of all engaged in the projects. We remain hopeful that we will start face-to-face projects and events later this year, and will keep you posted!

This issue of the Life Member Times brings you a snapshot of several STEM projects for the elementary, middle and high school students. In addition, the NJ Pioneer Chapter awarded a \$10,000 AT&T Community Grant to America's Grow-A-Row organization that donates 100% of their crops to those in need. In 2020 they donated 1.9 million pounds of produce.

NJ Pioneers Club wishes to express its heart felt gratitude for a memorial donation to support LMC scholarship/ STEM Scholarship programs.

Have something your passionate about? Feel free to submit an idea for a new project. We are always looking for AT&T retirees to join us to volunteer – see the calendar that we are publishing in this issue of the Life Member Times and reach out to us if you are interested. The reward is a thank you, a smile of appreciation, excitement of the students learning new concepts, a sense of comfort when a veteran or a senior wraps a lap robe or enjoys the handknit warm scarf and hat.

Please stay safe and continue to follow the social distance guidelines.

Yours in Pioneering,

Sandy Seidorf

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THE KNITTERS— *Operation Chillout*



Since we could not meet in church parish hall, dedicated St. Jude Stitchers, in spite of Covid, met out-of-doors on church grounds. Of course, weather permitting”.

LMC Pioneer Christine Bird, and the Operation Chillout team brought their own chairs, refreshments, bug repellent, enjoyed good conversation while stitching, and working on projects, patterns, and colors.

The team stitched hats and scarves, pediatric chemo hats, baby blankets, sweaters, afghans, and lap blankets for birthing centers, battered women, and hospitals. The team brought their completed projects in shopping bags and displayed them on blankets...all **made with love in every stitch**



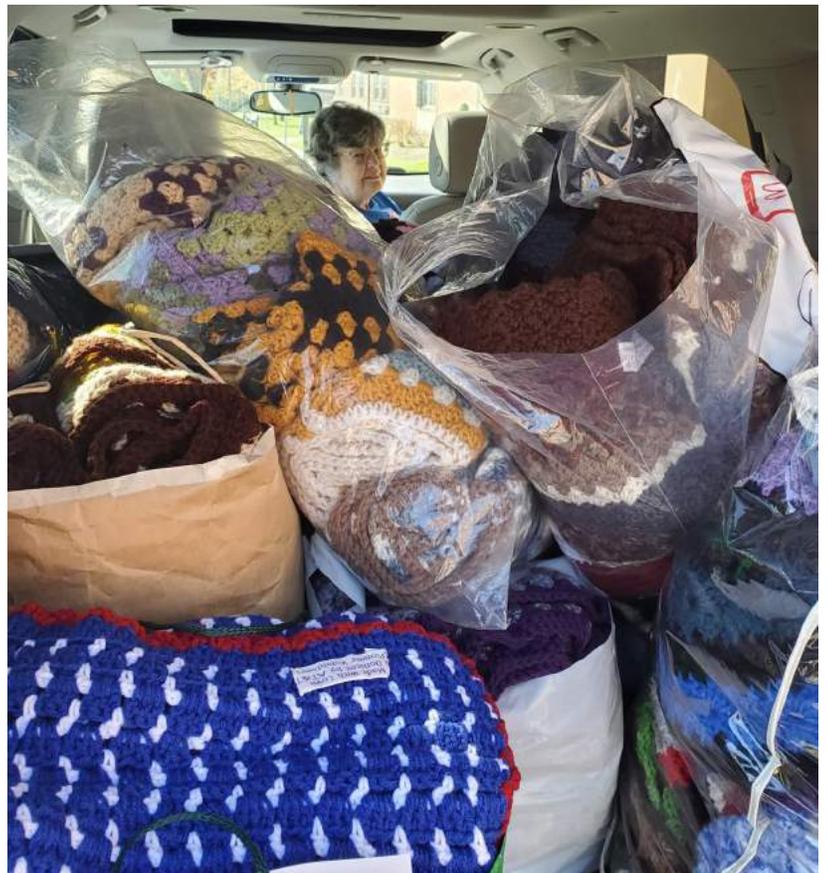
THE KNITTERS— *The Sisters Do it Again...*

At the start of the pandemic, LMC Pioneers 3 sisters Lill, and Marie Zach and Eleanor Sportack, were inspired by a friend to create masks for St. Peter's Hospital in New Brunswick. In total 1,745 masks were made with over 1,600 given to the hospital. The Life Member Club also donated \$250.00 to St. Peter's Hospital Foundation to aid them in this trying time.



Marie recall the beautiful moment when they heard a song playing in the lobby to celebrate someone who had Covid 19 was going home.

This past holiday season the Lill and Marie along with 3 friends, crocheted, donated 173 lap robes to 5 different nursing homes in central New Jersey. They spent over 4, 500 hours in 2020 to create, collect, and deliver these beautiful lap robes. The picture taken from the back of the suv is just one of their delivery trips. Even though due to the epidemic, they could not distribute the robes in person, "those accepting the items for distribution were very happy and excited to see such beautiful and vibrant lap robes".



Marie and Lill are looking for anyone interested in crocheting or knitting the lap robes. If interested, please contact AT&T Pioneers NJ Life Member Club at 908 234 3618.



THE PRODUCERS & PROVIDERS — *Lending a Helping Hand*



AT&T Pioneers making a difference! Ron and Sandy Seidorf represented the New Jersey Pioneers, and presented a \$10,000 AT&T Community Grant to America's Grow A Row (AGAR).

America's Grow-a-Row's (AGAR) mission is to positively impact as many lives as possible through a volunteer effort of planting, picking, rescuing, and delivering free fresh produce throughout NJ, NY, PA, CT and DE. AT&T's community grant helped AGAR to provide fresh, healthy produce to

those in need, educate people of all generations about hunger and ways to help, through their education program - introduce youth to farming and healthy eating, and contribute to the sustainability of agriculture. In 2020, nearly 2 million pounds of produce was donated, enough for nearly 8 million servings! Truly the spirit of volunteerism and making a difference in the communities where we live and work!

AGAR now has 4 farms in Hunterdon County. For info on AGAR visit: www.americagrowarow.org



The NJ Life Member Pioneers Sandy and Ron Seidorf provided a chicken dinner including mac and cheese, mashed potatoes, salad, vegetables, and desserts for the families staying at Ronald McDonald House (RMH) in New Brunswick. RMH provides a respite for families with seriously ill children while they receive care at nearby medical facilities. The house in New Brunswick has 6 family suites that offer comforting surroundings where family members

can stay together. This allows families to spend more time with their child, interact with their clinical care team, and participate in critical medical decisions during a time of uncertainty and stress. Given restrictions due to the pandemic on visits to RMH, NJ Life Member Pioneers were happy to do the shopping and deliver this fully cooked meal - truly the spirit of Pioneering!

For info on RMH visit: www.rmhc.org

THE INQUISITIVES

The AT&T Pioneer Life Member Club, and the Department of Defense provided funding to work closely with the Dimension U Inc, to provide video games to that help nearly 800 Essex county students in grades 3 thru 9, with their math



and English skills. LMC Volunteers, Bencilla Powell and Richard Eastman worked with Irvington New Jersey School officials, provided DimensionU T shirts and coordinated the distribution of the DimensionU games to several schools. Bencilla set up training Zoom calls for the teachers and administrators, and currently volunteers at the Prep School Virtual Learning Assistance Program, where Dimension U is part of the curriculum for the 50 participating students. At the Prep school Virtual Learning Program, students get familiar with the Virtual Reality Headset and controller, the technology, that will help the students learn by “doing” in addition to the classroom lessons..

PHOTO GALLERY



Students to compete at the DimensionU competition



Holiday Gifts at the Virtual Learning Program



Holiday Gifts at Project Smile

Building a model car



THE CONTRIBUTORS

AT&T LMC 139 Pioneers wish to express their heartfelt gratitude to the following members for their contribution to the LMC:

Ronald & Patricia Barber

R.M Dorval & J. Dorval

John Perrici

Leonard & Sonia Smith

Catherine Sista

Katherine & Elaine Ulrich

Fredrica Muller (Late)

Doug Metz (On Behalf of the Fredrica Muller Estate) contributed \$5,000 in support of LMC scholarships to expand youngsters' interest in STEM education.

Fredrica Muller of Sterling New Jersey, Age 93, passed away on 11/25/2018. "Aunt Fredy" as known to her nephew (Doug Metz) and niece (Deborah Zarate) worked for AT&T in New York. While there she graduated from Columbia University with a Teaching Degree, and began in Manhattan as a Mathematics teacher after retirement. Fredrica commuted 4 hours each day to teach technical subjects to students regardless of their prior experience. Doug and Deborah felt "Aunt Fredy" would have wanted to support the LMC Pioneers' STEM projects with a \$5K donation.

NJ Life Member Club is pleased and thankful to be able to expand its STEM/Scholarship programs to help prepare few young minds for rewarding careers.

CORRESPONDENCE

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Sent Electronically
john.f.hcddcrich2.civfrumail.mi

Dear Mr. Hedderich:

Thank you and your organization for promoting Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education and STEM careers. Our great state benefits immensely from your use of talented army scientists and engineers in classrooms to support after school programs like FIRST robotics. As the national leader in many aspects of STEM, we extend much appreciation to you for creating pathways for our youngest citizens should they pursue this unique course of education and career opportunity. The STEM path is sure to result in a more innovative society.

The tremendous work of your organization came to light because of the "Dimension U" mathematics video game placed in strategic locations during the COVID 19 outbreak. It has proven to be a great success in keeping children safely indoors while maintaining their sharp minds. True enough, this pandemic has altered our lives nationally. But all is not lost. We are adjusting to new ways of continuing to educate our young people. It is in that spir

it, that I ask if the Picatinny Arsenal STEM Outreach Office could extend the use of Dimension U to include most, if not all, of the students in our state? By extending the use of Dimension U statewide, our educators would be better able to maintain student productivity and class engagement during these complex times.

We understand that Steven Hoy, CEO of Dimension U, has consulted with your office regarding this request. We have also been advised that there may be some concerns regarding the intersections of federal and state lines. To assist, please be advised that if you were to extend Dimension U statewide, we could provide support by adding a link on our NJ State web page for the free downloading of the application for students in New Jersey. Please advise if you are amenable to this request by contacting my Chief of Staff, Terry Tucker at 609-815-0634.

Sincerely

Lt. Governor

Sheila Y. Oliver

This has been a great endeavor and we really appreciate your office's support, and the support of Ms. Powell and the ATT Tech Pioneers, Mr. Eastman, the educators, everyone!. This was such a team effort and wouldn't have been possible without everyone involved. We look forward to moving forward and continuing to build on this success and accomplishments!

Signed:

Steven Hoy
CEO DimensionU

Good afternoon Marie:

I would like to thank you and the AT&T Pioneers' chapter 139 for donating lap robes to my residence for the holiday season.

Residents will get well use out of them in the upcoming cold monthssso thank you again and the AT&T Pioneer volunteers.

Signed

Nancy Guerrera

Activities Director

FootHill Acres Rehab & Nursing Center

2021 Life Member Club Calendar



<i>January</i>	<i>February</i>	<i>March</i>
<i>20—Life Member meeting</i>	<i>17—Life Member meeting</i>	<i>17—Life Member meeting</i>
<i>April</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>June</i>
<i>21—Life Member meeting</i>	<i>19—Life Member meeting</i>	<i>16—Life Member meeting</i>
<i>July</i>	<i>August</i>	<i>September</i>
<i>21—Life Member meeting</i>	<i>18—Life Member meeting</i>	<i>15—Life Member meeting</i>
<i>October</i>	<i>November</i>	<i>December</i>
<i>20—Life Member meeting</i>	<i>17—Life Member meeting</i>	<i>15—Life Member meeting</i>

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Links to AT&T Retiree Sites

[AT&T Benefits Center](#)

[Retiree Discount Site](#)

[Fidelity netbenefits Site](#)

Please let us know what you think about the Life Member Times and submit articles for upcoming issues. We look forward to hearing from you!

Please send all correspondence to
attpioneers@lmc139.com or call 908-234-3618

Credits and References:

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Operation Chill Out: Christine Bird

Sisters Do it Again: Marie Zach

The Producers & Providers—Sandy Seidorf

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