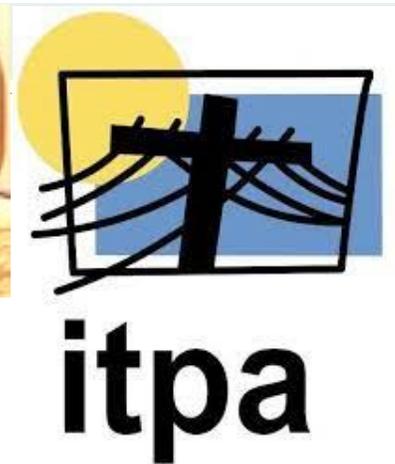
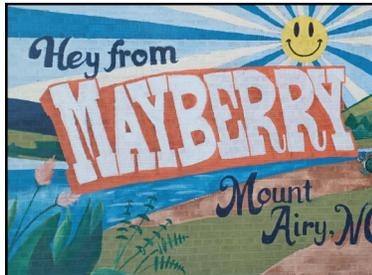




Carotel Club / Tar Heel Chapter
June 2024 Newsletter
Issue 10



Carotel Pioneers Support National ITPA Spring Assembly



The ITPA's 32nd annual spring assembly, held in Dobson, NC in April, was attended by several Carotel and Tar Heel Chapter Pioneers. The Mayberry themed assembly, hosted by incoming ITPA president Leon Yard, in-



cluded a Mayberry-costume party, and our Carotel/Tar Heel Chapter Pioneers showed up as Briscoe Darling, Helen Crump, Ernest T. Bass and Charlene Darling.

Carotel Club Pioneers were recognized during the awards presentation for their ongoing project "Encouraging Others." This project consisted of a series of efforts throughout the year, such as karaoke to seniors, writing notes to shut-ins, and donations to food banks. Carotel Pioneers also received a 2nd Place award for our "Honoring our Protectors" project. Various events were held throughout the year to recognize first responders, veterans, active military, and health care providers. Project volunteers also wrote thank you cards and prepared and served meals to local first responder teams across multiple counties.

The Tar Heel Chapter's project "Angels for Angels" received a 1st place project award for Tar Heel Chapter Pioneers, who have long supported clients served by the Life Center of Davidson County, and they expanded their support last year to include an appreciation gesture to the center's caregivers. This project consisted literally of making angels for angels. Those who care for others are often called angels, and the angels made by Pioneers from kitchen towels and hot pads, were presented to the caregivers, recognizing them for serving others.

You can read more about the ITPA's annual spring assembly and see more photos of our own Pioneers at

[Newsletter \(Civic design\) \(nationalitpa.com\)](https://nationalitpa.com)

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SAVE THE DATES

Last Tuesday of each Month

Wake Forest Retiree Breakfast
Briggs Restaurant, Wake Forest, NC

Thursday, June 20, 11:00 a.m.

Clinton Group Lunch
Rose Hill Restaurant, Rose Hill, NC

August 23-25, 2024

Tar Heel Chapter Annual Meeting
Hampton Inn in Aberdeen, NC
All Pioneers are welcome

October 11-12, 2024

Annual Carotel Convention
Crystal Coast Oceanfront Hotel
(formerly The Inn at Pine Knoll Shores)
Pine Knoll Shores, NC

*Small acts, when multiplied by millions of people, can transform the world—
Howard Zinn*

TAR HEEL CHAPTER ANNUAL GATHERING

Tar Heel Chapter Pioneers will convene on August 23-25, 2024 for their annual meeting at the Hampton Inn in Aberdeen, NC. A service project is being planned during the gathering, and we're told that Elvis is scheduled to make an appearance.



Left: Elvis, with new ITPA mascot Hunny Bunny, regularly visits residents at skilled care facilities.

All Pioneers are invited to attend. If you haven't attended a Tar Heel Chapter gathering before, don't worry; you'll know plenty of the folks who will be there. Long time Carotel Pioneer Ronnie Cashwell and Tar Heel Chapter President is planning this year's event and we promise, you'll meet up with old friends, possibly make some new friends, and enjoy a wonderful weekend of fellowship.

Hotel reservations can be made now and are \$139 per night plus tax. Reserve online at [Hampton Inn Aberdeen](#) to receive the Tar Heel Chapter group rate. The planning committee is finalizing meals and activities and will announce the meeting registration rate soon and we anticipate the rate will be comparable to last year's rate.

Don't miss this event! We have it on good authority that Elvis will be IN THE BUILDING!

CAROTEL FALL CONVENTION

Carotel's fall convention will be held a bit earlier in the season this year on October 11-12 at the Crystal Coast Oceanfront Hotel (formerly known as The Inn at Pine Knoll Shores). October temperatures at the Crystal Coast are generally mild, with highs in the mid 70s, so you may want to come a day earlier, or stay longer to enjoy the beautiful fall weather on the beach.

Our planning committee is busy planning our Paris themed convention so that the weekend will be enjoyable and memorable for everyone.



Hotel rates will be an estimated \$115 per night, plus tax. Every room is ocean front with easy beach access. The convention registration fees will be announced, and we are working hard to keep registration fees compa-



CONGRATULATIONS!

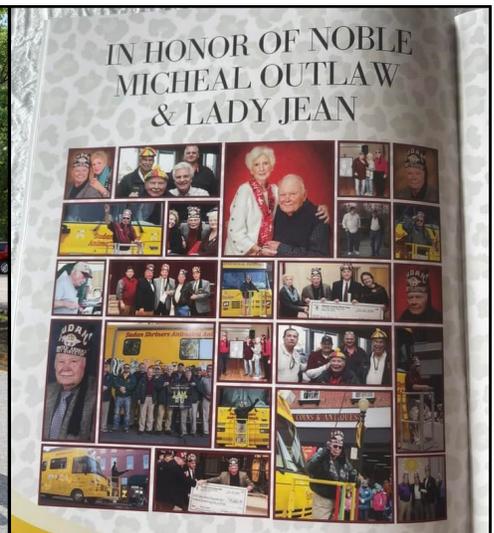
Congratulations to **Mike and Jean Outlaw**, who were recently honored by the Johnson County Shrine Club during the club's annual Spring Ceremonial, which was dedicated to honoring the couple. Mike and Jean are long-time Pioneers and are integral members of the Carotel Club and Tar Heel Chapter. They've devoted numerous hours to community service projects over the years. We could wax on about Mike and Jean's contributions as Pioneers, but this recognition is dedicated to their selfless service as Shriners.



Mike became a Sudan Shriner in 1975 and remained an active member of various Sudan clubs due to several relocations during his career with Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company. When Mike and Jean moved to Smithfield in 1980, Mike joined the Johnson County Shrine Club and the Sudan Animated Animals. Mike and Jean have devoted themselves to Shrinedom since 1975. Mike served as the Johnson County club's president in 1983 and as Director of the Animated Animals from 2000 to 2005.



Mike and Jean's children and grandchildren surprised them by attending the ceremony, making this special day even more festive for the couple. Congratulations Mike and Jean on this well deserved honor. We are grateful for your service through the Sudan Shriners and through your Pioneering work with Carotel and the Tar Heel Chapter.



CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to **George and Darlene (House) Mills**, on their recent nuptials. George and Darlene were married on Memorial Day at Hickory Grove Baptist Church, with their immediate family and a few wedding helpers in attendance.



In true Pioneering spirit, Darlene and George regularly visit shut-ins and residents at skilled care facilities and they have been integral participants in outreach events sponsored by our club. We wish the couple a lifetime of happiness..

RETIREE GATHERINGS

Shown below, these members of the management team from the Greenville District (circa 1990) get together a couple of times every year to reconnect and reminisce. A couple of members were unable to attend the most recent gathering. Pictured are (left to right) Dennis Stroud, Robert Dunn, Robert Harris, Robert Rogister, Bill Chilton and Tommy Bryant.



The Clinton retiree lunch group will get together again on Thursday, June 20th at Rose Hill Restaurant (312 North Sycamore Street, Rose Hill, NC). Attendees are asked to arrive no later than 11am so that their meal will not be delayed during the regular lunch rush.

Retirees in the Wake Forest area meet on the last Tuesday of each month at 8:30 a.m. at Briggs Restaurant in Wake Forest. We'd love to share stories and photos from other retiree gatherings. Send your information to dterry625@gmail.com if you'd like to share notice of upcoming events or photos from past events!

CAROTEL / TAR HEEL CHAPTER OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

2023-24 CAROTEL OFFICERS/DIRECTORS

President: Brenda Smith

Vice President and Immediate

Past President: Janet Holliday-Cashwell

Treasurer: Carol Harrell

Secretary: Mary McLamb

Directors: Ray Brock , Andy Davis, Wendy Davis, Chester Harrell, Darlene House, Mary McLamb, Larry Newsome, Judy Satterwhite, Doug Sibbett, Barbara Smithson, Darlene Terry
Directors Emeritus: Ronnie Cashwell, Carol Harrell, Mike Outlaw

Committees:

Scholarship Committee

Carol Harrell, Chair

Janet Holliday-Cashwell, Brenda Smith

By-Laws Committee

Ronnie Cashwell, Chair

Ray Brock, Carol Harrell, Mike Outlaw, Doug Sibbett

Entertainment Committee

Ronnie Cashwell, Chair

Public Relations

Darlene Terry

2023-24 TAR HEEL CHAPTER OFFICERS/ DIRECTORS

President : Ronnie Cashwell

Immediate Past President: Carolyn Thompson

Vice President: Darlene Terry

Co-Secretary/Treasurers:

Carol Harrell

Janet Holliday-Cashwell

Auditor: Bill Twyman

Directors: Janet Holliday-Cashwell, Danny Dennis, Nat Goss, Evelyn Hayes, Jim Jolly, Mike Outlaw, Martha Poole, Brenda Smithson

Committee Chairs:

Carolyn Thompson-Publicity/Historical

Carol Harrell-Scholarship

Ronnie Cashwell-Entertainment

The Carotel Club is a member of the Tar Heel Chapter in Region 3 of the Independent Telecommunications Pioneer Association (ITPA). All Carotel Pioneers are invited and encouraged to participate in our state chapter activities and events.

Did you know...



The national ITPA was founded in 1920 by members of the independent telecommunications industry as a way to serve the communities they lived and worked in. The Carotel Club was formed on July 1, 1971 under the previously existing Tar Heel Chapter. The club initially consisted of members who were employed by Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company and required 15 years of service as a condition of membership. Over the years, the club's by-laws were revised, as companies were merged and acquired, to welcome Sprint and Embarq telecommunications associates, and the required length of service was reduced. In recent years, a new membership category was adopted by the ITPA to allow "Friends of Pioneers" to become Pioneers. And we need new members! Invite someone today. Membership application can be found at: [ITPA New Member Application Form.docx \(live.com\)](#)

APPLICATIONS FOR CAROTEL AND TAR HEEL CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIPS ARE BEING ACCEPTED NOW

College students who are related to a Carotel or Tar Heel Chapter Pioneer are invited to apply for scholarships to be awarded this fall.

Carotel's "**Elizabeth Bland Memorial Scholarship**" was established in memory of Elizabeth "Libba" Bland in recognition of her years of dedication to the Carotel Pioneer club. The scholarship, a one-time grant of **\$1,000.00**, is awarded annually to a college-bound student who is related to an active Carotel Pioneer Club member. Carotel members who are pursuing a degree are also eligible.



The Tar Heel Chapter of the ITPA has been awarding scholarships to college-bound students for nearly 25 years. Tar Heel Chapter scholarships are available to family members of active chapter members who are residents of North Carolina. In earlier years, students received awards from separately funded Tar Heel Chapter scholarships, all of which were merged in recent years into the "**Bill and Joe Lawrence Scholarship**" fund. Bill and Joe both worked for Heins Telephone Company. (The family of Isabelle Heins Lawrence, Bill's wife, founded Heins Telephone Company.) Bill and Joe were dedicated Pioneers, and they established a fund that helps the Tar Heel Chapter continue awarding annual scholarships. The scholarship is awarded annually to a college-bound student who is related to an active Tar Heel Chapter Pioneer. Tar Heel Pioneers who are pursuing a degree are also eligible.

The Carotel Club and Tar Heel Chapter award their scholarships independently. Both Pioneer organizations will issue scholarship checks directly to the college or university in which the recipient is enrolled.

The Carotel and Tar Heel Chapter scholarships can each be found at [ITPA News \(nationalitpa.com\)](https://nationalitpa.com).

Applicants must complete their application in its entirety and must provide all required information (letters of recommendation, transcripts, etc.) to the scholarship committee chair directly, by e-mail, or by U.S. Mail with a **postmark date no later than August 1, 2024**. Incomplete applications will not be considered. The scholarship committee will evaluate all eligible applications and decisions of the committee are final.

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE CHEESE!

Cheese biscuits are a delicacy across eastern North Carolina, but you won't readily find them outside the region. A great cheese biscuit



is just one of many things that make eastern North Carolina special! Cheese biscuit lovers are fiercely supportive of their favorite biscuit baker, and in this article, we'll explore where to find some of the most popular cheese biscuits.

First, let's agree on exactly what a cheese biscuit is. A cheese biscuit is **not** a Cheddar Bo from Bojangles. Not that there's a thing wrong with a Cheddar Bo, but any traditional cheese biscuit enthusiast knows that a Cheddar Bo is not in the same category as a traditional eastern NC cheese biscuit.

So, what is a cheese biscuit? Good old fashioned hoop cheese, which originated in the United States is often at the center of the gooey goodness of a cheese biscuit. It's often found in country stores and farmers markets. Made from cow's milk, this pale yellow cheese is hard to semi-hard, depending on the aging process, and is generally formed into a distinctive round or "hoop" shape. It has a mild and slightly tangy flavor, with a creamy texture and is most often served with little to no aging.

Cheddar cheese, also a cheese of choice for cheese biscuits, originated in England. It's also made from cow's milk, the processes for making cheddar cheese and the resulting taste is very different than hoop cheese. Hoop cheese is initially soft and rubbery while cheddar cheese is initially smooth and firm. Both become more crumbly when aged.

So, who bakes your favorite cheese biscuit? Listed below are some Pioneer favorites. If yours isn't listed here, let us hear from you so we can add it to the list in our next newsletter.

Abrams Restaurant, with several locations in eastern NC, offers up the cheese biscuit of choice for several of our Pioneers. Abrams was established in 1974 in the very town where Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company was headquartered. The restaurant's popular cheese biscuits were added in 1979. Abram's cheese biscuits are filled with two to three ounces of hoop cheese that's been shredded and formed into a ball. The ball is then wrapped in biscuit dough and baked to golden perfection. These days, you can find Abram's biscuits in locations other than Tarboro, including nearby Pinetops, NC.

Little Rocket in Farmville will sell a piping hot cheese biscuit, or you can buy a dozen frozen biscuits to bake later. (They're nearly just as good.) Little Rocket's cheese biscuits are filled with gooey cheddar cheese, and they don't skimp on the cheese. When you buy them frozen, just place two on a greased sheet pan the night before you want to enjoy them and place the pan in the fridge. The next morning, bake at 375° for about 20 minutes until the biscuits are light golden brown.

Peaden's Restaurant and Grill in Greenville, NC is also said to serve a mighty tasty cheese biscuit.

Flo's Kitchen in Wilson, NC has a cult following for their enormous cathead biscuits that are filled with delicious local hoop cheese.

Is your favorite cheese biscuit provider missing from this list? Send us an email and tell us about it for our next issue.