



CAROTEL CLUB/TAR HEEL CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

SIGN UP FOR NOW FAYETTEVILLE AREA RETIREE LUNCHEON ON MAY 16TH

All CT&T retirees, employees and their guests to attend the upcoming Fayetteville Area Retiree Luncheon on May 16th at Paradise Acres in Hope Mills, NC. Please note, this date and location are different than previously publicized. The organizers of the event are expecting more guests than the originally advertised location will accommodate, which means there will be plenty of room for YOU!

If you have attended this luncheon in the past, you should have received a text message from Doug Sibbett providing details on how much and where to send your advance payment for the cost of the lunch (\$18 per person). Attendees must submit their payments no later than May 10th to ensure enough food is ordered for everyone.

If you have not previously attended the luncheon, please call or text Doug Sibbett now at 910-818-9346 and provide your cell phone number to be added to the group text that will let you know where to mail your advance payment for the luncheon.

Please reply as soon as possible after you receive your text notification from Doug with details and be sure the planning committee receives your payment for the luncheon by May 10th because they must provide a final headcount to the caterer in advance.

SAVE THE DATES



**Last Tuesday of each Month
Wake Forest Retiree Breakfast**
Briggs Restaurant, Wake Forest, NC

May 16, 2026
CT&T Fayetteville Area Retiree Luncheon
Paradise Acres, 1965 John McMillan Rd
Hope Mills, NC 28348
Noon-3PM
First time attendees call or text Doug
Sibbett at 910-818-9346

August 21-22, 2026
Tar Heel Chapter Annual Assembly
Aberdeen, NC

September 12, 2026
CT&T Fayetteville Area Retiree Luncheon
Paradise Acres of Grays Creek
Hope Mills, NC

October 9-10, 2026
Carotel Convention
Crystal Coast Ocean Front Hotel
Pine Knoll Shores, NC

October 16 - 18, 2026
Buckeye State Chapter Get-Together
Dutch Host Inn, Sugarcreek, OH

CT&T retirees from Williamston and Ahsokie areas meet for lunch every three months on the first Thursday of the Month at Shamrock Cafe at 11:30 am. Anyone interested in catching up with former co-workers and friends, whether you live in the Williamston/Ahsokie region or not, is welcome to attend. Just show up!

CAROTEL & TAR HEEL CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP UPDATES

There is still time for college bound students who are related to a Carotel Club Pioneer to apply for the *Elizabeth Bland Memorial Scholarship*, which will be awarded in July. Applications must be submitted no later than June 1st.

The application period for the Tar Heel Chapter scholarship has closed. Applications for that scholarship were due by May 1st, and the scholarship recipient(s) will be announced in early July. Applicants who applied for the Tar Heel Chapter scholarship may also be eligible to apply for the *Elizabeth Bland Memorial Scholarship* if eligibility requirements for both are met, but separate scholarship applications must be submitted as instructed on each scholarship form.

The application forms for the *Elizabeth Bland Memorial Scholarship* are available at: <https://www.nationalitpa.com/news>. Scroll to the bottom right of that web page and click on the link to download. Please note in each scholarship application the date by which applications must be received or postmarked in order to be considered.

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 is awarded as a one-time grant of up to \$1,000 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 actual amount of the scholarship may be dependent upon the number of recipients to whom the scholarship is awarded.

The Tar Heel Chapter of the ITPA has been awarding scholarships to college-bound students for more than 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. Scholarship amounts will be determined based on the number of applicants to whom a scholarship is awarded.

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.



PLAN TO PAR-TEE AT THE ANNUAL TAR HEEL CHAPTER ASSEMBLY IN AUGUST



You are invited to attend the Tar Heel Chapter's 2026 Tee-rific Golf-Themed annual assembly on August 21-22, 2026. All Carotel Pioneer Club members, spouses and guests are welcome. The Tar Heel Chapter Pioneers meet every August in North Carolina's historic Sandhills region at the Hampton Inn & Suites located at 200 Columbus Drive, Aberdeen, NC 28315.

With nearly 40 golf courses within a 15-mile radius, including the host sites of the 2024 U.S. Open and 2022 U.S. Women's Open, the Aberdeen/Pinehurst/Southern Pines area is celebrated as the Home of American Golf. Adding to that legacy, the USGA chose Pinehurst for its second headquarters, complete with an equipment-testing facility, innovation hub, museum and visitor center, and new offices.

Pinehurst No. 2 will proudly host five U.S. Open Championships by 2047, further cementing the region's place in golf history.

It's only fitting that the theme for our 2026 assembly will celebrate the rich golfing history of the area. Join us for an unforgettable weekend of fun, laughter, and all things golf—without ever swinging a club! Whether you're a golf enthusiast or just in it for the good times, this event is the perfect way to celebrate the game in a unique and exciting way.

We're planning a weekend filled with whimsical golf-inspired decor, delicious food and drinks, and plenty of entertainment—all without the need for clubs or tees. This event promises to be a hole-in-one. Dress in your best golf attire and prepare for a weekend of laughs and memories. We can't wait to see you there!



I think your "towards" is off! (Phrase frequently used by Mike Outlaw to encourage fellow golfers)



You've got to hit the ball Alice!! (Another Mike Outlaw phrase often heard on the golf course.)

IT'S A BOOK EXCHANGE!!!



By request, we will host a book exchange during the annual Tar Heel assembly in August. Bring books that you've read to share with another book lover and take books home with you to enjoy another reading adventure! Don't have a book to share? That's okay, you can still browse and take a book!

Just drop off your books when you register on Friday afternoon.

To make our book exchange even more exciting, we are collecting a list of Pioneer favorite authors and/or book titles ahead of our assembly date, and those lists will be available when you register upon arrival.. But...to make that happen, we need your input ahead of time. Please compile and send your list of favorite authors and/or books to Darlene Terry at bdnterry@outlook.com.

HELP KEEP OUR SCHOLARSHIP FUNDED!

*Ties collected from Pioneers friends of Pioneers friends were used to create this beautiful quilt that is being raffled by Carotel Pioneer Club. 100% of the proceeds from ticket sales will fund the **Elizabeth Bland Scholarship Fund,**" which is awarded annually.*

Raffle tickets are \$20 each and are available through October 10, 2026. The drawing for the quilt will be held at the 2026 Carotel Convention.

You do not have to be present to win. To purchase a raffle ticket or to obtain raffle tickets to sell in support of this fund-raiser, please contact Janet Cashwell by email at jrhc1313@gmail.com.



ANNOUNCING 2026 CAROTEL CONVENTION - IT'S A SOCK HOP!



Step back in time and experience the charm of a 1950's style sock hop! Dust off your poodle skirts and leather jackets, and get ready to twist and shout the night away. This nostalgic event promises a delightful blend of classic rock 'n' roll tunes, lively dance contests, and vintage soda shop treats that will transport you to an era of fun and innocence. Whether you're a seasoned jiver or a curious newcomer, there's something for everyone. It's a fantastic opportunity to reconnect with old friends, relive the golden days, or simply enjoy a unique outing with fellow Pioneers. So put on your best dance shoes and , bring your energy, and let's rock around the clock in true 50's fashion!



Our 2026 entertainment chairman Ronnie Cashwell is already busy negotiating great deals and delicious meals for the weekend.

Our 2026 photography committee (Darlene Mills, Edie Willis, Brenda Smith and Barbara Smithson) have already committed to capturing those kodak moments.

We've been tipped off that there may even be special performance by the all-female group, Darlene and the Doo-Wop Dames and by the extraordinarily talented male Doo-Woppers Ronnie and the Rumlbers!

Mark your calendars now for October 9-10, 2026. A special group rate of \$131.00 (plus tax) is available to Carotel guests with no parking or resort fees. Final details will be provided closer to the date of the event, but we wanted to invite you early so that you have time to find the perfect poodle skirt!

Or...just come as you are and enjoy the fun!



Did you know...

The term "sock hop" came about because in the 1950's when social dances were held in the school gymnasiums. The dancers danced in their socks because street shoes were forbidden on the gymnasium floors. Even tennis shoes were not allowed at the dances because someone invariably would sneak in wearing conventional shoes and scratch the hardwood floor. Chaperones were often the worst culprits of all, so even they were required to wear socks unless they observed from the bleachers.

About Us



Carotel Pioneer Club is affiliated with the ITPA Tar Heel Chapter in Region 1. 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 Pioneer Club was formed on July 1, 1971 under the previously existing Tar Heel Chapter.

The Carotel Pioneer 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. The membership application can be found at: <https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nationalitpa.com%2Fuploads%2Fuseruploads%2Ffiles%2FITPA%2520New%2520Member%2520Application%2520Form.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK>

About Us



2025-2026 Carotel
Officers/Directors

President: Darlene Terry

Vice President: Brenda Smith

Immediate Past President:

Larry Newsome

Treasurer: Ronnie Cashwell

Secretary: Mary McLamb

Directors: Ray Brock, Andy Davis,
Wendy Davis, Chester Harrell,
Darlene Mills, Judy Satterwhite,
Doug Sibbett, Barbara Smithson,
Edie Willis

Directors Emeritus: Ronnie Cashwell

Committees:

Scholarships:

Darlene Terry, Chair

Janet Holliday-Cashwell

Brenda Smith

By-Laws:

Ronnie Cashwell, Chair

Ray Brock, Doug Sibbett

Entertainment:

Ronnie Cashwell, Chair

Public Relations:

Darlene Terry, Chair

Nominating:

Larry Newsome, Chair

About Us

Tar Heel Chapter

2025-2026

Officers/Directors

President: Brenda Smith

Vice President: Curty Lancaster

Immediate Past President:

Darlene Terry

Secretary/Treasurer:

Janet Holliday-Cashwell

Auditor: Bill Twyman

Directors:

Janet Holliday-Cashwell,

Danny Dennis,

Jim Jolly, Vicky Jolly,

Hannah Lancaster,

Alissa Moss, Jean Outlaw

Director Emeritus: None

Committees:

Scholarships:

Vickie Jolly, Chair

Entertainment:

Ronnie Cashwell, Chair

Nominating:

Darlene Terry, Chair

Historical:

Carolyn Thompson

Publicity:

Darlene Terry

About Us



National ITPA

2025-2026

Officers/Directors

President: Leon Yard

1st Vice President: Ronnie
Cashwell

Immediate Past President:
JoAnn Esposito

Secretary: Cindy Downing

Treasurer: Daniel Barnhardt

Asst. Treasurer: James White

Executive Director: Andrea Wick

Directors: Hannah Lancaster,
Nancy Hyatt, Dennis Groh

Region 1 VP: Darlene Roll

Region 2 VP: Nancy Schnitzer

Committee Chairs

Awards:
Ann Beck

ByLaws:
Ronnie Cashwell

Nominating:
JoAnn Esposito

Investments:
James White

Hall of Fame:
Morrie Sachsenmaier

Leadership Development:
Nancy Schnitzer

Membership and Sponsor Companies:
Vacant

Public Relations:
Darlene Terry

About Us



ITPA Regions

Region 1:

Buckeye State Chapter (OH)

Palmetto Chapter (SC)
Comporium Pioneer Club (SC)

National Capital Chapter (VA, D.C. Area)

New England Chapter
Down East Club (ME)
Granite State Club (NH)

Tar Heel Chapter (NC)
Carotel Club (NC)
Independent Members
(former Lexington Tel Pioneers)

**CenturyLink
Pioneers of Georgia**
(no Chapter Affiliation)

Region 2:

**Keystone-Garden State
Chapter (PA)**
Ben M. Witmer Club (PA)
NEAREA Club (PA)
Tri-County Tel. Club (PA)

Empire State Chapter (NY)

Florida St. Chapter (FL)
Carl Hill Galloway Club (FL)
Otto Wettstein Jr. Club (FL)
Florida's Big Bend Club (FL)

North Star Chapter (MN)

Sooner Chapter (OK)

Tom Griffith Chapter (IA)

Mid-South Chapter (MS)
Wade H. Creekmore Club (MS)