



CAROTEL CLUB/TAR HEEL CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

TAR HEEL CHAPTER MID- WINTER GATHERING AND SUPERBOWL LX PARTY

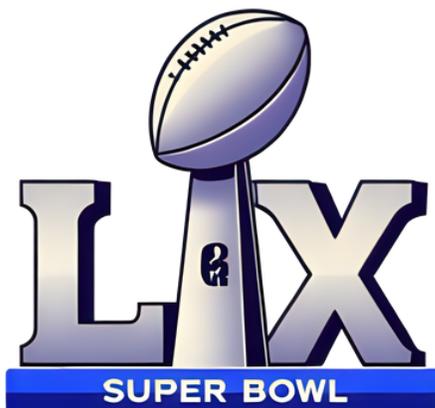
Carotel Pioneer Club members and guests are invited to attend the Tar Heel Chapter's annual mid-winter gathering and Super Bowl party at Monterey Bay Suites in Myrtle Beach, SC. Special group rates are available, with check-in available as early as Thursday, February 5th.

The weekend agenda is informal, and includes free time to explore the area, or just enjoy the views at the lovely ocean-front resort.

A brief board meeting will precede the Super Bowl Party on Sunday afternoon, after which we'll enjoy our own version of a tail-gate party.

Super Bowl LX will be held at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, California.

Hotel room rates and more details available on Page 4.



SAVE THE DATES

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

November 21-23, 2025
National ITPA Assembly
Oaks on the River
Darien, Georgia

November 27, 2025
Happy Thanksgiving Pioneers!



February 5-8, 2026
Tar Heel Chapter Mid Winter Gathering and
Super Bowl LX Party
Myrtle Beach, SC

May 2, 2026
CT&T Fayetteville Area Retiree Luncheon
Hope Mills Parks and Recreation Area
Noon-3PM
Contact Doug Sibbett at 910-818-9346
to register

August 14-15, 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

IN MEMORY OF CAROL HARRELL



Carol Sue Harrell, age 74, passed away on Friday, October 17, 2025 surrounded by her family. A memorial service was held at Carlisle Funeral Home in Tarboro, NC on October 25th. Carol is survived by her son, Michael Harrell; daughter-in-law, Catie Harrell; grandson, Aidan Duncan; mother, Daisy Ritchie; siblings, Sharon Keefe, Eddie Ritchie, and Mike Ritchie; and her beloved pets, Chop and Sunshine.

Carol was a loving mother, sister, daughter, and grandmother whose quiet strength and gentle presence left a lasting impression on those closest to her.

Carol was a devoted member of Grace Chapel Church, where her faith guided her throughout life. For 37 years, she worked at Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company, where her reliability and kindness earned the respect of her coworkers and friends. In her younger years, Carol was a member of the Jaycee's, and she has been an active Carotel Pioneer Club and Tar Heel Chapter member for many years.

Carol joined CT&T in Tarboro in 1971 where she worked in the purchasing department. She later worked as a plant clerk, Division Head Secretary, Budget and Results Analyst, Regional Systems Administrator, Business Analyst and Customer Service Engineer. From there she moved to Greenville's Network Switching Department as a REM Analyst, a Systems Administrator and a Customer Service Engineer. Carol retired from Embarq in 2008.

Carol joined Carotel in 1987 when 15 years of service was required. She was a dedicated Carotel Pioneer member for 38 years. Carol attended the annual Carotel convention for at least 25 years and she played a key role in coordinating that event. She has served the club as Director, Vice President, and President, and was also very involved with the Tar Heel Chapter Pioneer Club. Carol also served as scholarship committee chairman for both the Carotel Pioneer Club and the Tar Heel Chapter for many years. Her role in that capacity was not an easy one. She reviewed all forms to ensure the applicants met the qualifications, and then she mailed qualifying forms to committee members who rank the applicants based on established criteria. The committee then reviewed rankings and the applicants are notified. Carol then coordinated presentation of the scholarship to the recipients. Carol also served as treasurer for both the Carotel Pioneer Club and the Tar Heel Chapter, a role that is one of the most demanding and time-consuming position on the board.

Carol's hobbies included gardening, feeding and watching birds, and she particularly enjoyed watching the shenanigans of her back-yard hummingbirds. Carol was thought of by some of her Pioneer friends as an observer, a pensive sort. She was once asked during an interview what she would choose as her super-power, and her answer, not surprisingly, was "Sensitivity." Carol went on to explain that she wanted to know how other people are feeling. You can be sure Carol was not one to call attention to herself, but she was there and did whatever anyone needed of her. A lot can be accomplished when you listen and observe, as Carol did.

IN MEMORY OF CAROL HARRELL (CONT'D)

As Christmas approaches, this author is reminded that Carol once spoke of looking forward to Christmases when her family would gather for a hearty breakfast, followed by a showing of “A Christmas Story” while they exchanged gifts. Carol also shared that one of her favorite Christmas memories was the smiles she witnessed on the faces of young children in a family her church adopted for Christmas, as they opened their presents.

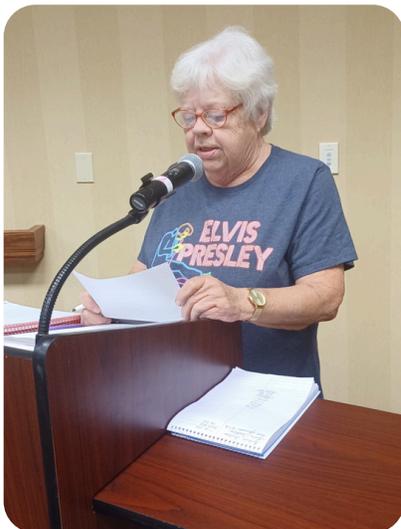
Carol will be deeply missed by her Pioneer family and lovingly remembered by those who knew her.



Carol checks in attendees during the Tar Heel Chapter Assembly in Aug. 2024



Carol with long-time friend Mike Outlaw at the 2024 Tar Heel Chapter Mid-Winter Gathering.



Carol announces 2024 scholarship recipients



Carol with Mike and Jean Outlaw (first row) and Joann Esposito and Betsy Bulluck at the Casino-themed Carotel Convention

TAR HEEL CHAPTER MID-WINTER GATHERING AND SUPER BOWL PARTY (CONT'D)

The following special group rates are available when attendees book and request **Tar Heel Chapter** group rates. The nightly rate for Thursday and Sunday is \$113.47 for an oceanfront suite and the nightly rate for Friday and Saturday nights is \$123.27. These amounts include taxes and fees. (See rate breakdown below.) We'll provide more information on how to reserve your room soon.

	Thu 02/05/2026		Fri 02/06/2026		Sat 02/07/2026		Sun 02/08/2026	
	Rooms	Rate	Rooms	Rate	Rooms	Rate	Rooms	Rate
Oceanfront King Suite	5	\$68.47	5	\$77.13	5	\$77.13	5	\$68.47
Inclusive Rate		\$113.47		\$123.27		\$123.27		\$113.47
Oceanfront Suite	5	\$68.47	5	\$77.13	5	\$77.13	5	\$68.47
Inclusive Rate		\$113.47		\$123.27		\$123.27		\$113.47

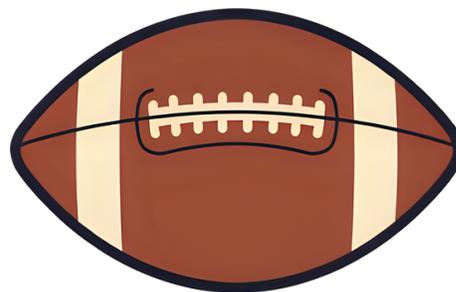
Rates are subject to applicable Taxes (Currently 13%) and any Hotel Fees which may include but not limited to: (Resort, Housekeeping/Cleaning, Marketing). Fees may vary based on individual property booked.

Super Bowl Trivia:

1. Who threw the first touchdown pass in Super Bowl History?
2. Which two teams have lost all four Super Bowl games in which they have played?
3. The Green Bay Packers was the first team to win two Super Bowls. Which team was the second?
4. Which has come up more often in the Super Bowl coin-toss, heads or tails?
5. Which city has hosted the most Super Bowls in history?
6. Of the seven Super Bowls Tom Brady won, in how many did his team win the coin toss?
7. How many Super Bowls have gone into overtime?

Super Bowl Trivia Answers

1. Bart Starr
2. Buffalo Bills and Minnesota Vikings
3. Miami Dolphins
4. Tails (30 to 28)
5. Miami
6. Zero
7. Two (51 and 58)



August is Par-TEE Time in Aberdeen



You are invited to attend the Tar Heel Chapter's 2026 Tee-rific Golf-Themed annual assembly on August 14-15, 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.

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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.)

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!



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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!

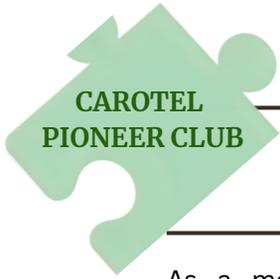
Mark your calendars now for October 9-10, 2026. A special group rate of \$131.00 (plus tax) is available to Carotel guests with no parking or resort fees. Final details will be provided closer to the date of the event, but we wanted to invite you early so that you have time to find the perfect poodle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



IN CASE YOU'RE PUZZLED

As a member organization of the national Independent Telecommunications Pioneer Association (ITPA), Carotel Pioneer Club is one piece of a large puzzle. Several of our members have asked exactly how we fit into that puzzle with regard to the Tar Heel Chapter and the national ITPA. The ITPA Charitable Foundation, Historical Foundation, Telephone Museum and Hall of Fame, as well as other state chapters and clubs are also important pieces of our puzzle. Just how all these pieces fit together may not be crystal clear. This article will provide clarity on Carotel's piece of the puzzle.

The ITPA was created by and for the independent telecommunications industry in 1920 as a national volunteer organization. State and regional clubs and chapters were subsequently formed, and through national and localized efforts, Pioneers have been serving their communities continuously for 105 years on behalf of telecommunications companies.

At its peak, the ITPA consisted of hundreds of clubs with nearly 10,000 members. To best serve its members and their communities, the ITPA's organizational structure was divided into regions. State chapters were established within each region, and local clubs, such as Carotel, were assigned to their appropriate chapter and region. Regional Vice Presidents, known as RVPs, report directly to the national ITPA President, and they assist the chapters and clubs they support with a number of issues. They also share information from clubs and chapters with the national ITPA board of directors and likewise, share information from the national level with the board of directors of each club and chapter.

Each club has its own slate of directors and officers, and is required to submit the required annual documentation to the IRS and the national ITPA to retain non-profit status. Likewise, the officers and directors of each chapter are required to submit their own annual reports to the IRS and to the national ITPA.

The Carotel Pioneer Club was formed on July 1, 1971 under the authority of the Tarheel Chapter. The club's original membership charter covered the territories served by Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company headquartered in Tarboro, NC. Carotel is in the Tarheel Chapter, along with independent ITPA members who were previously members of the disbanded Lexington Pioneer Club.

The Tarheel Chapter, which also has its own set of officers and board members is in Region 2 of the ITPA. The Buckeye State Chapter (Ohio), Palmetto Chapter (South Carolina), National Capitol Chapter (Virginia, Washington D.C.), and the CenturyLink Pioneers of Georgia (no Chapter Affiliation) are also in Region 2. Page 13 includes a list of the regions, clubs, and chapters currently affiliated with the national ITPA.





IN CASE YOU'RE PUZZLED (CONT'D)

The only requirement to be a “member” of a state chapter is to pay dues into a club that tiers to that chapter or to join the chapter directly and pay membership dues without a club affiliation. A number of Carotel Pioneer Club members are active not only at the state chapter level but are also active with the national ITPA. Several Carotel club members hold officer and/or director positions at the state and national level, and also serve on the boards of the Charitable and Historical Foundations. Carotel Pioneers who are active at the state and national levels enjoy working together with Pioneers from other clubs and chapters to serve people throughout the United States. In doing so, great Pioneer friendships have formed and have grown stronger throughout the years.

Our annual Pioneer membership dues help the national and local branches of the ITPA as we continue making a difference in our communities and across the nation. Twenty percent of the \$30 annual membership fee is sent to the club/chapter of dues paying members, conditional upon the club/chapter having submitted the required IRS 990 reports each year and filing an annual report with the ITPA. Annual reports are due every fall and are submitted to the appropriate Regional Vice President (RVP). Once the RVP approves the annual reports and forwards them to the National Office, the portion of the membership fees allocated to the club/chapter are processed.

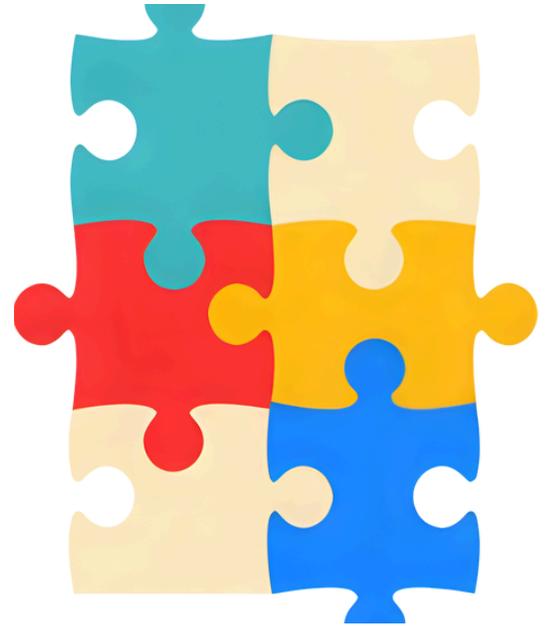
The portion of our membership dues that are retained at the national level contributes to, but does not fully cover, our national operating expenses. Member attrition over the years, combined with a decline in corporate sponsorships, means that membership fees and donations to our foundations, are more critical than ever before, for us to continue operating at a local and national level to make a difference across the nation.

Now that you know all about how our local clubs and state chapter puzzle pieces fit together, let's discuss how the Charitable Foundation and Historical Foundation fit into our Pioneer Puzzle. Keep in mind that the Independent Telecommunications Pioneer Association Inc. is registered with the IRS as a 501(c)(10) tax exempt organization. The Charitable Foundation and the Historical Foundation are registered separately with the IRS. They operate independent of the national ITPA, although Pioneers who are affiliated with clubs and chapters across the nation serve as officers and directors of those organizations.



IN CASE YOU'RE PUZZLED (CONT'D)

The Charitable Foundation is registered as a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization. This organization accepts donations that are then distributed to various 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations. The Charitable Foundation collects and distributes tax-deductible donations to charitable causes and works with the ITPA to support the volunteer efforts of local phone companies on a national level. Since its inception, the Charitable Foundation has supported many programs, such as Ronald McDonald Children's Charities, Children's Shriners Hospitals, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, the American Red Cross, and the American Health Assistance Foundation. Through donations made by ITPA members, the Charitable Foundation donates annually to a program that supports our heroes injured in battle, and to the Alzheimer's Association, hoping to one day find a cure for this disease that affects more than six-million Americans. The Charitable Foundation also provides emergency disaster relief grants to clubs, chapters, and organizations to assist victims of natural disasters.



The Historical Foundation is registered as "Independent Telephone Historical Museum and Hall of Fame Foundation Inc." with the IRS as an exempt 501(c)(3) private foundation. The ITPA's Historical Foundation is the vehicle through which the ITPA preserves the telecom industry's rich history at the Telephone Museum in Hinesville, Georgia and through which telecommunications Pioneers are inducted into the ITPA Telephone Hall of Fame. To learn more about the Historical Foundation, visit <https://www.nationalitpa.com/kiosk/home.html>. If you'd like to be more involved at the chapter or national level, get in touch with our current Carotel President, Darlene Terry by e-mail at dterry625@gmail.com. In the meantime, everyone is welcome to attend an upcoming Tar Heel Chapter gathering. Tar Heel Chapter Pioneers will convene during Super Bowl weekend in Myrtle Beach for their mid-winter gathering and Super Bowl party. All Pioneers and their guests are welcome to attend. See details about that gathering on Page 4. Tar Heel Chapter Pioneers are already planning their annual state assembly, to be held in Aberdeen, NC in August 2026. Read more about the Tar Heel Chapter's August assembly on Page 5. The golf theme for this event is in tribute to the golfing community where our annual assemblies have long been held. But don't worry if you're not a golfer. We won't actually be golfing at this PAR-TEE! Our Carotel Convention planning committee has already made great progress on the 2026 Carotel Convention, which will again be held at the Crystal Coast Oceanfront Hotel. Mark your calendars now to attend our 1950's Sock Hop! Read more about the 2026 Carotel Convention on Page 6.



What's the mascot all about? Keep reading to find out!

IN CASE YOU'RE PUZZLED (CONT'D)

What's up with the mascot?

The ITPA Mascot represents a long-standing ITPA tradition. Every year during the annual spring assembly when the incoming president takes office, the newly elected president introduces a new mascot. No sooner than the new mascot is presented than someone kidnaps the mascot, and the new president won't see his or her mascot until the following year's annual assembly.



Above: Minutes after ITPA President Leon Yard introduced Honey Bunny during the 2024 annual spring assembly, the new mascot was abducted by Elmer Fudd.

During the year, the mascot travels all over the country with various Pioneers, attending club and chapter events and even vacationing with Pioneers. When the incoming president announces the new mascot, they also announce their charity of choice for the coming year. At the end of the year, at the next assembly, the kidnapped mascot is reunited with the president, but only after the president begs for money from the convention attendees to meet a ransom demand. The ransom amount is generally set by the next incoming president. Most often, there are strings attached to the money that assembly attendees are willing to donate towards the ransom.

Conditions such as doing push-ups, skipping rope, dancing, singing, or any number of silly challenges must be undertaken before the money is handed over to the president.



Rocky the Squirrel found a stash of nuts in the hospitality room during his ITPA annual assembly debut.

When all is said and done, the money collected for the mascot's ransom is donated to that president's charity of choice and the outgoing president is temporarily reunited with their mascot. The union is temporary because the mascot will ultimately find a home at the ITPA Telephone Museum where a number of mascots are on display at any given time.



Lilly the Lobster gets acquainted with Rocky the Squirrel before giving up her title as mascot in 2022.

HELP FUND OUR SCHOLARSHIP FUND!

*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.



About Us



National ITPA

2025-2026

Officers/Directors

President: Leon Yard

1st Vice President: Vacant

2nd Vice President: Kyle Anderson

Immediate Past President:

JoAnn Esposito

Secretary: Cindy Downing

Treasurer: Daniel Barnhardt

Asst. Treasurer: James White

Executive Director: Andrea Wick

Directors: Hannah Lancaster,
Nancy Hyatt, Jo Myers

Region 1 VP: Gregg Klatsky

Region 2 VP: Darlene Roll

Region 3 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:

Keystone-Garden State Chapter (PA)

Ben M. Witmer Club (PA)
Bunova Club (PA) Inactive
NEAREA Club (PA)
Tri-County Tel. Club (PA)

New England Chapter

Down East Club (ME)
Granite State Club (NH)

Empire State Chapter (NY)

Region 2:

Tar Heel Chapter (NC)

Carotel Club (NC)
Independent Members
(Lexington Tel)

Buckeye State Chapter (OH)

Mid-Ohio Club

Palmetto Chapter (SC)

Comporium Pioneer Club (SC)

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

CenturyLink
Pioneers of Georgia
(no Chapter Affiliation)

Region 3:

Florida St. Chapter (FL)

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

Tom Griffith Chapter (IA)

North Star Chapter (MN)

Mid-South Chapter (MS)

Wade H. Creekmore Club (MS)

CCCITPA (no Chapter Affiliation) (CC Communications-NV)

Sooner Chapter (OK)

About Us

Tar Heel Chapter

2025-2026

Officers/Directors

President: Brenda Smith

Vice President: Curty Lancaster

Immediate Past President:

Darlene Terry

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: Vacant

Committees:

Scholarships:

Vacant, Chair

Entertainment:

Ronnie Cashwell, Chair

Nominating:

Darlene Terry, Chair

Historical:

Carolyn Thompson

Publicity:

Darlene Terry

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 House, Judy Satterwhite,
Doug Sibbett, Barbara Smithson,
Edie Willis

Directors Emeritus: Ronnie Cashwell

Committees:

Scholarships:

Vacant, Chair

By-Laws:

Ronnie Cashwell, Chair

Ray Brock, Carol Harrell,

Mike Outlaw, Doug Sibbett

Entertainment:

Ronnie Cashwell, Chair

Public Relations:

Darlene Terry, Chair

Nominating:

Larry Newsome, Chair