

2026 CAROTEL CONVENTION LET'S GO BACK TO THE 50'S!

Carotel Club Pioneers, get ready for classic 1950s music, dancing, poodle skirts, leather jackets, and a festive throwback atmosphere.

Join the fun and dance the night away!

Okay, so your poodle skirt and leather jacket may not fit just right anymore. Just leave them home and come as you are to enjoy the fun.

This year's convention will again be held on October 9-10 at the Crystal Coast Oceanfront Hotel in Pine Knoll Shores, NC. A special group rate of \$131.00 (plus tax) is available to Carotel guests with no parking or resort fees.

To get this special discounted rate, you must **reserve your hotel room no later than September 19th to receive our discounted group rate.** When you call the hotel to make reservations, please use telephone number [252-247-4155](tel:252-247-4155) and be sure to select **Option 2** rather than the option for new reservations, because our group has an existing reservation with a block of rooms already reserved. Option 2 will allow the representative to pull up our reservation. If you choose 1, which is for new reservations, it may take you to an off site call center which may not have the right information for the Carotel group rate. We do still plenty of rooms left and some on same level as the conference room. If you have any issues call or text hotel representative Faye Mullins at [252-503-4988](tel:252-503-4988) or Ronnie Cashwell at [919-801-8428](tel:919-801-8428).



Registration for the convention itself is separate, and registration forms were e-mailed earlier this week. A copy of that registration form can be found on Page 2 of this newsletter and is also available via Internet at:

[2026 Carotel Convention Registration Form](#)

Entertainment chairman Ronnie Cashwell has been busy negotiating great deals and delicious meals for the weekend. Our 2026 photography committee (Darlene Mills, Edie Willis, Brenda Smith and Barbara Smithson) have committed to capturing our kodak moments. We may also have a special Friday night performance by the B-Bop Belles and on Saturday night we may hear from Ronnie and the Rumlbers!

Don't miss the fun. Register now!

2026 Carotel Convention Registration
October 9-10, 2026
Crystal Coast Oceanfront Hotel

DEADLINE for submitting this convention registration is **September 26, 2026.**

**Mail Convention registration to Janet Cashwell
6121 River Meadow Court, Raleigh, NC 27604**

The hotel is Crystal Coast Oceanfront Hotel. <https://crystalcoastcoasthotel.com>
Registration for sleeping rooms must be made directly with the hotel – **THIS registration form is for the
CONVENTION ONLY. BE SURE TO BOOK YOUR ROOM NOW
directly with the hotel – NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 19, 2026.
The group code is CAROTEL. 252-247-4155. Choose Option 2.**

Convention Registration is \$75.00 pp. Send your registration to Janet Cashwell.

Make registration check out to “Carotel Club.”

CONVENTION

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Total number of individuals registered: ____ x (\$ 75.00) pp

Total amount submitted for convention registration: \$_____

Note on **GOLFING**

On Friday night, October 9, the decision on playing golf will be made. Doug Sibbett will make arrangements as necessary for Saturday morning. No deposit necessary at this time as that will be collected Carotel weekend. See you at Carotel!

National ITPA Annual Assembly



Carotel's very own Ronnie Cashwell is currently serving as the national ITPA First Vice President, and in that capacity he is hard at work planning the national ITPA's 2027 annual spring assembly. This gathering will be held on **April 29 - May 2, 2027** at the **Hampton Inn & Suites in Aberdeen, NC**, the location of our annual Tar Heel State Chapter assembly.

Due to events beyond our control, the tradition of the national ITPA gathering annually during April was a bit hampered during the past two years, although the "mini" assembly held in Darian, GA this past fall was enjoyed by all who attended. Look for details about the upcoming national assembly in the November edition of the Pioneer Connection magazine!

If you've never attended a national ITPA assembly, make plans now to attend the 2027 gathering to support Ronnie as he plans the national assembly for Pioneers from across the nation. During the spring assembly, our beloved mascot Hunny Bunny will retire and Ronnie will introduce the new national ITPA mascot.

Several Carotel and Tar Heel State Chapter Pioneers are active at the national level, so don't worry, you'll be among friends old and new when you attend this gathering. Being a Carotel Pioneer already means you've got a connection to our state Tar Heel Chapter and to the national ITPA. The ITPA is a hierarchical non-profit organization. The Carotel Pioneer Club is in the Tar Heel State Chapter, which is in Region 1 of the national organization.

The Tar Heel Chapter has officers and directors, and several Carotel Pioneers serve in those capacities. Darlene Roll, a Buckeye State Chapter Pioneer, serves as our Region 1 Vice President. Leon Yard currently serves as our national President. At the 2027 spring assembly, Leon will pass the national presidency role to Carotel Pioneer Ronnie Cashwell, subject to member approval during the national business meeting.

Tar Heel Chapter Annual Assembly

Thanks to all of the Pioneers and guests who attended this year's Tar Heel Chapter annual assembly. Our golf-themed gathering was held in August, and Pioneer friends from as far as Ohio and South Carolina reunited for our North Carolina chapter gathering to enjoy great fellowship and good food. We were pleased to have two of this year's scholarship recipients, Kassie Davis and Mykenzi Cashwell Herndon, present. We're also pleased to announce that both Kassie and Mykenzi joined the ITPA as Pioneers, so we heartily welcome our youngest Pioneers!



***Mykenzi (left) and Kassie (right)
with Tar Heel Chapter Scholarship
Chairperson Vicky Jolly***



Thanks to our Pioneers' generosity, we collected more than 250 food items for the food pantry this year and more than 160 non-food toiletry and personal items for the Davidson Life Center. In Mike Outlaw's memory, the food will help stock the Salem Methodist Church pantry, where Mike and Jean were long time members. Tar Heel Chapter Pioneers have long supported the Davidson Life Center for many years. Tar Heel Chapter Pioneer Carolyn Thompson initiated this annual project, and this year's donations are dedicated to her memory.



Tar Heel Chapter Annual Assembly (Cont'd)



What's better than a card game of "golf" at a golf-themed gathering!



Carotel Pioneer Doug Sibbett (above) and his wife Bobbi attended the Tar Heel Assembly for the first time this year, and we also welcomed first time attendees Edie and Larry Willis (below)!



Jim Venczel, Hannah Lancaster and Curty Lancaster (with Prince) always bring a lot of fun to the gathering. This year, Mrs. Hannah used a putter to keep incoming Tar Heel Chapter President Curty in line.



Tar Heel Chapter Annual Assembly (Cont'd)



Above: Ronnie Cashwell (left) with granddaughter and new Pioneer Mykenzi Cashwell Herndon husband Tyler with Janet Holiday-Cashwell (far right)



Above: After a fierce team competition, the "World's Okayest Golfer" trophy was presented to Larry Willis and Doug Sibbett (not pictured)

SAVE THE DATES

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

December 31, 2026

Judy and Brad Satterwhite celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary!

April 29 - May 2, 2027**National ITPA Spring Assembly**

Hampton Inn & Suites
200 Columbus Drive
Aberdeen, NC

First Thursday - every three months

CT&T retirees from Williamston and Ahoskie 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/Ahoskie region or not, is welcome to attend. Just show up!

Last Tuesday of each Month

Wake Forest Retiree Breakfast
Briggs Restaurant, Wake Forest, NC



JANUARY

1 Vickie Giddens
8 Chester Harrell
10 Edie Willis
9 George Mills
27 Nancy Hyatt
30 Jean Outlaw

FEBRUARY

16 Larry Newsome
22 Brenda Smith

MARCH

9 Curty Lancaster
15 Darlene Mills
22 Lisa Lancaster
31 Barbara Smithson

APRIL

12 Vickie Jolly
13 Susan Marshall
16 Ronnie Cashwell
20 Jim Venczel

MAY

24 Lou Barnhardt
27 Daniel Barnhardt

JUNE

2 Larry Willis
19 Carolyn Newsome
21 Chris McLamb
21 Hal Mills

JULY

8 Mary McLamb
25 Kassie Davis
27 Darlene Terry
28 Janet Cashwell
28 Judy Satterwhite

AUGUST

10 Alissa Moss
21 Addie Moss

SEPTEMBER

14 Hannah Lancaster
25 Angelia Harrell

OCTOBER

13 Caroll Giddens
15 Jim Jolly
21 Chris Moss

NOVEMBER

13 Doug Sibbett
17 Nat Goss
23 Bill Twyman

DECEMBER

None

If your birthday's not listed, it's because we don't know when to celebrate YOU! Send your birthdate (and anniversary) to bdnterry@outlook.com so we can acknowledge your special occasions!



JANUARY

14 Vickie and Carroll Giddens

FEBRUARY

14 Paige and Jim Venczel

MARCH

None

APRIL

5 Edie and Larry Willis

MAY

27 Darlene and George Mills

31 Lisa and Curty Lancaster

JUNE

1 Barbara and Doug Sibbett

11 Carol and Bob Byrd

17 Janet and Ronnie Cashwell

19 Carolyn and Larry Newsome
(celebrating 60 years together this
year!!!)

JULY

3 Jean and Mike Outlaw

AUGUST

6 Vickie and Jim Jolly

SEPTEMBER

1 Alissa and Chris Moss

25 Angelia and Chester Harrell

OCTOBER

25 Mary and Chris McLamb

NOVEMBER

1 Lou and Daniel Barnhardt

DECEMBER

31 Judy and Brad Satterwhite
(50 years this year!)

If your anniversary isn't listed, it's because we don't know when to celebrate with YOU! Send your anniversary (and birthday) to bdnterry@outlook.com so we can acknowledge your special occasions!

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

2026-2027

Officers/Directors

President: Curtis Lancaster

Vice President: Vicky Jolly

Immediate Past President:

Brenda Smith

Secretary: Darlene Terry

Treasurer: Janet Holliday-Cashwell

Auditor: Bill Twyman

Directors:

Janet Holliday-Cashwell,
Kassie Davis, 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:

Brenda Smith, Chair

Historical:

Hannah Lancaster

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:
Vacant

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)