

Pioneer



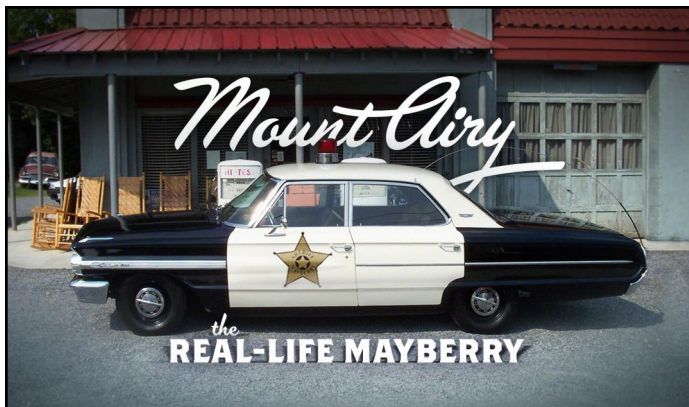
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Issue 24-01

January 2024

**SPECIAL EDITION***ANNOUNCING**ITPA 2024 ANNUAL ASSEMBLY — APRIL 26-28  
(VISIT THE REAL LIFE MAYBERRY)*

1st Vice President Leon Yard invites all Pioneers and their guests to take a nostalgic trip back in time to Mayberry for the ITPA's 32nd annual assembly.



Join us as we travel back in time to those laid back days in Mayberry where we enjoyed seeing the trouble Barney would get into each week and how Andy would save the day and Barney.

*The Andy Griffith Show* was based on Andy Griffith's hometown of Mount Airy, NC. From Floyd's Barber Shop to fried pork chop sandwiches, Mount Airy has embraced its role as the inspiration for Mayberry. Our annual assembly will be held a stone's throw from Mayberry (Mount Airy) in Dobson, NC.

Both towns are located in Surry County. Mount Airy is actually much larger than rural Dobson, although Dobson is the county seat of Surry County. Dobson is also the home of the Shelton Vineyards, the largest winery in North Carolina. You'll enjoy the laid back feel of both Dobson and Mount Airy, and we we'll do our best to ensure you enjoy this Mayberry assembly. If you fly in to attend, the Piedmont Triad International Airport in Greensboro is only a little over an hour's drive to the hotel in Dobson.





January 2024

Dear ITPA Pioneers,

The 32nd Annual ITPA Assembly will be a blast from the past! Our ITPA works to protect the history of telecommunications. What better way to celebrate this event than to visit the fictional town of Mayberry. Mayberry is a place that lingers in all of our hearts and minds as we think about the good old days. The telephone and the operator were important on the Andy Griffith show and were always scene stealers.

We have known for years that that the quaint little fictional town of Mayberry was a representation of the real-life town of Mt. Airy, NC, home of actor Andy Griffith. There will be all types of activities related to the Andy Griffith Show and the fictional town Andy called home. We will have a Mayberry dress-up night during the opening ceremony on Friday evening, and there may be opportunities throughout the weekend to catch a glimpse of a Mayberry resident. If it's been a while since you were acquainted with Mayberry's characters, keep reading to find a review of the cast of characters to help you decide on your costume!

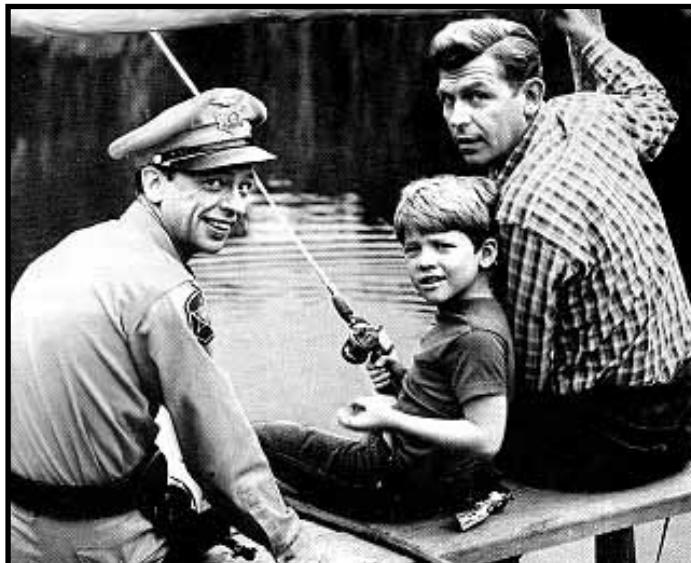
The National Charity will be **Pawsitive Action** which incorporates two things that I am very passionate about: Veterans and Dogs. Kanine Millie and her owner Ray Fernandez will be doing a presentation for us.

Please consider bringing items for our Silent Auction and any items you are willing to donate for the Goody Bags will be appreciated. Also, please consider any sponsorship level that you can. Sponsorship information is contained in this special edition. We can accept credit cards for payment but please note that a small convenience fee will apply to cover the processing costs of online payments (just a required legal disclaimer).

I hope everyone is as excited as I am to be going to Mayberry. Hope to see ya'll there!

Thank you for your support!

Leon Yard – 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President



## Hampton Inn—Dobson

### Location of ITPA's 32nd Annual Assembly



Located in the Yadkin Valley at 150 Charlestowne Drive, the Hampton Inn & Suites in Dobson, NC features an indoor pool, free bike rentals and rooms with a 27-inch flat-screen TV. Elkin Creek Vineyard is a 20-minute drive away. Every room includes a microwave, refrigerator and coffee maker, with free Wi-Fi. A hot continental breakfast is served daily. The hotel also features a fitness center and a fully equipped business center on site.

Cody Park is a 15-minute drive and Mayberry Mall is just 20 minutes away. Stone Mountain State Park is less than an hour's drive. Pilot Mountain State Park is 25 minutes from the hotel. The park includes the distinctive 2,241 ft. peak of Pilot Mountain, shown below.



Photo by Berean Hunter - Own work, CC BY-SA 2.5, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=5115337>

The hotel is currently undergoing renovations and will be beautifully remodeled when we arrive. Our rooms are already blocked and everyone is encouraged to make your reservations early online at <https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink/?cityhcn=INTDBHX&groupCode=CHHITP&arrivaldate=2024-04-25&departuredate=2024-04-29&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT>

Click on "Special Rates" and under Group Code enter "ITPA."

To make reservations by phone call Jennie Lee at 336-353-9400, ext. 2122 and be sure to mention the "ITPA" special group rate.

The standard room rate is \$145 per night and includes either one king bed (roll-away available) or 2 queens. A studio, which is slightly larger is available for \$10 more. (Luxury rooms are significantly larger than standard rooms and include a kitchenette for \$175 per night.) Check-in time is 3PM.

## Where to Eat

Mount Airy has quite a few delicious restaurants. Here are just a few:



**Snappy Lunch** has been around since the 1920s and it's pretty much the same as when Andy Griffith ate there while growing up in Mount Airy. The restaurant is famous for its pork chop sandwich, Mayberry aficionados may recognize the name from an early episode of "The Andy Griffith Show" where Andy suggested to Barney that they go to the Snappy Lunch. Located at 206 N Main Street, the restaurant is open for breakfast and lunch Monday through Saturday.

**Aunt Bea's Barbeque** at 452 North Andy Griffith Parkway in Mount Airy serves breakfast all day and serves barbeque and burgers for lunch.



**13 Bones** at 502 S. Andy Griffith Parkway offers ribs, steak and seafood.

In Dobson, **Surry Diner** is open from 6am—8pm on Tuesday through Saturday (closed Sunday and Monday).

**Little Italy** at 310 N. White Street offers pizza and delectable Italian dishes.

Open Wednesday through Sunday, **The Depot Restaurant at Cody Creek**, 112 Old Depot Lane, offers a wide variety of options.

If you decide to take a drive over to **Pilot Mountain**, you may want to visit **Cousin Gary's Family Restaurant** on 626 South Key Street.

You can also find another **Aunt Bea's Barbeque** on 642 S. Keys Street in Mount Pilot.



## What to do

Be sure to visit the Mayberry Courthouse in Mount Airy. It's a The replica of the courthouse that appeared in "The Andy Griffith Show" in the 1960s.



Visitors can sit behind Andy's desk, type on a vintage typewriter, and sit in a jell cell just like the one that appeared on the show. You can also visit the Andy Griffith Museum. If you need a haircut, visit Floyd's City Barber Shop.

At <https://www.visitmayberry.com> you'll find more information about where to eat and what to do in Mount Airy.

There are several local wineries in the vicinity.

**Old North State Winery in Mount Airy** (308 North Main Street) also offers an elevated dining experience. Open Wednesday through Saturday, reservations are recommended. Visit <https://oldnorthstatewinery.com>.

In Pilot Mountain, visit **JOLO Winery & Vineyards** at 219 JOLO Winery Lane. You can also dine at this award winning winery. Visit <https://www.jolovineyards.com> to learn more.

In Dobson, you can visit **Shelton Vineyards**, the largest winery in North Carolina.. Tours are available Monday through Saturday at noon, 2pm and 4pm and on Sunday at 3pm. To learn more, visit [www.sheltonvineyards.com](http://www.sheltonvineyards.com)



Also in Dobson, you can visit **Stony Knoll Vineyards**, which is quite popular with wine enthusiasts. Located at 1143 Stony Knoll Road, the winery is open Monday through Saturday. Learn more at <https://www.stonyknollvineyards.com>.

**Herrera Vineyards** at 231 Vineyard Lane, family owned and operated winery, is also in Dobson. However, the restaurant and tasting room are temporarily closed as the family undertakes some large renovations. The estate on which the vineyard is located spans more than 140 acres.

In Mount Airy, visit the **Museum of Regional History** at 301 North Main Street, open Tuesday through Saturday from 10am to 5pm (\$6 admission fee).

Dobson and Pilot Mountain each boast a population of nearly 1,500 (no zeros missing) and Mount Airy's population is slightly over 10,500. Dobson's land mass covers a whopping 1.8 square miles. There are a large number of farms in the areas surrounding Dobson, the main crops being corn, tobacco and soy beans.

The town of Pilot Mountain was named for the landmark Pilot Mountain, which is a distinctive geological formation. The town's land mass covers 1.7 square miles.

In comparison, Mount Airy is a large town, spanning 8.4 square miles. It is one of the most populous municipalities in Surry County. Originally settled in the 1750s, Mount Airy was officially incorporated in 1885.



Photo by G Keith Hall - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=21532050>

### Fun Facts about Mount Airy:

Mount Airy has a sister city, Samut Songkhram, in Thailand.

Mount Airy hosts an Autumn Leaves Festival during the 2nd weekend in October each year, attracting more than 200,000 people.

Mount Airy radio station **WPAQ** still operates as a Bluegrass and Old-Time music station and has been airing live since 1948.

Mount Airy hosts weekly bluegrass jam sessions at the Andy Griffith Playhouse.



## Meet the Residents of Mayberry



Andy Taylor  
(portrayed by Andy Griffith)  
Sheriff of Mayberry;  
widowed father of Opie



Opie Taylor  
(portrayed by Ron Howard)  
young son of Sheriff  
Andy Taylor



Barney Fife  
(portrayed by Don Knotts)  
Deputy Sheriff of Mayberry



Aunt Bea  
(portrayed by Frances Bavier)  
Andy's paternal aunt



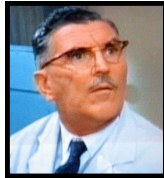
Otis Campbell  
(portrayed by Hal Smith)  
The town drunk who  
lets himself into the jail  
to sleep it off



Mayor Pike  
(portrayed by Dick Elliott)  
Mayor of Mayberry



Ellie Walker  
(portrayed by Elinor Donahue)  
Town pharmacist



Floyd Lawson  
(portrayed by Howard McNear)  
Town barber



Thelma Lou  
(portrayed by Betty Lynn)  
Barney's primary  
girlfriend



Clara Edwards  
(portrayed by Hope Sommers)  
Aunt Bea's best  
friend



Gomer Pyle  
(portrayed by Jim Neighbors)  
Mechanic at Wally's  
Filling Station



Helen Crump  
(portrayed by Aneta Corsaut)  
School teacher and  
Andy's girlfriend



Briscoe Darling  
(portrayed by Denver Pyle)  
Patriarch of the Darling family



Charlene Darling  
(portrayed by Maggie Peterson)  
Briscoe Darling's daughter. Had a crush on Andy.



The Darling Boys  
(portrayed by the Dillards) - Briscoe Darling's musical sons



Ernest T. Bass  
(portrayed by Howard Morris)  
A troublemaking mountain man



Goober Pyle  
(portrayed by George Lindsay)  
Auto mechanic and  
cousin of Gomer Pyle



Howard Sprague  
(portrayed by Jack Dodson)  
Town clerk



Emmett Clark  
(portrayed by Hal Clark)  
Fixit shop owner

Source: Wikipedia

Read about more Mayberry Characters at [List of The Andy Griffith Show characters - Wikipedia](#) and [List of The Andy Griffith Show guest stars](#)



## Registration Form

Dobson, NC

April 26-28, 2024

### ITPA 32nd ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

Member Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name of Guest \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter/Club Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

First-time Assembly attendee? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ (Contact national office at [itpa@telecom-pioneers.net](mailto:itpa@telecom-pioneers.net) for first-time grant application)

**Registration fee includes the following meals and activities:**

- Friday : Meet and Greet Dinner/Opening Ceremony (You are invited to come dressed as your favorite Mayberry character)
- Saturday: Lunch
- Saturday:
  - Afternoon: Registration fee includes optional squad car tour and/or tour of the Andy Griffith Museum
  - Evening: Dinner is on your own
- Sunday
  - Noon: Hall of Fame Luncheon/Afternoon Awards Ceremony
  - Evening: Banquet/Installation

**Saturday afternoon/evening activities** (Registration fee includes attendance at one or both activities. You must sign up in advance to attend one or both activities. Sign-up is not available during assembly attendance.)

- ☐ Squad Car Tour Number of participants \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Andy Griffith Museum Number of participants \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ I do not want to take a tour

**Registration Fee:** Payment for registration must accompany this form. Check the appropriate options below. Make check payable to ITPA. (See [www.nationalitpa.com](http://www.nationalitpa.com) for online registration.)

- ☐ ITPA Member (includes Hall of Fame Luncheon) \$130 per person \_\_\_\_\_ No. of Members
- ☐ Guest (includes Hall of Fame Luncheon) \$130 per guest \_\_\_\_\_ No. of Guests

**Grand Total Enclosed** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Hall of Fame Luncheon Only \$ 35 per person \_\_\_\_\_ No. of attendees  
(applies only to luncheon attendees not registered for Assembly)

**Grand Total Enclosed** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send assembly registration form and check payable to ITPA to:** ITPA, 438 W. Oglethorpe Hwy, Hinesville, GA 31313

**Hotel Accommodations:** Hampton Inn Dobson, 150 Charlestowne Drive, Dobson, NC 27017

Room Rates- Standard Room with one king bed or two queen beds \$145 per night plus tax. Check-in time is 3PM.

**To register online:**

<https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink/?ctyhocn=INTDBHX&groupCode=CHHITP&arrivaldate=2024-04-25&departuredate=2024-04-29&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT>

Click on "Special Rates" and under Group Code enter "ITPA."

**To Register by Phone:** 336-353-9400 USE "ITPA" as the group rate key word. Ask for Jennie Lee at ext. 2122 to request a studio room for \$155 or a luxury suite for \$175 per night.

**Deadline to make hotel reservations – March 25, 2024**

**Deadline to register for Assembly – April 11, 2024**

**Cancellation Policy:** Cancellations for assembly registration received after March 1st are non-refundable. In order to receive a refund on hotel deposit, you must cancel your hotel room at least 24 hours before your scheduled 3PM check-in date.



## Independent Telecommunications Pioneer Association

32nd Annual Assembly April 26-28, 2024

### Sponsor Levels

Please list sponsor name as: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the appropriate sponsorship level:

☐ Diamond \$2,000.00

☐ Platinum \$1,000.00

☐ Gold \$750.00

☐ Silver \$500.00

☐ Bronze \$350.00

☐ Sponsor (select option)

\$300 \_\_\_\_\_ \$200 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail completed sponsorship form and tax deductible donation to:

ITPA  
438 West Oglethorpe Hwy  
Hinesville, GA 31313

**Thank you for your support!**