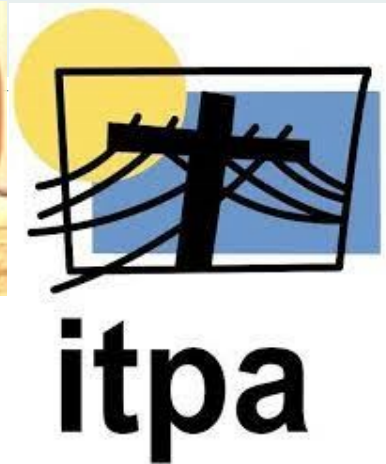




Carotel Club / Tar Heel Chapter
November 2023 Newsletter
Issue 7



2024 Carotel Convention—What a GREAT Time!

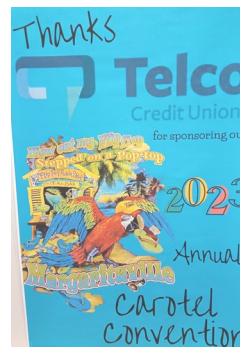


The theme for this year’s annual Carotel Convention was Margaritaville. This fitting theme, which was actually planned a year before Jimmy Buffet’s death, allowed us to pay tribute to the prolific song writer, singer, author and entertainer.

From start to finish, the convention offered lively entertainment, upbeat conversations, and an opportunity for old friends to reconnect.

Although our numbers are smaller than they once were, our convention goers look forward each year to reuniting with former co-workers and dear friends. If you haven’t been in a while, we sure have missed you. If you attended this year’s convention, we look forward to seeing you next year. In fact, our committee is already planning next year’s convention!

Our deep gratitude is extended to corporate convention sponsor **Telco Credit Union**. A number of individuals also helped sponsor our convention by donating an additional \$25 when registration fees were submitted. By request of some who gave, the names of our generous individual sponsors are not listed, although we want each of you to know what a valuable contribution you made to our convention. Corporate and individual sponsorships help us keep registration fees reasonable while reserving general funds to cover normal business costs. Proceeds from our live and silent auctions are earmarked for our scholarship fund and occasionally for other philanthropical purposes and are never used to cover convention costs.



By popular request, next year’s convention will be held earlier in October (October 11-12) so that our Pioneers can enjoy Halloween activities with family the weekend before Halloween. Hotel rates and convention registration fees will be announced by mid 2024, and we will work hard to keep costs comparable to the same level as our past gatherings.

See inside for photos from this year’s convention, more information about next year’s convention, and for updates on local and national Pioneer projects.

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SAVE THE DATES

February 9-11, 2024

Tar Heel Chapter’s Winter Gathering/Super Bowl Party

April 26-28, 2024

National ITPA Assembly,
Mount Airy, NC
All Pioneers are welcome

October 11-12, 2024

Annual Carotel Convention
Pine Knoll Shores, NC

If you know of a retiree or employee gathering or event, we’d love to hear about it and share your photos in our newsletter! Send updates to: dterry625@gmail.com.

Make the choice to embrace this day. Do not let your TODAY be stolen by the ghost of yesterday or the "To-Do" list of tomorrow! It's inspiring to see all the wonderfully amazing things that can happen in a day in which you participate.- Steve Maraboli

CAROTEL PROJECT UPDATES

Carotel's Pioneers continued their ongoing tradition of collecting food and toiletries during the annual Carotel Convention in October. Non-perishable food items were collected for Martha's Mission Cupboard, an emergency food bank in Morehead City, NC. Food, toiletries and pop tabs were collected for Ronald McDonald House of Eastern NC.

Convention attendees were generous with their donations. More than 20 pounds of pop tops were collected equating to nearly 25,000 pop tops.



Toiletries and non-perishable food items for Ronald McDonald House filled an entire table.

More than 300 pounds of non-perishable food items were donated for Martha's Mission Cupboard, an emergency food pantry run solely by volunteers to provide temporary emergency food assistance to families in financial crisis. Every client ideally receives cereal, canned fruit and vegetable, dried beans, rice, grits, saltines, peanut butter, jelly, powered milk, cooking oil, eggs, margarine, orange juice, hot dogs, chickens, bread and rolls, soap, laundry detergent and toilet paper plus other extras that are donated.



Pioneers who attended the convention generously contributed items for the club's silent and live auctions, and generously bid on those items, raising more than \$1,300 for the Elizabeth Bland Memorial Scholarship fund. Many of the items donated were home-baked goods and hand-made arts and crafts. Thanks to Ronnie Cashwell for serving as auctioneer for the event and to Chester Harrell for assisting.

Pictured left: Carol Harrell, Mary McLamb and Brenda Smith log donations for the auctions.

ITPA NATIONAL KINDNESS PROJECT

It's not too late to participate in the national Pioneer project, and all Pioneers are encouraged to do so. An [August Special Edition Pioneer Connection](#) magazine provided details on how to participate.

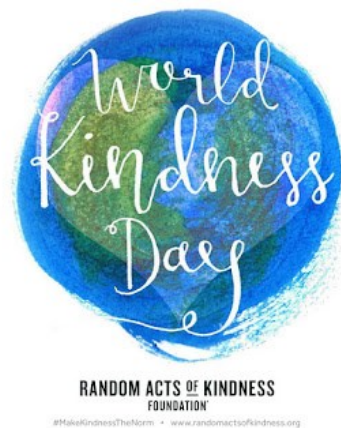
The project period runs through December 31, 2023. Pioneers who participate are eligible to win prizes when they submit a report acknowledging participation. Simply record your participation during the fourth quarter and then e-mail your completed checklist or a report of how you participated to ITPA President, JoAnn Esposito, **no later than March 1, 2024**. (The participation check list can be found in the August Pioneer Connection.)

Pioneers are not limited strictly to using the check list. If your kindness acts are not on the check list, just provide a brief summary of the kindness you demonstrated when you submit your report at year end.

November 13th is World Kindness Day, so it's a perfect time to begin or continue your kindness campaign. World Kindness Day is an international holiday. Established in 1998 to promote kindness throughout the world, World Kindness Day is observed each year on November 13th in many countries, including the United States, Canada, Japan, Australia and the U.A.E.

World Kindness Day presents us with the opportunity to reflect upon one of the most important and unifying human principles. On a day devoted to the positive potential of both large and small acts of kindness, try to promote and diffuse this crucial quality that brings people of every kind together.

Read more about World Kindness Day at [The Random Acts of Kindness Foundation | World Kindness Day®](#)



Carotel and Tar Heel Chapter Pioneers recently partnered with the national ITPA board in support of the national ITPA kindness project and in recognition of Veteran's Day by writing cards and letters to U.S. Military personnel stationed at Fort Stewart, Georgia. Carotel Pioneers prepared more than 100 cards in support of that project.



CONVENTION FUN



One of the photo opp backdrops for our Margaritaville themed convention.



Lynda Honeycutt stands ready to assist Ronnie and Janet Cashwell set up the sound equipment.



Sam and Wendy ready the bar.



Jean Outlaw and Barbara Smithson, two of the many volunteers who helped decorate.



Just of a few of the many items donated for the silent and live auctions.



Janet Cashwell and Larry Newsome worked together on ceiling decorations.



ITPA mascot Myrtle the Turtle started the Margaritaville themed party a little early.



Ronnie test drives a donated child's bike while Chester looks on.

HALLOWEEN CONTEST



Chester Harrell makes friends with one of the contestants. We think this fella may be related to Doug Sibbett.



Mike Outlaw with a pretty young lady who may be related to Larry Newsome.



This fun-loving group of Pioneers always dress for the occasion.



*Above: Our mysterious guest tries to charm Janet Cashwell.
Below: Darlene House finds him quite amusing.*



It's hard to tell whether these are the three amigos or the three stooges! Above, left to right: George Mills, Eddie Smithson and Ruben Terry



Master of ceremonies for the Halloween contest Brenda Smith, as Yellowstone's Beth Dutton, congratulates contest winners Paula Ray and Larry Newsome.



MORE CONVENTION FUN



*Front: Andy Davis.
Back: Janet Cashwell and George Mills*



Lynda Honeycutt and Wendy Davis were terrific bar tenders.



Betsy Bullock with the tall, dark and handsome stranger.



Ronnie Cashwell was an entertaining auctioneer, assisted by Chester Harrell.



Bob Byrd won the 50/50 raffle, but Carol got the cash!



Edie Willis and Donna Fountain



The party after the party. A few hearty party-goers continued the fun and games each night.



Sharing a meal with old friends.



Above: Getting the party started.

Below: A little bingo fun.



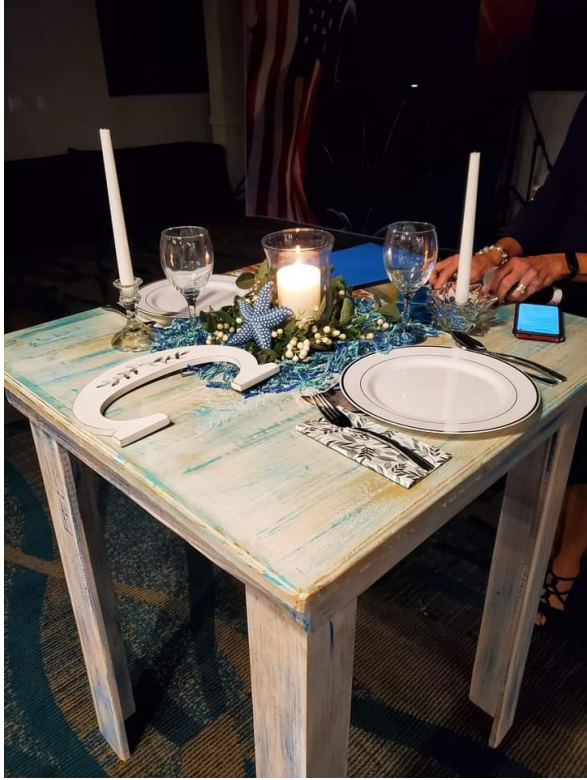


Leon Yard, National ITPA Vice President addressed the group and announced the location of the 2024 national spring assembly.



Contestants playing for a prize in Beach Ball Musical Chairs.





A table set for those missing among us. A remembrance of Craig Smith and Patsy Lee.



Pioneers who served our country were recognized during a special ceremony. Our deep gratitude to all who served our country to protect our freedoms.

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 (1-year term)
Wendy Davis (2-year term)
Chester Harrell (2-year term)
Darlene House (1-year term)
Mary McLamb(3-year term)
Larry Newsome (3-year term)
Judy Satterwhite (1-year term)
Doug Sibbett(3-year term)
Barbara Smithson (1-year term)
Darlene Terry (2-year term)

Committees:

Scholarship Committee

Chairman—Carol Harrell

By-Laws Committee

Chairman—Ronnie Cashwell
Mike Outlaw
Carol Harrell,
Doug Sibbett
Ray Brock

No new nominations were received for the 2023-24 term during the club's annual fall business meeting on October 28th. Carotel convention attendees voted to retain officers and directors in place during the pendency of updates to the club's by-laws.

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 2023-24 Tar Heel Chapter officers and directors were elected during the chapter's annual business meeting on August 26th: Thanks to these individuals for their willingness to serve our chapter in these capacities.

MEMORIALS

We would like to acknowledge the passing of fellow Carotel members in our quarterly newsletters. Several telco Facebook pages are updated with death notices and obituary links for those who had an affiliation with a particular telephone company, but we often don't know whether the deceased was affiliated with the Carotel club. We would value the opportunity to begin keeping the Carotel Pioneer family briefly informed when we lose a fellow Pioneer and ask for your help in notifying us. We would like to be consistent with the information, so please provide first/last name (or nickname if appropriate), city of residence, date of death, and last position held with the company. You may also provide a link to a full obituary.

TAR HEEL CHAPTER NEWS

All Pioneers are invited to attend the Tar Heel Chapter's annual winter gathering during Super Bowl weekend. Super Bowl LVIII will be held on Sunday, February 11, 2024. Information will be provided soon regarding hotel location, pricing, and dates.



Carotel Club is a club 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. The Tar Heel Chapter meetings and the national ITPA spring assembly provide wonderful opportunities to meet Pioneers from other clubs and chapters.

A BLAST FROM THE PAST

Carotel Club

Pioneer News

July 15, 1999

CAROTEL CLUB'S 1999 OFFICERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN, AND DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT	Mike Outlaw	Fayetteville	910-483-2211	-----
VICE PRESIDENT	Travis Butler	New Bern	252-637-4734	NCNWBD0103
TREASURER	Carol Harrell	Greenville	252-830-3114	NCGRVM0201
SECRETARY	Charlotte Quinn	Tarboro	252-641-2905	NCTRBB0103
ASST. SECRETARY	Diana Matthews	Greenville	252-756-9400	NCGRVD0103
NOMINATION COMM.	Harold Cain	Fayetteville	910-868-5555	-----
MEMBERSHIP	Kathy Wagner	Smithfield	919-938-2612	NCSMFB0101
COMMUNITY SERVICE	Mike Middleton	Fayetteville	910-864-0804	NCFAYG0102
PUBLICITY	Connie Byrd	Tarboro	252-641-3283	NCTRBB0103
LIFE MEMBER	Martha Douglas	Fayetteville	910-486-8006	NCFAYF0210
FELLOWSHIP	Libba Bland	Tarboro	252-641-3398	NCTRBB0202
ED. OPPORTUNITIES	Talmadge Tingle	Fayetteville	910-323-9084	NCFAYF0211
HOBBY	Frances Wainwright	Tarboro	252-641-0533	-----
ENTERTAINMENT	Ronnie Cashwell	Raleigh	919-713-2321	NCRALM0101
MUSEUM & HISTORICAL	Bruce Joyner	Tarboro	252-823-2153	-----
ASST. MUS. & HISTORICAL	Walter White	Rocky Mount	252-977-7869	-----
BY-LAWS	Carlton Davis	Rocky Mount	252-937-7033	-----
LONG RANGE PLAN	Lois Dail	Farmville	252-749-5651	-----
BUDGET-WAYS & MEANS	Varnell Kinnin	Tarboro	252-641-3718	NCTRBB0212
ASST. WAYS & MEANS	Hilda Morris	Tarboro	252-641-3359	NCTRBB0212
SPECIAL PROJECTS	John Ezzelle	Fayetteville	910-822-5332	-----
STRAIGHT TALK	Gayle Phillips	Wake Forest	919-554-7854	NCWKFR0311

DIRECTORS

Lough Leane Baker	Tarboro	252-824-2630	NCTRBB0212
Alice Harris	Tarboro	252-641-3429	NCTRBB0204
Betty Jo Shephard	Tarboro	252-641-6190	NCTRBF0201
William Matthews	Greenville	252-830-1168	NCGRVM0301
Bill Joiner	Greenville	252-830-1843	NCGRVM0201
Bradley Cooper	Clinton	910-592-9105	NCCLTA0203
Gene Wall	Greenville	252-757-3200	NCGRVF0101
Jan Dempster	Wake Forest	919-554-7449	NCWKFR0301
Bobby Dixon	Rocky Mount	252-937-2784	-----
J.W. Wooten	Tarboro	252-823-9541	NCTRBB0102
John Byrd	Wilson	252-291-3080	-----

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

August 2-4, 1999 - This year, Food Lion will be having their annual Food Drive on August 2-4, 1999. Community Way Days Voucher must be presented to the cashier at the beginning of the grocery scanning process. The system automatically calculates 5% of the total retail order, before coupons and discounts have been deducted and tax added. In addition to the 5% of the total retail order, the Independent Telephone Pioneer Association will receive an additional \$0.25 for each shopper who purchases at least one MVP product and has their MVP card scanned.

August 20-22, 1999- The Tarheel Chapter's 33rd Annual Meeting for 1999 will be held on August 20, 21 and 22 at the Holiday Inn in Southern Pines, NC. Pioneers and their spouses are invited to attend the event.

Tentative - September, 1999 - Grand Opening - "Museum of Telephony" - (more information shown below in newsletter)

October 8-9, 1999 - Carotel Convention - Morehead City - Make your reservations NOW!!!!

CAROTEL CLUB SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

This year, the Carotel Club scholarships were awarded to Elizabeth Anne Alligood, daughter of Charles M. (Mike) Alligood of Washington, NC; Daniel Brett Jones, son of William (Darrell) Jones of Clinton, NC; and Nicole Glynn Ringgold, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest (Pamela) Ringgold of Bridgeton, NC. The club offered (3) \$1,000 scholarships. One of the scholarships was given in memory of Donahue Bottoms. Donahue's family gave the Carotel Club a hobby horse which was made by Mr. Bottoms prior to his death. Chances on the horse were sold at the 1998 convention which enabled the club to give the three scholarships this year.

The Carotel Board members would like to personally thank Joan Williams of Fayetteville for her effort and support in handling the scholarship program for 1999.

Shown below is a photo of Mike Outlaw, Carotel President, presenting one of the scholarship checks to Nicole Ringgold, daughter of Pam Ringgold.



NOTE FROM CHARLOTTE QUINN, CAROTEL SECRETARY

The ITPA dues billing for the Year 2000 will be handled directly by National. In lieu of member cards being sent out by Charlotte as in the past, they will be mailed by ITPA. When you receive your member card and information, please return to ITPA with a check in the amount of \$20.00 if you want to remain a member of the Carotel and ITPA. If you have any questions, please contact Charlotte at 252-641-2905.

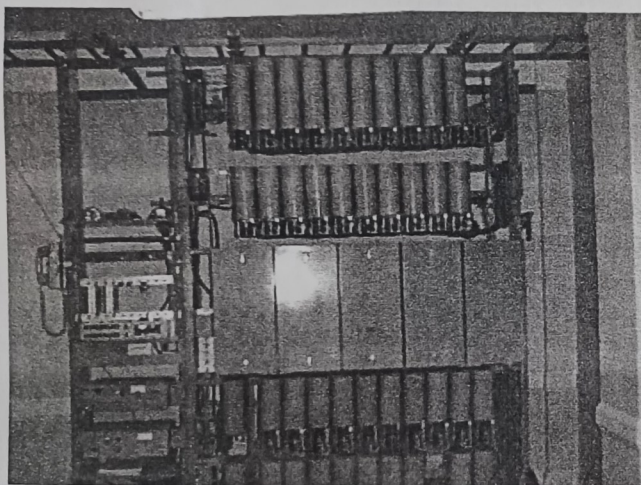
INCREASE IN ITPA DUES: The ITPA dues will increase from \$15.00 to \$20.00 for the calendar year 2000.

COMING SOON – CAROLINA TELEPHONE MUSEUM

Co-chairmen Bruce Joyner and Walter White have reported that the Carotel Museum Committee is finalizing plans to open a "Museum of Telephony" within the next two months. The project, jointly sponsored by Carolina Telephone Pioneers (Carotel Club) and Sprint, will be located within the Imagination Station Science Museum at 204 Nash Street, Wilson, NC. In addition to the usual historic artifacts, displays, etc., the museum will feature a working Step-by-Step central office switching system and a modern technology computer room – both with "hands on" demonstration capabilities. A Grand Opening celebration is being organized and is expected to be held during September, 1999.

This project will culminate a long term effort by the Carotel Club to establish a permanent home for the many items collected and stored in Tarboro and Fayetteville over the years. Like other parts of the Imagination Station, it is expected to draw wide attention and attendance by visiting school groups, scouting units, etc. as well as the general public. It should be of special interest to the many active and retired telephone employees in our area. Stay tuned for more detailed information to be provided as the Grand Opening event draws nearer.

Shown below are photos of the Step-by-Step switch, together with its principle planner and installer, Thomas Lovegrove. Thomas and others have volunteered many weekend hours to its installation and testing during recent weeks. The Carotel Board of Directors presented awards of special appreciation to Thomas and the others during a recent Board meeting held at the Museum site in Wilson. Also shown is a photo of the "Step-By-Step" central office switch with Bruce Joyner, Walter White and Thomas Lovegrove.



SICKNESS/DEATH NOTICES

NEWS FLASH

Attention: Carotel Retirees will no longer be receiving the sickness and death post cards any longer due to the closing of the Print Shop.

Be sure and call Libba Bland at 252-641-3398 and let her know about any sickness or deaths of Carotel members that you are aware of in your area. Please note you no longer have to return completed notices to show how many cards you sent. Also, please check the mailstop and location and if it is incorrect, please send Libba Bland a LAN, make corrections on the notice and return to her at NCTRBB0202, Tarboro or call her at 252-641-3398 and give her the correct information.