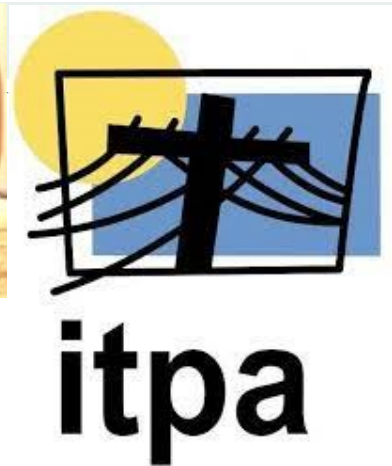




Carotel Club / Tar Heel Chapter
 January 2024 Newsletter
 Issue 8



2024 Carotel Convention—A Weekend in Paris

SAVE THE DATES! Carotel’s annual convention will be held on October 11-12 this year. We will convene again at the Inn at Pine Knoll Shores on the beautiful Crystal Coast. Mid-October typically offers beautiful fall weather, and every room in the hotel includes spectacular ocean views.



By popular request, this year’s Paris themed convention will be held earlier than in recent years 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 year, and we will work hard to keep costs comparable to the same level as our past gatherings.

The **Tar Heel Chapter’s annual winter meeting** will be held in Myrtle Beach at the Monterey Bay Suites (6804 N. Ocean Blvd. Myrtle Beach, SC) during Superbowl weekend (February 10-11), and all Carotel Club/Tar Heel Chapter Pioneers and guests are invited. A block of rooms have been reserved at a special rate. To receive these special rates, call the hotel at 888-255-4763 and ask for the “**Tar Heel ITPA**” rates shown below.

	Thu Feb 8		Fri Feb 9		Sat Feb 10		Sun Feb 11	
	Rate	Total Nightly	Rate	Total Nightly	Rate	Total Nightly	Rate	Total Nightly
Oceanfront Suite Double	\$57.93	\$88.07	\$83.60	\$117.07	\$83.60	\$117.07	\$65.27	\$96.35
Oceanfront King Suite	\$65.27	\$96.35	\$90.93	\$125.35	\$90.93	\$125.35	\$72.60	\$104.65

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. Total Nightly includes taxes & fees. Check-in time: 4:00pm, Check-out time: 11:00am.

Reservations must be booked by January 18th to receive this special rate. Contact Ronnie Cashwell at 919 801 8428 or bigronc.1313@gmail.com if you have questions or to let him know you plan to join us. Come enjoy the Superbowl with other Pioneers!

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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.

We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.
 Winston Churchill

CAROTEL PROJECT UPDATES

Carotel's Pioneers were busy during the holiday season! In mid-December, one group of Pioneers braved the not too cold December weather and went caroling. They serenaded sixteen seniors and shut-ins at their homes and delivered wonderful goodie bags to them. In the days following they delivered goodie bags to others who weren't on the caroling tour. The goodie bags included oranges and apples, a homemade towel to hang on an appliance handle, homemade baked treats, peppermint and chocolates, hand lotion and tissues.



Another Pioneer group serenaded seniors in two assisted living and skilled nursing facilities with Christmas carols and karaoke. Throughout the year, this small group of dedicated Pioneers and their volunteers have visited care facilities to sing for and with the staff and residents of the facilities. They have regularly recognized staff members of a Greenville care facility with small treats and have occasionally brought special gifts for the residents. This dedicated group is always a welcomed sight at the facilities they visit, and both the staff and residents have very much appreciated their continued support.

A group of volunteers in Carteret County wrote thank you notes and hand-painted Christmas ornaments that were delivered to first responder teams in Emerald Isle during the holiday season.



One Carotel led group of neighbors opted to forego their annual gift exchange tradition and instead they collected non-perishable foods for Martha's Mission Cupboard, to supplement the food supply for families in crisis during the holiday season. The small group of neighbors delivered more than 200 pounds of food to the mission.

Another group of Carotel family and friends opted to forego their traditional gift giving and instead donated funds and purchased wish list items to help a local pet rescue organization. The small group donated \$500 towards the organization's veterinary bills and provided multiple items from the organization's online "wish list."

Before the holiday season even began, Pioneers were busy in their communities. A small Hertford County team led by Carotel Pioneers recognized that county's first responders by treating them to a delicious pulled pork meal. Pioneers also presented the Hertford County first responder team with a beautiful wooden hand-carved "thank you" plaque and a certificate of appreciation from Carotel.

*Thanks to the Pioneers who let us know how they exemplified their Pioneer spirit during the holidays. We know that most of our Pioneers do and give throughout the year without calling attention to their acts of service and with no expectation of recognition, and you are much appreciated! Since we are nearing the date by which we are asked to submit annual updates to our national committee on our 2023 community service projects, please consider sending us a small write-up (**by January 23 please**), with photos if available, of how you helped with Carotel's projects throughout the year.*

ITPA NATIONAL NEWS

Pioneers who participated in the national ITPA kindness project are encouraged to submit a report to ITPA President JoAnn Esposito so that we can record your participation. Pioneers are eligible to win prizes when they submit a report acknowledging participation. Simply e-mail your completed checklist or a report of how you participated to ITPA President, JoAnn Esposito, **no later than March 1, 2024**. The [August Special Edition Pioneer Connection](#) magazine included the participant check list.

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



The ITPA's annual spring assembly will be held in North Carolina this year! This year's Mayberry themed event will be held a stone's throw from Mayberry (Mount Airy) in Dobson, NC on April 26-28th. Our Carotel Club and the Tar Heel Chapter have been represented at past national assemblies (last year in Hinesville, GA and the 2022 assembly was in Washington, DC). We are hoping for a big Carotel/Tar Heel Chapter turn-out at this year's assembly. If you'll be a first-

time attendee, don't worry that you won't know anyone at the national assembly. Some of our Carotel Pioneers have already made their reservations for this year's national assembly, and we hope to see you there. You can book your room now at the Hampton Inn in Dobson, NC (150 Charlestowne Drive)

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>

Or call 336-353-9400 and use "ITPA" as the group rate key word.

Room Rates- Standard Room with one king bed or two queen beds \$145 per night plus tax. (Studio rooms are available for \$155 and luxury suites are \$175 per night.)

Assembly registration forms will be provided in the next ***Pioneer Connection*** magazine. The \$135 per person assembly registration fee is in addition to hotel costs. Everyone who attends is invited to participate in the Friday night costume party. Come dressed as your favorite Mayberry character.

RETIREE GATHERINGS

Clinton retirees met in December and enjoyed an excellent holiday meal together. These retirees meet regularly to catch up with old friends and co-workers. Dennis Stroud updated the group on recent changes in the VEBA benefit.

This gathering began with a small group of retirees who had worked in the Clinton area, and has grown as people have begun attending who worked with people in the Clinton area. The next gathering will be held in June, and details will be provided in a future newsletter when they are available.

Pictured are some of the attendees from the December gathering.



1. Linda Honeycutt 2. Janet Holliday-Cashwell



1. Danny Baldwin 2. Chris Marks 3. Eddie Hobbs
4. Charlie Knox 5. Wesley Chapman 6. Gregg Hollowell



1. Jackie Southerland 2. Ethel Southerland



1. Dwight Tyndal 2. Ronnie Cashwell 3. Wayne Shatterly



1. Dennis Stroud 2. Jerry Merritt 3. Greg Jones 4. Neil Barbee
5. Mike Lanier 6. Jerry Dunn 7. Jerry Marshburn 8. Carl Tyndall



Larry Willis

We'd love to hear about and publicize other retiree events. Send updates and photos to bdnterry@outlook.com to have your next gathering announced or reported on in our next newsletter!

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 , Andy Davis, Wendy Davis, Chester Harrell, Darlene House, Mary McLamb, Larry Newsome, Judy Satterwhite, Doug Sibbett, Barbara Smithson, Darlene Terry

Directors Emeritus: Ronnie Cashwell, Carol Harrell, Mike Outlaw

Committees:

Scholarship Committee

Carol Harrell, Chair

Janet Holliday-Cashwell

Brenda Smith

By-Laws Committee

Ronnie Cashwell, Chair

Ray Brock, Carol Harrell, Mike Outlaw, Doug Sibbett

Entertainment Committee

Ronnie Cashwell, Chair

Public Relations

Darlene Terry

During the 2023-24 annual fall business meeting, Carotel Pioneers voted to retain directors who would have otherwise rotated off the board under a 1 or 2 year term, during the pendency of proposed updates to the club's by-laws, which will be presented to club members for adoption by vote in 2024.

***A special thank you on behalf of Ronnie Cashwell to everyone who served on the entertainment committee and helping with our 2023 fall convention. More than a dozen Pioneers and guests worked diligently behind the scenes to haul and set up equipment, purchase and set up the bar and refreshments, decorate, tear down and do whatever else was needed to make the convention run smoothly.

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.

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.

CELEBRATE VALENTINE'S DAY!

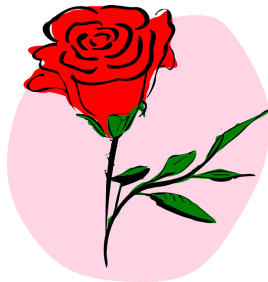


Valentine's Day is almost here, and while this day of love has sometimes been given a bad rap for commercializing romance, it's a perfect opportunity to let others know you care.

Did you know:

There are about 220,000 marriage proposals every year on Valentine's Day!

About 50 million roses are sent on Valentine's Day! If you want a rose to convey your love, don't send a yellow rose! Yellow roses signify friendship. No one wants to receive a "let's just be friends" message from their love on Valentine's Day! Send a red rose to your love!



And do you know which state produces the most red roses? It's California!



And oh, those Valentine's Day candy boxes. About 35 million heart-shaped boxes of candy are purchased for Valentine's Day.

Do you know who invented the first Valentine's Day candy box? It was Richard Cadbury.

Be still my beating heart! Did you know that kissing increases your heart rate? On average, a person's heart rate increases to 110 BPM when they kiss!

You might think that Valentine's Day is a fairly new holiday but Valentine's Day dates all the way back to the 14th century! February 14th was initially declared to be Valentine's Day in 1537! Hallmark greeting cards didn't come into being until centuries later!

ITPA MEMBERSHIP DUES REMINDER

Now, more than ever, your ITPA membership dues help Pioneer Clubs and chapters across the country make a difference in the communities we serve. Twenty percent of the \$30 annual membership fee is sent to the club/chapter of which that Pioneer is a member, conditional upon that club/chapter having submitted the required IRS reports each year. Those funds help offset operating expenses and other costs incurred by our Pioneer organizations. Member attrition over the years, combined with a decline in corporate sponsorships, means that now, more than ever, the membership fees and donations to our foundations, are more critical than ever before, for us to continue making a difference in our communities across the nation.

Annual dues notices were sent electronically in January to all Pioneers for whom our national office has an e-mail addresses on file. Membership fees are due upon receipt. Second notices, generally mailed in April, will be sent as "gentle reminders" in post card form this year. Paying your annual membership dues early in the year will help reduce additional postage costs for post card reminders that will be sent in April.

As a convenience, Pioneer dues can be paid online at <https://nationalitpa.com/pay-dues>. Please note, that a \$2 processing fee incurred by the ITPA is included with the amount due when you pay online. Or, send your check for the \$30 membership fee to:

ITPA
438 W. Oglethorpe Hwy
Hinesville, GA 31313

When you include a donation to our Historical Foundation or Charitable Foundation with your membership dues, those donations are fully tax deductible. Thanks Pioneers for your continued support of and participation in the ITPA.