



Carotel Club / Tar Heel Chapter
August 2023 Newsletter
Issue 6

REGISTER NOW FOR CAROTEL'S ANNUAL CONVENTION

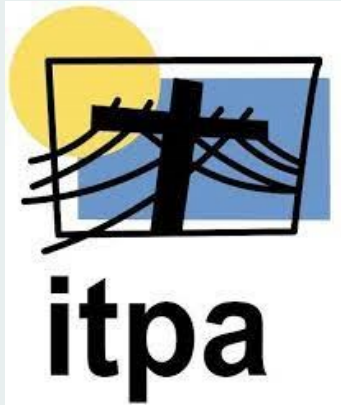
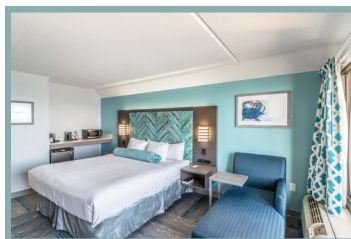
Carotel's convention planning committee members are eagerly planning the club's annual convention to be held on NC's gorgeous crystal coast on October 27-28. All Pioneers and Carotel friends are invited to attend. The convention will be held at the beautifully renovated Inn at Pine Knoll Shores. All rooms are ocean front and are available for a special convention rate of \$99/night plus tax for single occupancy. Double occupancy is an additional \$10/night plus tax. Call the hotel at 252-247-4155 and reference "Carotel Club" to get your special rate.

Please note, anyone who wishes to check-in before Friday and/or stay later beyond Sunday must contact Melissa directly by phone (252-247-4155) or by email at sales@theinnatpks.com.

Attendees must separately register for the convention itself. The registration fee of \$75 per person includes entertainment, two delicious dinner meals, and refreshments during the meeting sessions.

Despite significant increases in food costs, our board members opted not to increase the registration fee beyond \$75 per person. Alternatively, we are seeking donors who are willing to help sponsor our convention with a \$25 donation. The registration form includes information for individuals who are willing to donate as a convention sponsor.

We appreciate your early registration and your consideration of donating. Registration fees are due by September 27th, and early registration will allow us to most effectively plan an excellent convention for everyone's enjoyment. We look forward to reconnecting soon with old friends and former co-workers.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

National Project	2
Tar Heel Chapter Scholarship Recipients	3
Retiree Gatherings	4
Hurricane Season	5
Southerners Say the Darndest Things	6
CT&T/Brightspeed	7
Get the Most out of AARP	7
Carotel/Tar Heel Chapter Officers.....	8
Tar Heel Chapter Meeting	10

SAVE THE DATES

August 29

Wake Forest Area Monthly Breakfast
8:30 a.m.

Location to be announced

Contact Cathy Potter to reserve your seat

September 16

Carolina Telephone Reunion at 4PM
Paradise Acres, 1965 John McMillan
Road, Hope Mills, NC

\$15 per attendee

Send check by September 6th to:

Barbara Dail, P. O. Box 296, Steadman,
NC 28391

Contact Doug Sibbett at 910-818-9346
with questions.

October 27-28

Carotel Convention at the Inn at Pine
Knoll Shores

April 2023

National ITPA Assembly

All Pioneers are welcome

Date TBA

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.

ITPA NATIONAL PROJECT OPPORTUNITY

An **August Special Edition Pioneer Connection** magazine announced the opportunity for ITPA Pioneers nationwide to participate in a national kindness project. Carotel and Tar Heel Chapter Pioneers are encouraged to join in. This project requires no travel, no costs, little planning, and can be done wherever you are. Working together, apart, we can make a big difference in our communities.

A copy of the August magazine is included with this newsletter that provides details on how to sign up and get started. 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.

Pioneers who submit a report acknowledging their participation will be entered into a drawing for prizes.

Please read the [August Special Edition Pioneer Connection](#) (click on link) for more information about our national project, and for information about World Kindness Day, which is on November 13th.



CAROTEL PROJECT UPDATES

The ITPA's national kindness project is a good fit for kindness projects already underway by Carotel's Pioneers. Earlier this year we expressed kindness through written notes and letters. Throughout the year, Carotel members have visited residents at skilled nursing facilities providing entertainment and enriching lives. A Carotel Pioneer has been ROCKING kindness throughout the year, leaving painted rocks for visitors to find.

Our board members voted earlier this year to continue last year's project to recognize and honor first responders and military. You still have time to participate in that effort.

The Carotel Club will also continue our annual drive during our fall convention to collect non-perishable foods and toiletry items for Martha's Mission, a local food bank. Personal toiletries, pull tabs and non-perishable food items will also be collected for donation to the Ronald McDonald House in Greenville.

Convention attendees are additionally invited to bring homemade goodies and other items for our live and silent auctions. Proceeds from the auctions help fund our annual scholarships.

There are so many ways to help our ITPA make a difference in our communities. Please consider participating in all or some of our sponsored projects this year. Together we can make a big difference in our communities.



TAR HEEL CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED



The Tar Heel Chapter awards *Bill and Joe Lawrence Scholarships* annually to students who are beginning or continuing their college education. This year's scholarship recipients were announced during the chapter's annual business meeting on August 26th. Congratulations to the following students, who were each awarded a \$1,000 scholarship:

Aidan Outlaw, North Carolina State University—Business

Sarah Adcock, Savannah College of Art and Design—Fashion Marketing and Journalism

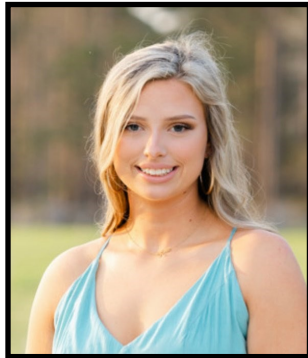
Kassie Davis, College of Coastal Georgia - Nursing

Logan Outlaw, Virginia Tech—Environmental Sciences

Aidan Duncan, Edgecombe Community College—Business

Connor Outlaw, UNC Chapel Hill—Computer Science

Kassie Davis attended the scholarship presentation via Zoom, during which all of the scholarship recipients were recognized.



Above, left to right: Aidan Outlaw, Kassie Davis, Sarah Adcock. Aidan is the grandson of Pioneers Mike and Jean Outlaw. Kassie is the daughter of Pioneer Alissa Moss. Sarah is the granddaughter of Pioneer Joe Lawrence.

Below, left to right: Logan Outlaw, Aidan Duncan, Connor Outlaw. Logan and Connor are the grandsons of Mike and Jean Outlaw and Aidan is the grandson of Pioneer Carol Harrell.



ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP

The Tar Heel Chapter of the ITPA has been awarding scholarships to college-bound students for more than 20 years!

Tar Heel Chapter scholarships are available to family members of active chapter members who are residents of North Carolina.

In earlier years, students received awards from separately funded Tar Heel Chapter scholarships, all of which were merged in recent years into the **Bill and Joe Lawrence Scholarship** fund. Bill and Joe both worked for Heins Telephone Company. (The family of Isabelle Heins Lawrence, Bill's wife, founded Heins Telephone Company.) Bill and Joe were dedicated Pioneers and they established a fund that helps our Tar Heel Chapter continue awarding annual scholarships.



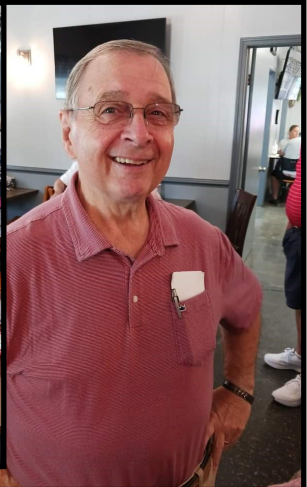
Heins Telephone Company, headquartered in Sanford, NC, was founded by Edward Chandler Heins, Sr. who in 1895 purchased what was then the burgeoning Statesville Telephone Company. Heins Telephone Company was formed on November 21, 1931. The Heins family developed telephone services in other NC communities, including Salisbury, Mt. Airy, Raeford and Clinton.

RETIREE GATHERINGS

Retired CT&T equipment installers convened in July to share a lunch and some laughs in Rich Square, NC. The event was well attended and much enjoyed. William (Bill) Crisp initiated these gatherings last year after reading the obituaries of too many old friends that he hadn't seen in too many years. Bill had been attending regular gatherings with a small group in Tarboro and mentioned to them his idea of getting together with a larger group. They encouraged Bill to host such an event, and he began looking for a location that would allow folks from a larger area to attend without having to drive a long distance. Bill selected Claudine's Restaurant in Rich Square, NC. The restaurant has a private room that accommodates up to 32 people.

You'll recognize some of the attendees at the July luncheon as Carotel Pioneers, and will likely recognize others from your CT&T days.

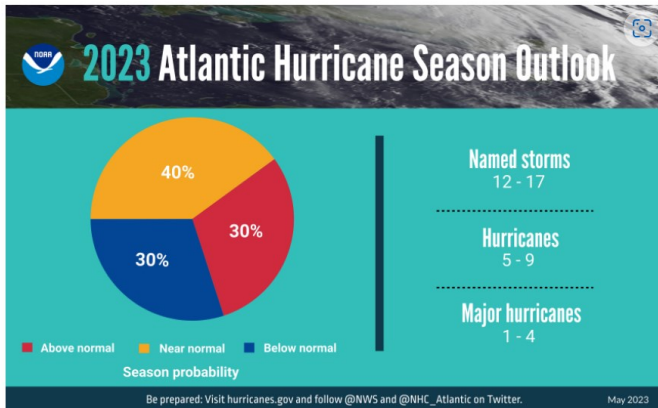
This group plans to meet again at Claudine's. First-timers are always welcomed!



IT'S HURRICANE SEASON IN NC

Many of the exchanges served by Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company are in areas subject to the effects of tropical storm and hurricane activity. The official hurricane season for the Atlantic basin is June 1 through November 30. Tropical storm activity can occur before and after these dates, however. The peak hurricane season for this area is September 10th, with most storm events occurring between mid-August and mid-October .

For 2023, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) has predicted between 12 and 19 named storms, of which 5 to 9 could become hurricanes, of which 1 to 4 could be major hurricanes.. (A storm is classified as a hurricane when winds from the storm are 74 mph or greater.) A major hurricane is considered to be category 3, 4, or 5, with winds of 111 mph or higher.



The above chart depicts NOAA's 2023 Atlantic hurricane season storm outlook. (Image credit: NOAA)

To read more about NOAA's outlook for 2023 storm activity, visit [NOAA predicts a near-normal 2023 Atlantic hurricane season | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#).

North Carolina is ranked fourth for hurricane activity behind Florida, Texas and Louisiana. North Carolina has been hit by 413 major storms. Several past storms serve as a reminder that areas which are several hours inland are at risk for major flooding and damage from high winds and tornados. The most destructive storms in NC have struck in September and October.

Many of our Carotel readers either remember or remember hearing our parents talk of the devastation of Hurricane Hazel. Hazel is, to date, the most destructive hurricane to hit North Carolina. On October 15, 1954, Hazel made landfall in Calabash, NC as a Category 4 storm. Its main impacts were wind, flooding, and storm surge. Robins experiences the highest rainfall during that storm with 11.3 inches. The highest wind gusts were measured at Cape Lookout at 106 mph. Damage estimates for Hazel were \$308 million then, which equates to more than 3 billion today. The storm killed 95 individuals, 19 of which were North Carolinians.

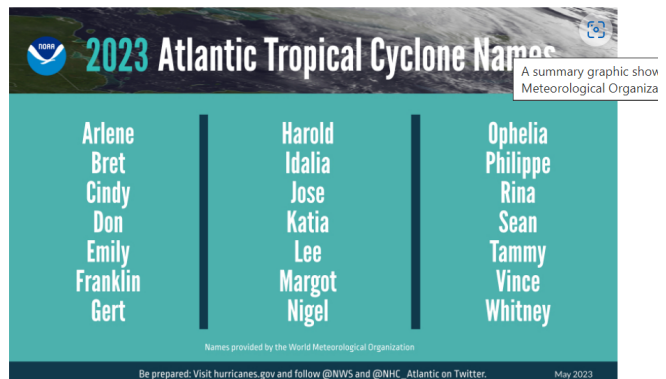
The second most destructive hurricane to hit North Carolina, Hurricane Florence, remains at the forefront of all our memories. Florence made landfall in North Carolina at Wrightsville Beach as a Category 1 storm, and it stalled for several days over a large swath with devastating rainfall totals. Florence holds the record as causing the most devastating flooding in North Carolina. The highest rainfall total was in Elizabethtown, with 35.93 inches. Dropping over 3 feet of rain, Florence has been North Carolina's wettest hurricane. In total, the storm resulted in \$25 billion in damages, \$22 billion of which was in NC.

Hurricane Fran made landfall on September 5, 1996 at Cape Fear as Category 3 storm, with 115 mph winds. It's main impacts were storm surge, wind damage, with storm estimates of \$4.16 billion. Of the 26 deaths caused by the storm 14 were in North Carolina.

Hurricane Floyd also made landfall at Cape Fear on September 6, 1999 as a Category 2 storm with 105 mph winds. Floyd came on the heels of Hurricane Dennis, which had already saturated the soil and streams. The 12 to 18 inches of rain produced by Floyd caused what was unprecedented flooding in inland communities. The historic town of Princeville, NC, founded by freed slaves after the civil war, was inundated by more than 20 feet of water when a levee was breached. Damage estimates from the storm were \$6.5 billion. Of the 57 deaths caused by the storm, 36 were in North Carolina.

Hurricane Dianna threatened to become the most intense hurricane to have struck North Carolina in September 1984, with Category 4 winds of 130 mph. The storm weakened off-shore, however, and looped back, making landfall only as a Category 2 hurricane. Diana caused only \$65.5 million in damages.

Before Florence, North Carolina's worst flooding hurricane was Matthew. Although the eye of Matthew never made landfall, it began impacting North Carolina on October 8, 2016 as a Category 1 storm. Matthew produced more than a foot of rainfall in areas like Fayetteville that were already wet after tropical storms Hermine and Julia, and heavy rain showers before that. The Cape Fear and Neuse rivers both reached then-record crests, and the high-water mark in Kinston remains the all-time record, even after Florence. The flooding from Matthew inundated major roads and devastated farms, resulting in \$1.5 billion in damages across North Carolina.

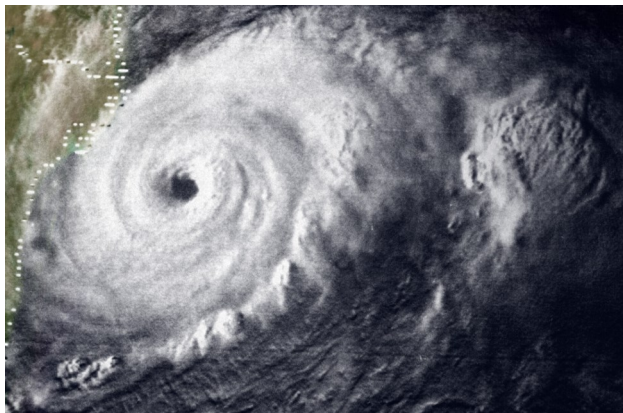


The World Meteorological Organization selected the above names for the 2023 Atlantic tropical cyclone names. Image credit: NOAA

Sources:

- [Inflation Calculator](#)
- [The Top 5 Worst Floods in North Carolina History | wcnc.com](#)
- [List of North Carolina hurricanes - Wikipedia](#)
- [A list of the most destructive hurricanes in North Carolina history - ABC11 Raleigh-Durham](#)
- [Here are the hurricane names for the 2023 Atlantic season \(foxweather.com\)](#)
- [NOAA predicts a near-normal 2023 Atlantic hurricane season | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#)

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS



In “*Steps to Take Now to be Prepared for the Next Hurricane*,” Martha Quillin wrote in the News & Observer, “Hurricanes are like pig-pickin’s: If you live in North Carolina long enough, you’ll experience one. This might be your year”.

Quillin encouraged her readers not to “wait until NOAA’s forecast cone has a storm ripping through your ZIP code to make basic preparations.”

Most of us track the path of major storms as they progress. Even with the most sophisticated equipment, storms can surprise us. In 2022, Hurricane Ian’s predicted path prompted numerous people to evacuate and they headed towards areas that ended up being hit harder than the areas they were fleeing.

The Fair Foundation’s National Hurricane Survival Initiative website, <https://hurricanesafety.org>, offers valuable information on hurricane preparedness, including valuable downloadable check lists, from food and water to first aid, tools and supplies and specialized check lists.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) website <https://noaa.gov/hurricane-prep> also includes useful safety and preparedness information.

Additionally, the United States Government maintains a website dedicated to emergency preparedness for all types of disasters and emergencies. Visit <https://ready.gov>.



SOUTHERNERS SAY THE DARNDDEST THINGS!

Everyone knows that southerners often mask their insults with niceties. That old expression “Bless your heart” isn’t always a well-wishing sentiment!



If a southern woman ever said to you “I s’wanee,!” that’s code for an ill-tempered “I swear” because everyone knows that good southern woman won’t actually say the “swear” word.

If a southern mama says “I’m gonna cream your corn!” you’d better watch out, ‘cause you’re about to get knocked up side the head!

And there’s no shortage of southern insults, including:

- He’s so dumb that if he tried to fling himself on the grass he’d miss!
- If his brain were leather, he wouldn’t have enough leather to make a saddle for a June bug!
- If she had an idea it would die of loneliness.
- Or, if a southerner wants to be a little less direct with their insults:
- Honey, it’s not your fault, you just don’t know any better.
- What a cute haircut! It looks SOOO much better!
- I don’t care what anybody says. I think she’s pretty in her *own* way.
- She’s not the sweetest cookie in the batch, but we wouldn’t trade her for the world.
- He means well, God love him.
- The porch light’s on, but no one’s home.
- She’s so confused she doesn’t know whether to scratch her watch or wind her butt!
- How creative. I could *never* pull that off!
- But he’s got a great personality!
- Her biscuit’s not done in the middle but we love her.

Some more southern sayings that the rest of the world may not understand:

- You’re getting’ too big for your britches!
- That thing is all cattywampus!
- Cain’t never could
- She’s prettier than a glob of butter melting on a stack of pancakes.
- Who liked the red off your candy?
- That dog won’t hunt.
- She’s madder than a wet hen.
- She’s got her feathers ruffled!

Some southern compliments:

- He’s as cute as a bug’s ear.
- She’s prettier than a mess of fried catfish.
- She’s as pretty as a peach.
- He’s a tall drink of iced tea.
- She’s smarter than all get out.
- He’s sweeter than a cherry pie.
- She’s got more style than Carter’s got liver pills.

If you reckon you’ve got some more good southern sayings, y’all send us an email and we’ll add ‘em to a future issue!

IS CT&T STILL CT&T...OR IS IT BRIGHTSPEED

Many Carotel Pioneers retired from Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company, and most went through several transitions. The Company has been around for well over 100 years, having been founded in 1894 when traveling salesman G. A. Holderness convinced a group of businessmen to establish a telephone exchange in Tarboro, NC.

By 1900, the company served four additional exchanges and was formally named Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company. In the 1960s the company was acquired by United Utilities, a telecom holding company. Carolina Telephone was among a number of ILECs (independent local exchange carriers) under the United umbrella. United Utilities later became United Telecom, Inc. and in 1986 United Telecom, Inc. began providing long distance services as Sprint. The holding company changed its name to Sprint in 1992.

When Sprint purchased Nextel in 2004, the local telephone division that included CT&T was spun off as Embarq. In 2008 Embarq was acquired by CenturyTel and that holding company was renamed CenturyLink, Inc. In 2020 CenturyLink, Inc. became Lumen Technologies.

During all these changes, CT&T prevailed as the legal name for the eastern North Carolina ILEC. In 2022, Lumen culminated a deal with Brightspeed that included the sale of ILECs in 20 states. CT&T, Central Telephone Company and Mebtel in North Carolina were among the ILECs included in that transaction.

CT&T is still in the POTS (plain old telephone service) business, although the company's focus has shifted to broadband service. Cell phones have long been cannibalizing local phone service, and as the number of POTS lines continues to decline, the service has become more costly.

Our Pioneers often reminisce about the good ole days, and indeed they were.



August 2023

ARE YOU GETTING THE MOST OF OUT YOUR AARP MEMBERSHIP?



If you're not taking advantage of AARP membership, you may be losing out on some great discounts. Have you booked a cruise? Using your AARP member benefits you can purchase discounted gift cards for Carnival, Royal Caribbean, and other major cruise lines. You can then use those gift cards to pay the balance on your cruise (or you can "gift" the gift cards to someone special. Through <https://www.aarp.org/rewards> you can purchase a \$500 gift card for \$450 or a \$100 gift card for \$90. And you can purchase multiple cards. For example, when you purchase three \$500 gift cards, you pay AARP only \$1,350 for the gift cards, which you can redeem to pay \$1,500 towards your cruise.

AARP members have access to other great deals as well. Examples include a \$50 Jiffy Lube or Airbnb gift card for \$35. Need to book flights? Get \$500 American Airlines gift card for \$475. Need to shop for your trip? Buy a \$100 Belk gift card for \$90!

At [AARP Rewards: Explore Ways to Reward Yourself](#) log into your account and reap the rewards. Take note, the gift cards you can purchase outright are mixed in with offers and sweepstakes that require rewards points. And speaking of rewards points, there are lots of opportunities to accrue rewards points. Take a quiz, read an article, subscribe to various AARP publications electronically, and more. Then, use your rewards points to get free stuff or to enter sweepstakes.

Your AARP membership card can also help you snag a 20% discount at Papa Johns, a 15% discount at Dennys or a dollar off your Wendy's breakfast sandwich.

Not yet an AARP member? Visit www.aarp.org to join. The benefits available will more than pay for the reasonable yearly membership fee.

CAROTEL / TAR HEEL CHAPTER OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

2022-23 CAROTEL OFFICERS/DIRECTORS

President

Janet Holliday-Cashwell

Vice President

Brenda Smith

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

Elections for the 2023-24 officers and directors will be held during the annual business meeting on October 28, 2023.

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

Greetings Tar Heel Chapter Pioneers,

In late August my time as your Tar Heel Chapter president came to an end and we welcomed Ronnie Cashwell as the new president during the annual Tar Heel meeting in Aberdeen, NC. I appreciate the support and participation of everyone who helped keep our Tar Heel Chapter strong during the past year, and I enjoyed visiting with several of you during our annual meeting.

Numerous people work hard behind the scenes to plan and execute our community service projects and our annual meeting. My heartfelt thanks to Ronnie for providing and setting up the equipment for our sound system and for providing the entertainment. Ronnie's DJ skills are outstanding, and he always provides a great selection suited to the audience in attendance. Sincere appreciation is also extended to Janet Holliday-Cashwell for planning our *Beach Bingo* theme. The decorations, games and theme-appropriate snacks were just spectacular. Thanks to Jim and Vicky Jolly for their help during the meeting, to Molly Goss for serving as our photographer, and to Mark Goss for serving as our auctioneer. Thanks to donated items brought by attendees, we raised more than \$1,000 for our scholarship fund.

Appreciation is also extended to Daniel Barnhardt who represented the national ITPA and for hosting the Texas Hold'em game on Friday night. Daniel was the 2022 national ITPA president, and we appreciate the support he continually provides to our clubs and chapters.

I'm grateful to the officers and directors who kept me on track during my tenure as your president. I'm honored to have served with such a dedicated group of individuals, and I appreciate each and every one of you.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Thompson

Hello Pioneers,

As the incoming 2023-24 Tar Heel President, I look forward to serving you and I look forward to another great year for our chapter.

A special thanks to Carolyn Thompson as Past President for 2022-23 and all she has done for the Tar Heel Chapter.

With all the help of the board members and friends, we can look forward to another successful assembly in 2024. While a theme for the year has not been selected, I'm sure our team will come up with something fun. Be watching for future Tar Heel news for the theme reveal. Go ahead and mark your schedule for the annual Tar Heel Chapter meeting in August 2024 (exact dates to be determined).



Our annual Super Bowl Meeting in Myrtle Beach will be here before we know it. Super Bowl LVIII will be held on Sunday, February 11, 2024. We invite all Carotel and Tar Heel Chapter Pioneers to join us for our own Super Bowl Party. More information to come regarding reservations, pricing, and dates.

P.S. Always be on the lookout for new members!

Best in pioneering,

Ronnie Cashwell, President

The 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.

2023 ANNUAL TAR HEEL CHAPTER MEETING



Pioneers donated and bid on items to raise money for the chapter scholarship fund.



Brenda Smith challenges ITPA mascot Myrtle the Turtle to a friendly but competitive card game during a break.



Pioneers worked on a chapter project.



Hannah Lancaster, Jean Outlaw, Mike Outlaw and Ronnie Cashwell pondering whether Daniel's bid is a bluff.



Team members Darlene Terry, Brenda Smith, Mary McLamb, Daniel Barnhardt and Hannah Lancaster celebrate their team building victory.



Pioneers donated non-perishable food items to replenish a local food bank.



No Pioneer event is complete without BINGO!



Tar Heel Chapter officers and gathered at the round table.