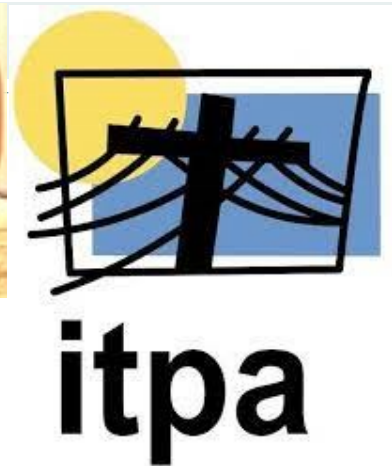




Carotel Club / Tar Heel Chapter
December 2024 Newsletter
Issue 14



Dear Santa!



Santa , also known as Bill Joiner, began his Santra tradition many years ago as a Carolina Telephone employee. One former co-worker recalls his Santa appearances for colleagues at the New Bern business office and another fondly remembers his much anticipated visits to the operator services department.

Bill's popularity as Santa has increased over the years, as is evidenced by his recent VIP appearance at the Trent Woods, NC Christmas parade. shown above.

Bill has invested a lot of time and energy into making the holidays merry and bright for young and old alike.

Merry Christmas to you and yours Bill, and thank you for the Christmas spirit you exhibit throughout the year!

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SAVE THE DATES

Last Tuesday of each Month

Wake Forest Retiree Breakfast
Briggs Restaurant, Wake Forest, NC

February 8-9, 2025

Tar Heel Chapter Mid-Winter
Gathering and Super Bowl LIX Party
Monterey Bay Suites
Myrtle Beach, SC

August 22-23, 2025

Tar Heel Chapter Annual Mtg
Aberdeen, NC

October 10-11, 2025

Annual Carotel Convention
Crystal Coast Ocean Front Hotel
Pine Knoll Shores, NC



TAR HEEL CHAPTER MID-WINTER GATHERING



Tar Heel Chapter Pioneers will host their annual mid-winter gathering during Super Bowl weekend. Hotel room rates are available as early as Thursday, February 6th. The annual board meeting will be held prior to the Super Bowl game and Super Bowl LIX will commence on Sunday, February 9th at 6:30 ET. We expect to have plenty of food and fun. Please join us! ITPA Pioneers and guests are welcome and are encouraged to attend.

Our gathering will kick off on Thursday, February 6th at Monterey Bay Suites, 6804 N Ocean Blvd., Myrtle Beach, SC 29572. We have group rates on the top floor of the hotel for Thursday through Sunday nights.

Please call the reservation department at 844-900-0859 to book your rooms, and be sure to mention that you are booking in the “**Tar Heel ITPA**” to receive the group discounted rates shown below. If you have any problems completing your reservation, please call Terry Harrelson at 843-386-5602. She can also help you with preferred floor, if available.

Remember, the great rates below are only available until January 6th!

Please send an email to Ronnie Cashwell at bigronc.1313@gmail.com when you’ve made your hotel reservation to confirm your attendance at our mid-winter gathering.

GUESTROOMS & RATES

Brittain - Monterey Bay								
	Thu Feb 6		Fri Feb 7		Sat Feb 8		Sun Feb 9	
	Rate	Total Night Cost	Rate	Total Night Cost	Rate	Total Night Cost	Rate	Total Night Cost
Oceanfront King Suite	\$68.73	\$110.17	\$95.48	\$140.58	\$95.48	\$140.58	\$76.23	\$118.84
Oceanfront Suite	\$60.83	\$101.45	\$87.78	\$131.91	\$87.78	\$131.91	\$68.53	\$110.17



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

This month we are revisiting a prior Member Spotlight segment. Carotel's incoming President Larry Newsome and wife Carolyn were featured in the July 2023 edition of the IT-PA's national Pioneer Connections Magazine, along with past Carotel President Chester Harrell and wife Angelia.

Larry and Chester worked together for years at Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company. The two were friends as well as co-workers and they share a few commonalities. Each married his wife on her birthday, they both fell in love quickly, and they are both dedicated husbands, friends, and Pioneers to this day. Here are their stories, in their own words.

Larry's story:

In 1963, I was a senior at Scotland Neck High School, and Carolyn was a freshman. I was standing outside the agriculture/gymnasium building with my friends Robert and Bobby when I spied a girl walking beside the gym on her way to physical education class. Her arms were loaded down with books. I remember to this day that she was wearing a white blouse, black poodle skirt, bobby socks and black and white saddle oxford shoes. I was smitten. I asked my friends if they knew her. They told me they didn't know but added that I should leave her alone. (I found out sometime later that the girl was Robert's cousin.) I knew, though, before I knew her name that this was the woman I would one day marry.

I was a substitute bus driver and I saw the girl again one day when she walked in front of the bus I was driving. I blew the horn to get her attention. The horn startled her, and she dropped her books. I dashed out of the bus to help her pick up her books and when I asked her name and address, I also asked her out. Thankfully, she accepted. That encounter was the start of everything for me. We dated the entire time she was in high school, after I had begun attending Wilson Community College.

We were married on Father's Day in 1966, which was also Carolyn's 18th birthday. Carolyn had been 18 years old for 3 hours when we were married. I graduated that June and was working in the service department at an appliance store. Carolyn worked at Roses Five and Dime behind the candy and hot nuts counter.



Our son, Larry Jr. was born in Sept. 1967, and I began working as a surveyor with the state highway department. When I landed a job in Ahoskie with CT&T in 1969, we lived in Roanoke Rapids and drove quite a distance to Ahoskie because the town of Ahoskie was booming, and we couldn't find a rental or a property to buy. Within a year of employment, I became a CWA Union Steward. A year later, I became the CWA Union group vice-president in the Ahoskie area. The inside and outside workers became family to one another. We frequently had cook-outs and get togethers.

As Union VP, I ended up being friend, lawyer and psychologist to many of the guys I worked with. Chester was one of those guys, and he and I talked a lot.

By then, Carolyn was working as a teacher's assistant. After completing community college, she attended East Carolina College and Wesleyan College to obtain her teaching and psychology degrees. She taught in Bertie County for 3 years and transferred to Hertford County where she worked until she retired. It was in the Hertford County School System where Carolyn met Angelia Harrell, who worked at the same school. They became best friends. By then, through CT&T, Chester and I had already become good friends.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT (CONT'D)

In those days, our ITPA Carotel Club required 15 years' service before you could join. Some of our "older" co-workers who were already Pioneers invited us to attend the annual convention hosted by the Carotel Club. We were introduced to the club's purpose and the feeling of fellowship and when we were eligible to join, Chester and I both became ITPA Pioneers. Fancying ourselves as woodworking craftsmen, Chester and I have made and donated hand-made items for a number of years that have been included in the club's annual auctions, the proceeds of which are used to fund our club's scholarship fund. Ultimately, we were both asked to serve on our club's board. During Chester's term as president, I served as vice president. It has been our honor to serve our club and our community together.

During my retirement, I have been researching my genealogy. After nine years of research, I discovered that Angelia Harrell and I are cousins. It is indeed a small, small world. birthday!



Above: On June 19, 2024, Larry and Carolyn celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary on her birthday.

Carolyn's story: I also knew I was going to marry Larry when I first met him. He just touched my heart.

I think of those days and of what my mom said to my dad at the end of that school year whenever I hear Trisha Yearwood sing "*She's in love with the Boy.*" Before the end of that school year my mom told daddy that she knew I would be marrying Larry. She said to my dad, "She looks at him the way I looked at you." (My mom had married daddy when she was seventeen.)

I still love Larry today just like I did back then. He still rocks my world!



Above: Carolyn and Larry at this year's Paris themed Carotel Convention. Ooh-la-la!

Below: Larry and Carolyn at a prior Carotel Convention.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Chester's Story: My lovely bride Angelia married me almost 50 years ago after a whirlwind romance. While ours wasn't a "love at first sight" story fell pretty hard pretty quickly once we started dating. And fortunately for me, it only took three dates for Angelia to feel the same way.

Angelia and I started elementary school together but we were never in the same class. When we were 10 years old her family moved to a different county. I didn't see her again until after high school when I walked into a business where she was employed. I saw that her boss was giving her a hard time and when he walked away, she looked like she needed a hug. I walked over to her and hugged her tightly and said, "it will be all right.". A friend of mine worked at that store, so I got Angelia's contact information from him, intending to call her and ask her out. I don't recall now exactly why I didn't finalize that date, but the date never happened.

About a year later, I was lying on my back in the trunk of my car trying to install some speakers and I heard the phone ringing (in the house of course, since those were pre-cell phone days). It was also the days before voicemail, so I crawled out of the car and managed to get to the phone before it stopped ringing. When I answered, the caller said "Chester, you may not remember me. This is Angelia." Boy, was that my lucky day. After scratching my head while considering my good fortune and making some small talk, I got my act together and we planned to go out the following Saturday. After that first date, we got together the very next evening for our second date. I told Angelia then that Sunday evening that I would call her later that week about getting together again. But when Monday came around, I was miserable for reasons I couldn't pinpoint, and decided to go fishing instead of calling Angelia. Tuesday brought the same misery, so I went fishing again. By Wednesday, I couldn't stand it anymore so I called Angelia and told her I felt like I could use some company. She responded simply "me too."

At the end of the evening on our third date, Angelia and I were sitting in the car in her mother's driveway. I didn't want my time with her to end and I said to her, "If I sit here much longer, I'm going to ask you to marry me." To my surprise, her reply was, "I'm liable to say yes." So, after only three dates, on September 25, 1975, Angelia Kay Ward said, "I do" and became Mrs. Angelia Ward Harrell. On September 25th we celebrated 49 years together. (And I've never forgotten our anniversary because we got married on Angelia's birthday!) We now have two fine sons with two beautiful wives of their own. Between them Angelia and I are blessed with four granddaughters, one grandson, one great granddaughter and two great grandsons. When the kids all visit, we have a house full!



*Above: Angelia and Chester at a past Carotel Convention.
Below: Chester proved to be quite the card shark at the 2023 National ITPA annual spring assembly in Hinesville, GA.*



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT (CONT'D)

My advice to anyone who will listen to me when they are considering marriage is this: "It's the hardest job you will ever have, but if you are willing to work at it, it's the best job you will ever have!"

I met my good friend Larry Newsome on May 7, 1974. I recall the exact date because it was my first day on the job for Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company in the cable area. Larry was working in the central office, so our paths crossed quickly. We worked together for some 35 years before Larry's retirement. During that time, we both became ITPA members through Carotel and we attended the club's annual convention from 1988 to 1999. Then Hurricane Isabel came through and broke our rhythm. Then we let life get in the way and we got out of touch with the club. In 2014 I had a knee replacement and a week later our daughter-in-law passed away. Shortly thereafter, I received a call from one of the Carotel members saying they had missed us and would love to see us again. Since then, we've looked forward each year in October to getting together with Larry and his wife Carolyn and our ITPA Carotel Pioneer family.

I was asked to serve as a director for the Carotel Club in 2016 and was asked in 2017 to serve as vice president. In 2018 I served as president pro tem and our officers and directors were asked to stay in place in 2019 because our general annual membership meeting was cancelled after Hurricane Florence decimated the location. Larry served as the club's vice president during that time. On paper, I served as Carotel's president and Larry served as vice president until 2022. Angelia and I have enjoyed a decades-long friendship with Larry and Carolyn and have enjoyed tremendously the times we've shared together as pioneers. Though we're all retired now, we get together regularly. The four of us traveled to Hinesville, Georgia in April and attended our first national assembly. We learned that Pioneers are the same everywhere you go, just good old telephone folks who love serving their communities and their friends.

Angelia's story: Looking back, it's surreal that Chester and I said "I do" after only three dates almost 48 years ago. While it doesn't necessarily seem like yesterday, the decades do seem to have flown by.



I retired a year before Chester did. Carolyn had retired a year before me. We remained close, though. We had always bounced things off one another when we worked together, and we kept that up. Carolyn was the sister I never had.

The four of us have had quite a few adventures together. Often times Chester and Larry have gotten ideas for their wood working from festivals and craft shows we've attended, and they make and donate those to our club's annual auction to help raise money for our scholarship fund. Both men are very talented. Chester's talent ran in the family. His dad ran a bakery, and our wedding cake was the last wedding cake he made.

I'm proud of Chester and of the life we've built together. And I know we are blessed to have shared a majority of those years with the Newsome's.



Above: Angelia and Chester having some fun at a Carotel Convention.



PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS



Hello Carotel Pioneers,

It's hard to believe that enough time has lapsed that we're already in the throes of the holiday season. It seems that one minute we were in Paris for a weekend in mid-October at our annual Carotel Convention and suddenly we've already put away those tried-and-true Thanksgiving recipes and we're working on those Christmas shopping lists. To everyone who attended our convention this year and contributed to our fund-raising efforts for disaster relief, I thank you. Our small group donated \$2,700 to Samaritan's Purse to help with the work they're doing in western North Carolina. These funds were raised through donations, raffle sales and our silent and live auctions. In addition, we donated \$300 to Martha's Mission Cupboard and additionally provided non-perishable foods and toiletries to help fight hunger locally.

I want to offer my personal thanks to everyone who pitched in to make our fall convention such a success. The food throughout the weekend was outstanding (thanks to Ronnie Cashwell for coordinating our catering) and our planning and decorating committees did an excellent job. Special thanks to Telco Credit Union for sponsoring the delicious buffet breakfast in honor of our veterans and to the West Carteret High School ROTC Color Guard for presenting the flag at the beginning of our ceremony.

I always enjoy gathering with former colleagues and old friends. As we work together to serve our community during the upcoming year and plan our next annual gathering, I invite Carotel members and guests who haven't joined us in recent years to plan now to do so. Our convention next year will be held on October 10-11 in Pine Knoll Shores.

A warm welcome is extended to our newest Carotel board member Edie Willis. Edie and Larry are ardent Carotel supporters. I look forward to working with Edie and the rest of our officers and board members throughout the coming year, and I thank each of you for your support. It's my honor to work with Carotel's Pioneers.

Sincerely,

Larry Newsome



WESTERN NC STILL NEEDS HELP

Thanks to the generosity of Carotel Pioneers in October, our club sent a \$2,700 donation to Samaritan's Purse for disaster relief in Western NC. Since then, Carotel and Tar Heel Chapter Pioneers have continued helping our Western NC neighbors through various disaster relief efforts. From delivering blankets and food to making donations to disaster relief organizations, our Pioneers have stepped up.

In case you are looking for additional ways to help, the following list of organizations were provided by the West Jefferson Chamber of Commerce. They are in need of monetary donations to help with the relief efforts described for each entry.

HURRICANE HELENE

MONETARY DONATIONS

WHO: Ashe County Recovery & Restoration
WHAT: unmet needs of individuals/families with the intent to return to, or keep in, their homes
HOW: currently accepting cash & check donations at any LifeStore bank branch, online giving options coming soon

WHO: Ashe County Advantage Project
WHAT: helping small businesses
HOW: 336-846-9550 x6, info@asheadvantage.org
www.ashechamber.com

WHO: Greater Lansing Area Development
WHAT: Lansing-specific assistance
HOW: 803-981-4646, glad28643@gmail.com
www.glad-nc.org

WHO: Ashe Food Pantry
WHAT: nutritional needs of individuals & families
HOW: 336-846-7019
www.ashefoodpantry.org (click disaster relief)

WHO: Friends of Ashe Co. Animal Shelter
WHAT: pet needs (medical, food, general supplies)
HOW: Tammy@FriendsOfAsheAnimalShelter.org
www.FriendsOfAsheAnimalShelter.org



Hurricane Helene Disaster Recovery for Ashe County

CAROTEL / TAR HEEL CHAPTER OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

2024-25 CAROTEL OFFICERS/DIRECTORS

President: Larry Newsome

Vice President: Vacant

Treasurer: Carol Harrell

Secretary: Mary McLamb

Directors: Ray Brock , Andy Davis, Wendy Davis, Chester Harrell, Darlene House, Judy Satterwhite, Doug Sibbett, Darlene Terry, Edie Willis

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

Immediate Past President/Nominating

Brenda Smith

2024-2025 TAR HEEL CHAPTER OFFICERS/ DIRECTORS

President : Darlene Terry

Immediate Past President: Ronnie Cashwell

Vice President: Vacant

Co-Secretary/Treasurers:

Carol Harrell

Janet Holliday-Cashwell

Auditor: Bill Twyman

Directors: Janet Holliday-Cashwell, Danny Dennis, Nat Goss, , Jim Jolly, Hannah Lancaster, Alissa Moss, Mike Outlaw, Brenda Smith

Committee Chairs:

Carolyn Thompson—Publicity/Historical

Carol Harrell—Scholarship

Ronnie Cashwell—Entertainment, Nominating

The 2024-2025 Officers and Directors were elected during the chapter and club general membership meetings.



Carotel is affiliated with the ITPA Tar Heel Chapter in Region 3. All Carotel Pioneers are invited and encouraged to participate in our state chapter activities and events. 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 Club was formed on July 1, 1971 under the previously existing Tar Heel Chapter. The 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. Membership application can be found at: [ITPA New Member Application Form.docx \(live.com\)](#)