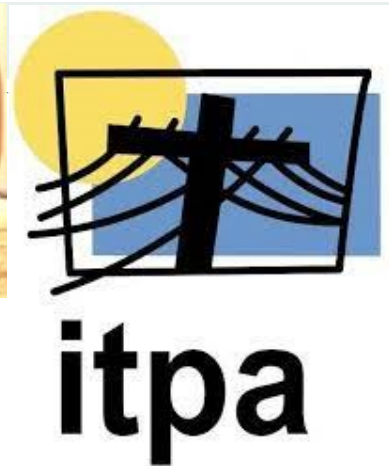




Carotel Club / Tar Heel Chapter
March 2024 Newsletter
Issue 9



SAVE THE DATE for Carotel’s Fall Convention



Carotel’s fall convention will be held on October 11-12 at the Crystal Coast Oceanfront Hotel (formerly known as The Inn at Pine Knoll Shores). October temperatures at the Crystal Coast are generally mild, with highs in the mid 70s, so you may want to come a day earlier, or stay longer to enjoy the beautiful fall weather on the beach.

We can’t offer a scenic river cruise on the Seine River, as shown above, but the ocean front views at the Crystal Coast are great. And if you really want a river cruise, come early or stay an extra day and take a boat tour from Beaufort with Island Ferry Adventures. Learn more on Page XX.

Our planning committee is busy planning our Paris themed gathering that we hope will be memorable for everyone. Hotel and convention rates will be announced by mid year, and we will work hard to keep costs comparable to the same level as our past gatherings.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Retiree Gatherings2
- Carteret County—What to do ..2
- Retiree Gatherings.....3
- ITPA National News4
- Carotel/Tar Heel Board5
- Carotel Project Updates.....6
- Tar Heel Chapter Super Bowl Party Recipes7
- National Spring Assembly Registration Form9

SAVE THE DATES

March 26, 2024, 830 a.m.
Wake Forest Retiree Breakfast
Briggs Restaurant, Wake Forest

April 26-28, 2024
National ITPA Assembly,
Mount Airy, NC
All Pioneers are welcome

August 23-25, 2024
Tar Heel Chapter Annual Meeting
Hampton Inn in Aberdeen, NC
All Pioneers are welcome

October 11-12, 2024
Annual Carotel Convention
Crystal Coast Oceanfront Hotel
(formerly The Inn at Pine Knoll Shores)
Pine Knoll Shores, NC

Whether you think you can or you think you can't, you're right. – Henry Ford

TAKE A DAY AND TAKE A CRUISE

If you'd like to come in early or stay a little longer when you attend Carotel's fall convention, consider a tour with Island Ferry Adventures in Beaufort, NC. Prices start as low as \$10 and you can take the ferry to the islands of the Rachel Carson reserve where you have a better than good chance of seeing wild horses. These islands are only accessible by boat or ferry.

The ferry is open year round and departs from 610 Front Street in Beaufort daily. Call 252-728-4129 for seasonal departure times, or visit [Beaufort & Harkers Island Ferry Trips | Island Express Ferry Service \(islandexpressferryservices.com\)](https://islandexpressferryservices.com) for more information.



You can also book a tour with Island Ferry Express from Harkers Island (a little less than an hour from Pine Knoll Shores) to Cape Lookout or Shackleford Banks. Visit [Beaufort & Harkers Island Ferry Trips | Island Express Ferry Service \(islandexpressferryservices.com\)](https://islandexpressferryservices.com) to learn more.



OR... VISIT A MUSEUM

The History Museum of Carteret County is an excellent choice for anyone who wants to learn more about the inland and barrier island history of the area. The museum encompasses 12,000 square feet and includes an expansive collection of exhibits. To learn more, visit [History Museum of Carteret County - Morehead.com](https://www.morehead.com).



While you're out, consider visiting the NC Maritime Museum in Beaufort. The museum is open Monday through Saturday from 10am to 5pm. Learn more at [NC Maritime Museum : BEAUFORT \(ncmaritimemuseumbeaufort.com\)](https://ncmaritimemuseumbeaufort.com).

A visit to the Core Sound Waterfowl Museum and Heritage Center in Harker's Island will not disappoint. The center, open Monday through Friday from 10am to 5pm, was built as a tribute to the history of Harker's Island residents to preserve the practice of decoy carving. Get an early start and you'll be able to visit all three museums in a single day.



CT&T RETIREE GATHERINGS

Retirees in the Wake Forest area meet for breakfast on the last Tuesday of every month at 8:30 am at Briggs Restaurant in Wake Forest. Sixteen people attended the January gathering. Do you recognize anyone in the photos below. In no particular order, retirees who attended the January breakfast are: Terry Clark, Ricky and Sharon Daye, Rusty Fristoe, Don and Joyce Horton, Billy Hughes, Buck and Deborah Moyer, Charlie Pittman, Marcus and Cathy Potter, Cheryl Sweitzer, Tim Smith and John and Joann Stallings.



If you would like to join this group regularly or just pop in for an occasional visit, send an email to cjpotter@gmail.com to be placed on the reminder list.

"No matter how much time has passed, meeting with an old colleague is always a pleasure." author unknown



We'd love to share photos and stories about other retiree gatherings. To include your event in an upcoming issue, sent information and photos to: dterry625@gmail.com.

ITPA NATIONAL NEWS—ANNUAL SPRING ASSEMBLY

Have you registered yet for the national ITPA spring assembly? If you've never attended, it's like our annual fall Carotel convention, but includes all Pioneer clubs and chapters from across the country. If you have hesitated to register because you're not sure you'll know anyone there, don't let that stop you! Several Carotel Pioneers are active at the national level and will be there to greet you! Pioneers from other clubs and chapters who have occasionally attended our annual fall convention will also be there. And this year, getting to the national assembly will be more convenient for our Carotel and Tar Heel Chapter Pioneers because it will be held right here in North Carolina!

The 32nd national spring assembly will be held on April 26-28th in Dobson, NC at the Hampton Inn in on 150 Charlestowne Drive. Dobson is a stone's throw from Mount Airy, the home of Andy Griffith and the town on which the fictional town of Mayberry was based. The theme for this year's spring assembly....you guessed it...is Mayberry. Everyone is invited (but not required) to come as your favorite Mayberry character on Friday night. The January issue of the Pioneer Connection magazine includes a lot of great information about Dobson and Mount Airy and the spring assembly. If you missed it, you can read that issue at [Jan 2024 sp ed.pdf \(nationalitpa.com\)](#)



ITPA president-elect Leon Yard is planning and will host this year's assembly. Leon has been a long -time supporter of our Carotel Club and has attended our fall convention many times. Some of our Carotel and Tar Heel Chapter Pioneers have already made their reservations for the spring assembly, and we are hoping for a great turn-out from our band of Pioneers! First time attendees may apply for a grant to offset the \$130 assembly registration fee. **Grant applications must be received by our national office by April 1st.** You may download a grant application at: [2024 Assembly Grant Application.docx \(live.com\)](#)

The grant does not cover hotel accommodations. The hotel room rate is \$145 per night plus tax for a standard room (one king or two queens). Studio rooms are \$155 per night and luxury suites are \$175 per night. You can book your hotel room online at <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, call Jennie Lee at 336-353-9400, extension 2122 and use "ITPA" as the group rate key word.

An assembly registration form can be found on Page 9 of this newsletter. Assembly registration and sponsor forms are also available at:

[2024 ITPA Assembly Registration and Sponsorship Forms\(1\).docx \(live.com\)](#)

The deadline to make hotel reservations is March 25, 2024 and the deadline for assembly registration is April 11, 2024.

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

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 Carotel Club is a 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.

Hello Carotel Pioneers,

“Only a life lived for others is a life worthwhile” - Albert Einstein

This profound quote captures what we do as as Pioneers. We dedicate our time, resources and energy to help others in the communities we live, work and play in. Carotel Board Members are driven by compassion, empathy and a genuine desire to make a positive impact. This is what we do! I am so delighted and proud to be a part of a Board that is committed to uplifting and serving others.

I want to thank each and every one of our officers and board directors you for your patience, guidance, and participation in our meetings. Together we can accomplish great things! As we navigate through 2024, let's pray and ask God for his continual blessing for our Carotel Club and its members. God Bless You and God Bless America.

***Respectfully submitted,
Brenda—Carotel President***

CAROTEL PIONEERS REACH OUT TO OTHERS ON VALENTINES DAY

Again this year, several Pioneers made a special effort to reach out during February to reach out to others as part of a year-long commitment to encourage others. One Pioneer couple sent more than 40 Valentines Day cards to shut-ins, friends who were sick, and others who they thought needed to know that someone cared. Another Pioneer mailed a dozen Valentines Day cards to old friends who live too far away to visit.



One Pioneer couple mailed cards to widows, widowers, and friends in assisted living facilities and they treated two widowed friends to lunch. They also treated a widow to a mountain retreat and took her to dinner at Ruth Chris Steakhouse where they reminisced with laughter and tears about times spent with her deceased husband.

Our "Karaoke Crew" visited a skilled nursing facility to serenade the residents. A few staff members joined in and sang their own tunes to help entertain their patients. The crew also delivered flowers and dessert to a shut-in.



Residents at a skilled care nursing facility were treated to a valentine card with a sweet treat by one of our Pioneers, who enlisted a friend to help her deliver the cards and say hello to each patient. After experiencing the reactions of the folks who received the cards, she said, "128 cards given to the most appreciative residents; something so small means such a lot."



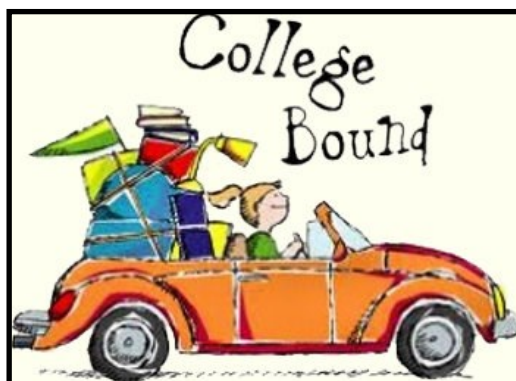
A staff member takes the stage to help the karaoke crew entertain patients.

One Pioneer couple who is regularly involved in a church outreach ministry said, "We have 14 church members who are shut in. Four of them we keep in contact with mostly by card and phone calls. The other ten we visit on a regular basis. We have four teams. We alternate months and two teams visit every other month, but we sometimes over lap if there is a special need or urgency. We usually take food or snacks when we visit. If we know some likes a specific restaurant, we will pick up a take-out order for them, or if they are able, we will take them that restaurant. It's a very enjoyable and rewarding ministry to be involved with."

APPLICATIONS FOR CAROTEL AND TAR HEEL CHAPTER 2024 SCHOLARSHIPS NOW AVAILABLE

College students who are related to a Carotel or Tar Heel Chapter Pioneer are invited to apply for scholarships to be awarded this fall.

Carotel's "**Elizabeth Bland Memorial Scholarship**" was established in memory of Elizabeth "Libba" Bland in recognition of her years of dedication to the Carotel Pioneer club. The scholarship, a one-time grant of \$1,000.00, is awarded annually to a college-bound student who is related to an active Carotel Pioneer Club member. Carotel members who are pursuing a degree are also eligible.



The Tar Heel Chapter of the ITPA has been awarding scholarships to college-bound students for nearly 25 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 the Tar Heel Chapter continue awarding annual scholarships. The scholarship is awarded annually to a college-bound student who is related to an active Tar Heel Chapter Pioneer. Tar Heel Pioneers who are pursuing a degree are also eligible.

The Carotel Club and Tar Heel Chapter award their scholarships independently. Both Pioneer organizations will issue scholarship checks directly to the college or university in which the recipient is enrolled.

The Carotel and Tar Heel Chapter scholarships can each be found at [ITPA News \(nationalitpa.com\)](http://nationalitpa.com). Applicants must complete their application in its entirety and must provide all required information (letters of recommendation, transcripts, etc.) to the scholarship committee chair directly, by e-mail, or by U.S. Mail with a **postmark date no later than August 1, 2024**. Incomplete applications will not be considered. The scholarship committee will evaluate all eligible applications and decisions of the committee are final.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT SHINES ON JIMMY AND SANDRA HARRELL

You've seen their smooth moves on the dance floor, you've witnessed their competitive bidding for our silent auction items, and you know that they've been attending our annual conventions for years. And now you'll know the rest of their story! Meet Jimmy and Sandra Harrell, two of the nicest folks you'll ever meet.



A lifelong resident of Tarboro, Jimmy drove a Mr. Softee Ice Cream Truck during the summers. He graduated from Tarboro High School and attended Louisburg College before graduating from NCSU with a degree in Civil Engineering. Jimmy served our country in the Air Force from 1966 to 1970 and was stationed in Texas, Louisiana, North Carolina. He met his lovely bride at church in January 1971 and learned she lived across the street from him. Jimmy quickly realized he wanted to spend the rest of his life with Sandra, and he proposed in September of that year. The couple married in January 1972.



Sandra graduated from Oak City High School, Hardbarger Business College in Raleigh and College of the Albemarle Program of Practical Nurse Education in Elizabeth City. She felt fortunate to have the important job of stay-at-home mom until her boys were in school. During her medical career, she worked at Baptist Hospital in Winston Salem, Robersonville Clinic and Tarboro Clinic. Sandra later worked for Edgecombe County Public Schools as Office Assistant in the Maintenance Department. She retired in January 2010.

Jimmy worked with the Town of Tarboro for more than 10 years before beginning his telephony career with Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company in May 1978. He retired from CT&T in May 2008 after 30 years of service in the Building Engineering Department in Tarboro.

Jimmy joined the ITPA as a Pioneer in 2001. He and Sandra regularly participate in the club's food drives and other activities. And in full disclosure, it's only Sandra's competitive bidding you've likely witnessed during our annual live auctions.

Jimmy and Sandra have two sons, Michael and Eric, and four grandsons, Austin, Bronson, Ethan and Jameson. Michael is married to the former Amy Patterson and Eric married the former Babs House, daughter of Carotel Pioneer Darlene House. The entire family frequently gathers to celebrate birthdays and holidays, and of course, food is usually involved.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT SHINES ON JIMMY AND SANDRA HARRELL

Jimmy and Sandra are both active in their community. When his boys were younger, Jimmy served as Assistant Boy Scout Master and was a coach for small fry baseball. Prior to the pandemic he and Sandra delivered meals for Meals on wheels, and they serve on various committees at church.

We asked Jimmy and Sandra to share some additional information about themselves, and here's what they said.

Q: Jimmy and Sandra, will you each share with us a fact about yourself that you believe most people may not know?

Jimmy: I'm a professional engineer and a registered land surveyor.

Sandra: Most people don't know I am an only child and was a nurse. Also, one of my bucket list achievements is that I had the opportunity to announce the start of the race at the racetrack in Robersonville.

Q: We know you share your love of dancing. Do you share other favorites, books or movies maybe?

Jimmy: The Bible is my favorite book, and my favorite movie is The Wizard of Oz.

Sandra: The Notebook is my favorite book. My favorite movie is Robin Hood.

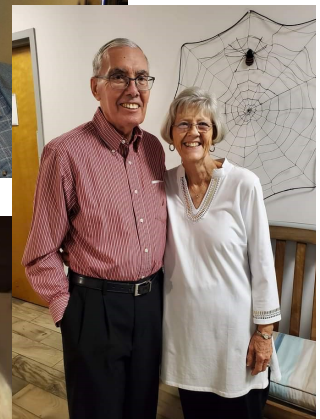
Q: Jimmy, you listed the Bible as your favorite book. Do you have a favorite scripture?

Jimmy: My favorites are Philippians 4:13 and 1 Corinthians 10:31.

Q: Sandra, given your love of reading, do you have a favorite quote?

Sandra: Yes, I do. It's by Max Lucado, who said, "Happiness Happens When We Give It Away."

We appreciate Jimmy and Sandra's willingness to share their story with us. It's a pleasure to learn more about our Pioneer family members!



SUPER BOWL PARTY RECIPES

The following recipes are just a sampling of the tasty treats that our Pioneers enjoyed together at the Tar Heel Chapter's Super Bowl party in Myrtle Beach. We hope you enjoy these recipes now as much as we did then! All Carotel members are invited to participate in Tar Heel Chapter activities and projects, so make plans now to party with the Tar Heels at Super Bowl LIX next year!

WHITE WINE CAKE

Vickie Jolly

Ingredients:

- 1 box Duncan Hines Yellow cake mix
- 1 box instant vanilla pudding (small box)
- 4 large eggs
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 3/4 cup cold water
- 3/4 cup oil
- 1/2 cup sweet white wine (I used Moscato)

Directions:

Mix all dry ingredients together in a bowl. Make hole in center of dry ingredients and add eggs, water, oil and wine. Use whisk to blend, then use mixer on medium speed until smooth. Grease pan. DO NOT FLOUR. Bake at 325° for 75 minutes or until cake tester comes out clean. Cool for 10 minutes.

While cake is cooling, combine the following ingredients in a sauce pan and bring to a boil. Boil for 2-3 minutes:

- 1/2 stick margarine
- 1/8 cup water
- 1/2 cup sugar
-

Remove from stove and add 1/8 cup of wine. Stir and pour over cake.

CHICKEN CHILI

Vickie Jolly

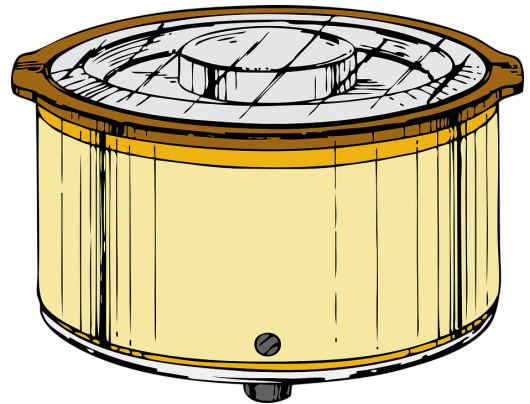
These ingredients make half a crock pot. For a full pot, double the ingredients.

Ingredients:

- 3 chicken breasts (you can use chicken tenders)
- 1 can black beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 can whole kernel corn
- 1 can mild Rotel
- 1 Tablespoon chili powder
- 8 ounces block cream cheese

Directions:

Turn crock pot on low setting. Place ingredients in crock pot in order listed above, with cream cheese on top. Cook on low for 6



SUPER BOWL PARTY RECIPES (CONT'D)

CHOCOLATE COVERED ROASTED PECANS

Carol Harrell

Ingredients:

- 1 stick butter
- 2 lbs. pecans
- 1 package chocolate bark
- Seasoning salt

Directions:

Preheat oven to 300°. Add butter to a large baking sheet. When butter is melted, add pecans and stir to coat pecans in butter and sprinkle with season salt. Cook for 30 to 40 minutes, stirring every 10 minutes and sprinkling with seasoning salt. When pecans have roasted pour in a large bowl. Melt chocolate according to directions on package. Pour chocolate over pecans and stir to coat pecans. Pecans will still be warm. Pour pecans on a cookie sheet covered in parchment paper and spread out. Put cookie sheet in refrigerator for chocolate to firm. Break up chocolate pecans in pieces and store in a covered container.

TEENIE WEENIES

Vickie Jolly

Cut up a package of hot dogs into bite size pieces. Place in crock pot and cover with Sweet Baby Ray Sauce. Cook on low 1-2 hrs.

TACO SOUP

Janet Holliday-Cashwell

Ingredients:

- 1 to 1 1/2 lbs. ground burger (I use 90/10)
- 1 large onion, sliced
- 2 cans hunts fire roasted tomatoes
- 1 can while yellow corn
- 1 can black beans
- 1 can dk red kidney beans
- 1 pkg dry ranch dressing mix
- 1 pkg taco dry mix

Directions:

In a frying pan, brown burger with salt/pepper to taste. Drain burger and sauté onion in burger drippings. Drain onions.

Turn 5 quart crock pot on high. Pour in tomatoes, corn and beans and then stir in both dry packets to dissolve. Add burger and onions, stir and cover. Cook for 2 hours and then turn to low setting. Cook for another 2 1/2 to 3 hours, checking periodically to see if any liquid needs to be added. (Sometimes I add about 3/4 can of water.) Top as desired with cheese, sour cream, olives, etc. and serve with tortilla chips.





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 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 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.