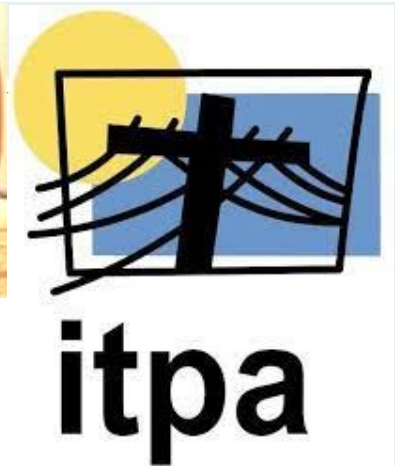




Carotel Club / Tar Heel Chapter
November 2024 Newsletter
Issue 13



Carotel Club Awards 2024 Elizabeth Bland Memorial Scholarship

Carotel Scholarship Chairperson Carol Harrell recently announced the 2024 recipients of the *Elizabeth Bland Memorial Scholarship*. The \$1,000 annual scholarship is normally awarded to a single applicant, although this year the scholarship was split between two applicants. We congratulate first-time Tar Heel Chapter scholarship recipients Dawson Cashwell and Mykenzi Cashwell, who were sponsored by their proud grandpa and long-time Carotel Pioneer Ronnie Cashwell. Dawson and Mykenzi's dad (Ron Cashwell) is also a Pioneer. Ron works in Fayetteville as a Supply Associate.

Mykenzi will pursue a degree in Dental Hygiene at Fayetteville Technical Community College this fall. A member of the Beta Club and CTE Honors Society in high school, Mykenzi graduated near the top of her graduating class.

Dawson was an early graduate from Midway High School this year and enrolled in the work study program at Sampson Community College while working full time. He is now enrolled full-time at Sampson Community College where he will pursue a degree in the Information Technology program.

Congratulations to Mykenzi and Dawson on your academic achievements thus far. We wish you all the best in your collegiate academic endeavors.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Carotel Scholarship Recipients	1
Carotel Convention Recap	2
Carotel Veterans Honored	4
Convention Photos	5
Member Spotlight	9
Tar Heel Super Bowl Party	11
Recognitions	12
Officers/Directors	13
President Ponderings	14
Sponsor Recognition	15

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

October 10-11, 2025

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

*Special thanks
to*



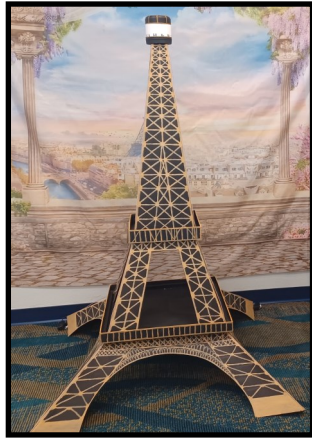
*for sponsoring
breakfast*



2024 CAROTEL CONVENTION—A WEEKEND IN PARIS

Carotel Pioneers and guests convened on Oct. 11th and 12th for the club's annual Carotel Convention at the beautiful Crystal Coast Ocean Front Hotel in Pine Knoll Shores. Every room offered a beautiful view, and the weather and water were spectacular. Our long anticipated themed gathering (A weekend in Paris) did not disappoint.

Larry Newsome designed, built and painted a slightly smaller version of the Eiffel Tower that adorned our gathering space throughout the weekend, and while we had high expectations for his artistry, his creation exceeded all expectations.



Beautiful artwork adorning the walls was reminiscent of Montmartre, the world-famous Paris neighborhood where talented artists gather to paint and sell their masterpieces.



Above: The lovely paintings adorning the walls were some of many items included in our silent and live auctions, the proceeds from which were donated to Samaritan's Purse for hurricane relief.

In keeping with the spirit of our themed event, Pioneers dressed in French garb, and what beautiful les dames and handsome mes-sieurs they were!



We were pleased this year to have a special guest speaker, Mary Schronze, from Martha's Mission Cupboard on Friday night. Mary is the Executive Director for this 501c3 organization that our Pioneers have long supported with contributions of non-perishable foods. Mary's presentation assured us that our donations to this organization epitomize the mission of our organization, as it helps so many in the communities served by Carolina Telephone. This year, in addition to providing food and toiletry donations, convention attendees donated monetarily to the charity, which allowed Carotel President Brenda Smith to present Mary with a \$300 check at the conclusion of her presentation.

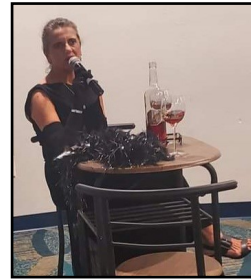


2024 CAROTEL CONVENTION—A WEEKEND IN PARIS

Our traditional Saturday afternoon bingo games and live auction were well attended and much enjoyed. ITPA mascot Hunny Bunny even participated! Auction and 50/50 raffle proceeds this year were earmarked for hurricane relief efforts. Attendees were generous with donations of items for our auctions and with their bidding to raise money for the cause. At one point during the afternoon's activities, curious visitors from Ohio stopped by to inquire about our group when they saw our signage for food donations. By then, the food items had already been delivered to Martha's Mission Cupboard, and when the visitors learned that we were in the process of raising money to help with flood victims, they eagerly donated \$120. Pioneers who weren't able to attend the convention also contributed to this effort. In total, our club members donated **\$2700** to Samaritan's Purse for disaster relief in western North Carolina.



Saturday evening's events featured a delicious buffet meal followed by a special appearance by Elvis (a.k.a. George Mills). Elvis crooned some of his most popular hits and later indulged his fans with a photo session.



Janet Cashwell channeled Patsy Cline and surprised the group with a beautiful rendition of *Unforgettable*, and even sang a stanza in French!

From beginning to end, our convention this year was enjoyed by all. Fat Fellas Restaurant, located in Newport, catered all three meals, and their overly generous portions of food allowed us to share meals with the entire hotel staff and with our Ohio visitors who donated so generously.

Mark your calendars now for our 2025 Carotel Convention, which will be held on October 10-11 at the Crystal Coast Ocean Front Hotel in Pine Knoll Shores. Next year's theme is yet to be announced, but we're hearing that you may want to pull those poodle skirts out of storage for Friday night's costume contest!



Above: These displays represent a small portion of the many items that were auctioned to raise funds for hurricane relief efforts. After generous donations of these items, Pioneers also generously bid on the auction items.



Left: Larry Newsome, incoming 2024-2025 Carotel President, presents outgoing President Brenda Smith with an appreciation gift after the annual business meeting on Saturday.

VETERANS AND FIRST RESPONDERS HONORED DURING CAROTEL CONVENTION



With special thanks to **Telco Credit Union**, veterans and first responders who attended the annual Carotel Convention were honored during a special ceremony on October 12th. The ceremony began with members of the West Carteret High School ROTC Color Guard presenting the flag, after which the honorees and convention guests were treated to a delicious buffet sponsored by Telco Credit Union.

Chap Lachapelle, Regional Manager for Telco's Greenville market and Kathryn Pitt, Marketing Director represented Telco at the breakfast, and Chap addressed the group during breakfast.

Telco also provided door prizes that were awarded during the event. Our Pioneers have long relied on Telco Credit Union and its wonderful staff to provide us with excellent banking and financial services, and we are deeply thankful for the sponsorship that allowed us to honor our veterans and first responders with a delicious breakfast.



CAROTEL CONVENTION FUN



CAROTEL CONVENTION FUN (CONT'D)



CAROTEL CONVENTION FUN (CONT'D)



CAROTEL CONVENTION FUN (CONT'D)



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT SHINES ON EMMETT TATUM

For the first time in many years, Emmett Tatum wasn't able to attend our recent Carotel Convention that he looks forward to each year. Emmett celebrated his 96th birthday on July 6th, and he isn't as spry as he once was, but he did enjoy spending his birthday with one of his daughters at White Lake, as has been an annual tradition.



Emmett graduated from Rocky Mount High School and worked for Carolina Telephone & Telegraph Company from 1949 until he enlisted in the military in September 1950.

After receiving an honorable discharge in September 1952, Emmett resumed his telephony career, during which time worked as an installer and a central office technician.

Emmett married his sweetheart, Denative Poland, in May 1951. Their love story began with a double date. Emmett's best friend Sonny was dating Denative's sister at the time, and Emmett worked up the courage to ask Denative out.



Sonny and Denative's sister didn't last, but Emmett and Denative found true love. The couple had three daughters and one son.

Emmett's daughter JoElla, who has accompanied Emmett to our Carotel Conventions for the past couple of years, recalls that Emmett at times worked two or three jobs so that Denative could stay home with their growing family. Their oldest daughter, LeNae, died on December 25, 1959, with leukemia. Denative passed away on February 14, 1998, just shy of the couple's 47th wedding anniversary.

Emmett has always loved airplanes and flying. He and his best buddy Sonny Williams flew a Cessna and a Piper Cub, and they frequented air shows by the Thunderbirds and the Blue Angels. Emmett took his family to some of those shows, and his daughter JoElla remembers going to Virginia once or twice for an air show.



Above: Emmett and friend Sonny Williams often share meals together.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT (CONT'D)

Emmett also loves to bowl and bowled every week in a league until just a few years ago. He also loves a good bingo game and is a member of his local senior Center. It's no secret that Emmett also loves to dance. Even after he couldn't drive himself to the dances, his daughter provided his transportation to and from the dances until recent years when his health hasn't allowed. It's no secret that Emmett also loves attending the annual Carotel convention.



Above: Emmett with daughter JoElla at the 2022 Carotel Convention.

Below: Emmett visits with Edie and Larry Willis during a recent Carotel Convention.



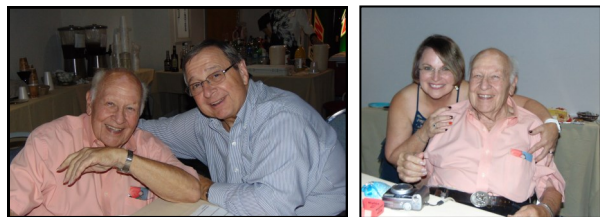
Emmett is close to his adult children, both in proximity and emotionally, and the family often gathers to enjoy meals. And their family has grown over the years. Emmett has six grandchildren and five great grandchildren who put a smile on his face whenever he sees them.



Above right: Emmett with granddaughter Amy and great grandson Kyle.

Emmett's daughters Lynette and JoElla and his son Duncan have banded together to help Emmett remain in his home now that he is less mobile than he once was.

Some of the Pioneers who attended the recent Carotel Convention signed a card for Emmett to let him know he was missed. That card brought tears to Emmett's eyes as he read the sentiments shared by friends. Thank you, Emmett, for your years of friendship and dedication to our club.



Above left: Emmett and Jack Britt enjoying a visit.

Above right: Darlene Terry and Emmett share a laugh.

TAR HEEL CHAPTER MID-WINTER GATHERING



Tar Heel Chapter Pioneers and guests are invited to attend the chapter's regular mid-winter gathering and Super Bowl party in February. Super Bowl LIX will commence on Sunday, February 9th at 6:30 ET.

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 block" to receive the group discounted rates.

Rooms must be reserved by January 6, 2025, to receive the discounted room rates.

If you can't join us for the entire time period, just come when you can! We look forward to reuniting with Pioneers and guests.

The Kansas City Chiefs are the reigning Super Bowl champions and hold the top spot in the 2025 Super Bowl odds. The Lions and Ravens have been holding steady.

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

Rates and availability are subject to change until contracted.

CONGRATULATIONS

IN MEMORY



to

Darlene and Ruben Terry
Oct. 17 (43 years)

Mary and Chris McLamb
Oct. 25 (16 years)

Daniel and Lou Barnhardt
Nov. 1 (32 years)

Eddie and Barbara Smithson
Nov. 28 (28 years)



to:

Carroll Giddens—October 13

Jim Jolly—October 15

Chris Moss—October 21

Ann O'Donnell—December 22

We would like to acknowledge the passing of fellow Pioneers 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 an ITPA Pioneer.

We would value the opportunity to begin keeping the Carotel and Tar Heel Chapter 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.

Do you have a special occasion that you would like to make your fellow Pioneers aware of? Please contact us at:

bdnterry@outlook.com

We'd love to include your special moments in our newsletter!

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 \(live.com\)](#)

PRESIDENT PONDERINGS

TAR HEEL CHAPTER

Hello Tar Heel Pioneers,

For several years, I've worked with incoming and outgoing club, chapter and national ITPA presidents to publish greetings to clubs, chapters and our national membership in our local newsletters and our national Pioneer Connection Magazine. I've had the honor of serving as Public Relations Chairman for our local club/chapter and for the past three years for our national ITPA presidents. It's been my pleasure to produce the Carotel/Tar Heel Chapter Newsletters and to publish the national Pioneer Connection magazine, which is now issued quarterly in February, May, August, and November each year. If you haven't been reading our national magazine, you've missed lots of opportunities to see updates that include our Tar Heel Chapter and Carotel club members, as many of our local Pioneers are very active with the ITPA at the national level.

At our last annual Tar Heel meeting in August, our group decided to publish a directory that will include address, telephone number, birthdates and anniversary dates of our Tar Heel Pioneers and spouses. That directory will be distributed to Tar Heel Pioneers soon. We also designated a primary contact who will be responsible for letting our group know when one of our members has an update to share. Whether it's health concerns, the loss of a loved one, or a birthday or anniversary to celebrate, we want to be there for one another, to celebrate with you during happy occasions, to mourn with you during grief, and to pray with and for you when you face health challenges or other issues. If you want to be included in the directory and we didn't collect your information during the August Tar Heel Chapter meeting, you can send your information to bdnterry@outlook.com. Stay tuned for updates.

Sincerely,

Darlene Terry, Tar Heel Chapter President

CAROTEL

During the fall general membership business meeting, our Carotel Pioneers unanimously affirmed Larry Newsome as our incoming president. We look forward to hearing from Larry in our next newsletter and we appreciate his willingness to serve our club.

SPONSOR APPRECIATION



For three consecutive years, Telco Credit Union has been a sponsor for our Carotel Convention, and this year the Telco board sponsored the Veterans' Appreciation Breakfast, allowing us to honor and recognize Carotel's veterans in a meaningful way. Our club is appreciative of the support provided to us by Telco Credit Union, not only for our annual convention, but by serving us daily through the services provided.

Telco Credit Union was established in 1941 by Carolina Telephone employees who made personal investments in the financial institution to provide their colleagues with sound financial services. Today, Telco, which is a full service not-for-profit financial institution, serves more than 8,000 members, and its profit are returned to members through higher dividends on savings, lower interest rates on loans and by providing expanded financial products and services at low costs. .

To become a Telco Credit Union member, applicants need only submit their application with a deposit of \$5 into a savings account. Membership is available to active or retired Selected Employee Group (SEG) employees and their immediate family. "Immediate Family" consists of one's wife, husband, daughter, son, mother, father, brother, sister, grandmother, grandfather and grandchildren. All SEG employees and family members are required to provide proof of eligibility.

Telco offers outstanding interest rates on short-term certificates of deposit and offers many more services. Visit Telco's website at <https://www.telcu.com> to learn more.