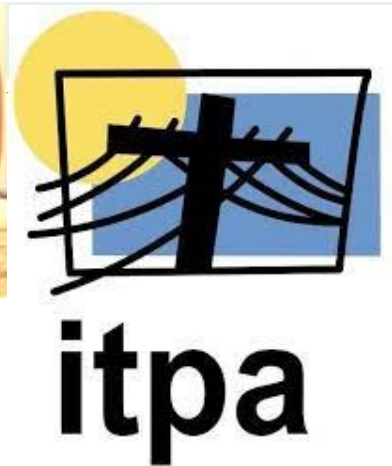




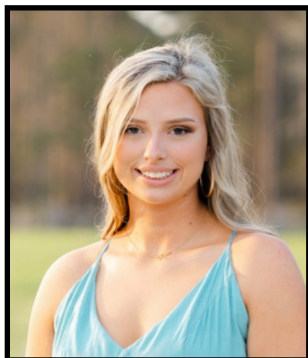
Carotel Club / Tar Heel Chapter
September 2024 Newsletter
Issue 12



Tar Heel Chapter Scholarship Recipients Announced

Tar Heel Chapter Scholarship Chairwoman Carol Harrell recently announced the 2025 recipients of college scholarships awarded by the Tar Heel Chapter of the national ITPA. These scholarships are awarded annually to family members of Tar Heel Chapter Pioneers.

This year, the *Bill and Joe Lawrence Scholarship* is awarded to Sarah Lawrence Adcock. Sarah is enrolled in the Savannah College of Art and Design and is majoring in Fashion Marketing and Journalism. Sarah is a second-time scholarship recipient. We commend her ongoing academic excellence as she pursues her degree. Sarah is the granddaughter of the late Joe Lawrence, who was instrumental in establishing the scholarship fund that allows our chapter to assist students each year.



Through the Tar Heel Chapter's *General Scholarship Fund*, four additional scholarships were awarded.

Kassie Davis is enrolled in the nursing program at the College of Coastal Georgia. Also a second-time scholarship recipient, Kassie has maintained an excellent academic standing, and her hard work and dedication this past year earned her a 4.0 grade point average and a spot on the President's List of Scholars. Kassie is the daughter of Tar Heel Chapter Pioneer Alissa Moss.

Congratulations also to Aidan Outlaw who is continuing his academic studies at North Carolina State University. Aiden is pursuing a degree in Business. His continued academic excellence earned him a repeat scholarship this year. Aiden is the grandson of Pioneers Mike and Jean Outlaw.



See Page 2 for other Tar Heel Chapter scholarship recipients.

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SAVE THE DATES

Last Tuesday of each Month

Wake Forest Retiree Breakfast
Higgs Restaurant, Wake Forest, NC

October 11-12, 2024

Annual Carotel Convention

Crystal Coast Oceanfront Hotel
Pine Knoll Shores, NC

November 8-10, 2024

ITPA National Board Meeting
ITPA National Office & Museum
Hinesville, Georgia

Register NOW for Carotel's Fall Convention!

Details on Page 3.

TAR HEEL CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED



Congratulations to first-time Tar Heel Chapter scholarship recipient Dawson Cashwell. Dawson was an early graduate from Midway High School this year and enrolled in the work study program at Sampson

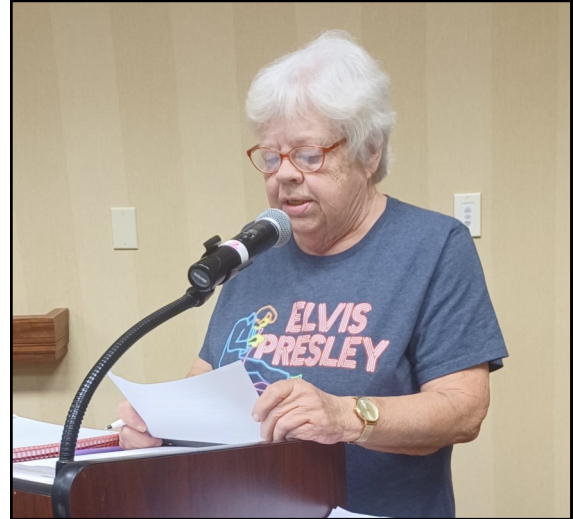
Community College while working full time. Dawson is known for his kindness and compassion and is highly respected by his peers. This fall, he will begin full-time classes at Sampson Community College where he will pursue a degree in the Information Technology program.

First time Tar Heel Chapter scholarship recipient Mykenzi Cashwell 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. Congratulations Mykenzi!



Dawson and Mykenzi were sponsored by proud grandpa and Tar Heel Chapter Pioneer Ronnie Cashwell.

Congratulations!



This year's scholarship recipients were recognized during the recent Tar Heel Chapter's Annual Assembly by Scholarship Committee Chairperson Carol Harrell, shown above. Scholarship recipient Kassie Davis (shown below) was in attendance and accepted her scholarship. Kassie spoke briefly to the Pioneers in attendance and shared a bit about her academic aspirations. Kassie also worked behind the scenes to help make the chapter's annual meeting fun and enjoyable for those in attendance. She sold raffle tickets, took photos, and helped with decorations. Whatever the need, Kassie could be counted on to help!



CAROTEL CONVENTION REGISTRATION INFORMATION

In less than two months Carotel Pioneers and guests will gather for their annual Carotel Convention at the beautiful Crystal Coast Oceanfront Hotel (formerly The Inn at Pine Knoll Shores) in Pine Knoll Shores, NC. The convention begins on Friday, October 11 with afternoon and evening activities on Saturday, October 12th.

Convention attendees are eligible for a special room rate of \$115 plus tax. This is an exceptional rate since every room is ocean front with easy beach access.

You may call to reserve your hotel room now. The hotel is located at 511 Salter Path Road in Pine Knoll Shores. The telephone number is 252-247-4155. To receive the special room rate of \$115 plus tax for Thursday (optional) and Friday/Saturday nights, ask for the **Carotel Club** or **ITPA Carotel Club** group rate. **You must reserve your room(s) by September 10th to receive this special rate.**

The convention registration fees will again be \$75. Registration forms will be sent out by the end of August. **Please return your registration forms and payment by September 10th.**

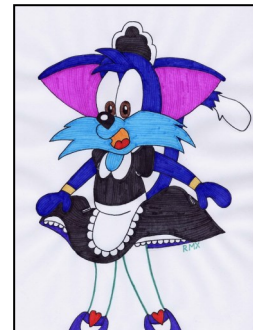
All ITPA Pioneers are invited to this annual gathering, but you don't have to be a Pioneer to attend! We'd love to reconnect with old telephone friends during this Paris themed gathering. Just say, "oui, oui!"



On Friday nights, our attendees normally enjoy a festive Halloween costume contest. Even though our gathering is a bit earlier in the month this year, we invite everyone to participate in the long standing tradition of wearing your Halloween costume or, if you prefer, come dressed this year in your best French attire. A mime, perhaps?



Or a French maid?
Or perhaps, just
come as the Eiffel
Tower!



Whatever attire you choose (you can simply come as a Carotel Pioneer!) we hope you'll enjoy us Friday night for a great reunion. And come back on Saturday when we "dress to impress!"

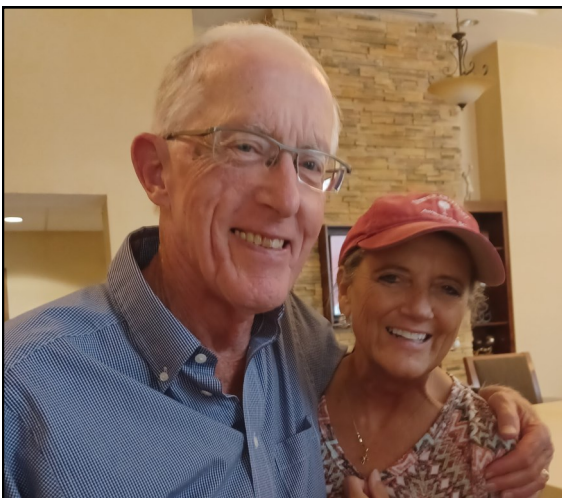
TAR HEEL CHAPTER ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

Tar Heel Chapter President Ronnie Cashwell welcomed the 2024 assembly attendees to the chapter's annual gathering at the Hampton Inn & Suites in Aberdeen, NC. The weekend weather was perfect for traveling, and from the moment the Pioneers walked through the door until the morning they exited to return home, the group enjoyed fellowship, fun, food, and a lot of laughter. In fact, as several Pioneers were checking in at the registration table hosted by Carol Harrell, they sat right down at the registration table to begin catching up!



Left to right: Bill Twyman, Brenda Smith, George Mills, Darlene Mills, Carol Harrell and Hannah Lancaster

After all the seats at the registration table were filled, old friends stood in the lobby and greeted others who came in later!



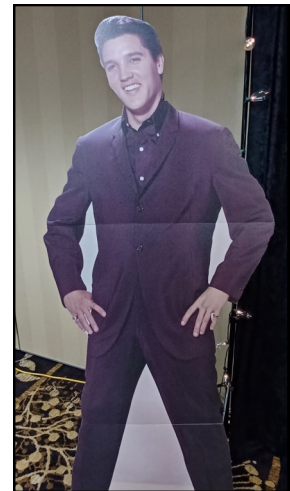
Long-time friends Bill Twyman and Janet Cashwell

The formal events for the weekend kicked off with a board meeting Friday afternoon. Nominating Committee Chairperson Carolyn Thompson presented nominations for 2024-2025 officers and directors to the board, and board members discussed other business that would later be brought before the general membership during the chapter's annual business meeting on Saturday.



Brenda Smith, Mike Outlaw, Ronnie Cashwell, Carol Harrell, Hannah Lancaster, Bill Twyman, Jim Jolly and Carolyn Thompson. Other board members present at the meeting but not pictured were Janet Cashwell and Darlene Terry.

The Tar Heel Chapter Pioneers and guests enjoyed the social hour Friday evening and later enjoyed a delicious meal. Elvis didn't make a personal appearance that evening, but he sent his stand-ins, and Friday evening ended with the group's favorite Elvis movie, "Viva Las Vegas."



Vickie Giddens, Ann O'Donnell and Carroll Giddens

TAR HEEL CHAPTER ANNUAL ASSEMBLY (CONT'D)

The group's traditional auction was held on Saturday, and nearly \$1,000 was raised for the chapter's general account which funds scholarships annually. Ronnie Cashwell wears many hats as a Pioneer. In addition to serving as 2023-2024 Tar Heel Chapter President, he is also the Entertainment Chairman and this year he served as the auctioneer. Shown below with his assistant Jim Jolly, the pair did a great job and made spending money for a cause a fun endeavor.



Dinner Saturday evening was a more formal affair, and our meal consisted of melt-in-your-mouth brisket, baked chicken, and more.

After dinner, the group paused to pay tribute to three Pioneers whose earthly place settings are no longer occupied. Joe Lawrence passed away earlier this year.



After the memorial tribute, the annual business meeting was convened and the Tar Heel Chapter Pioneers voted to accept the officers and directors proposed by the nominating committee. Carol Harrell announced this year's scholarship recipients, and Kassie Davis, who attended the assembly, was recognized as one of this year's recipients.

And then.....the party got started...when someone announced that ELVIS was IN the building! Before Elvis made his appearance, Patsy Cline (a.k.a. Janet Cashwell) sang a couple of her biggest hits. Despite please for an encore performance, she yielded the stage to Elvis, and he was greeted warmly by his fans. Afterwards, Elvis lingered for more photos and autographs. We were a little saddened when the announcement came that "Elvis has LEFT the building." But the fun and fellowship continued until late in the evening.



On Sunday morning, as the Pioneers prepared to go their separate ways, there were hugs and fond farewells, and as we drove away, we were already looking forward to our next reunion.

TAR HEEL CHAPTER ANNUAL ASSEMBLY (CONT'D)



A TRIBUTE



On the final evening of the annual Tar Heel Chapter annual assembly, one table remained unoccupied, its place settings undisturbed. Dedicated to the memory of those who are no longer among us, this table was a tribute and a reminder of three faithful Pioneers who have left their earthly home.



Shown above at a Pioneer gathering, Irene Gainey Darden, Bill Lawrence and Joe Lawrence were good friends and faithful members. All have been notably absent and sorely missed at recent gatherings.



Irene Gainey Darden, affectionately known as Miss Irene, was born in Sampson County on June 12, 1928. She was one of 17 children and was the last surviving sibling until her passing on November 16, 2022.

Miss Irene's large family surely prepared her for motherhood, because she was, as her children will attest, a wonderful mother to her five children (Ann, Debbie, Dwight, Victor, and Vickie). During her 94 years Miss Irene saw her family grow to include 13 grandchildren and 21 great grandchildren. Her husband Marion preceded her in death by 33 years. Marion is the one who introduced Miss Irene to the world of telephony. The ITPA Pioneers grew to love Miss Irene and considered her to be the matriarch of the assembly. No one dressed spiffier. She was always "put together." Her outfits and jewelry were always coordinated, her hair was perfectly styled and her nails were perfectly manicured. Not in a vain way, mind you, but in the sense that she always put her best foot forward. Her laugh and her sweet smile were the highlights of her attire. There was always a spark of mischief in her dark brown eyes. She had a quick wit and was a genuinely warm person to be around.

Once the telephony bug bit Miss Irene, she continued associating with the telephone crowd even after Marion's death. her, she continued associating with the telephone crowd. A few years back, she and Mr. Bob Riddle hit the ITPA scene at assembly. The Dardens and Riddles had long known one another. Bob, like Marion, was a WWII veteran who had worked at Star Telephone Company. Miss Irene and Mr. Bob had much in common, and they were good companions for one another, attending ITPA events and traveling together. The two were close friends and ITPA regulars until Bob's passing in 2012.

Afterwards, Miss Irene's family ensured she was able to continue attending ITPA events. Her connection to and her ability to visit with so many good friends likely contributed to her longevity. Miss Irene's daughters, Vickie Giddens and Ann O'Donnell, and her son-in-law Carroll Giddens who served as her faithful chauffeur for many years, attended this year's Tar Heel Chapter gathering. We are grateful to the Darden family for sharing Miss Irene with us for so many years, and we're glad that they are a part of our ITPA family.

A TRIBUTE (CONT'D)

Bill and Joe Lawrence

Mr. Joe Lawrence passed away this year on February 22nd. Though his brother Bill predeceased him 14 years ago on July 19, 2010, we paid tribute during the annual assembly to both brothers, each having been steadfast ITPA supporters.

ITPA Tar Heel Chapter Pioneers are all very familiar with the *Bill and Joe Lawrence College Scholarship Fund*. The brothers established the scholarship fund to assist children of Tar Heel Chapter Pioneers with college tuition. Since then, scholarships have been awarded annually through their generosity.

Bill and Joe were the 8th and 9th, respectively of 11 siblings; and they were active from their childhoods in the same church. They both supported their church, civic and community interests long after their retirement for as long as their health permitted.

William Walter Lawrence, always known as Bill, was born on April 15, 1928. He worked at Heins Telephone for 37 years and was vice president when he retired in 1984. He then worked as a consultant for Alltel for 3 years. Until 1991, he continued serving as a director for Mid-South Bank, which he helped to found; was an investor in Pinewild Inc., a Pinehurst golfing community; and as a director for Mac's Business Machines. Bill served the Boy Scouts in many capacities and was recognized at the highest levels in the Occaneechee Council of the organization in 2008 for service spanning over 50 years.

He was also active with the Salvation Army, the Rotary Club, United Way, the Boys and Girls Club, and he served on the boards of the Duke Cancer Center, Wingate University, Central Carolina CC, and Meredith College.

Bill was an active member of the First Baptist Church of Sanford his entire life, serving as both a deacon and as a member of many of the church's committees. He also enjoyed being a member of the St. Luke Methodist Church Wednesday Morning Men's Prayer Group. His commitment to God and his church was always his priority.



Joseph "Joe" Thaddeus Lawrence, Jr. was born on November 23, 1929. His large and loving family shaped his values, habits, and attitudes. He learned to value family and education, to be resourceful, and to serve others. Bill's work tenure began at age 11 as

a newspaper carrier. At age 13 he delivered milk. As an older teen he worked at Collins Press and as an usher at Temple Movie Theater. He was a Boy Scout in youth and as an adult he served on the Scouting Committee for years. He also served in the National Guard for six years.

Joe attended Campbell Junior College while working as a roofer and brick mason assistant, and while working at Sanford Tobacco Company. He also studied at UNC-Chapel Hill for a bit, working in the Lenoir Hall dining area to pay for meals, and then returned to Campbell College. After graduating in 1953 with a business degree, he accepted the Plant Accountant position at Heins Telephone Company. He later served as Purchasing Agent and then as Commercial Manager, the role from which he retired in 1989 after 36 years with the company. Joe was a long-time member of the Tar Heel Chapter of the ITPA and held many positions, including president.

Joe served his church in many capacities, was a Jaycee and a Kiwanis Club member, and was an avid supporter of The Salvation Army. He worked with community leaders to revitalize downtown Sanford and served as chairman of the group in 1990. He served as a guide at the Railroad House Museum. Joe was an avid reader, and could often be found in the Lee County Library pouring over newspapers and historical books.

Family was of utmost importance to Joe, and he valued the precious times spent with his wife Betty to whom he was married for nearly 60 years, their daughters Susan Lee Lawrence and Beth Adcock, his son-in-law Paul Adcock, and his grandchildren, who affectionately called him "Papa Joe." Joe also treasured his extended family, which consisted of in-laws, nieces and nephews, and many treasured friends. He is missed by all.

TAR HEEL CHAPTER PIONEER SERVICE PROJECTS

Every August when the Tar Heel Chapter Pioneers convene for their annual assembly, they bring non-perishable food items and toiletries that are donated to charities. The food items given by assembly attendees are donated to the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina — Sandhills Branch. Toiletry items given by assembly attendees are donated to The Life Center of Davidson County, Inc. in Lexington, NC.

The Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina is one of the largest anti-hunger organizations in the United States, providing food to people in need every day while advancing long-term solutions to end hunger in our communities.

The Food Bank and its branch locations have served as the central hub of a network that has grown to more than 700 partnership programs across a 34-county region in NC.

The Life Center of Davidson County provides high quality day time care to older and impaired adults and helps improve the quality of life for those individuals and their caregivers by offering support, relief, respite, and counsel.



ITPA National Mascot Hunny Bunny helped organize non-perishable foods donated by Tar Heel Chapter Pioneers.



This year, the Tar Heel Chapter Pioneers added a third component to their annual community service projects by inviting Patsy Cline and the King of Rock and Roll to Scotia Village, a retirement center in Laurinburg, NC. Patsy crooned her tunes to an enthusiastic audience, after which Elvis serenaded the audience with some of his greatest hits.



Above left: Patsy Cline (aka Janet Holliday-Cashwell) visits with her fans after the show.



Above right: Elvis visits with an enthusiastic resident.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT SHINES ON BILL JOINER

The man, the myth, the legend...meet Bill Joiner, long time Carotel Pioneer and community servant.



Photo by Todd F. Michalek. Used with permission.

Bill has been a Carotel Pioneer for as long as most of our Carotel members can remember. Bill worked for Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company for 37 years, and during that time he spent many hours volunteering as a Pioneer serving his community.

A native of Hopkinsville, KY, Bill became a permanent North Carolina resident in 1964 after having served in the U.S. Air Force for 4 years. Bill continued his military service until his E-8 military retirement, having served 3 years in the N.C. National Guard and 23 years in the U.S. Army Reserve.

After retiring, Bill wasn't nearly ready to slow down, so he ran for town commissioner of Trent Woods, NC where he and his wife Judy have resided for more than 39 years. Bill still serves as a town commissioner and some residents say that if the town's children could vote, he'd hold the office for life. Bill has lived his adult life volunteering to help others, particularly if children are the ones being helped.

Those who know Bill may have wondered about his beard. Bill is a long-time Santa Claus, having begun his Santa tradition years ago at James W. Smith Elementary School. He kept his naturally white beard trimmed for most of the year, and for years during the holiday season he made Santa appearances across multiple counts events hosted for foster children and other events.

He has also suited up for Santa events at Temple Baptist Church, Garber United Methodist Church and Asbury United Methodist Church. Bill said of his Santa experiences, "You let a four-year-old hug your neck and you're hooked. If you don't love children, something's wrong with you." A Scottish Rite and Yor Rite Mason and Shriner, Bill has appeared in many parades over the years with the "Hooligans," the Sudan Shriner's parade unit, of which Bill is an original member.

There was a time not too long ago when Bill greeted many of the Trent Woods children every morning and afternoon on their way to and from school, and they happily greet "Mr. Bill" by name each time they saw him. Greeting the children was easy since Bill's volunteering efforts included serving as a crossing guard. When Bill was approached by the town's police chief to serve as a crossing guard for Bengert Elementary School, his response was, "I volunteer for everything else, so I may as well."

When Bill was interviewed about his service to the town of Trent Woods, Bill said of his crossing guard experience that it was only after he agreed to do it that he found out he would actually get paid for the gig.

The kids showed Bill how much he meant to them when, at the end of a school year, the Bangert Elementary School children honored him by dedicating the Spirit Rock outside the school for a week in his honor. One of the second graders who participated said of Bill, "Mr. Bill is so nice and loves us all." Bill served as a crossing guard for 8 years.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT SHINES ON BILL JOINER

Bill was dedicated to helping kids long before his crossing guard duties. He volunteered for 20 years as a referee for youth basketball and an umpire for youth baseball. In his younger years Bill coached Babe Ruth Baseball and Little League Baseball. His dedication, however, extends to both the young and old. After helping the New Bern-Craven County Jaycees run the fairgrounds for several years, he was selected as “N.C. Jaycees Outstanding Senior.”

Bill also served as a volunteer firefighter for 20 years and he now serves on the Retired Firemen’s Board. He is an active member of Tabernacle Baptist Church, and he serves on the “Town’s Citizen Emergency Response Team” and the local Community Watch program.

Bill and his wife Judy have two daughters and four grandchildren, ages 13, 15, 19 and 21 years old. Bill’s eyes twinkle when he talks about his children and his four grandchildren, and he has a unique story about and a special love for each one of them. If you haven’t seen as much of Bill at our recent gatherings, he’s been faithfully caring for his wife and he has been hesitant to leave her for extended periods. Thank you Bill for all you’ve done for family, the Pioneers and for your community. You’re a shining example both for the ITPA Pioneers and for the many organizations and individuals you have served.



Bill (third from right) with his fellow Cooligans



Bill called Bingo at the annual Carotel Convention and served as auctioneer for several years. Pictured above with Ronnie Cashwell, the two are taking care of business!



Bill represents the Cooligans on parade day.



Known affectionately by some of his friends as “Wild Bill,” Mr. Joiner was caught on camera by one of those friends when he participated in a local parade.

CONGRATULATIONS



to

Tar Heel Chapter Pioneers **Jim and Vickie Jolly** who celebrated their 52nd wedding anniversary on August 5th

and

Tar Heel Chapter Pioneers **Chris and Alissa Moss** who will celebrate their anniversary on September 1st



to

Alissa Moss—August 10
Addie Moss—August 21
Hannah Lancaster—September 14
Mike Outlaw—September 24

IN MEMORY

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

2023-24 CAROTEL OFFICERS/DIRECTORS

President: Brenda Smith

Vice 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

Nominating

Janet Cashwell

2024-2025 TAR HEEL CHAPTER OFFICERS/ DIRECTORS

President : Darlene Terry

Immediate Past President: Ronnie Cashwell

Vice President: Darlene Terry

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 Tar Heel Chapter Officers and Directors were elected during the chapter's August business meeting.



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 \(live.com\)](#)