

67th Annual Meeting Scheduled October 3 2023 Annual Meeting Announced

The 2023 Annual Meeting will be conducted at 10 a.m. Tuesday, October 3, at the Annex building, located above Little's Gym and across from SkyLine's West Jefferson Call Center on Highway 194 in West Jefferson. The Annual Meeting will comprise a brief business session only with reports from officers, election of directors, video presentation of scholarship winners and the announcement of door prizes.

To fulfill the requirements in establishing a quorum to proceed with the meeting and member participation in the election of directors, members may register for the meeting by visiting their local SkyLine Customer Center the previous week and receive information for the meeting including the agenda, official ballot for the election of directors and the Annual Meeting Report. A voting station will be set up at each Customer Center location, where members may cast their ballots and drop them in secure ballot boxes. Early registration for our Shady Valley members in Johnson County will be scheduled on Wednesday, September 27. (see details below). A video recording of the business session will be aired on SkyZhone Channels 1 and 1001 at 10 a.m. Thursday, October 5 and again at 10 a.m. Saturday, October 7. The business session also will be posted to SkyLine's website (www.skybest.com/AnnualMeeting) on October 5.

For those planning to attend in person, member registration will be scheduled from 9:00 to 9:45 a.m. at

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October is National Co-op Month – Customer Appreciation Day is on September 29

Celebrated by more than 40,000 cooperatives nationwide during the month of October, National Co-op Month is an annual opportunity to raise awareness of a trusted, proven way to do business and build communities. To kick off the national Cooperative Month promotion, SkyLine will host its annual Customer Appreciation Day on Friday, September 29 in conjunction with Annual Meeting early registration with special member treats and giveaways while they last. We hope our members and customers will drop by any of our five Customer Center locations on Friday, September 29 to let us say 'thank you.'

Nominating Committee Meets

A nominating committee, appointed by the Board of Directors, met on Tuesday, August 8, at SkyLine Membership Corporation in West Jefferson. The committee members are: Chris Jones, Alleghany County; Jim Cox, Ashe County; Mike Davis, Avery County; Tim Hodges, Watauga County; and James Sherman, Johnson County.

The committee nominated the following members of SkyLine to be voted upon for directors at the Annual Meeting on October 3, 2023: Sharon Kasel (Ashe); Bill C. Bursleson (Avery) and Thomas Joseph McNeil (Watauga).

What is a Co-Op? SkyLine/SkyBest is a member-owned Co-Op.

There are a number of values and advantages co-ops bring to their members and community. As a member-owned cooperative ourselves, we want to make sure our customers are aware of the benefits that a co-op membership can bring, for both themselves personally and their community. First, members must understand exactly – what is a co-op?

What is a Co-Op?

According to The International Cooperative Alliance, a co-op is, "an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly-owned and democratically-controlled enterprise." The foundation of all cooperatives is built upon six principles: democracy, self-responsibility, equality, self-help, equity and solidarity. Members of a co-op are all part owners of the organization and are represented by an elected board member for his or her area.

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Help Us "Rise & Shine" to Fight Hunger!

Recognizing the need to support local initiatives to minimize food insecurity is greater than ever, SkyLine will continue its annual breakfast food drive for area food pantries. Now in its tenth year, and beginning this month through October, our "Rise & Shine" food drive will accept donations of non-perishable breakfast items at each of our five Customer Center locations.

Beginning this month and while supplies last, all SkyLine/SkyBest Customer Service Centers will have shopping totes available for pick-up. We welcome all sizes of packaged breakfast food, including individually-sealed cereals, oatmeal and fruit items that can be included in area backpack initiatives for children. See related list of suggested non-perishable items. As our thank-you, please keep the tote for future use, and SkyLine will make delivery of these items to area food pantries, including the Solid Rock Food Closet, Ashe County Food Pantry, the Hunger and Health Coalition, Reaching Avery Ministry and the Shady Valley Baptist Church Food Pantry in early November.

SkyLine is grateful to join the community in support, including numerous individuals, churches and local organizations like those listed that are trying to help fill the hunger gaps that continue to exist across the region. We hope you will join us in this critical effort. As a local co-operative, we are reminded that the seventh cooperative principle is "concern for community." For more information about the food drive, please call your local SkyLine/SkyBest Customer Service Center at 118. Thank you!



NEED TO CONTACT US?

CUSTOMER SERVICE

LOCAL
118

TOLL-FREE
1-800-759-2226

REPAIR SERVICE, 24/7

LOCAL
611

TOLL-FREE
1-877-475-9546

Additional Local
Repair Service Numbers:

ALLEGHANY
336-372-4444
(10-DIGIT DIALING)

ASHE
336-982-3111
(10-DIGIT DIALING)

AVERY
898-9250

WATAUGA
297-4811

JOHNSON
739-4500

LENOIR
929-2872

INTERNET TECH SUPPORT, 24/7

TOLL-FREE
1-866-759-7591

WORTH NOTING:

Offices will be closed
for Labor Day on
Monday, September 4

STAFF:

Kim Shepherd
Chief Executive Officer

Brian Tester
Chief Operations Officer

Angie Poe
Customer Service Manager

Jamey Jenkins
Retail Sales Manager

Edward Hinson
Chief Marketing & Sales Officer

Hallie Grubb
Public Relations Administrator



SkyLine's new Annex location. All members who register in advance or on the day of the meeting will receive a \$15 bill credit for the member gift, a \$10 voucher toward the purchase of a meal at one of the designated restaurants in the co-op's service area and will be entered into a drawing for one of six door prizes. Prizes will be announced at the close of the business session on October 3, and members do not have to be present to win.

Annual Meeting early registration will be conducted during the week prior to the meeting at SkyLine's Sparta, Boone, Banner Elk and West Jefferson Customer Service Center locations, beginning Monday, September 25, through Friday, September 29 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Additionally, early registration will be scheduled for our Shady Valley members in Johnson County from 2 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, September 27, at the Shady Rock School in Shady Valley. For more information, please contact your local SkyLine office at 118 or 1-800-759-2226.


Secretary

SkyLine Customer Center Locations

Alleghany County

199 Grayson Street, Sparta, 28675

Ashe County West Jefferson Smart Home

1060 Mount Jefferson Road, West Jefferson, 28694

Ashe County West Jefferson Call Center

1079 NC Hwy. 194 North, West Jefferson, 28694

Avery County

20 High Country Square, Hwy. 184, Banner Elk, 28604

Watauga County

217 Wilson Drive, Boone, 28607

Benefits of a Cooperative

Basic Structure of the Organization

The democratic model of a cooperative is considered one of its greatest assets. Because of board elections, all members have an equal say in the governing of the co-op, and members can easily come and go without causing a big disruption to the organization. Members' best interest and needs are the top priority for the board — and therefore the co-op — because it is made up of neighbors and fellow community members.

Financial Benefits

Each member of a co-op is entitled to capital credit checks. Capital credits represent each member's ownership of a cooperative and come from the margins allocated to members' capital credit accounts based on their use of services. As a not-for-profit business, SkyLine assigns any monies remaining after expenses to the capital credit accounts of its members. Along with assigning an annual allocation to these accounts, our Board of Directors determines if a retirement (refund) is in order based on the cooperative's sound financial condition.

Community Outreach

Often created to meet a certain need, community is a driving force behind co-ops, and the organization frequently works closely with local individuals and businesses. SkyLine specifically has a number of programs that benefit our community, such as funding local scholarships, offering youth leadership programs

and supporting local schools — not to mention countless sponsorships of local events and fundraisers. Co-ops are established locally and strive to maintain a strong sense of community in everything they do — specifically through partnerships and local outreach.

SkyLine Membership Corporation

SkyLine Membership Corporation is a member-owned cooperative (the largest telecommunications co-op in North Carolina), serving five counties in Western North Carolina and Eastern Tennessee. In the summer of 1950, a group of residents joined together to bring telephone service to rural residents in Ashe, Alleghany and Watauga counties. Since then, SkyLine Membership Corp. and its subsidiary, SkyBest Communications, continue to expand into underserved areas and bring necessary broadband and technology to those who need it. Each service area elects a representative or representatives to serve on the democratically governed, nine-member board of directors.

As a member-owned co-op we are constantly striving to meet the needs of and create partnerships throughout our community. For any questions, please give us a call at 1-800-759-2226.

Recipe of the Month

Easy Peanut Butter Cookies

Ingredients:

- 1 cup of shortening
- 1/4 cup of butter
- 1/2 cup of peanut butter
- 1/2 cup of sugar
- 1/4 cup of firmly packed brown sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 1/2 cups of all purpose flour
- 1/2 tablespoon of baking powder
- 3/4 teaspoon of baking soda
- 1/4 tablespoon of salt

Instructions:

Cream shortening, butter, peanut butter in a large bowl. Add sugar, beating until light and fluffy. Add egg and beat. Mix the dry ingredients together and add to the cream mixture. Chill thoroughly. Shape into 1 inch balls. Place 3 inches apart on a lightly greased cookie sheet. Flatten with fork and drop in flour. Bake at 375° for 10-12 minutes.

Recipe submitted by Nell C. Baldwin

SkyLine/SkyBest Rise & Shine Breakfast Food Drive

Deliver non-perishable items to SkyLine between September 1 - October 31

SUGGESTED NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS:

- Oatmeal • Whole-grain Cereals • Hot Cereals • Cream of Wheat • Grits • Gravy Mixes
- Pancake Mixes • Muffin Mixes • Granola Bars • Syrup • Fruit Juice Packs • Jam
- Canned/Dried Fruits • Powdered Milk • Coffee • Hot Chocolate

ITEMS WILL BENEFIT:

- Solid Rock Food Closet • Ashe Hunger and Health Coalition • Reaching Avery Ministry
- Shady Valley Baptist Church Food Pantry



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