



SkyLine PR Administrator Karen Powell continued the company's tradition of participating in the Blowing Rock Chamber's Leadership Challenge session on physical infrastructure. Before capturing this snapshot of the group, she introduced the 17 attendees to SkyLine/SkyBest and its continuing efforts to bring fiber connectivity to unserved and underserved communities beyond the cooperative's service footprint. Longtime Leadership Program facilitator Brian Crutchfield and Chamber Executive Director Charles Hardin also are pictured with several members of this year's class.

SkyLine Highlighted at Leadership Challenge Session

Every two years, the Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce leads an eight-week program designed to meet the Town's growing need to develop potential leaders and provide them with community information and encouragement to become more actively involved.

SkyLine was among several organizations to share presentations on the topic of infrastructure in the half-day session held March 30 at the Meadowbrook Inn. There are 17 participants in this year's class representing a variety of businesses, the Chamber and local government.

Public Relations Administrator Karen Powell introduced participants to SkyLine/SkyBest, highlighting the cooperative's longtime presence across the High Country over the past 71 years as it continues to focus on providing the latest in telecommunications technology to the

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SkyLine's CallTree Service Delivers!

CallTree is an automated messaging service that can deliver phone calls, emails and even text messages. Ideal for schools, churches, small businesses, restaurants and other organizations, it allows you to turn your landline phone into a powerful messaging service. What makes CallTree so valuable is that it allows the user to deliver a timely, consistent message to groups large and small alike, plus it can be set to make multiple call attempts to reach individuals on your calling list. Contact everyone on your entire list with a single message from your mobile app or your computer and phone!

Just a few of the possible applications for this convenient automated messaging service include:

- Meeting reminders
- Weather cancellations
- Service changes and outages
- Appointment reminders
- Non-pay reminders
- Marketing & promotions



To find out more or to sign up for this valuable and affordable voice messaging service, please call your local SkyLine Customer Service Center at 118.



Know what's below. Call before you dig.

Call Before You Dig into Outdoor Spring Projects

Each year, lives are endangered, money and time are wasted and property is destroyed because individuals fail to follow safe digging practices.

The "One-Call" system, which is free to the excavator as well as the homeowner, helps those who dig comply with the safety rules and regulations of the construction industry.

In a typical neighborhood, a complex web of utility lines are buried under lawns, sidewalks and driveways. When digging, one wrong move might cause the community of residents to be cut off from heat, electricity, telephones, water, 911 calls and other vital services. When you make the free call to the One-Call Center, the One-Call staff notifies their member utilities to mark the ground with color-coded paint. After the utilities are marked in your work area, you have taken the first step to avoid damage or injury.

In fact, North Carolina state law requires homeowners, contractors and excavators to contact the One-Call Center at least two business days before digging. "Taking care where you dig with a shovel or backhoe can not only prevent damage to underground utilities, but the potential loss of life as well," says SkyLine Facilities and OSP Engineer Matthew Ball and chairperson of the Ashe/Watauga Utility Coordinating Committee.

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SkyLine Members 75 or Older May Apply for Early Retirement of Capital Credits



An amendment to Article VIII of SkyLine's Bylaws that was passed by the cooperative's Board of Directors in late 2020 now permits an eligible member of the cooperative the ability to file a request of early retirement of his or her capital credit

account at net present value.

Previously, the distribution of all unretired capital credits typically takes place as part of a member's estate when he or she passes. This amendment provides members 75 years or older to receive a refund of all unretired capital credits assigned to a single or joint account at net present value.

Key considerations that also must be met include the following:

- No retirement may be made until all outstanding accounts due are cleared either by payment or deduction from the early retirement amount.
- Payments for early retirements will be processed quarterly for a one-time payout for active and inactive members who meet the age requirement of 75.

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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:

Monday, May 30
SkyLine/SkyBest Offices
Close for Memorial Day
Holiday

STAFF:

Kim Shepherd
Chief Executive Officer
Brian Tester
Chief Operations Officer
Angie Poe
Customer Service Manager
Jamey Jenkins
Retail Sales Manager
Karen P. Powell
Public Relations Administrator
& Editor



www.facebook.com/SkyLineSkyBest
www.twitter.com/SkyLineSkyBest
www.instagram.com/Skyline.Skybest

area and contributing meaningfully to the communities it serves. From achieving Gig-capable Internet Provider status in 2015 to completing its fiber-to-the-premise (FTTP) overbuild of the cooperative's service area in 2016, SkyLine and its subsidiary SkyBest are now focused on delivering fiber connectivity to unserved or underserved areas beyond SkyLine's service footprint. Among the communities benefitting from SkyBest's recent expansions include the downtown area of Blowing Rock, which has been served by SkyBest since the fall of 2020.

According to Chamber Executive Director Charles Hardin, the mission of the leadership program is the continued improvement of the local community. "Graduates are challenged to apply their talents throughout the community by becoming a part of community organizations, including public boards, nonprofit groups and civic organizations," he said.

SkyLine has been a frequent presenter in sessions for other area chamber leadership programs, and has leadership alumni among its ranks who now serve the community in a variety of capacities including local Chamber and economic development boards, nonprofit organization boards/committees and area hospital boards/foundations.

About SkyChange

SkyChange was established in May 2020 as a 501(c)3 organization with official bylaws and a governing committee, and it invites customers of SkyLine/SkyBest to round up their monthly bill to the next whole-dollar amount. The money generated from the round-up is distributed to programs assisting those in need throughout our community. Customer bills will reflect a line item showing the monthly round-up donation.

If you participate in the SkyChange program by simply rounding up your bill to the next dollar, your total donations per year will not exceed \$11.88. In most cases, donations will be tax deductible.

If you'd like to join us in this collective effort to take our 'change' to make a positive difference across our region, visit www.skybest.com/skychange or call your local SkyLine/SkyBest Customer Center at 118 or 1-800-759-2226.

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The "Dig Safely" campaign is the centerpiece of the North Carolina Utility Notification Center's efforts to increase public awareness of North Carolina excavation laws and safe digging practices.

The North Carolina One Call Center provides a toll-free telephone number, 8-1-1, to help reduce damages to underground facilities, thereby reducing the loss of service to the public and the loss of time and money to excavators, utilities and taxpayers. And, our Johnson County customers also can contact the Tennessee One-Call Center by dialing 8-1-1 from their homes or businesses.

When you contact the One Call System, you will need the following information when you call:

- Location of work – street address, county and town
- Nearest cross street
- Area to be marked
- Date and time of excavation or digging
- Type of work
- Your name and number or the contractor's information

So, be safe, not sorry: Know what's below... Call before you dig... Dial 811.

CAPITAL CREDITS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

- If member requests exceed the board-approved amount for that year, the excess requests will be addressed the following year, based on the budgeted amount approved for payouts by the Board of Directors.
- Active members who request early retirement will continue to accrue capital credits for future years.

Cooperative members who are interested in applying for early retirement of capital credits may contact their local SkyLine office for further information.

SkyLine's cooperative bylaws may be viewed on the company website, under the **About Us**, and **About SkyLine Membership Corp.** tabs.

Internet Weekender Plan Get 12 Mbps Internet When You Need It At The Price You Want!

Enjoy 12 Mbps Internet at your weekend home automatically activated from Friday at noon until Monday at noon every weekend for only \$18 per month*.

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**Call 1-800-759-2226
to sign up today!**

*Some restrictions apply. Residential only.
One month minimum required.
Modem leases, if needed, are not included.

Recipe of the Month

Carrot Muffins

Ingredients:

- 2 cups plain flour
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 package cream cheese (3 ounces)
- 3/4 cup milk (whole or 2 percent)
- 1/2 cup finely grated carrots
- 1/4 cup finely chopped green onions
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 1 egg

Instructions:

Preheat oven to 400°. Grease 12 muffin tins. Combine flour, sugar, baking powder, and salt in large bowl. Cut in cream cheese until mixture resembles fine crumbs. Combine milk, carrots, green onions, oil, and egg in another bowl. Stir into flour mixture just until moistened. Spoon batter into muffin tins. Bake 25 minutes or until golden brown

Recipe submitted by Marsha Walters of Ashe County

Commemorative Cookbook

The recipes we feature in our monthly newsletter come from SkyLine's commemorative cookbook. At just \$15 each, they make great gifts, and all proceeds will support area food banks. Call SkyLine at 118 to order yours.

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