

Celebrating Mr. R.C. Mitchell's 28 years as SkyLine Board President



In the October Board meeting, Mr. R.C. Mitchell announced his resignation as Board President. While we are eager to welcome Mr. Bill Burleson as our SkyLine Board President, we want to take a moment to recognize the impact Mr. Mitchell had on our cooperative as president.

Since its onset, SkyLine has evolved with its surrounding society and kept up with exponential changes in the world of technology. From additions in our services to expansions of our service areas, few things remain the same. However, over the last 63 years, there has been at least one constant within the company.

Former SkyLine Board President, R.C. Mitchell began serving on the board in 1960, and continues to be a valuable asset to the company today. After being elected president in 1995, he loyally fulfilled this role for 28 years.

"Things have changed in many ways," Mitchell reflects. "I guess I stayed around to experience the better quality of service that we have."

Mitchell's role on the board tasked him with presiding over meetings, appointing committee members, voting on company matters and more. As he oversaw the cooperative, he describes his true role as helping his community.

"The best part of a cooperative is that it is owned by members," he asserts. "I think the primary purpose for SkyLine is to make each community a better place to live."

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Watauga County Spelling Bee Champion Recognized

Sponsored by SkyLine & Carolina West Wireless



The Watauga County Spelling Bee for students representing the nine elementary schools in the county took place on November 3. The event, held at the school system's administrative offices, continues to be sponsored

by SkyLine and Carolina West Wireless. Max G. of Hardin Park Elementary school was named county winner. He is pictured with Public Relations Administrator Hallie Grubb. Congratulations, Max!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF OF SKYLINE MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION & SKYBEST COMMUNICATIONS

"Rise & Shine" Food Drive Deliveries

The tenth annual "Rise & Shine" breakfast food drive received generous support from employees, directors and the community with final collections of over 1,100 non-perishable breakfast food items earmarked for food pantries across our service area. SkyLine/SkyBest also presented corporate donations totaling \$1,000 to the five area food pantries sponsored in this drive; Solid Rock Food Closet (Alleghany), Ashe Food Pantry, Reaching Avery Ministry, the Hunger and Health Coalition (Watauga) and Shady Valley Baptist Church Food Pantry (Johnson).

Since the program began, our customers, employees and directors have donated over 15,000 breakfast items to area food pantries. This initiative would not be possible, nor would it have the impact it has without your active involvement, so all of us at SkyLine express our sincerest thanks!

With North Carolina ranked in the top 10 of food-insecure states in the nation, a worrisome statistic only further exacerbated by the pandemic, the state's food pantries have reported a 35 percent increase in need during this time. That's why this important drive brings immediate relief to area families and helps to restock area pantry shelves and replenish backpack initiatives. We are so grateful for the outpouring of support by our members, customers, SkyLine board/staff, our dedicated members and customers, and the community! Thank you for continuing to share your gifts of food and resources to address this pressing local need.



Reaching Avery Ministry (Avery)



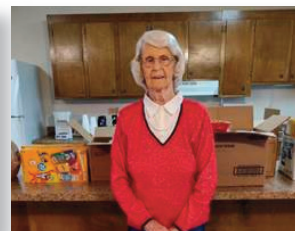
Ashe Food Pantry (Ashe)



Solid Rock Food Closet (Alleghany)



Hunger and Health Coalition (Watauga)



Shady Valley Baptist Church Food Pantry (Johnson)

Please remember to support this and other area food drive initiatives throughout the calendar year. Your support makes all the difference to those facing hunger. 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:

SkyLine Closes for the Holidays
Christmas
Monday, December 25
New Year's Day
Monday, January 1

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



www.facebook.com/SkyLineSkyBest

Mitchell places top priority on SkyLine continuing its efforts to bring broadband connections to areas that are hard to serve. He proudly proclaims that SkyLine's goal from the beginning was to bring the advancements of urban areas to rural communities.

"Way back, the larger companies would not build communications lines into the rural areas where it was sparsely settled," Mitchell recalls. "SkyLine did that from the very start, and that is the reason we are a cooperative."

As SkyLine continues to grow in customers and as a company, Mitchell attributes the successes to the employees of the company.

"There are a lot of moving parts," he recognizes. "Everyone has to come together to get the job done efficiently, and I think we can thank our good staff within the company for that."

Although Mitchell is astonished at the pace in which modern technology changes, he believes SkyLine is more than capable of keeping up with the rest of the world. As he projects about the future of the company, he remains hopeful that SkyLine will continue to help rural areas adapt with the times through continuing to make fiber-optic broadband available.

Despite taking a step down, Mitchell will continue serving on the SkyLine Board of Directors. At SkyLine, we are grateful for the 28 years Mr. R.C. Mitchell dedicated to SkyLine as President.

We now welcome Mr. Bill Bureson into this role, and we look forward to the impact he will continue to make in his time here.

The Ultimate Christmas Movie?

It's the most wonderful time of the year, filled with lights, trees, long-awaited traditions and, one of our favorites: holiday movies. From animated classics to modern comedies, everybody has their personal favorite Christmas film. With so many to choose from now, the debate often comes up: which Christmas movie is actually the best? We decided to see for ourselves by sending out a company-wide survey asking employees to rank a group of 17 of the most popular Christmas movies. The votes are in, and we've tallied them up!

The Official Top-Ten Christmas Movie Ranking from SkyLine/SkyBest:

10. Home Alone 2: Lost in New York
9. A Christmas Story
8. A Charlie Brown Christmas
7. How the Grinch Stole Christmas (1966 version)
6. The Santa Clause
5. Elf
4. Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer
3. How the Grinch Stole Christmas (Jim Carrey Version)
2. Home Alone

And the collective favorite is...

1. National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation

So there you have it – the most popular Christmas movies ranked according to SkyLine/SkyBest. What do you think of it? Do you agree? No matter the ranking, any Christmas movie is a great way to put us in the holiday spirit, and we still want to be able to watch as many as we can. Call us to upgrade your TV package to make sure you don't miss any of your favorite Christmas classics!

The SkyChange Program

We are so grateful for the positive response from our members and customers to SkyChange, our round-up program that seeks to assist area nonprofits that help those in need throughout our community. If you've been thinking of signing up to support this charitable program, we welcome your participation!

SkyChange allows customers of SkyLine/SkyBest to round up their monthly bill to the next whole-dollar amount. The money generated from the round-up is, in turn, distributed throughout our community. Customer bills will reflect a line item showing the monthly round-up donation.

Some of the recent recipients of support include Blue Ridge Opportunity Commission, WAMY and Appalachian Foster Grandparent Program.

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. SkyChange is a 501(c)3 organization with established bylaws and a governing committee. Once funds are distributed, our website, social media and newsletter will give periodic updates highlighting how customers' donations helped their community.

To sign up for SkyChange today, visit www.skybest.com/skychange or call your local SkyLine/SkyBest Customer Center at 118 or 1-800-759-2226.



Pictured L to R: Myla Farmer, Sherry Lambert, Tammy Taylor and Makisha Howell



Pictured L to R: Sylvia Miller, Stacey Howell, Makisha Howell, Robin Miller and Mandy Walls



Pictured L to R: Sarah Freer, Allison Jennings, Brittany Luxton, Eric Church and Sam Gates

Recipe of the Month

Warm Christmas Punch

Ingredients:

- 32 ounces cranberry juice
- 32 ounces pineapple juice
- 1/3 cup red-hot candies
- 1 cinnamon stick (3-1/2 inches)
- Additional cinnamon sticks, optional

Instructions:

In a 3 quart slow cooker, combine juices, red-hot candies and cinnamon stick. Cook on low for 2-5 hours. Discard cinnamon stick before serving. Use additional cinnamon sticks as stirrers if desired. Yield: 2 quarts

Recipe submitted by Susan Ham



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skybest.com 1-800-759-2226

*Restrictions apply. Available in N.C. only.