

CONNECTIONS

AUGUST 2016

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www.SkyLine.org
www.SkyBest.com



2016 FRS Youth Tour – Washington, D.C. – June 2016

Local Students Tour Washington, D.C.

SkyLine sponsored two area high school juniors – Grace Miller and Quentin Wellington of Ashe County – for the Foundation for Rural Service Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. in June. The Youth Tour introduced the telecommunications industry to students from rural America within a legislative context. Aside from the educational aspects of this trip, students also had the opportunity to tour many of the historical sites in the nation's capital. The students were among 115 high school juniors selected from rural America to participate in this five-day program.



FRS promotes, educates and advocates to the public, rural telecommunications issues in order to sustain and enhance the quality of life within communities throughout rural America. The foundation was established by the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association (NTCA), of which SkyLine is a member.

SkyLine Wins National Award for Annual Meeting Report

SkyLine received national recognition during the NTCA PR and Marketing Conference in Charleston, South Carolina, in early May. The TeleChoice Awards annually recognize excellence in NTCA member company annual reports, customer newsletters, print publications, marketing campaigns, websites and local video content. The competition is open to all NTCA members, and each main category consists of three divisions, based on access lines served by the entrant. SkyLine received a First-Place Award for Annual Reports among companies with access lines of 10,000 or more.

The entry was judged in the production category "outsourced," where the creative aspect was implemented with assistance from a consultant or outside

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Coming Home from Co-op Camp

This June, SkyLine sponsored two Ashe County High School students to attend the annual Cooperative Lead-



ership Camp at White Lake. Caroline Current and Brandt Denniston are pictured at the Greensboro stop on their way home from White Lake. From all accounts, this five-day program was a rewarding experience, and when these students are high school seniors, they also are eligible to apply for the \$1,000 Cooperative Lead-

ership Scholarship. More details about this year's program participants will be featured in the September newsletter.



SkyLine's Sparta employees Kristi Hoke and Suzanna Torres are shown with their children in front of a mud bog truck dressed up to look like Tow Mater from the Disney movie, "Cars," at the 2016 Relay for Life event at Alleghany High School.



We Relay for Life!

If it's summer, it's also time to support Relay for Life, the signature fund-raising event of the American Cancer Society. SkyLine has been a longtime supporter of Relay, and our employees play an active role in supporting this effort each year. During June and July, area Relay for Life events have taken place across the region, and pictured are employees and their families who participated in the Relay event in Alleghany County on June 17. We'll share more area event photos and more about our employees' fund-raising efforts to support the fight against cancer in next month's issue.

Lightning: What to Do, Before, During and After

Before a lightning storm: Unplug your cordless phone, answering machine and modems from their jacks and electrical outlets. We recommend this even if you use surge protectors because those devices cannot guarantee 100-percent protection.



During a storm: Stay off the telephone unless you need to make an emergency call. Lightning does strike telephone lines, and there is a chance that you could be hurt if you are on the phone.

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Call North Carolina One Call System Before You Dig



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

If you have an outside project in your plans before summer ends and it requires digging, do yourself a favor and call the N.C. One Call System first. Now, you can reach One-Call System by dialing '8-1-1' from any landline phone or any cell

phone that is connected to a tower in North Carolina. And, our Shady Valley customers also can contact the Tennessee One-Call Center by dialing 8-1-1 from their homes or businesses located in the 739 telephone exchange. When you contact the One-Call System, you need to provide the following information:

- County and town
- Location of work – street address
- 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 contact information

If you don't call first, you may end up with environmental damage, interruption of service, job or project delays or the potential for accidents and injuries. When you contact One Call first, our personnel will come and mark the utility lines in your work area. You can then dig safely without the fear of damaging telephone lines.

Enjoy the remainder of your gardening and landscaping projects this summer, but remember to be safe and call the One Call System before you dig.

LIGHTNING CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

After the storm: If you notice static on your line, make sure that a damaged cordless phone, computer or satellite dish isn't causing it. To test, just unplug all equipment from the jacks and electrical outlets. Wait a minute and plug in a standard non-cordless phone. If the static is gone, you can assume your other equipment is causing the problem and may be damaged.

If you have static on the line and know your equipment isn't causing it, call us! Please don't wait, assuming that there is a more universal problem that we know about.

Call our Repair Services Department at 1-877-475-9546 should you need additional assistance.

NATIONAL AWARD CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

firm (Kemp Advertising & Marketing). Annual Reports are judged on design and graphical elements, writing and effective presentation of finances.

SkyLine has previously received first-place awards for Annual Reports in 2010, 2013 and 2015, local video content in 2014 and a Public Relations Achievement Award in 2011. The latest Annual Meeting Report is featured through this link on SkyLine's website: raisingthebar.skyline.org.

NTCA-The Rural Broadband Association is the premier association representing nearly 900 independent, community-based telecommunications companies that are leading innovation in rural and small-town America. NTCA advocates on behalf of its members in the legislative and regulatory arenas, and it provides training and development; publications and industry events; and an array of employee benefit programs.

SkyLine By-Laws Summarized for Director Elections at Annual Meeting

SkyLine's 60th Annual Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, September 24, at Ashe County High School in West Jefferson. The three-year terms of the following directors will expire as of this meeting: R.C. Mitchell (Alleghany); D.C. Smith (Avery) and Olan Bentley (Johnson).

A summary of SkyLine Membership Corporation's By-Laws pertaining to director qualifications and nominations is provided below (Article VI, Section 4).

Section 4.3 A Director

- Is a natural person and a full-time legal resident, residing in the geographical area for which the person desires to serve as a Director.
- Is NOT an employee, present or former, of the Cooperative and is not in any way employed by or have a direct pecuniary interest in a competing enterprise or a business engaged in selling communication services or communication supplies or constructing or maintaining communication facilities.
- Is NOT a "close relative" to an incumbent director or a present or former employee of the Cooperative.
- Is at least 21 years of age.
- Has not been convicted of a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude or a felony pursuant to state or federal laws.

Section 4.4 Nominations

- It shall be the duty of the Board to appoint a committee on nominations not less than forty (40) days prior to the date of the Annual Meeting.
- The nominating committee shall consist of not less than five (5) nor more than eleven (11) members who shall be selected from different geographic areas so as to ensure equitable representation.
- A list of nominations for directors will be posted at the principal office of the Cooperative at least twenty (20) days prior to the Annual Meeting.
- Nominations by petition may be made by any one hundred (100) or more members acting together at least twenty (20) days prior to the Annual Meeting. Such nominations shall be posted by the Secretary where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted.
- The secretary shall be responsible for mailing with a Notice of the Meeting, or separately, but at least ten (10) days before the date of the meeting, a statement of the number of board members to be elected and the names and addresses of the candidates nominated by the committee on nominations. The seat for which the nomination is made must be specified and the person so nominated must be in all respects eligible for service on the Board as set out in these By-Laws.

Members of the Nominating Committee have been appointed, and the Committee's meeting date will be posted on SkyLine's website (www.skyline.org).

Recipe of the Month

Fresh Tomato Soup

Ingredients:

- 1 cup chopped celery
- 1 large onion
- 1 clove garlic
- 4 tablespoons butter
- Small amount of oil
- 4 tablespoons flour
- 2 1/2 cups fresh tomatoes, peeled
- 1 can chopped tomatoes (seasoned with basil, oregano and garlic)
- 1 can chicken stock

Instructions:

Sauté 1 cup chopped celery, 1 large onion, and 1 clove garlic in 4 tablespoons butter and a little oil.

Stir in 4 tablespoons flour and mix well, cook 1 minute.

Add 2 1/2 cups fresh tomatoes, peeled and 1 can chopped tomatoes seasoned with basil, oregano, and garlic.

Add 1 can chicken stock, pepper, and 2 tablespoons brown or white sugar.

Cook about 10 minutes. Add a few leaves of fresh basil. Puree with hand mixer.

Cool a little and add half and half cream.

Note: I do not salt, as chicken stock is usually salty.

Submitted by Faye Reeves of Alleghany County

punch up

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