

## 2015 Capital Credits Allocated

Capital credits are one of the many benefits of being served by a cooperative. SkyLine Membership Corporation has allocated the net margins from 2015 to the capital credit accounts of its members. Capital credits for cooperative members result from a surplus of funds remaining from doing business. If the revenues paid in to the cooperative during the financial year exceed the expenses, the remainder is known as the "margin." The margin is then allocated to SkyLine's member-owners. Allocations are based on end user revenue including members' recurring monthly charges such as local service, calling features and Internet services, as well as monthly long-distance charges.

The 2015 margin represented approximately 21.43 percent of SkyLine's total revenues, and this percentage has been assigned to members' capital credit accounts. Members' individual allocations are based on their share of the margin, and are determined by their usage of SkyLine's services and network.

The 2015 allocated capital credits will be retired to members at a future date, as approved by SkyLine's Board of Directors. In the meantime, members' unretired capital credits are used by the co-op to maintain a solid financial base, to build equity and to provide quality, affordable service. Individual notices of allocated capital credits are not mailed to members; however, if you have

questions about your capital credit account, please call your local SkyLine Customer Service Center at 1-800-759-2226.



## Director Elections, Technology Advancements and Future Plans Highlight SkyLine Annual Meeting

The 60th Annual Meeting of SkyLine Membership Corporation opened on September 24 with an updated format and stage display, prefaced with a video presentation peppered with SkyLine milestones, video clips of music through the decades and current and future trends in technology. The meeting was highlighted by opening remarks by CEO Jimmy Blevins and the official business session led by attorney Ray Parker, reports from board officers and board elections. The following directors were re-elected to serve three-year terms: R.C. Mitchell of Alleghany County; D.C. Smith of Avery County, and Olan Bentley of Johnson County, Tennessee.

In his remarks, CEO Jimmy Blevins shared that he often talks about 'change' to the company's staff and how fast this industry continues to advance at a rapid pace. "One of my primary responsibilities as CEO is to ensure our company is positioned to succeed in the future." He then addressed how the company is positioned for future success by being ready to transition from the "Communications Age" and "Internet of People" to "The Internet of Things" and the "Age of Connectivity," where just about everything is connected to the Internet. Blevins highlighted the company's strong financial position with consistent growth of deregulated revenues in recent years and a 2015 net consolidated income of \$11.3 million. He also pointed to the company's efforts to complete its FTTP overbuild project. "According to the NC Broadband website, only 24 percent of North Carolinians have access to gigabit speeds via fiber- but here in the High Country,

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CEO Jimmy Blevins reported on SkyLine operations and plans to extend fiber to competitive areas through SkyBest including Boone and Lenoir.



This year's meeting featured a new stage display and video presentation prior to the business session.



SkyLine Attorney Ray Parker presides over the 60th Annual Meeting, which was attended by more than 400 people.



SkyLine President R.C. Mitchell addresses the members at the 60th Annual Meeting.



Patricia Richardson of Ashe County won the Annual Meeting grand prize, a LG LED TV.



Mr. R.C. Mitchell presented scholarship awards to 11 recipients, including Madison Winebarger of Watauga County.



SkyLine's Mylla Farmer, Josh Lyalls and Kala Johnson hosted demonstrations of Virtual Reality headsets, WiFi technology and online shopping applications.



SkyLine included outdoor exhibits of fiber splicing, construction vehicles and equipment used for its FTTP initiative.

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## WORTH NOTING:

**Thursday, November 24**  
SkyLine Offices Will Close for Thanksgiving

**STAFF:**  
Jimmy Blevins  
Chief Executive Officer  
Kim Shepherd  
Executive Director of Customer Operations  
Angie Poe  
Customer Service Manager  
Jamey Jenkins  
Retail Sales Manager  
Karen P. Powell  
Public Relations Administrator & Editor



SkyLine President R.C. Mitchell and PR Administrator Karen Powell recognized scholarship winners and youth leadership program participants.

**ANNUAL MEETING** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

over 98 percent of our members have access to gigabit speeds. Only six percent of people in the U.S. have access to fiber technology— so not only do you live in the greatest place to be, but you're also in the top six percent in the country when it comes to having the latest technology— fiber," he said. Blevins credited a forward-thinking board that exhibited the vision several years ago to construct an all-fiber network to bring the latest technology to its members and to provide the fiber backbone to wireless networks. "So now, we are completing our fiber deployment in SkyLine's traditional service area while others are just beginning."

Operationally, Blevins pointed to additional customer service enhancements, including the scheduled opening later this year of the new Boone Customer Center, plans for an enhanced online presence with a new website design and new Internet speeds and pricing to be announced later this year. He also reported that the company is turning its efforts to building fiber in competitive areas served by SkyBest including Boone and Lenoir. Another SkyLine affiliate, Carolina West Wireless, built 75 new US Mobility cell sites in 2015 and currently offers more than 14 LTE devices and seven tablets for customers— the most robust line-up in the company's history. He credited SkyLine employees for being the 'most important element in our future success' and announced a new intern recruitment initiative that began this year, employing 25 summer interns and engaging N.C. State in a college-co-op program involving engineering students.

In the President's Report, Mr. Mitchell shared the 2016 Annual Meeting Report theme that "Smart Technologies Start Here," representing SkyLine's standing as a leading provider of advanced telecommunications services. "This theme aligns closely with our mission...to provide state-of-the-art communications and technology solutions, enabled by a culture of excellence in customer service." Mitchell described the company's efforts to build a fiber-to-the-premise (FTTP) network as an ambitious undertaking nearing completion. "What primarily remains to be done are last-mile connections in conjunction with the Department of Transportation (DOT) road expansion of U.S. Highway 221 in Ashe County."

He further acknowledged employee efforts, starting with CEO Jimmy Blevins, who received the Management Innovation Award from NTCA for his globally-minded and customer-focused initiatives combining innovation with technology. He also applauded the company for receiving multiple awards in 2016 on the



Claybank, which just recently released its debut album through Rural Rhythm Records, was this year's featured entertainment.

local, state and national levels. The business session featured special recognition of area youth who received scholarships through SkyLine and the Foundation for Rural Service (FRS), as well as those who participated in leadership programs sponsored locally by SkyLine, including the FRS Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. and Co-op Leadership Camp. Prior to the meeting, members learned more about the company's efforts through outside equipment displays highlighting the company's FTTP initiative and inside displays with demonstrations of Virtual Reality, Wi-Fi technology and Amazon-related applications, along with general information on services provided by SkyLine, SkyBest and Carolina West Wireless.

Numerous door prizes were awarded, and members enjoyed entertainment by the bluegrass band, Claybank, during lunch, which was catered by Smoky Mountain Barbecue. Children's activities were led by Ashe County High School Art Department teacher Katherine Greene and National Art Honor Society students.

**OPENING SOON!**  
 SkyLine/SkyBest Boone Customer Center  
 217 Wilson Drive, Boone, NC

## Annual Meeting Door Prize Winners

Congratulations to the following members who won door prizes:

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| Shirley Baugess<br>Christopher Lewis<br>Mary Reed<br>Harry & Janie Ashley<br>William & Susan Thomas<br>Jack & Pansy Goodman<br>Elmer Eldreth<br>Ricky Poe<br>Travis Dalton<br>Rickey & Kathy Roark<br>Larry & Barbara Ruppard<br>Gerald & Brenda Ball<br>Fontrina Wray<br>Robert Pugh<br>David Wallace<br>Sandra Prange | Clifton & Thelma Edwards<br>Billy & Rita Severt<br>Martha Gambrell<br>Clifford & Rebecca Smith<br>G Manning & Martha Gambrell<br>Judy Pollard<br>Douglas & Cindy Calhoun<br>Ron & Deanna Sebastian<br>Betty Plummer<br>Roscoe Townsend<br>Margaret Irene Loggins<br>Sandy Witherspoon<br>Toy Wyatt<br>Virginia Tomlinson<br>Dorothy Marlowe & Brenda Downing<br>Carl & Margie Farmer | Charles & Dorothy Swann<br>Amanda Brown<br>Joe Franklin & Ruth Barnes<br>Travis Horney<br>Sharon Parsons<br>Mary Sexton<br>Ricky & Kathy Poe<br>Ellis & Mary Berrier<br>Bill & Eva Nell Miller<br>Anna Henson<br>Clarence & Sandra Dillard<br>Emmet & Wylene Barker<br>Joseph Gentry<br>Mattie Lou Andrews<br>Albert Ray & Shirley Calhoun<br>Patricia Richardson |
|---|--|---|

### Recipe of the Month

## Nancy's Pond Mtn. Squash Casserole

**Ingredients:**

- 2 cups cooked squash
- 1 egg
- 1/2 stick margarine
- 1/2 cup canned milk
- Onion
- 1 cup grated cheese
- 1 cup Ritz crackers, crumbled

**Instructions:**

Mix squash, 1 egg, margarine, and milk with a little onion and black pepper in a butter dish. Put cheese and crackers on top and bake at 350°, approximately 35-45 minutes.

Submitted by Nancy Barbee of Ashe County

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