

# CONNECTIONS

SEPTEMBER 2017

Published monthly for customers of SkyLine Membership Corporation and SkyBest Communications

www.SkyBest.com



## Get Your Free Jute Shopping Tote While They Last

### Help Us Rise & Shine to Fight Hunger!

SkyLine is coordinating its fourth-annual breakfast food drive for area food pantries beginning this month and continuing through October.

Last year, and thanks in great part to you, our members and customers, we collected and distributed more than 2,800 food items and donations of \$580 to food pantries across our five-county service area. In conjunction with our statewide cooperative association – the Cooperative Council of North Carolina, SkyLine and other cooperative organizations are organizing food drives again this year as part of celebrating National Cooperative Month in October. And, we have a special incentive to encourage our members/customers to join in this effort.

Beginning this month and while supplies last, visit any SkyLine/SkyBest customer service location to pick up a "Rise & Shine to Fight Hunger" grocery tote, and we invite you to use this tote to fill it with non-perishable breakfast items for our breakfast food drive that runs through October. We welcome all sizes of packaged breakfast food, including individual servings of multi-



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## Have You Visited Our New Website?

SkyLine/SkyBest has a new, consolidated website, which was launched recently at SkyBest.com.

For years, members and customers have visited the suite of websites – SkyBest.com, SkyLine.org, SkyBestTV.com and SkyBestSecurity.com – to learn about our various services and offerings. Now, we're bringing it all together under one umbrella for a convenient one-stop online destination for all SkyLine and SkyBest services.

You may ask, 'Why did you choose the SkyBest.com domain?' Simply put. Our customers did. The SkyBest.com website receives approximately 2.5 times the number of visitors compared to SkyLine.org, and visitors stay on the SkyBest.com website twice as long as they do the SkyLine.org site.

The new website design was created with today's customers in mind. Check out these great features:

- Mobile-friendly
- Enhanced Help/Support Section
- An easy appointment scheduler for our customer service centers to help you plan your busy day
- Easy navigation with onsite search

Visit us at SkyBest.com to learn more about our company and the wide range of services we offer. At SkyLine/SkyBest, it's our mission to bring you state-of-the-art communications and technology solutions enabled by a culture of excellence in customer service and backed by the most extensive fiber network in western North Carolina.

## Nominating Committee Meets

A nominating committee, appointed by the Board of Directors, met on Tuesday, August 1, at SkyLine Membership Corporation in West Jefferson. The committee members are: Clarence Crouse, Alleghany County; Jimmy Cox, Ashe County; Roscoe Townsend, 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 September 30, 2017: Sharon Kasel (Ashe), Bill Bursleson (Avery); and Thomas J. McNeil (Watauga).

**SkyLine**  
**SkyBest**

## 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:

**Saturday, September 23**  
**Ashe County Heart Walk**  
Registration 9:30 – 10 a.m.  
1904 Courthouse,  
Jefferson, NC

### STAFF:

Jimmy Blevins  
Chief Executive Officer

Kim Shepherd  
Chief Management Officer

Angie Poe  
Customer Service Manager

Jamey Jenkins  
Retail Sales Manager

Karen P. Powell  
Public Relations Administrator  
& Editor



## 61st Annual Meeting Scheduled for September 30

The 61st Annual Meeting of SkyLine Membership Corporation is scheduled for Saturday, September 30, at Ashe County High School in West Jefferson.

Member Registration begins in the commons area at 9:30 a.m., with music and entertainment videos in the auditorium until the business session begins at 10:30 a.m. Items of business will include the Report of Officers, Directors and Committees and the election of directors. The following youth program participants will be recognized: Frank James-SkyLine Scholarship, Foundation for Rural Service Scholarship, Cooperative Leadership Camp and the Foundation for Rural Service Youth Tour.

At the close of the business meeting, several door prizes will be awarded. SkyLine mementos will be available during registration, and information displays in the commons area will feature the latest products and services of SkyLine, SkyBest and Carolina West Wireless. Additional educational displays on fiber-optic technology will be featured outside, weather permitting. Activities for children, ages four to 11, will be scheduled from 10 a.m. until the close of the business meeting.

Following the business meeting, lunch will be catered by Smoky Mountain Barbecue.

*Jamie L. Shepherd*  
Secretary





## We Relay for Life

When Relay for Life comes around each year, our company and employees take an active role to help raise money for the American Cancer Society (ACS). As the non-profit organization's signature event, Relay brings people together in hope, celebration and remembrance, and the ACS is dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health disease.

To support the ongoing work of this organization, we held an internal pledge campaign with donations from our directors, employees and family members designated for the five counties across our service area. The pledge campaign raised \$6,320, along with donations and sponsorships and the sale of luminaries and torches, bringing the overall total to \$8,420 to benefit the American Cancer Society.

To our members and customers who have supported us through these various fund-raising activities, we thank you. Together, we're all making a difference in the fight against cancer.



## Include Your Business in the Real Yellow Pages

The advertising campaign for SkyLine's regional, consolidated directory with YP is now underway. YP is the largest search, media and advertising company in North America. Over the next few months, sales staff from YP, SkyLine's authorized Real Yellow Pages sales agent, will visit and call on business members across our service area to coordinate their advertising for the 2017-18 telephone directory.

One ad-buy can push your message into a powerful ad network so that no matter what device your customers are using to search— Smartphone, laptop, phone book or mailbox, YP can get the right message, in front of the right people, at the right time, resulting in calls, leads and sales to your business.

The new directory, which covers four North Carolina counties— Alleghany, Ashe, Avery and Watauga— will be delivered to members through the U.S. Postal Service in late December/early January.

To make sure your business is advertised in the Real Yellow Pages, contact YP by calling toll-free 1-800-532-1060.

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packaged items that can be included in area backpack initiatives for children. See the list of suggested non-perishable items listed below. After you drop off the items you collect in your new tote at a SkyLine/SkyBest customer service location any time now through October 31, you may keep the tote for future use, and SkyLine will deliver the items to area food pantries, including the Solid Rock Food Closet, Ashe County Sharing Center Pantries, the Hunger and Health Coalition, Reaching Avery Ministry and the Northeast Tennessee Mobile Food Pantry.

Sadly, many local families struggle to keep food on the table, and numerous individuals, churches and local organizations like those listed are trying to help fill the hunger gaps that continue to exist across the region. We hope you will join us in this special effort. As a local cooperative, we are reminded that the seventh cooperative principle is "concern for community." SkyLine takes this responsibility seriously and continues to be active in its community support and outreach efforts. For more information about the food drive, please call your local SkyLine/SkyBest Customer Service Center at 118. Thank you!

### SkyLine/SkyBest Rise & Shine Breakfast Food Drive

September 1 - October 31, 2017

Suggested Non-Perishable Items:

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

## 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.

Visit [www.skybest.com](http://www.skybest.com) or call SkyLine at 118 to order yours.

### Recipe of the Month

#### Grape Leaf Pickles

##### Brine:

- One gallon water
- One Tablespoon alum
- Two gallons cucumbers

##### Instructions:

Soak cucumbers in mixture of alum and water for two hours. Rinse off cucumbers and roll cucumbers in grape leaves. Pack in a crock. Add 12 green grapes. Pour above mixture over cucumbers – place a plate to cover and pack down. Cover crock with a clean cloth and store in a cool place. Pickles will be ready in six to eight days.

*Editor's Note: This special recipe was submitted to us recently by Betty Phipps Kilgore of Alleghany County. Mrs. Kilgore shared that for years, people have asked for this recipe for Grape Leaf Pickles. It doesn't appear in our cookbook, so be sure to clip this out and place it in your cookbook for future access. And, thank you to Mrs. Kilgore for sharing this treasured family recipe.*

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**SkyLine SkyBest**  
www.skybest.com

\*Certain restrictions apply. Expires 10.31.17. 24-month service agreement and an early termination fee applies for each service ordered. New internet and/or TV customers only. Offer valid for 12 Mbps or higher internet and/or Plus or Premier TV. Service not available in all areas. Higher speeds and TV available in fiber-served communities only. Contact us for savings details.