

## 64th Annual Meeting Scheduled October 6 Modified Plans for 2020 Annual Meeting Announced

With state-mandated restrictions on public gatherings due to COVID-19 and following board approval of amendments to the cooperative's bylaws at its July meeting, SkyLine is announcing a modified meeting schedule and format for this year's Annual Meeting, which gives members one of two options to participate.

Unlike previous Annual Meetings, which have traditionally been held in late September at Ashe County High School with a morning schedule of events, the 2020 meeting will be conducted at 10 a.m. Tuesday, October 6, at SkyLine's corporate office campus and comprise a brief business session only with reports from officers, election of directors, video presentation of scholarship winners and the announcement of door prizes.

To fulfill the requirements in establishing a quorum to proceed with the meeting and member participation in the election of directors, members may register for the meeting by visiting their local SkyLine Customer Center the previous week and receive information for the meeting including the agenda, official ballot for the election of directors and the Annual Meeting Report. A voting

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## SkyLine Recognized with Marketing Excellence Award

SkyLine was among rural telecom companies recognized by NTCA-The Rural Broadband Association with Marketing eXcellence Awards during the 2020 NTCA Marketing + Sales Virtual Conference in June.

The program honors excellence in member telco marketing, sales and public relations. Entries in seven categories – marketing campaign, PR campaign, website redesign, sales strategy, publications, branding project and broadcast advertising – were judged on innovative strategies, design, writing, creativity and other elements specific to each category.

SkyLine received recognition in the "Sales Strategy" category for connecting with its customer base on a personal level through a holiday-themed campaign with recognizable tag lines from "The Grinch" movie to introduce internet speed offerings and upsell TV in its fiber-optic areas.

## Amendments to ByLaws Approved

The Board of Directors, at its July board meeting, approved amendments to the cooperative bylaws relating to the Annual Meeting of Members due to necessary modifications on how the Annual Meeting will be conducted in light of the current COVID-19 pandemic and current state-mandated restrictions on public meetings. Specifically, amendments were approved under Article III – Meetings of Members, Sections 3.5, 3.6, 3.7 and 3.8, and under Article IV – Board Members, Sections 4.2, 4.3, 4.4. and 4.5.

These bylaw changes were made effective July 7, 2020, and the bylaws may be viewed on SkyLine's website, under the header "About Us" and through a link on the "About SkyLine Membership Corporation" page.

## Featuring Contact-free Pick-up and Drop-off Help Us "Rise & Shine" to Fight Hunger!

Recognizing that the need to support local initiatives to minimize food insecurity is greater than ever with the added stresses of COVID-19, SkyLine has created a way to continue its annual breakfast food drive for area food pantries. Now in its seventh year, and beginning this month through October, our "Rise & Shine" food drive will accept donations of non-perishable breakfast items at our five

Customer Center locations, and we're providing a contact-free way with a new "Rise & Shine" display area for customers to pick up their complimentary shopping tote and later drop off the items they purchase.

Beginning this month and while supplies last, all SkyLine/SkyBest customer service centers will have totes available for pick-up inside the entryways to our facilities in Boone, Sparta and the West Jefferson Call Center. At our Banner Elk and West Jefferson Smart Home locations, the totes will be available just inside each building's front entrance. Food items also will be received in those same locations – just place the grocery items in the special bin provided. We welcome all sizes of packaged breakfast food, including individually-sealed cereals, oatmeal and fruit items that can be included in area backpack initiatives for children. See related list of suggested non-perishable items. As our thank-you, please keep the tote for future use, and SkyLine will make delivery of these 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 in early November.

Just one food pantry announced recently that there's been more than 100-percent increase in food needs in that county alone, so help through this drive could not come at a better time. SkyLine is both humbled and grateful to be among the cadre of support, including numerous individuals, churches and local organizations like those listed that are trying to help fill the hunger gaps that continue to exist across the region. We hope you will join us in this critical effort. As a local cooperative, we are reminded that the seventh cooperative principle is "concern for community." For more information about the food drive, please call your local SkyLine/SkyBest Customer Service Center at 118. Thank you!



## Directory Omissions

<b>Ashe Animal Clinic</b>	605 East Main Street, Jefferson	336-246-2341
<b>Ashe High Country Realty</b>	7 S Jefferson Ave., West Jefferson	336-246-6348

## 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, September 7  
SkyLine Offices will  
be closed for the  
Labor 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



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station will be set up at each Customer Center location, where members may cast their ballots and drop them in secure ballot boxes. A video recording of the business session will be aired on SkyZhone Channels 1 and 1001 at 10 a.m. Thursday, October 8 and again at 10 a.m. Saturday, October 10. The business session also will be posted to SkyLine's website ([www.skybest.com/AnnualMeeting](http://www.skybest.com/AnnualMeeting)) on October 8.

Additionally, the Annual Meeting will feature a drive-in format with drive-through registration scheduled from 9:00 to 9:45 a.m. at SkyLine's corporate location at 1200 NC Hwy. 194 North. For the drive-in meeting format, members will be directed to designated parking areas on the SkyLine campus, and from the convenience of their vehicles, they will be able to tune to a designated FM radio channel to listen live to the business session.

All members who register in advance or on the day of the meeting will receive a member gift, a \$10 voucher toward the purchase of a meal at one of the designated restaurants in the co-op's service area and will be entered into a drawing for one of six door prizes. Prizes will be announced at the close of the business session on October 6, and members do not have to be present to win.

"Our Annual Meeting is the key event of the year for our cooperative, and we always look forward to bringing our members to a central location to conduct the business of the cooperative," said SkyLine CEO Kim Shepherd. "The current pandemic has forced so many events like this to be postponed or scaled back significantly. Our first and chief concern is the safety of our employees and members, and due to the limitations on meeting attendance mandated by the state, we are trying to create a seamless and safer way for many of our members to participate in the process without having to be physically present on the day of the meeting. We expect to meet the required quorum to continue with the meeting using these additional methods of advance registration in lieu of attendance, along with offering the option of a drive-in meeting setting."

Annual Meeting early registration will be conducted during the week prior to the meeting at all SkyLine Customer Service Centers, beginning Monday, September 28, through Friday, October 2, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (SkyLine's five Customer Center locations are listed below.)

Drive-through Registration on the day of the Annual Meeting will be held from 9 to 9:45 a.m. on October 6 just prior to the business session at the corporate offices located at 1200 NC Highway 194 North.

For more information, please contact your local SkyLine office at 118 or 1-800-759-2226.

  
Secretary

### SkyLine Customer Center Locations

#### Alleghany County

199 Grayson Street, Sparta, 28675

#### Ashe County

##### West Jefferson Smart Home

1060 Mount Jefferson Road, West Jefferson, 28694

##### West Jefferson Call Center

1079 NC Hwy. 194 North, West Jefferson, 28694

#### Avery County

20 High Country Square, Hwy. 184, Banner Elk, 28604

#### Watauga County

217 Wilson Drive, Boone, 28607



*Deliver non-perishable items to SkyLine  
between September 1 - October 31*

#### SUGGESTED ITEMS

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

#### Items will benefit:

Solid Rock Food Closet  
Ashe Outreach Ministries  
Hunger and Health Coalition  
Reaching Avery Ministry  
Second Harvest Food Bank of  
Northeast Tennessee Mobile Food Pantry

#### Recipe of the Month

### Hot Dog Chili, West Virginia Style

#### Ingredients:

1 pint water  
1 pound hamburger  
1 cup ketchup  
1 1/2 teaspoons chili powder  
1 teaspoon garlic powder  
1 teaspoon sugar  
1/2 to 1 teaspoon mustard  
1 teaspoon salt

#### Instructions:

Mix water and hamburger. Bring to boil. Cook until thick or hamburger is done. Add rest of ingredients. Cook until thick, about a half hour more.

Recipe submitted by James Bingham of Alleghany Co. He credits the recipe to Linda Louk Mahoney, Cutright Family Cookbook.

### Nominating Committee Meets

A nominating committee, appointed by the Board of Directors, met on Tuesday, August 4, 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 October 6, 2020: Sharon Kasel (Ashe); Bill Burleson (Avery) and Thomas J. McNeil (Watauga).

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