

**North Carolina Telecommunications Industry Association
Program Development Committee**

The Committee met on April 30, 2008 at 1:30 p.m. at AT&T in Raleigh, NC.

Attending were: Tracy Sternberg, Embarq; Candy Finley, AT&T; Jeff Shipp, Star Telephone; Tom Brady, CIENA; Ann Simpkins, FairPoint ; Jim Humphrey, Tyco Electronics Power; Board Liaison Charles Pickelsimer, Citizens; NCTIA President Carole Woodward; NCTIA staff Rebecca Wyhof. On conference call: Hal Carnes, CBW; Tommy Nelson, Power and Telephone Supply;. Absent: Herb Long, Ellerbe, Chair; Hayden McKenzie, North State; John Wicker, Lexcom; Richard Royal, Nortel; Board Liaison Stan Pace, Verizon.

The meeting was called to order by Carole Woodward for Chairman Herb Long who had a scheduling conflict. Douglas Barger, Manager of the new Raleigh Marriott City Center Hotel gave an informative presentation on the new property that is opening in July, ahead of schedule. Mr. Barger also reviewed some of the business amenities that would be available for a Convention in the downtown Raleigh area. Many galleries, museums, trolley service, restaurants and the governmental center make downtown an attractive area. A proposal for September 2011 was reviewed and discussed. The committee consensus was to stay in downtown and take advantage of all the facilities available within a short distance rather than spread out the convention activities involving more travel. The new Raleigh Marriott City Center is a desirable location with 2011 proposed rate of \$159. Carole will try to negotiate for the \$20 parking fee to be included in that rate or at least cut the parking by \$10, making the rate \$169. Rates of the area golf courses were briefly reviewed. AT&T had sponsored lunch at The Pitt, an upscale restaurant in the downtown area. Convention returning to Pinehurst was also discussed. Wayne Kearney provided the following rates: August 14-17, 2010 \$168 or Sept. 11-14, 2010 \$273. Candy Finley moved to hold 2010 Annual Convention in Pinehurst and come to Raleigh in 2011. Jim Humphrey seconded the motion that carried.

2008 Sales Seminar- Registrations for the May 8-9 Measure X Customer Service and Sales Training were reviewed and discussed. 23 are signed up for the Thursday, May 8 session to be hosted by Wilkes Telecommunications for companies in western NC. T14 are registered for the session at ATMC on Friday, May 9 - training for companies in the east. The cost is \$225 per person.

Carl Sapp Invitational Golf Tournament - Carole reported that Carl Sapp was delighted about the Golf Tournament being named in his honor and he will plan to attend at least the luncheon portion of the event that day. It is Duke homecoming and there are no rooms available at the Washington Duke Inn for the Board Retreat. The location of the Board Retreat will be discussed at the May 14 Board Meeting. The 2008 Carl Sapp Invitational Golf Tournament to be held at the Washington Duke Inn on Monday, October 20.

2008 Convention - The 2008 Annual Convention will be held at Grove Park Inn on August 17-19, 2008. The room rate is \$195, golf rate - \$120. Considerable discussion was held regarding the theme and prospective speakers. A cover for the Registration materials was selected. Speaker ideas: Dave McClure, US Internet Industry Association, Bill Hegman, NECA president to discuss Phantom Traffic, NCUC Chairman Ed Finley, John Davis, NC Free, and the Environmental Consultant used by Embarq. John Gordon, author of The Energy Bus is available for the Luncheon Keynote.

Next Committee Meeting: May 22 at 10 a.m. at the Washington Duke Inn.