

Cooperatives Engage

Agenda March 23-24, 2026

Day 1: Agenda

1:00 – 1:30 | Welcome & Icebreaker

- Facilitator: Emma Hayes

1:30 – 2:15 | Keynote Address: Tayuanee Dewberry, Girl Scouts of NC Hornets' Nest

- Topic: Empathy & Connection: Meeting Members Where They Are

2:15-3:00 | Workshop Journey Mapping Through the Member Lens: Charlene Foley, SVP, Digital Experience, MarketingAllegacy Federal CU Charlene Foley

3:00-3:15 | Break

3:15 – 4:15 | 5 ways to get things done with AI- Presentation by Paul Carney

Topic: Transforming Your Business Using AI Tools

- Practical use cases from within and across co-ops
- Practical introduction to AI for co-ops
- Where AI can drive efficiency, insight, and better member experience

4:15-4:55 | Community Impact Session, local nonprofit leader, Wendy Hickey of ArtPop

4:55 – 5:00 | Closing Reflection: Charlie Farrell

5:00-6:00pm | Networking Social

6:00pm | Dinner on your own

Day 2 Agenda

7:30am | Breakfast Buffett Opens

8:00am-9:00am | Lightning Rounds- Hear about Innovation, Success and Cooperation

9:00am | Annual Business Meeting - Meet the New Executive Director

10:00am | Cooperative Advocacy Update: Carson Butts, NC Legislative Affairs Manager, Carolinas Credit Union League

10:30am | Carolinas Economic Development Landscape: Ann Fitts, Community Development Specialist for North Carolina's Electric Cooperatives

11:15am | Silent Auction and Raffles close

11:15am | Co-op Award of the Year

11:30am | Jim Graham Scholarship Award, Auction Award Winners

12:00pm | Lunches to go, Travel Safe!

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Speaker Highlights



Tayuane Dewberry
CEO, Girl Scouts of NC Hornets' Nest
Member Connections and Empathy



Charlene Foley
AVP Marketing and Member Experience
Allegacy Federal Credit Union
Journey Mapping Through the Member Lens



Paul Carney
CEO of ISHTOT, Your AI Partner
Global Speaker, Educator and
Former Chief Human Resources Officer



Carson Butts
NC Legislative Affairs Manager
Carolinas Credit Union League



Ann Fitts
Community Development Specialist for North Carolina's
Electric Cooperatives



Wendy Hickey
Founder, Executive Director of
ArtPop Street Gallery

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Speaker Bios

Tayuanee Dewberry

Tayuanee is the Chief Executive Officer of Girl Scouts, Hornets' Nest Council, serving more than 16,000 girls across an eight-county region in North and South Carolina. She previously dedicated 16 years to Right Moves for Youth, including 13 as Executive Director, advancing dropout prevention and youth development in Charlotte. A graduate of Gardner-Webb University with a bachelor's degree in business administration, she later earned a Master of Arts in Counseling with an Education Specialist certification. She is a Nationally Certified Counselor (NCC) and Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor (LCMHC) in North Carolina, bringing more than 20 years of executive leadership and over 14 years of counseling experience.

Tayuanee is a highly esteemed executive and community leader. She was recognized in The Charlotte Ledger Forty Over 40 (2025) and named one of the 2024 Charlotte Business Journal (CBJ) Most Admired CEOs. She was also honored in the Charlotte Business Journal Power 100 (2023) and received the 2023 Career Mastered Diversity Impact 50 Award. In addition, she was listed among Charlotte's Most Influential Women (2021) and inducted into the Gardner-Webb University Gallery of Distinguished Alumni (2017), further highlighting her dedication to leadership, diversity, and community impact.

With great passion Tayuanee believes in building people. She works to develop the potential in today's youth, and with that same passion serves as a business mentor and consultant to teach, build, and empower other professionals across various disciplines. As principal consultant of Reconciliation Counseling & Consulting, her areas of expertise include family systems, organizational leadership and talent development. She offers organizational consulting focused on structural and operational efficiency. For three years, she used her talents to further the mission of the Queen City Metropolitan Chapter (QCMC) of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women and served as 2nd Vice President of Finance for two of those years. Tayuanee has also served as vice-chair, and later the chair, of the United Way Council of Agency Executives (CAE). She has used her leadership skills and commitment to child advocacy to serve on the leadership team for the Mecklenburg County Children's Alliance.

Along with a passion for empowering others, Tayuanee is committed to continual growth and learning for herself. She was a member of the inaugural cohort of Women's Leadership Corp; a professional development program offered in conjunction with Flynn Heath Holt Leadership. She also completed Leadership Gift School, a year-long professional development training for non-profit leaders offered by the Institute for Philanthropic Leadership, to enhance the cultivation of philanthropic giving and fund development for organizations. She is a 2016 recipient of the Z. Smith Reynold's Sabbatical, a prestigious honor awarded to non-profit executives with a track record of phenomenal leadership, strategic planning and non-profit vision, and organizational growth.

Tayuanee is the mother of two boys, Jeremiah and Tremayne. She has always been a scholar-athlete through high school and collegiate basketball. She is an avid runner, competitive bodybuilder and skilled musician.

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Speaker Bios

Charlene Foley

Charlene Foley is Senior Vice President of Digital Experience at Allegacy Federal Credit Union, where she leads member-centered strategy focused on understanding, designing, and improving end-to-end member journeys. With deep expertise in journey mapping, customer insight, and experience transformation, Charlene helps organizations see their services through the member's eyes and turn those insights into practical, high-impact improvements. She is a Certified Customer Experience Professional (CCXP) with leadership experience across financial services and healthcare.

Carson Butts

Carson Butts brings a strong background in governmental affairs and policy advocacy to his role, with experience in legislative strategy and stakeholder engagement. Before joining the League, he served as state director for Conservatives for Clean Energy – North Carolina, where he worked with lawmakers and key partners to advance clean energy and market reform initiatives. He also lobbied on behalf of professional associations as a government affairs associate with The Advocacy Shop.

A graduate of Wake Forest University, Carson earned a Bachelor of Arts in Politics and International Affairs with a minor in Spanish and Communications. He is passionate about the legislative process and its ability to shape communities, working closely with policymakers to advance the credit union movement.

Outside of work, Carson enjoys playing tennis, traveling, and cheering on the Carolina Hurricanes.

Wendy Hickey

A joyful amplifier of Charlotte's creative spirit.

Wendy believes in bold color on blank walls, local artists on big stages, and everyday spaces that stop you in your tracks.

Art should be for everyone not just tucked inside galleries with velvet ropes and dress codes.

ArtPop started with one idea, in 2013. What if the same billboards used for advertising could showcase something far more powerful? The creativity of local artists. That idea became a nonprofit that transforms public spaces into public joy. ArtPop now in its 13th year has grown to three unique programs connecting art and community.

Today, ArtPop fills Charlotte with art that connects people, celebrates talent, and brings creativity into daily life.

From billboards to murals to upcycled fashion and so much more, ArtPop helps people see their city in full color.

When Wendy is not working you can find her in the woods, hiking or mountain biking. Find out more at ArtPopStreetGallery.com

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Speaker Bios

Paul Carney

Paul Carney is a global speaker, educator, and former Chief Human Resources Officer with more than 35 years of experience leading business, technology, and HR transformation. A Certified AI Expert™, he helps organizations adopt AI responsibly and practically, with a focus on measurable results.

Paul is recognized for making complex topics accessible and actionable. He has delivered keynotes and workshops to thousands of HR professionals and business leaders, consistently earning top ratings for relevance and real-world impact.

Known for his engaging teaching style, Paul blends executive-level insight with hands-on practice to equip professionals with the skills they need to use AI effectively in their daily work. His work has been featured in HR Tech Outlook, HR Magazine, and HRO Today, and he frequently advises boards, startups, and executive teams on how to integrate AI into talent strategy and organizational design.

When he's not working with organizations to accelerate their team's AI capabilities, Paul and his wife enjoy pursuing their shared passion for wine, holding a Level 2 Award in Wine from WSET.

Ann Fitts

Ann Fitts serves as the Community Development Specialist for North Carolina's Electric Cooperatives. In her role, she supports the Rural Economic Development Loan & Grant Program, securing zero-interest loans from the USDA for community and economic development projects in rural North Carolina.

Previously, Ann worked for the Chatham County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) as the Marketing and Communications Manager. During her five-year tenure, she led the EDC's marketing strategy, supported business recruitment, and managed investor relations.

A native of Eden, NC, Ann grew up in a family shaped by farming and public service. A graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, she now resides in Cary, NC where she serves on the Town's Information Services Advisory Board (ISAB). Ann spends her time outside of work with her fiancé and their rescued pets, a dog named Bunny and a cat named Scotty.



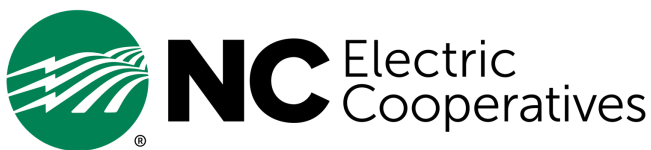
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