

# THE CONNECTION

## ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED AHTD EMPLOYEES, INC.

*Fellowship*



*Communication*

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<b>Bonnie Wesson</b> <b>President</b> 12 Wesley Drive Sherwood, AR 72120 501-834-0064	<b>Mike Selig</b> <b>Sr. Vice-President</b> 104 Caddo River Ct. North Little Rock, AR 72216 501-837-1917 <a href="mailto:mandj6761@sbcglobal.net">mandj6761@sbcglobal.net</a>	<b>Mike Limbird</b> <b>Vice-President</b> 5115 Country Club Little Rock, AR 72207 501-920-3667 <a href="mailto:cc5115@aol.com">cc5115@aol.com</a>	<b>Doyle Hughes</b> <b>Secretary</b> 9112 Leatrice Dr. Little Rock, AR 72227 501-227-3819 <a href="mailto:etusnavy@aol.com">etusnavy@aol.com</a>	<b>Jake Weston</b> <b>Member-Retirement Board</b> 309 Wanda Lane Benton, AR 72015 501-776-1743
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**Spring 2017**

Message from the President

Bonnie Wesson

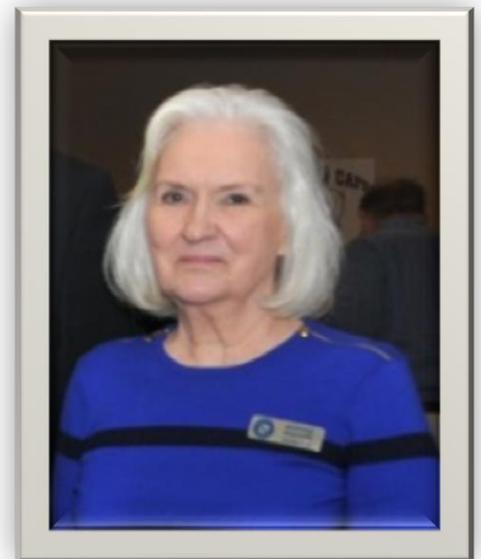
Greetings to All! I look forward to seeing you here in Little Rock and all around the state this year. I could fill the pages with names and stories of those I have seen in the last year, retirees whom we have known for years who have plenty of work, vacations, family and interesting things to do.

Our Annual Meeting, last October, was truly one of the most welcoming and joyful I have ever attended. Thank you all for being there. Sorry I could not stay for the entire meeting, but I do thank you for electing me State President of the AHTD Retirees' Association – it is an honor and privilege. I certainly plan to do my best since I will be following many very talented officers and friends, who are my inspiration. Their messages, over the years, to the retirees were of value; encouraging and reminding us of the benefits of staying active in our Association.

Currently, we are enthusiastic about the replacement of the Broadway Bridge over the Arkansas River in Little Rock. It was 93 years old. It brings back memories of my childhood. I remember in the mid-forties when my brother and I were finally old enough to walk across the “NEW” bridge with our grandmother, and got our tonsils taken out at the doctor’s office on Broadway. Coy was six, and I was five. Frequently we would spend the day with Grandmother and go downtown. We walked a few blocks up Markham to Stiff Station, caught the trolley to downtown, then walk to Walgreens for a Grapette. We would then go to the five-n-dime store to pick out a five cent toy, and finally home for a nap.

Lastly, let’s acknowledge our AHTD Insurance Representatives and the members of the ASHERS Retirement Board, both past and present. They take on a heavy responsibility monitoring our benefits.

The State Officers and I look forward to seeing you at the District meetings and at our annual meeting in Bryant on October 26<sup>th</sup>. Have a great year!



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**From the Editor:**

Please e-mail Chapter News to Bettye C. Johnson at [bcj41@cablelynx.com](mailto:bcj41@cablelynx.com). If you do not have e-mail, please contact your local district office for help.

### Address and Beneficiary Changes

Attention all retirees, if you move, please notify **Emily Boggs at the Arkansas State Highway Retirement Office at (501) 569-2413**. Besides keeping your address current, you also need to keep your beneficiaries current. You should contact the **Group Insurance Office at (501) 569-2417** for beneficiary updates on your group health or life insurance. Since 2001, the Retirement System provides an additional lump-sum benefit of \$7,500 payable to your beneficiary at the retiree's death. If you have any questions about this benefit or the beneficiary for this benefit, please call **(501) 569-2532**.



2017 Statewide Officers: From left to right, Bonnie Wesson-President; Mike Selig – Sr. Vice President; Mike Limbird-Vice President; and Doyle Hughes – Secretary.



### **AHTD Retirees' Association Facebook Page**

The Retirees' Association has a Facebook page that was set up and is maintained by Bettye Johnson. Our Facebook page is being enjoyed by many across the State. If you haven't checked it out, please do so at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and search for "AHTD Retirees Association." You may see some folks you haven't seen in a while. Please send any pictures and info to Bettye Johnson at [bcj41@cablelynx.com](mailto:bcj41@cablelynx.com).

### **IN THE SPOTLIGHT:**

## **James Sanders**

After an Army hitch (Vietnam, 1967) James graduated from Arkansas State University, married Anna Fowler and attended graduate school at Murray (KY) State University. He then began a career with the Department, working in Planning & Research until retirement. James served in the Retirement Association District 6 Chapter offices and as state president in 2009. He is active in District 6 activities and assists with the statewide newsletter.

James and Anna have one daughter and a granddaughter. They have enjoyed traveling over the years and recently attended several Bowl games following ASU. James is a native of Sherwood and currently resides in NLR. He is active in his community and involved in the Masonic fraternity.

"I'm very thankful for our retirement system and hope to set the 'record' for being retired the longest."



**Happy 99<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
Sybil Maddox!!!**



**Long-time Retirees' Association Member**



2016 ANNUAL

# RETIREES' ASSOCIATION MEETING



We urge you to fill out the Membership Application Form below. You can turn it in to your local Chapter Secretary/Treasurer or mail application and \$10.00 annual dues to: **Doyle Hughes, Secretary/Treasurer, 9112 Leatrice Dr., Little Rock, AR 72227.** Make your check payable to: **AHTD Retirees Association.**

### 2017 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Retiree Name _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$10 Fee Enclosed
Spouse Name _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$10 Fee Enclosed
Phone Number _____	Year You Retired _____	Division/ District No. _____
Address _____		Zip Code _____
Street or Route & Box No.	City	State
E-Mail Address _____		
Signed _____		

**Please send form to Doyle Hughes, 9112 Leatrice Drive, Little Rock, AR 72227**

## 2017 Chapter Officers

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| <p><b><u>District 1</u></b> Roy Morris                      President<br/>         Jimmy Smith                      Vice President<br/>         Terry Morris                      Secretary/Treasurer<br/> <i>*Meets 2nd Thursday in March, June, Sept &amp; Dec.<br/>         at Mike's Resturant in Colt at 10:30am</i></p>  | <p><b><u>District 6</u></b> Mike Selig                      President<br/>         Mike Limbird                      Vice President<br/>         Julia Morrison                      Secretary<br/>         Richard Blaine                      Treasurer<br/> <i>*Meets 1st Monday Monthly<br/>         Little Rock Baptist Heath Conf. Room at 12 noon</i></p> |
| <p><b><u>District 2</u></b> Jimmie L. Johnson              President<br/>         Max Bagwell                      Vice President<br/>         Bettye C. Johnson              Secretary/Treasurer<br/> <i>*Email bcj41@cablelynx.com for dates, times, and places</i></p>  | <p><b><u>District 7</u></b> Michael Nelson                      President<br/>         Dannie Launius                      Vice President<br/>         Ann Jane Reddin                      Secretary/Treasurer<br/> <i>*Meets 2nd Thursday every other month, starting in January<br/>         Cardinal Café in Camden at 11:00am</i></p>                       |
| <p><b><u>District 3</u></b> John Watkins                      President<br/>         Herbert Ross                      Vice President<br/>         LeVerne Arledge                      Secretary/Treasurer<br/> <i>*Meets 2nd Wednesday Monthly<br/>         First 2 months of quarter at EOC room at Dist. 3<br/>         3rd month of the quarter at resturant<br/>         Call (870)777-2814 for times and meeting places</i></p>   | <p><b><u>District 8</u></b> Kenneth Brown                      President<br/>         Don Wilkinson                      Vice President<br/>         Martha Paine                      Secretary/Treasurer<br/> <i>*Meets 1st Monday every other month, starting in<br/>         February Western Sizzlin in Russellville at 11:00am</i></p>                     |
| <p><b><u>District 4</u></b> Don Griffin                      President<br/>         James W. Seay                      Vice President<br/>         Paula Edgmon                      Secretary/Treasurer<br/> <i>*Meets the 3rd Wednesday Monthly<br/>         Golden Corral in Fort Smith at 11:00am</i></p>  | <p><b><u>District 9</u></b> Bill Phillips                      President<br/>         James McIntosh                      Vice President<br/>         Roy Brasel                      Secretary/Treasurer<br/> <i>*Meets 2nd Friday of April, July, and October<br/>         Western Sizzlin in Harrison at 11:00am</i></p>                                      |
| <p><b><u>District 5</u></b> Charles Sherley                      President<br/>         A. L. "Shorty" Coles                      Vice President<br/>         Linda Clark                      Secretary<br/>         Mary Baker                      Treasurer<br/> <i>*Meets 2nd Saturday Monthly (except July and Nov.)<br/>         at Wyatt's @ Ramada Inn in Batesville at 11:30am<br/>         In July &amp; Nov, meets at Western Sizzlin in Searcy at 11:30am</i></p> | <p><b><u>District 10</u></b> Carlos Lester                      President<br/>         Claude Parton                      Vice President<br/>         Evelyn Sims                      Secretary/Treasurer<br/> <i>*Meets 1st Tuesday every other month, starting in February<br/>         Simpkins Family Buffet in Paragould at 11:00am</i></p>                |
|  | <p><b><u>NWA</u></b> Sam Turner                      President<br/>         Jerry Stukey                      Vice President<br/>         Phyllis Leonard                      Secretary/Treasurer<br/> <i>*Meets 2nd Tuesday every other month, Starting in February<br/>         Western Sizzlin in Springdale at 12:30pm</i></p>                              |

## **CHAPTER REPORTS**

### **DISTRICT ONE** – No News

### **DISTRICT TWO**

District Two Retirees met in December while attending the Annual District Two Service Awards event in Star City. New Officers for 2017 were announced as Jimmy Johnson-President, Max Bagwell –Vice President, and Bettye Johnson- Secretary-Treasurer. Several retirees attended and enjoyed the catered Fish Fry with all the trimmings. A big welcome was given to all the new retirees of 2016 and an invitation to attend the Chapter meetings. The next Chapter meeting will be at Leon's Catfish in Pine Bluff on March 17<sup>th</sup>. Our special guest will be the 2017 State Officers.

### **DISTRICT THREE**

**June 2016** – The District 3 chapter of the AHTD Retirees Association met June 8, 2016 at the Western Sizzlin' Restaurant in Nashville, Arkansas, with 12 members and several guests in attendance including Ronda Walthall, AHTD Insurance Administrator and Robyn Smith, incoming ASHERS Executive Secretary; State Retirees Association President Frank Russenberger (and his wife Linda), Sr. Vice-President Bonnie Wesson, Vice –President Mike Selig, and Secretary Doyle Hughes (and his wife Helen). Much useful information was shared with those present and the food and fellowship was enjoyable as usual.

**September 2016** – District 3 AHTD Retirees met at the Williams Tavern Restaurant in Historical Washington State Park on September 14, 2016 for our quarterly "eating" meeting. Sixteen members and guests were present and heard Billy Nations, Park Interpreter, give a brief history of the restaurant and its origins dating back to the days when it was located just off Southwest Trail, which was a primary route for travelers in our area. Interpreter Sheila Ballard told of past and upcoming cooking workshops; these have become very popular as they showcase diverse cultures from all over the world and the participants also get to eat a delicious multi-course meal they've learned to prepare. The Park's website provides a calendar of various events and workshops. As always, we were glad to welcome members we hadn't seen in a while and hope everyone present will go out and encourage all District 3 retirees to join the chapter.

### **DISTRICT FOUR** –

The District 4 chapter of the AHTD Retiree's Association meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at Golden Corral in Ft. Smith at 11:00am. We welcome all who wish to attend.

### **DISTRICT FIVE** – No News

### **DISTRICT SIX**

**January 2017** – The District 6 Chapter of the AHTD Retirees Association met at 12:00 noon, January 9, 2017 at Baptist Hospital Conference Room in Little Rock, Arkansas. President Mike Selig called the meeting to order and Richard Blaine offered the invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Vice President Mike Limbird introduced Bill Ryan, Administrative Officer III and Charles Brewer of the Public Transportation Programs Section. They provide oversight of the State's rural public transit program with approximately 12 million federal dollars. Funding is an 80/20 match for capital and administration and 50% for operating expenses. There are 475 active vehicles in this program. They also provide approximately 2.5 million dollars in capital funds for Seniors and Individual with disabilities programs. There are approximately 650 active vehicles in this program. Some of these programs help provide transportation for Medicaid and Medicare in Arkansas. Statewide membership is 1,022. Drawing for a free lunch was won by Dale Gossien.

**March 2017** – The District 6 Chapter of the AHTD Retirees' Association met at 12:00 noon on March 6, 2017 at Baptist Hospital Conference Room in Little Rock, Arkansas. President Mike Selig called the meeting to order and James Sanders offered the invocation and led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Vice President Mike Limbird introduced the program speaker, Glen Bolick of AHTD Public Information. Glen gave us a Broadway Bridge Update beginning with the closing of the bridge built in 1922. He showed photos of the demolition and constructions, and opening of the new Broadway Bridge over the Arkansas River. The bridge opened three weeks earlier than the scheduled date of April 6<sup>th</sup>. Jake Weston reported on the Retirement Board membership. It was reported that 99 year old Sybil Maddox fell recently, however she is doing good. Our Annual Picnic will be held on June 5 at Maumelle Park. Drawing for the free lunch was won by Johnnie Parks.

### **DISTRICT SEVEN**

**September 2016** - District Seven Retirees Association met in September at Cardinal Cafe in Camden. There were 20 members present with 2 guests. The guests were Commissioner Robert S. Moore and Krista Sides. Commission Moore gave a slide presentation on highway funding and expenses. The presentation was very informative. Everyone enjoyed Commissioner Moore's presentation. Sam Bradshaw gave the blessing for the food. Next meeting will be in November 2016.

**March 2017** - District Seven Highway Retirees Association met on March 9<sup>th</sup> at Cardinal Cafe' in Camden. Mike Nelson gave everyone an update on the State meeting. We had 29 Retirees and Spouses present. We enjoyed lunch and great fellowship. Our next meeting will be at Cardinal Café on May 11<sup>th</sup>.

### **DISTRICT EIGHT** – No News

### **DISTRICT NINE** – No news

ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED  
ARKANSAS HIGHWAY EMPLOYEES  
INC.



Doyle Hughes, Secretary/Treasurer  
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Little Rock, AR 72227

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**DISTRICT TEN**

**December 2016-** District 10 of the Association of Retired AHTD Employees met at 11:00am on December 6 at Simpkins Family Restaurant in Paragould. Following the invocation by Leonard Nelson, all enjoyed a delicious buffet style meal. President Carlos Lester called the meeting to order with a total of eleven members and two guests present. Secretary/ Treasurer Elaine Sims gave the treasurer's report and read the minutes of the last meeting, which were approved as read. The motion was made, seconded, and carried that the 2017 officers remain the same as 2016; Carlos Lester - President, Claude Parton - Vice President, and Elaine Sims - Secretary/Treasurer. In lieu of gift exchange, those present donated \$130 to be sent to Arkansas Children's Hospital. With no further business to be discussed, the motion was made, seconded, and carried the meeting be adjourned. Our next meeting will be February 7, 2017, and we will meet bi-monthly throughout the remainder of the year. We extend an invitation to all who would be interested in joining us for a meeting; we would love to have you.

**February 2017** - The AHTD District 10 Retirees met February 7, 2017 at Simpkins Family Restaurant in Paragould. Following a short business meeting, the nine members present enjoyed a delicious buffet style meal and great fellowship! Everyone is welcome to join us at our next meeting April 4, 2017, same place, same time.

**NORTHWEST ARKANSAS**

**October 2016** - NWA Chapter met at 12:30pm in October at the Western Sizzlin' in Springdale. There were 25 members in attendance and 9 guests. The guest included AHTD employees; Robyn Smith, Executive Secretary and Ronda Walthall, Insurance Administrator. AHTD State Retiree Association representative were Frank and Linda Russenberger, Mike Selig, Bonnie Wesson, and Doyle and Helen Hughes. A very informative program was presented by our guests with a question and answer period following.

**December 2016** - NWA Chapter met at 12:30pm in December at the Western Sizzlin' in Springdale. There were 19 in attendance. The program was presented by those who had attended the Annual State Meeting in Little Rock. There was a question and answer period after the presentations. A drawing was held with Debbie Dodd winning a free lunch. We invited all retirees living in the NWA area to join our next meeting on Valentine's Day where we will have another guest speaker. It will be held at 12:30pm at the Western Sizzlin' in Springdale. You will not go home hungry from their buffet.

**February 2017** - The NWA Chapter met on Valentine's Day and had great food and a great time socializing. Chad Adams, District 4 District Engineer, presented an update on all the current highway work currently in progress in Northwest Arkansas, including some future projects. This area is growing quickly and it takes a lot of infrastructure work to keep up. Teresa Maze was elected as the new Secretary/ Treasurer. Phyllis Leonard will soon be moving to VA and that left a vacancy. The next meeting will be April 11 at 12:30pm at the Western Sizzlin' in Springdale. Come and have a great time.