

# The Connection

Spring 2018 NEWSLETTER

<p><b>Mike Selig</b> <b>President</b> 104 Caddo River Ct. North Little Rock, AR 72216 501-837-1917 <a href="mailto:mseelig2@att.net">mseelig2@att.net</a></p>	<p><b>Mike Limbird</b> <b>Sr. Vice-President</b> 5115 Country Club. Little Rock, AR 72216 501-920-3667 <a href="mailto:cc5115@aol.com">cc5115@aol.com</a></p>	<p><b>John E. Watkins</b> <b>Vice-President</b> 604 Country Drive Hope, AR 71801 870-777-2814 <a href="mailto:watkins-john@att.net">watkins-john@att.net</a></p>	<p><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></p>	<p><b>Jake Weston</b> <b>Member-Retirement Board</b> 309 Wanda Lane Benton, AR 72015 501-776-1743</p>
---	---	--	---	---

## Message from the President: Mike Selig

Hello fellow retirees and welcome all of you new retirees to a great retirement. Being retired to several of us means more free time to do anything we want. Others of us just want to pursue other work to stay busy. Whichever you do, please take time to join other retirees at the chapter meetings. It is only once a month or every other month depending on the chapter you attend. Not only do we have interesting speakers and fellowship with other retirees, we share information about possible changes to our benefits. We have just been informed about our COLA raises for July 2018.

The Association has truly arrived in the 21st Century this past year. We are now on the worldwide WEB.

The ARDOT has added the Association to their website. We now have our own webpage on their website. The webpage is filled with plenty of information concerning our Association. Included on the webpage are the lists of statewide officers and local chapter officers. Also included are the past newsletters, a membership application form, statewide meeting dates, and a link to our Facebook page created by Bettye Johnson. Thank you, Bettye!

In the local chapter officer section, the local meeting dates, times, and places are listed so members and spouses can come and fellowship. During local meetings, important retirement information concerning possible changes is shared. Sometimes we have interesting speakers suggested by the members and usually pertaining to local interest.

To access our webpage, go to [ARDOT.gov](http://ARDOT.gov). Click on the Division tab at the upper right side of the page. When all the divisions light up, scroll down to "Retirement" and click on it. When the Retirement Division page opens, there is a sentence after the first paragraph that says "Are you an ARDOT retiree?" After the question mark in blue it states "Visit your page here". Place your cursor on the blue words to click and open our webpage.

We thank ARDOT and all involved for allowing the Association to have a webpage. If anyone has a suggestion for changes or adding information to the webpage, please contact any of the officers.

Since the COLA raise was mentioned above and some of you can't make the meetings, we were told that the official COLA raise for July 2018 is 2.18 percent. Come to the meetings and let us talk about the good times we had at the Department. We hope to see you at a future meeting.



## Address and Beneficiary Changes

Attention all retirees, if you move, please notify Lacey Cole who replaced Emily Boggs (Happy Retirement, Emily!) at the Arkansas State Highway Employees' 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.



2018 Statewide Officers: From left to right, Mike Selig -President; Mike Limbird – Sr. Vice President; John Watkins-Vice President; and Doyle Hughes – Secretary.



---

## AHTD Retirees' Association Facebook Page

The ARDOT 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).



## Speaker for October Meeting

Do you read the Saturday statewide newspaper? On the front page of the Arkansas section is an article called the *Drivetime Mahatma*. The writer is Frank Fellone. He is now a freelance writer for the column. Mr. Fellone said that he would be happy to speak to us during our statewide meeting. Some of the funniest stories he tells are the questions he receives concerning our roads and streets. So place Thursday, October 25th at 11:00 am on your calendar.

### FYI

- The Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department is now the Arkansas Department of Transportation or ARDOT.



### NEW LOGO

- Also, for anyone visiting the Central Offices, a new security protocol is in place. You will need to contact whoever you are planning on visiting so they will be prepared to send someone to escort you to the appropriate office. In addition, you are required to present your Driver's License for identification purposes



# 2017 Annual Retirees' Association Meeting



Visit ARDOT Retirees' Association Facebook page to see more pictures!!

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 \$15.00 annual dues to: **Doyle Hughes, Secretary/Treasurer, 9112 Leatrice Dr., Little Rock, AR 72227.** Make your check payable to: **AHTD Retirees Association.**

**2018 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM**

Retiree Name _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$15 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**

---

# REMINDER!!!



Starting in 2018, there will be a dues increase to \$15.00 for retirees. Dues for spouses will not be increased, but remain at \$10.00 annually. All chapter officers have been notified and the enclosed dues application form reflects this change. This will be the first dues increase in our 35 year history!

---

## **CHAPTER REPORTS**

**DISTRICT ONE** – The District One chapter of the ARDOT Retirees Association met on March 8, 2018 at Mike’s Restaurant in Colt with 18 present. President Roy Morris reported on the Executive Board Meeting held in Little Rock on March 6<sup>th</sup>. The State Officers are going to attend our next meeting on June 14<sup>th</sup> so Roy encouraged all to make a special effort to attend. The meal was enjoyed by all. Our next meeting will be June 14, 2018.

### **DISTRICT TWO**

September 2017 - The fall meeting of District Two Retirees Association was held at the Game and Fish Nature Center in Pine Bluff. Nature Center employees were guest speakers and brought their pet owls for the group to meet. The officers catered the event with a pizza luncheon. The nominating committee announced that Ben Novak has been asked to be chapter president. At this time the slate of officers is not complete but will be worked on. President Johnson gave his report and announced the details of the Annual Meeting to be held in October. The next meeting will be in December jointly with the District Two Service Awards event. Invitations will be sent out. Secretary/Treasurer Bettye Johnson gave the updated membership report and Treasurers’ report. Afterwards the members toured the facility.

### **DISTRICT TWO (cont.)**

March 2018 – District Two Retirees met on March 16<sup>th</sup> at Leon’s Catfish in Pine Bluff. Two of the State Officers attended and gave reports on items of interest to retirees. State President Mike Selig and State Sr. Vice President Mike Limbird were introduced by District Two Association President, Ben Novak. All gave thanks to those serving on the State level. President Novak also introduced Ronda Walthall and Robbie Howlett from the insurance office, as well as Robyn Smith, ASHERS Executive Secretary from the retirement office. It is always a pleasure to have these ladies visit our meetings as they are so helpful to the retirees. A special guest, District Two Engineer, Deric Wyatt reported on construction work planned and on current progress in Southeast Arkansas. He also answered questions from the members. It was announced that the next quarterly meeting will be in Monticello. Mail outs with the location and other information will be sent.

### **DISTRICT THREE - No News**

**DISTRICT FOUR** – We mourn the passing of James Seay in January. He was our VP and one of the original members of the chapter. He was 95. In July, we will have the free lunch for members in attendances. Hope to dine with some folks we haven't seen in a while. We meet the 3rd Wednesday of every month at the Golden Corral in Fort Smith. We gather at 11 am and eat about 11:30.

### **DISTRICT FIVE - No news**

### **DISTRICT SIX**

**September 2017** - District 6 Retirees met September 11, 2017; our speaker for the Meeting was Jessie Jones, ARDOT Division Engineer – Transportation Planning & Policy and Greg Nation, ARDOT Public Transportation Administrator. The ARDOT completed a twenty year strategic transportation plan in July 2017; the plan recognized \$50 billion in needs but also showed a large gap between these needs and expected funds. These needs were general needs not specific projects. A ten year study is going to the Transportation Commission shortly which will include corridor studies as well as projects studies.

**October 2017** - District 6 Retirees met October 2, 2017 our speakers for the Meeting were Shana Chaplin, Department of Human Services (DHS)-AR Office of Communications and Community Engagement and Ezell Breedlove, Department of Human Services-AR Office of Communications and Community Engagement. Shana explained that this Office of DHS was reorganized a year ago to help potential volunteers know or recognize legitimate organizations needing volunteers. A computer site was established listing organizations vetted by the Office. Ezell oversees the website for registered volunteers, volunteerAR.org. No fundraising is permitted on the site and organizations must be an IRS 501c approved organization and have liability insurance for volunteers.

**December 2017** - District 6 Retirees met December 4, 2017, speaker for the Meeting was Michele Jakacki, a Registered Dietician with Baptist Health; she is primarily involved in Diabetes Education and nutrition in healthy adults. Michele explained that as we age we should be mindful of our diet and the foods in our diet. To maintain a healthy body weight and keep a good energy level we should insure we get the correct amounts of carbohydrates, proteins, fats, water, and fiber. By the summer of 2018, food labeling (Nutrition Facts) should have Total Calories and Serving Size emboldened on the label; the label should also indicate the amount of “Added Sugars”. Items to remember are keeping a healthy balance of food stuffs and eat in moderation.

**January 2018** - District 6 Retirees met January 8, 2018, speaker for the Meeting was Shane Lind, Museum Program Coordinator at the MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History; the Museum was created to interpret our state's military heritage from its territorial period to the present. Located in the historic Tower Building of the Little Rock Arsenal — built in 1840 as a frontier military post and the birthplace of General Douglas MacArthur (1880) — the museum preserves the contributions of Arkansas men and women who served in the armed forces.

**February 2018** - District 6 Retirees met February 5, 2018, speaker for the Meeting was Doug Hanson, Arkansas Geological Survey. Doug can be contacted at the Arkansas Geological Survey (3815 West Roosevelt Rd, Little Rock) doug.hanson@arkansas.gov. Doug presented a detailed discussion of the geology of the state. This included the various areas of the state: Ozark Plateaus (Northwest Arkansas), Arkansas River Valley, Ouachita Mountains (West Arkansas), West Gulf Coastal Plain (Southwest Arkansas), and the Mississippi River Alluvial Plain (East Arkansas). Each of the areas has their own geologic makeup and present different problems before and after construction.

### **DISTRICT SEVEN**

**September 2017** - District 7 Retirees met at 11:00, September 14, 2017 at Cardinal Cafe in Camden, Arkansas. President Mike Nelson called the meeting to order with a total of seventeen members and one guest present. David Neely of Woodmen of the World gave a brief program on the different services woodmen offers. Mr. Dennis Lindsey gave thanks for the meal. The next meeting will be November 9, 2017.

ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED  
ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION EMPLOYEES  
INC.



Doyle Hughes, Secretary/Treasurer  
9112 Leatrice Drive.  
Little Rock, AR 72227

Return Service Requested

Presort Standard  
U. S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit # 645  
NLR, AR  
72114

**District Seven (cont.)**

**November 2017** - District 7 retirees met at 11.00 am, November 9, 2017 at Cardinal Cafe in Camden, Arkansas. President Mike Nelson called the meeting to order with a total of seventeen members present. Mr. Nelson gave us a summary of the State Meeting in Bryant. He also, reminded everyone of the membership dues going up in January. The new dues will be \$15.00 for member and \$10.00 for their spouse. New officers were elected; President Mike Nelson, Vice President Dannie Launius and Secretary/Treasurer Anna Jane Reddin. Tommy Fife gave the blessing for the meal. Our next meeting will be in January.

**DISTRICT EIGHT** – No News

**DISTRICT NINE** – No News

**DISTRICT TEN**

**December 2017** - District 10 of the Association of Retired ARDOT Employees met December 5, 2017 at Simpkins Family Restaurant in Paragould. There were seven members and one guest present. The 2018 officers for District 10 will remain the same as 2017, namely President Carlos Lester, Vice President Claude Parton, and Secretary/Treasurer Elaine Sims. Our next meeting will be February 6, 2018, and we will meet bimonthly throughout the remainder of the year.

**February 2018** - District 10 Retirees held their regular bi-monthly meeting February 6, 2018 at Simpkins' Family Restaurant in Paragould. Nine members and one guest enjoyed a delicious buffet style meal. The meeting was short as there was no new or old business to be discussed. We all enjoyed the opportunity to visit and look forward to getting together at our next meeting April 3rd. We were saddened by the news of retiree Jerry Morrow's passing December 28, 2017. We extend our condolences to the Morrow family.

**NORTHWEST ARKANSAS** – No News