

**The AHTD**

# CENTERLINE

VOLUME 9, NUMBER 11 • November 22, 2000

## Lipton Named Chairman Of Arkansas Highway Commission Benafield - Vice Chair



John "M" Lipton  
Chairman  
Arkansas State Highway Commission

John "M" Lipton of Warren assumed the Chairmanship of the five-person Arkansas State Highway Commission at the Commission's November 14 meeting. Lipton had been serving as Vice Chairman.

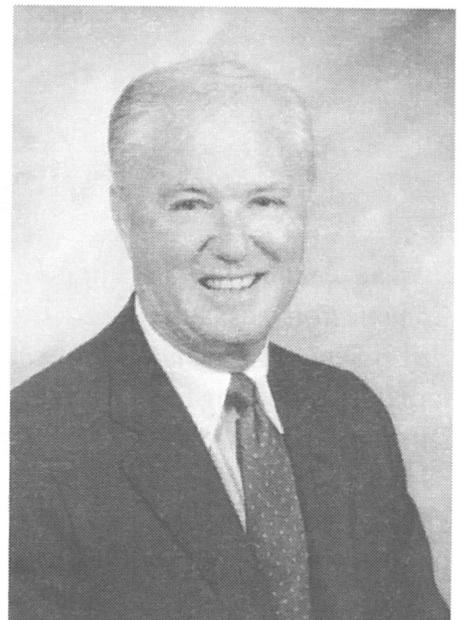
He replaces Herby Branscum, Jr., of Perryville, who stepped down from the Chairman's spot at the same meeting. Branscum will remain on the Commission until his term expires in January 2001. Branscum said that the upcoming Legislative session was a factor in his decision to step down. "We need someone in the Chairman's position who will be on the Commission when the Legislature convenes in early 2001," Branscum said.

Lipton, a native of Warren in Bradley County, was appointed to the Commission in 1993 by then Governor Jim Guy Tucker to replace Ron Harrod. Lipton's term on the Commission expires in the year 2003. He is a graduate of the University of Arkansas at Monticello with a bachelor's degree in science.

Lipton served 12 consecutive terms

in the Arkansas House of Representatives and was sworn in as Speaker of the House when the 78th Arkansas General Assembly convened in January 1991.

J.W. "Buddy" Benafield of Hickory Plains will take Lipton's place as Vice Chairman of the Commission. Benafield was first appointed to the Commission by Tucker in 1993 to fill the vacancy left by Rodney Slater and reappointed in 1995 for a 10-year term. A native of Coy in Lonoke County, Benafield graduated from the University of Central Arkansas in Conway. He has served as Mayor of England, a Director on the Little Rock City Board and as Mayor of Little Rock. His term on the Commission expires in 2005.



J.W. "Buddy" Benafield  
Vice Chairman  
Arkansas State Highway Commission

# Year 2001 Cafeteria Plan Enrollment

Enrollment in the Department's Section 125 Cafeteria Plan for the Plan Year 2001 (January 1 through December 31) is presently being conducted. All employees were issued a form on November 15. This form must be signed, including those employees declining participation, and returned to your District or Division office for submission to the Fiscal Services Division on or before December 4, 2000.

To be eligible for enrollment an employee must be employed by the Department for six months. Those employees declining participation for the year 2001 will not be eligible to enroll until the next plan year

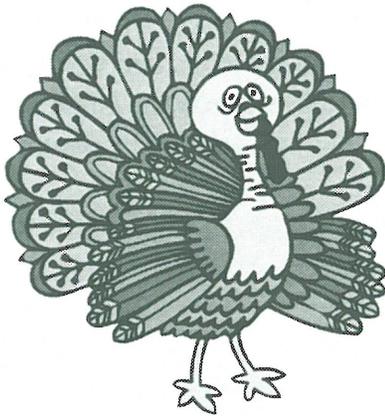
(January 1, 2002) unless they incur a qualified change in family status. Once enrolled, employees cannot make changes to their plan selection except for certain qualified changes in family status. These include marriage, divorce, death of a spouse or child, birth or adoption of a child, or termination/comencement of a spouse's employment.

If you wish to cancel any existing insurance coverage you must contact the AHTD Group Insurance Office at 501-569-2417 and complete the necessary cancellation forms before enrolling in the Year 2001 Cafeteria Plan. Once enrolled

in the Cafeteria Plan an employee cannot drop any insurance coverage unless they incur a change in family status previously listed.

Employees currently participating in the cafeteria plan are reminded that they have 90 days following the end of the plan year or until March 31, 2001 to submit claims for 2000 expenses. These expenses must be incurred during the 2000 calendar year to be eligible for reimbursement.

For more information contact the AHTD Fiscal Services Division at 501-569-2510 or your District or Division payroll clerk.



## Thanksgiving Holidays

Thursday, November 23 and Friday, November 24, 2000 are state holidays for Highway and Transportation Department employees in observance of Thanksgiving. All work will be suspended except for cases of emergency.

## Service Recognition Payments

The Arkansas State Highway Commission has authorized the Career Service Recognition payment for 2000, according to Department Director Dan Flowers.

"Act 566 of 1991 authorizes the payments to all state employees with ten (10) or more years of service," Flowers said. All eligible Department employees will receive a lump-sum payment along with their pay-

checks received today. The Service Recognition payment is a separate check and will not be deposited into bank accounts of employees who utilize direct deposit.

All Social Security, Federal and State income taxes will be withheld from the payment. The amount received will not be counted as income for purposes of figuring retirement benefits; therefore, retirement de-

ductions will not be withheld.

This payment is based on total years of state service as of December 31, 2000. The amount of payment follows:

10 through 14 years .	\$300
15 through 19 years .	\$400
20 through 24 years	\$500
25 years and over ...	\$600

# AHTD PEOPLE



OCTOBER 2000

## NEW EMPLOYEES

### HUMAN RESOURCES

Faye Shook, Central Office Receptionist

### MAINTENANCE

Ryan Herndon, General Laborer

### MATERIALS

Terry Standard, Jr., Materials Technician II

### PROGRAMS & CONTRACTS

Natasha Searfoss, Office Adm. Asst. I

### PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Farrell Wilson, Adm. Officer II

### RIGHT OF WAY

Robert Arman, ROW Plans Designer I

### DISTRICT 2

Chris Johnson, General Laborer

### DISTRICT 4

Wallace Herbert, Single Axle Truck Driver  
Delores Alberty, Field Clerk I

### DISTRICT 5

James Helms, Sammy Bennett, Kimberly Ramsey, Single Axle Truck Drivers  
Amanda Knapp, Billy Barker, Robert Smith, General Laborers

### DISTRICT 6

Kennith Stivers, Richard McClure, Charles Spencer, James Bingham, General Laborers

### DISTRICT 7

Ralph Hodge, General Laborer  
Mark Chapman, Ricardo Bravo, Single Axle Truck Drivers

### DISTRICT 9

Cecil Armer, Louis Hall, Johnny Payne, Single Axle Truck Drivers  
Robert Sushinsky, Pilot-Deck Hand

### DISTRICT 10

Angela Brinkley, Johnny McLaughlin, John Warren, Single Axle Truck Drivers

Rufus Mitchel, Jr., Karla Hopkins, General Laborers

## PROMOTIONS

### BRIDGE

Bryan Freeling, Adv. Bridge Des. Engr.

### COMPUTER SERVICES

Ronald Mitchell, Data Processing Mgr.

### ENVIRONMENTAL

Brandy Campbell, Beautification Coord. I  
Phillip Moore, Environmental Scientist II

### FISCAL SERVICES

Kristie Wilbanks, Voucher Typist

### HIGHWAY POLICE

Timothy Choate, Scott Fraley, Jeffrey Holmes, Evelyn Sims, Howard Sims, Sergeants

### HUMAN RESOURCES

Lynn Caple, Training Specialist

### MAINTENANCE

Robert Grady, Sr., Lowboy or Float Truck Dr.

### MATERIALS

Timothy Wilson, Geotechnical Aide

### PLANNING & RESEARCH

Sharon Baker, Cartographer III  
Timothy Mahan, Cartographer II  
Virginia Porta, Consultant Coordinator

### STATE AID

Patricia Anthony, Lois Rachels, Roadway Designers

### DISTRICT 1

Donald Henson, Jr., Adv. Const. Field Engr.  
Arthur Williams, Const. Helper II

### DISTRICT 2

Gary Bunting, Area Maint. Supv.  
Billy Shelby, Const. Materials Inspector  
Wendol Swinney, Const. Field Engr. I

### DISTRICT 4

Wayne Grist, Crew Leader  
Cody Holland, Const. Helper II  
Stephanie Kopf, Const. Aide II

Wesley McRae, Backhoe/Front End Loader Opr.  
Nicky Scrivner, Area Hdqtrs. Attendant  
William Wagner, Const. Aide II  
Gary West, Inspector

### DISTRICT 5

Elbert Layne, Crew Leader

### DISTRICT 6

Larry Hazeslip, Tommy Manning, Shawn Russ, Single Axle Truck Drivers  
Angela Cantu, Resident Office Tech.  
Donny Parish, Const. Aide III  
Mark Trickey, Const. Field Engr. I  
Samuel Yancy, Maint. Aide II

### DISTRICT 7

Bruce Pepper, Crew Leader

### DISTRICT 8

Hulet Jacobs, Const. Materials Insp.  
Dennis Langston, Motor Patrol Opr./Finish  
James Rye, Crew Leader  
Billy Sampley, Inspector  
Mary Scott, Distributor/Roller Opr.

### DISTRICT 9

Michael Brasel, Edward Watts, Crew Leaders

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## CENTERLINE

Published monthly by and for employees of the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department as a medium of departmental news and other information. Correspondence and materials should be directed to the Public Affairs Office, 10324 Interstate 30, Room 1002, P.O. Box 2261, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-2261, 501-569-2227.

### ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION

JOHN "M" LIPTON, CHAIRMAN  
J.W. "BUDDY" BENAFIELD, VICE CHAIRMAN  
MARY P. "PRISSY" HICKERSON  
JONATHAN BARNETT  
HERBY BRANSCUM, JR.

DAN FLOWERS  
DIRECTOR OF  
HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

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### Promotions continued

**David Colf**, Single Axle Truck Dr.  
**Randy Garner**, Motor Patrol Opr./Finish  
**Ashley Hale**, Ferry Boat Pilot  
**Gerald James**, Backhoe/Front End Loader Opr.  
**Jason James**, Adv. Const. Field Engr.

### DISTRICT 10

**Minnie Alexander**, Rest Area Attendant  
**Marty Ellis**, Edward Orr, Single Axle Truck Drivers  
**Kevin Foster**, Const. Aide I  
**Lenny Fulco**, Street Sweeper Opr.  
**Donna Moore**, Area Headquarters Attd.

## SERVICE

### 35 YEARS

**Carroll Sigler**, D-8 Crew Leader  
**Jackie Rainwater**, D-10 Inspector

### 30 YEARS

**Billy Lee**, D-4 Equip. Maint. Supv.  
**Ernest Pearce**, D-5 Senior Inspector  
**William Daniel**, D-6 Const. Aide I

### 25 YEARS

**Bryan Stewart**, Computer Ser. Div. Head  
**Phyllis Taylor**, D-5 Bookkeeper  
**James Neal**, D-7 Area Maint. Supv.  
**Kerry Blair**, D-8 Crew Leader  
**Teddy Miller**, D-10 Distributor Operator

### 20 YEARS

**Vicki Haydon**, Internal Audit Senior External Auditor  
**David Quast**, AHP 2nd Lieutenant  
**Mike Mitchell**, AHP Permit Technician  
**John Isom**, Sr. Environmental Scientist  
**John Harris**, Environmental Section Head

**Robert Elliott**, P&R Data Col. Supv.  
**Charles Everett**, D-5 Area Maint. Supv.  
**Charles Evans**, D-10 Sr. Mechanic

### 15 YEARS

**Terry Tucker**, Environmental Adm. Asst. II  
**Jeffrey Davis**, AHP 1st Lieutenant  
**Ann Helm**, Internal Audit Senior Internal Auditor  
**Julie Mundy**, P&C Accident Coding Clerk II  
**Leroy Dinwiddie**, D-1 Multi-Axle Truck Dr.  
**Kenneth Tucker**, D-4 Crew Leader  
**Deborah Smothers**, D-4 Crew Leader  
**Terry Stewart**, D-5 Motor Patrol Opr./Finish  
**Erma Collins**, D-5 Crew Leader  
**Edna Castleberry**, D-7 Distributor Opr.  
**Kenneth Howard**, D-8 Backhoe/Front End Loader Opr.  
**James Mears**, D-9 Const. Aide III  
**Timmy Myrick**, D-10 Bridge Insp. Helper

### 10 YEARS

**Jay Thompson**, AHP Patrol Officer 1st Class  
**Jennifer Jackson**, P&R Office Adm. Asst. III  
**Steven Moore**, Roadway Designer  
**Reggie Trusty**, D-4 Distributor Opr.  
**David Culp**, D-7 Backhoe/Front End Loader Opr.  
**Rick Watson**, D-9 Parts Runner  
**Terry Eidson**, D-9 Motor Patrol Opr.

### 5 YEARS

**Leann Edmondson**, Internal Audit Senior External Auditor  
**Robert Simmons**, Internal Audit Senior Internal Auditor  
**Carl Conners**, Internal Audit Senior External Auditor  
**William Ball**, D-1 Motor Patrol Operator  
**Jerry Smith**, D-1 Distributor/Roller Opr.  
**Phyllis Myles**, D-2 Maintenance Aide I  
**Shirley Norman**, D-2 Multi-Axle Truck Dr.

**William Parker, Jr.**, D-2 Maint. Aide I  
**Bobby Adams**, D-3 Distributor/Roller Opr.  
**Robyn Freeman**, D-3 Area Hdqtrs. Attd.  
**Terry Small**, D-3 Multi-Axle Truck Dr.  
**John McLaughlin**, D-4 Backhoe/Front End Loader Opr.  
**Brandon Jones**, D-4 Backhoe/Front End Loader Opr.  
**Garry Hurst**, D-4 Rest Area Attendant  
**Cavin Hall**, D-5 Maintenance Aide I  
**James Griffis**, D-5 Hydraulic Excavator Opr.  
**Pamala Hays**, D-5 Field Clerk II  
**Ronald Rogers**, D-7 Adv. Const. Field Engr.  
**Roberta Deleon**, D-7 Maintenance Aide I  
**Jerry Kasich**, D-9 Multi-Axle Truck Dr.  
**Anthony Cable**, D-10 Senior Mechanic  
**James Wagster**, D-10 Asphalt Tank Truck Dr.

## RETIREMENTS

**Cornelius Peters**, District 4 Area Maintenance Supervisor, retired September 27 with 32+ years

**Orville Groves**, District 10 Motor Patrol Operator, retired September 29 with 7+ years

**Ralph Goodson**, District 4 Maintenance Job Superintendent, retired October 26 with 45+ years

**Vernon Erwin**, District 10 Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator, retired October 5 with 21+ years

## AHTD INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

In the event Department employees are excused by official action due to inclement weather, the following policy will be in effect: Official media notice to state agencies will apply to AHTD employees except designated essential personnel.

The Inclement Weather Policy excuses employees from work until 10:00 a.m. unless specified by official media notice. Employees who report to work after the excused time will be charged leave calculated between the excused time and their arrival time. Employees who do not report to work at all will be charged for a full day's leave.

Sick leave or annual leave may be utilized for inclement weather. Leave without pay will be utilized for employees who are temporary, part-time or in an exhausted leave status.

Employees working under the flex schedule must adjust their time accordingly.

