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ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

# CENTERLINE

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## “CLICK-IT” or “TICKET”

National Child Passenger Safety Week in Arkansas was launched by the AHTD along with 34 law enforcement agencies who will spend their time making sure motorists' children are buckled up. They are participating in the “Click it or Ticket” campaign to publicize the new child seat belt and restraint law and will help educate people about how to comply.

Dan Flowers, AHTD Director, announced the program at a news conference on Friday, January 25, on the steps of the State Capitol.

Act 470 of 2001, which took effect last August, requires children under age 15 to be restrained when riding in passenger vehicles,



Dan Flowers, AHTD Director, announces the “Click it or Ticket” program.

instead of the previous age limit of five years. The act also requires children under age six who weigh less than 60 pounds to be restrained in a child passenger safety seat. The previous age and weight

limits were four years old and 40 pounds.

“The law is a primary law, which means officers may stop a motorist and issue a ticket for this violation alone,” said Flowers.

## Deferred Compensation Plan Meetings

The State of Arkansas is making changes to the state-sponsored Deferred Compensation plans or Diversified Investments and Valic. A series of meetings have been scheduled to explain these changes that will become effective April 1, 2002.

March 7 - 9:00 a.m. - Central Office  
Central Office Auditorium

March 8 - 9:30 a.m. - District 2/AHP District 1  
U of A Monticello Fines Arts Bldg.

March 12 - 9:00 a.m. - District 7/AHP District 4  
SAU Tech. Engineering Center, Room 100, Camden

March 13 - 9:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. - District 3/AHP District 4  
Fair Park Community Center, Hope

March 15 - 9:00 a.m. - District 5/AHP District 2  
AHTD District 5 Headquarters, Batesville

March 19 - 10:30 a.m. - District 9/AHP District 3  
AHTD District 9 Headquarters, Harrison

March 20 - 8:30 a.m. - District 4/AHP District 3  
Fort Chaffee Public Trust Nature Center, Barling  
(Use west entrance to Fort Chaffee off Highway 255)

March 20 - 1:30 p.m. - District 8/AHP District 2  
AHTD District 8 Headquarters, Russellville

March 22 - 10:00 a.m. - District 10/AHP District 5  
AHTD District 10 Headquarters, Paragould

March 26 - 9:00 a.m. - District 1/AHP District 1  
AHTD District 1 Headquarters, Wynne

# AHTD PERSONNEL CHANGES

With the upcoming retirements of a number of Department personnel, continuity of supervisory functions during the personnel transition will be important. Therefore, Director Dan Flowers has announced the following personnel changes.

**Phil McConnell**, Roadway Design Engineer, will assume the duties of Assistant Chief Engineer for Design upon the retirement of Dale Loe. McConnell is a 32-year AHTD employee, a 1970 civil engineering graduate of the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, and a registered professional engineer.

**Leonard Hall**, District 6 Engineer, will assume the duties of State Maintenance Engineer upon the retirement of Jim Barnett. Hall is a 30-year AHTD employee, a 1972 civil engineering graduate of the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, and a registered professional engineer.



**Phil McConnell**  
Assistant Chief Engineer  
for Design



**Leonard Hall**  
State  
Maintenance Engineer

## Gordon Named Public Information Officer

**Lee Gordon** has been named AHTD Public Information Officer effective February 25. Prior to coming to the Department, he was the Executive Director of the Arkansas Business and Education Alliance. Gordon earned a bachelor's degree from Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. He and his family have lived in Little Rock for 25 years.



**Lee Gordon**  
Public Information  
Officer

**Randy Ort**, Public Affairs Officer, has transferred to the Environmental Division, effective February 25, as the Department's Public Outreach Coordinator. Ort will be coordinating the AHTD's public hearing and involvement efforts to assure effective communication with citizens, elected officials and the media.

The AHTD

## 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 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  
CARL S. ROSENBAUM

DAN FLOWERS  
DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

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## Catastrophic Leave Donations

Employees are reminded that vacation leave balances which exceed the maximum carry-over may be donated to the Catastrophic Leave Program. These donations must reach the Human Resources Office before March 31, 2002. For further information contact the Human Resources Office at 501-569-2296.

## TRB Appoints Nielsen and Wilson

The Transportation Research Board (TRB) Executive Committee has appointed Doug Nielsen, AHTD Equipment and Procurement Division Head, to Emeritus Membership on the Equipment Maintenance Committee. Emeritus status was instituted to recognize an individual's contributions to TRB over a sustained period of time.

Nielsen has served on the TRB Equipment Maintenance Committee for over 25 years and has served as Group Council member, Secretary, and Chair.

TRB has also appointed Robert L. Wilson, AHTD Chief Legal Counsel, to a three-year term on its Committee on Transportation Law.

TRB is a unit of the National Research Council (NRC), a private, nonprofit institution that is the principal operating agency of the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Engineering.

Under a Congressional charter granted to the National Academy of Sciences, the NRC provides expertise in science and technology to the government, the public, and the scientific and engineering communities.



Nielsen



Wilson

## Insurance Updates:



### Mental Health Coverage

The Employee Benefit Division of the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration now offers restricted mental health coverage for employees who are not covered under one of the State's Employee Health Insurance Coverage plans.

The coverage offers a statewide network; up to eight (8) free sessions with a counselor; comprehensive case management for chemical dependence; preliminary guidance on substance abuse and serious mental health issues; community resource information; critical incident support; educational programs and information; and management training.

For assistance, contact CORPHEALTH at toll-free at 1-866-378-1645.

### Long Term Care Coverage

The Voluntary Long Term Care Coverage being offered by AFLAC is now available to AHTD employees and their spouses.

Some of the features of this policy include: First Occurrence Benefit; Nursing Home Daily Benefit; Assisted Living Daily Benefit; Home Care Daily Benefit; and Waiver of Premium Benefit.

Plan highlights include: no elimination period; portable; and simplified issue (no medical exam).

If you are interested in the Long Term care coverage, contact JoAnn Lewis with AFLAC at 501-221-2887 or toll-free 1-866-895-7877, or you may contact the AHTD Group Insurance Office at 501-569-2417.

### American Express Corporate Card Update

The State of Arkansas American Express Corporate Cards were suspended earlier this year due to the large amount of past due balances. However, card members whose accounts were deemed current by American Express were reopened Friday, February 1, 2002.

As a reminder, the American Express card is not like VISA and MasterCard. It does not allow minimum monthly payments. All charges on the card must be paid in full each month. American Express does not charge interest and expects card members to pay their account in full each month.

Some employees have not been meeting this obligation, therefore their cards have been suspended from further use until the balances are paid in full. If American Express has a recurring problem with card members not making the payment in full each month, they have the right to cancel the card.

# AHTD PEOPLE



JANUARY 2002

## NEW EMPLOYEES

### BRIDGE

Jessie Jones, Civil Engineer

### INTERNAL AUDIT

Joy Brooks, Auditor

### MAINTENANCE

Leon Allbright, Jason Benbrook, Sign Makers I  
Charles West, Stripper Helper

### MATERIALS

Richard Martin, Benjamin Sutton, Gen. Laborers  
Kenneth Eldried, Geotechnical Aide I

### PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Ellen Norris, Admin. Asst. II

### ROADWAY DESIGN

David Hall, Civil Engineer

### DISTRICT ONE

John Clegg, Timothy Hicks, Sr., Single Axle Truck Drivers

### DISTRICT TWO

Tommy Gilliam, Donnie Sanders, Gen. Laborers  
James Barnes, Single Axle Truck Dr.

### DISTRICT THREE

Steven Muldrew, Station Attendant  
Joseph Carlton, General Laborer

### DISTRICT FOUR

Joshua Owen, Darren Smith, Gen. Laborers

### DISTRICT FIVE

Ricky Herring, Single Axle Tr. Dr.  
Calvin Leonard, III, Gen. Laborer  
Dustin Treadway, Civil Engineer  
Casey Chastain, Const. Field Engr. II

### DISTRICT SIX

Bruce Anthony, Jr., Travis Billingsley, Tony Kelly,  
Jerome Harris, Ray Hart, Roberto Verdecia, Dale  
Carlat, James Coulter, Johnny Smith, Jerry Pack,  
Melvin Wylie, Jr., Single Axle Truck Drs.  
B.J. Bayer, Civil Engineer  
Kenyada Sain, Field Clerk I

### DISTRICT SEVEN

David Arnold, Ronald Hudson, John Callender,  
Single Axle Truck Drs.

### DISTRICT EIGHT

Jerry Robison, Michael Guess, Single Axle Truck Drs.  
Paul Tinsley, Civil Engineer

### DISTRICT NINE

Keith Carpenter, Multi-Axle Truck Dr.  
Kevin Robbins, Single Axle Truck Dr.

### DISTRICT TEN

Allen Love, General Laborer

## PROMOTIONS

### BRIDGE

Steve Peyton, Bridge Design Engineer  
Steven Thomas, Civil Engineer I

### HIGHWAY POLICE

Bobby Cordle, Shawn Faust, Martin Nunnery,  
Jack Stepp, Sergeant  
George Coffman, Permits Section Head

### MAINTENANCE

Ann Jordan, Maint. Management Analyst

### PLANNING & RESEARCH

Jack Gazin, Civil Engineer III

### ROADWAY DESIGN

Steve Heye, Jennifer Williams, Sr. Design Engrs.  
Liz Jones, Roadway Designer

### DISTRICT 1

Tracy Heard, Bridge Repairer I  
Taylor McDaniel, Jr., Station Attendant II

### DISTRICT 2

Yurhonda Jones, Leoyd Robinson, Jr., Single Axle  
Truck Drivers  
Chris Hendricks, Maint. Aide I  
Sandra McManus, Inspector

### DISTRICT 3

Carlton Cottingham, Maint. Aide I  
Mark Jarman, Distributor/Roller Opr.  
Martha Tatom, Backhoe/Front End Loader Opr.

### DISTRICT 4

Kara Belt, Tara Hollan, Single Axle Tr. Drs.  
Eric Fannon, Spreader Operator  
William Gaines, Maint. Aide II  
Nicky Mings, Area Maint. Supv.  
Mason Pope, Civil Engineer I  
Candice Russell, Street Sweeper Opr.

### DISTRICT 6

Dennis Johnson, Area Maint. Supv.  
Joseph Wharton, Rest Area Attendant  
Paul Wingfield, Multi-Axle Truck Dr.

### DISTRICT 7

Cheryl Davis, Resident Office Tech.  
Donald Frazier, Multi-Axle Tr. Dr.  
William Pokorny, Const. Field Engr. I  
Randy Stinnett, Crew Leader  
Evandrew Washington, Inspector

### DISTRICT 8

Crystal Gipson, Single Axle Tr. Dr.  
Brazzel Bates, Const. Aide II

### DISTRICT 10

Greg Bailey, Motor Patrol Opr./Finish  
Elvis Richmond, Const. Aide III

## SERVICE

### 35 YEARS

Mikel Neal, D4 Sr. Const. Materials Insp.

### 30 YEARS

Bob Walters, Chief Engineer  
David Lambert, D6 Const. Engineer  
Walter Gray, D8 Lowboy or Float Truck Dr.

### 25 YEARS

Robert Lee, Jr., Computers Apps. Analyst/  
Programmer II  
Bill Richardson, Environ. Asst. Division Head  
Richard Blaine, Fiscal Services Receipts &  
Expenditures Section Head

Roy Cochran, Highway Police Corporal  
Bobby Kraehmer, Maint. Office Admin. Asst. V  
James Newcomb, P&R FTA Grants Officer  
Phillip Wood, D5 Crew Leader  
Jerry Zuber, D6 Maint. Job Supt.  
Kevin White, D8 Area Maint. Supv.  
Donald Baker, D9 Crew Leader  
Danny Douglas, D10 Crew Leader

### 20 YEARS

Diann Gwatney, Fis. Ser. Insurance Rep.  
Janette Thompson, Human Resources Office  
Admin. Asst. I  
Gary Brown, Materials Geotechnical Drill Party Chief  
Patricia Norton, D10 Fuel Clerk

### 15 YEARS

Gene Morrison, Maint. Sign Maker II  
Steve Faulkner, Materials Geotechnical Drill Party Chief  
Luther Pennington, D2 Sr. Const. Materials Inspector  
Gerald Hall, D6 Adv. Const. Field Engr.  
James Hogan, D6 Const. Aide II

### 10 YEARS

Sandra Bivins, Const. Estimates Tech.  
Kathrine Lyons, Surveys Abstractor  
Linda Gunn, Roadway Des. Adv. Design Engr.  
W. Tobar, Jr., D10 Maint. Aide I  
Johnny Gardner, D10 Bridge Repairer I

### 5 YEARS

Frederick Brouse, D4 Maint. Aide I  
John Ballard, D4 Const. Field Engr. II  
Danny Wilson, D5 Welder  
Seth Houghton, D8 Distributor Opr.  
David Foster, D9 Asst. Resident Engr.

## RETIREMENTS

Phyllis Womack, Equipment & Procurement Buyer,  
retired January 7 with 32+ years

William Johnson, D1 Motor Patrol Operator/Finish,  
retired January 15 with 13+ years

Phillip Wood, D5 Crew Leader, retired January 15 with  
25+ years

Dennis Williams, D5 Area Maintenance Supervisor,  
retired January 4 with 30+ years

Gary West, D5 Construction Project Coordinator, re-  
tired January 24 with 32+ years

Howard Hairston, D6 Motor Patrol Operator/Finish,  
retired January 11 with 17+ years

James Turner, D6 Senior Inspector, retired January  
10 with 24+ years

Geraldine Roper, D7 Resident Office Technician, re-  
tired January 8 with 22+ years

Dwight Huie, D8 Area Headquarters Attendant, retired  
January 9 with 13+ years

Clinton Taylor, D9 Welder, retired January 31 with 22+  
years