

Center Line

David Ross Recognized By Society Of Engineers

AHTD employee David Ross, Civil Engineer II of the Materials Division, has received the Fred M. Carter Award from the Arkansas Society of Professional Engineers.

The award honors the person obtaining the highest score on the Professional Engineers Examination during each calendar year.

Ross has been with AHTD for three years. He received his Bachelor's in Engineering from the University of Arkansas in 1998 and a Master's in 2000.

"There are a lot of great engineers here at the Highway and Transportation Department," says Ross. "I have enjoyed learning from them."

The annual award was named in honor of Fred M. Carter, the first consumer member of the Arkansas Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors. Mr. Carter passed away in May of 1986 and the award was created that year. Ross is the first Department employee to receive this award since its creation.

Ross was recognized and presented with the award at a luncheon hosted by the Arkansas Society of Professional Engineers earlier this year.



INSIDE

Insurance Update	2
DROP Meetings	3
Around the Department	4

The Staff Minute	6
Arkansas State Fair	7
AHTD People	7

insurance updates

Beginning October 1, 2004, the state insurance plan will be changing Pharmacy Benefit Management (PBM). The new company is **National Medical Health Card**. When a change is made with PBMs, there are always formulary differences. Fourteen drugs will be moving to the 3rd tier (\$50 co-pay) that were previously on the 2nd tier (\$25 co-pay). The Employee Benefits Division of the Department of Finance and Administration (DF&A) will be sending individual letters to members taking these drugs. There will also be drugs that will be limited by quantity as well as require prior authorization.



New ID Numbers – The Employee Benefits Division of DF&A has made it mandatory that all carriers must stop using their Social Security Number as an identification number. This will help prevent identity theft. In addition, the group number will change. These changes will be effective October 1, 2004, for pharmacy and January 1, 2005, for medical. The new pharmacy ID cards should be mailed to employees by Wednesday, September 22. New medical ID cards will be sent in December. **Employees will need to provide a copy of the new card to physicians and pharmacists as soon as possible after receiving them.** Failure to provide a copy of the new card will result in claims being denied. The claims can be reprocessed, but it could be time consuming and cause problems. The health plans will provide information to the physicians regarding the changes. The Pharmacy Benefit Manager is going to provide information to the pharmacist regarding changes. Even with this information provided, employees must provide the correct information so claims will process properly.



Deferred Retirement Option Plan

Representatives of the Fiscal Services Division will begin visiting each District in October 2004 to explain the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROPP) and answer any questions concerning the DROPP.

Please note 28 years of service will not qualify an employee for the DROPP. Eligibility for the DROPP requires the following qualifications:

- ◆ 60 years of age with 20 years of state service
- ◆ 62 years of age with 15 years of state service
- ◆ 65 years of age with 5 years of state service
- ◆ Any age with 30 years of state service

Any employee who could buy time that would make them eligible to join the DROPP or who has credited service with a reciprocal agency is welcome to attend. If you have employees attending under this eligibility, please note this in the comment section of the form designating them as such.

All Division Heads, District Engineers, Office Managers and Payroll Personnel are encouraged to attend these meetings, especially those who have not previously attended and are in a position to counsel employees concerning the DROPP.

A schedule of meetings will be sent to employees soon and appears on this page.

Should you have questions concerning eligibility, please contact Toni Barnes at (501) 569-2052.

District One

October 20 at Wynne - 1:30 p.m.

District Two

October 5 at Pine Bluff - 9:30 a.m.

District Three

October 6 at Hope - 10:00 a.m.

District Four

October 13 at Ft. Smith - 10:00 a.m.

District Five

October 19 at Batesville - 10:00 a.m.

District Six

October 7 at Little Rock - 9:30 a.m.

District Seven

October 5 at Camden - 1:30 p.m.

District Eight

October 14 at Russellville - 10:00 a.m.

District Nine

October 12 at Harrison - 10:00 a.m.

District Ten

October 20 at Paragould - 9:30 a.m.

Central Office

October 15 at Little Rock - 9:00 a.m.



District 5: Service Awards - (l. to r.), Jason Moser, Welder, 5 years; Michael Davis, Store-room Assistant I, 10 years; Shane Russell, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, 10 years; Dan Yates, Motor Patrol Operator-Finish, 10 years.

District 5: Service Awards - (l. to r.), Tom Jernigan, Resident Office Tech, 5 years; Tommy Dohn, Dist. Bridge Inspector Helper, 5 years; Brian Arford, Maintenance Aide I, 5 years; Carl Davis, Multi-Axle Truck Driver, 5 years.

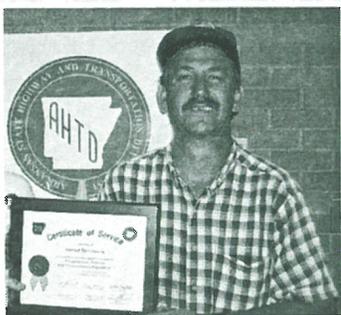


District 3: Joe Daniels, Little River Area Headquarters Attendant, received his 10-year service award.

District 5: Service Awards - (l. to r.), Bruce Street, District Maintenance Engr., 15 years; Russell Hightower, Maintenance Aide II, 20 years; Danny Howell, Shop Supervisor, 25 years; Willis Morehead, Sr., Motor Patrol Operator-Finish, 30 years.



District 3: Joe Dorman, Maintenance Aide II, of the Nevada County Maintenance Crew, received his 15-year service award.



District 3: David Stevenson, Multi-Axle Truck Driver in the District Maintenance Crew, received his 20-year service award.



District 3: George Graves, Station Attendant II at the District Headquarters service station, received his 10-year service award.

District 4: (l. to r.) Kim McDowell, Assistant Maintenance Superintendent, presents Rocky "Joe" Smith, Maintenance Job Superintendent, with his 30-year service award.



District 4: (l. to r.) Kim McDowell, Assistant Maintenance Superintendent, presents W.E. 'Gene' Roberts, Area Maintenance Supervisor, Polk County, with his 25-year service award.



District 3: Linda Page, a Single Axle Truck Driver in the Miller County Maintenance Crew, received her 5-year service award.



District 3: Paul Stanley, Rest Area Attendant in the Miller County Maintenance Crew, received his 15-year service award.





District 5: Service Awards - (l. to r.), Timothy Hurr, Maintenance Aide II, 15 years; Ethan Moody, Maintenance Aide II, 20 years.



District 5: Service Awards - (l. to r.), Marty Morgan, Area Maintenance Supv., 25 years; Junior Beach, Crew Leader, 25 years.



Members of the AHTD Project Management Team responsible for the Highway 70 widening from Highway 192 to Hempwallace in Hot Springs were recognized at a Project Management meeting on August 2. Team members are (l. to r.) Perry Johnston, John Isom, Lori Tudor and Jim Tribo. The team worked on a project that will widen Highway 70 in Hot Springs, extending from Highway 192 to Hempwallace. Not pictured are John Mathis and Carl Lindstrom.

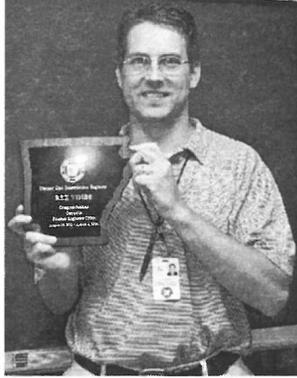


District 3: Ernie Sorrels, Crew Leader in the Lafayette County Maintenance Crew, received his 15-year service award.

Roadway Design: Receiving service awards this month in Roadway Design were (l. to r.) Steve Heye, 25 years; Scott Fisher, 10 years; Brooks Booher, 20 years; Frank Bray, 15 years.



Planning & Research: (l. to r.) Mike Selig, Staff Traffic Safety Engineer, presents Robert Cagle, Data Collection Supervisor, his 20-year service award.



District 10: Rex Vines was recently promoted to District Construction Engineer in District 1. He formerly held the position of Resident Engineer in Osceola. His coworkers gave him this plaque for a going away present along with other gifts.



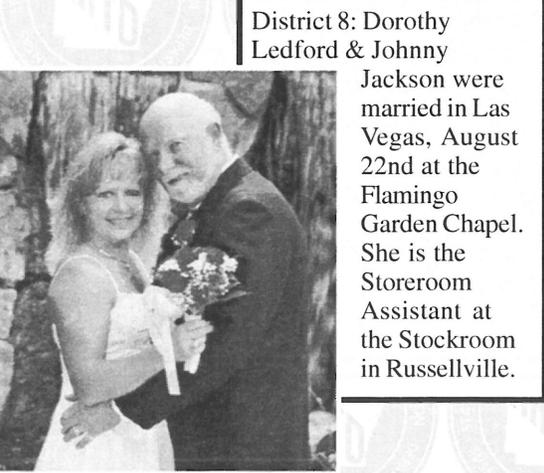
Planning & Research: Mimi Nation, Administrative Assistant I, recently received her 20-year service award.



Planning & Research: David Williams, Data Collection Technician, recently received his 20-year service award.



Internal Audit: Shirley Wesson Graves, Office Administrative Assistant IV, at her retirement party. Shirley retired recently with 33+ years of service.



District 8: Dorothy Ledford & Johnny Jackson were married in Las Vegas, August 22nd at the Flamingo Garden Chapel. She is the Storeroom Assistant at the Stockroom in Russellville.



Planning & Research: Linda Hargrove, Transportation Management Analyst II, recently received her 15-year service award.

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The Staff Minute



Welcome to this new feature spotlighting a different AHTD employee each month.

Employee:

Shirley Littleton

Position:

Crew Leader, Mississippi County Area Headquarters

Length of Service:

14 years

Duties:

“I supervise and direct crew functions and equipment and material movements to maintain proper construction and maintenance procedures and allow the timely completion of work. I also direct the issuing of consigned stock and maintain correct consigned stock physical counts. In addition, I assist the Area Maintenance Supervisor in protecting all Department assets consigned to our crew and provide reasonable assurance regarding the proper execution and recording of transactions.”

Favorite or most interesting part of your job:

“My favorite part of the job is being outside and working with so many different and talented people.”

Background:

“I started to work for the Highway Department in 1990 as a summer employee. Since then I have held several other positions such as General Laborer, Single Axle Truck Driver, Station Attendant, Maintenance Aide II and now Crew Leader.”



Family:

“I am married to Roosevelt Littleton. We have two grandchildren, Henry McGowan, III, age 5, and Shacorrca Weatherspoon, age 18 months. Her favorite T-shirt says ‘It’s not who wears the pants in the house that counts, it’s who wears the Pampers.’”

Hobbies/Interests:

“My favorite hobbies are gardening and attending my church, New Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, where I am a member of the Usher Board, Board of Trustees, Hospitality Committee and “Bouncing Back Ministry” in which we help abused and battered women build their self-esteem and bounce back out of a life of instability.”



WHERE IS THIS?

Can you identify this highway?
See answer, bottom of last page.



The Arkansas State Fair is October 8th -17th

The AHTD will be hosting a booth in the Hall of Industry. Department employees are invited to bring their families and friends to visit the booth. We will be distributing highway maps, litter bags and information brochures.

AHTD People

NEW EMPLOYEES

BRIDGE

Jason Burks Structural Detailer

CONSTRUCTION

Sherry Stout Field Clerk I

MAINTENANCE

Kevin Lingard Sign Maker I
James Marshall Sign Maker I

SURVEYS

Ricky Stevens Surveys Helper
Bobby Beavers Surveys Helper

DISTRICT 1

Nathaniel Bell Single Axle Truck Driver
Andrew Blocker Single Axle Truck Driver
Ben Butler Single Axle Truck Driver
Albert Glenn Single Axle Truck Driver
Shaira Hall Single Axle Truck Driver
Calvin Walton Single Axle Truck Driver

DISTRICT 2

Karen Avants General Laborer
Michael Burton General Laborer

DISTRICT 3

Cayetano Aguirre Mechanic
Gary Bigham Welder
Christi Ray General Laborer
Heather Simmons General Laborer

DISTRICT 6

Billy Bailey General Laborer
Jason Campbell Single Axle Truck Driver
Curtis Crumpton Single Axle Truck Driver
Michael Magneson Single Axle Truck Driver
James Merriott Single Axle Truck Driver
Theodis Smith General Laborer
Marcos Wise Single Axle Truck Driver

DISTRICT 8

Scott Blair Single Axle Truck Driver

PROMOTIONS

ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE

Paul Claunch Captain

BRIDGE

Steven Peyton Advanced Bridge Design Engr.
Steven Thomas Advanced Bridge Design Engr.

COMPUTER SERVICES

Timothy Martin Administrative Assistant III

FISCAL SERVICES

Kristy Lee Office Admn. Assistant III
Ronda Walthall Accounting Assistant

HEAVY BRIDGE

Eugene Farrell Bridge Repairer I

MAINTENANCE

Donald Palmer Sign Maker II
James Marshall Sign Maker I
John Wood Traffic Services Aide
Robert Tankersley, II Bridge Repairer I

DISTRICT 1

Stanley Bennett Shop Supervisor
William Eaves Maintenance Aide I
Jackson Willester Backhoe/Front End Loader Opr.
Rex Vines District Construction Engineer

DISTRICT 2

Johnny Brown Bridge Repairer II
Thomas Taylor Bridge Repairer II

DISTRICT 3

James Jones Multi-Axle Truck Driver
Steven Muldrey Multi-Axle Truck Driver

DISTRICT 4

Kara Belt Construction Aide I
Jeremy Boyles Single Axle Truck Driver
Gregory Farris Construction Aide I
William Jones Spreader Operator
Jason Marshall Construction Aide I
Robert McEntyre Bridge Repairer I
Amos O'Connor Construction Aide I
Laura Powell Construction Aide I
Andy Ridgway Backhoe/Front End Loader Opr.
Jennifer Ross-Salazar Single Axle Truck Driver
Stacey Ryan Roller Operator
Vivian Taff Construction Aide II
Bobby Thompson Finish Carpenter

DISTRICT 5

George Baird Maintenance Aide I
Byron Bristow Senior Mechanic
Sondra Grider Construction Helper II
Steve Hadley Distributor/Roller Operator
Dennis Williams Maintenance Aide I

DISTRICT 6

Francisco Freeman Rest Area Attendant
 John Hill Backhoe/Front End Loader Opr.
 Rob Jackson Backhoe/Front End Loader Opr.
 Vernon Loftin Multi-Axle Truck Driver
 Avernette Nichols Single Axle Truck Driver
 Roger Starling Backhoe/Front End Loader Opr.

DISTRICT 7

John Callender Construction Helper II
 Thomas Ezell Maintenance Aide I
 Patty Grice Maintenance Aide I
 Matthew Jackson Bridge Repairer I
 Wendy Zeiler Construction Helper II

DISTRICT 8

Brenda Cullum Maintenance Aide I
 Michael Guess Maintenance Aide I
 Tina Maynard Single Axle Truck Driver

DISTRICT 9

Bo Bailey Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator
 Justin Choate Hydraulic Excavator Opr.-Finish
 Gabriel Hensley Motor Patrol Operator
 James Morris Distributor/Roller Operator
 Russell Roberts Bridge Repairer II
 Justin Tyler Distributor/Roller Operator
 Kevin Walden Multi-Axle Truck Driver

DISTRICT 10

Shante' Caruthers Maintenance Aide I
 Christina Hill Backhoe/Front End Loader Opr.

SERVICE**ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE**

Jeff Bickerstaff Patrol Ofcr. 1CL, 5 yrs.
 Ron Burnett, Jr. Patrol Ofcr. 1CL, 5 yrs.
 Felix Carr Patrol Ofcr. 1CL, 5 yrs.
 Jason Dags Patrol Ofcr. 1CL, 5 yrs.
 Tom Falls Patrol Ofcr. 1CL, 5 yrs.
 Robert Garrett Patrol Ofcr. 1CL, 5 yrs.
 Larry Mitchell Patrol Ofcr. 1CL, 5 yrs.
 Clyde Murphy, Jr. Patrol Ofcr. 1CL, 5 yrs.
 Bill Oliphant Patrol Ofcr. 1CL, 5 yrs.
 Shad Overman Patrol Ofcr. 1CL, 5 yrs.
 Elizabeth Sanderson Patrol Ofcr. 1CL, 5 yrs.
 Robert Sellers Patrol Ofcr. 1CL, 5 yrs.
 Tom Simpson Patrol Ofcr. 1CL, 5 yrs.
 Fred Standridge Patrol Ofcr. 1CL, 5 yrs.
 Greg Toland Patrol Ofcr. 1CL, 5 yrs.
 Todd Turman Patrol Ofcr. 1CL, 5 yrs.
 Joe Upton 2LT, 30 yrs.

COMPUTER SERVICES

Darlene Thomas Quality Assurance Supv., 5 Yrs.

CONSTRUCTION

Victor Biddle Senior Const. Matl. Insp., 20 yrs.
 Norman Brown Const. Project Coord., 30 yrs.
 Karen Clayton Resident Office Tech., 25 yrs.
 Patti Clowers Const. Project Coord., 25 yrs.
 Gary Dorrrough Resident Office Tech., 20 yrs.
 Kenny Fincher Construction Aide III, 15 yrs.
 Detlev Garner Senior Inspector, 25 yrs.
 James McEntire Senior Const., Matl. Insp., 30 yrs.
 Oliver Pierce Inspector, 15 yrs.
 Kendall Shelton Inspector, 15 yrs.
 Vernon Smith Senior Const. Matl. Insp., 20 yrs.
 Darrell Thacker Const. Project Coord., 35 yrs.
 Gary West Senior Inspector, 30 yrs.

FISCAL SERVICES

Cindy Nutt Senior Accountant, 10 yrs.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Travis Nelson, Jr. Safety Inspection Officer, 5 Yrs.

INTERNAL AUDIT

Robert Jones Senior Internal Auditor, 20 yrs.

LEGAL DIVISION

Shirley Henry Office Admn. Asst.V, 15 yrs.

MAINTENANCE

Jon O'Bannon Comm. Maint. Spec., 20 yrs.

MATERIALS

Jerry Burton District Materials Supervisor, 35 yrs.
 Ring Chad Sign Crew Supervisor, 5 Yrs.
 Keith Powell Materials Technician IV, 25 yrs.
 John Sullivan Striping Machine Driver, 5 Yrs.

PLANNING & RESEARCH

Mike Neal Accident Coding Clerk, 20 yrs.

SURVEYS

Lindy Bragg Aerial Photographer, 15 yrs.
 Leonard Petroff Surveys Technician II, 15 yrs.
 Thomas Stevens Surveys Aide II, 5 Yrs.

DISTRICT 1

Kenneth Balch Backhoe/FE. Loader Opr., 20 yrs.
 Joel Davis District Bridge Inspector, 15 yrs.
 Daniel Drew Rest Area Attendant, 15 yrs.
 Floyd Eskridge, Jr. Maintenance Aide, II 15 yrs.
 Billy Ficker Crew Leader, 25 yrs.
 Thomas Holmes, III Single Axle Truck Dr., 15 yrs.

DISTRICT 2

David Alverson Motor Patrol Opr.-Fin., 15 yrs.
 George Barfield Motor Patrol Opr.-Fin., 30 yrs.
 Yvonne Fowler Single Axle Truck Driver, 5 Yrs.
 Elbert Lybrand Crew Leader, 25 yrs.
 Damaris Mims Parts Runner, 5 Yrs.
 David Waters Crew Leader, 15 yrs.
 Rickie Wilson District Bridge Inspector, 30 yrs.

DISTRICT 3

Jackie Allen Maintenance Aide II, 10 yrs.
 James Carter Maintenance Aide I, 25 yrs.
 James Dixon Single Axle Truck Driver, 5 Yrs.
 Richard Kidd Roller Operator, 15 yrs.
 Johnny Mauldin Maintenance Aide II, 15 yrs.
 Ramon Rodriquez Maintenance Aide II, 15 yrs.
 Bobby Sharp Multi-Axle Truck Driver, 5 Yrs.
 Randy Sinyard Crew Leader, 10 yrs.

DISTRICT 5

Wanda Aldrich Area Hq. Attendant, 10 yrs.
 Jimmie Getson, Jr. Crew Leader, 25 yrs.
 Scott Lawrence Backhoe/FE. Loader Opr., 20 yrs.
 Elbert Layne Area Maintenance Supervisor, 25 yrs.

DISTRICT 6

Travis Billingsley Single Axle Truck Dr., 10 yrs.

DISTRICT 7

Samuel Bradshaw District Permit Officer, 30 yrs.
 Euclid Elliott Motor Patrol Operator-Fin., 15 yrs.
 Dannie Launius District Office Manager, 30 yrs.
 Jermy Purifoy Backhoe/FE. Loader Opr., 5 Yrs.
 Johnnie Risher, Jr. Area Maint. Supv., 25 yrs.
 Patrick Temple Maintenance Aide II, 15 yrs.
 William Wolfe Motor Patrol Operator, 15 yrs.

DISTRICT 8

Calvin Brannon Motor Patrol Operator, 5 Yrs.
 Alvin Warren Crew Leader, 20 yrs.

DISTRICT 9

Dennis Trammell Shop Supervisor, 20 yrs.

DISTRICT 10

Gerald Ellis Senior Mechanic, 10 yrs.
 Willie Mitchell Crew Leader, 20 yrs.

RETIREMENTS**INTERNAL AUDIT**

Shirley Graves Office Admn. Asst. IV, 33+ years

HUMAN RESOURCES

Jim Montgomery Safety Insp. Officer, 19+ years

DISTRICT 10

Larry Pillow Senior Inspector, 26+ years

MEMORIALS**DISTRICT 2**

Dequince Lewis, 08/18/04, retired

DISTRICT 7

Hershal F. Harwell, 08/24/04, retired
 James C. Meadows, 08/20/04, retired

DISTRICT 9

Edward W. Cummings, Jr., 08/21/04, retired

DISTRICT 10

Arthur C. Ball, 08/27/04, retired

ACTIVE DUTY**ARKANSAS HIGHWAY POLICE**

Shawn Foust Sergeant, 02/15/03
 Henry Lewis Permit Technician, 01/28/03
 Jack Stepp Sergeant, 10/12/03

ENVIRONMENTAL

Bart Dudley Env. Analyst I, 10/13/03

MAINTENANCE

Kennedy Ezell Bridge Repairer I, 10/13/03
 Bishop Terrell Sign Maker II, 10/13/03

REPRODUCTION

Mark Green Reproduction Tech., 10/13/03

DISTRICT 1

Lamaris Mitchell Sgl. Axle Truck Driver, 10/13/03
 Gary Morton Motorist Asst. Provider, 01/30/03

DISTRICT 2

Andrew Maddox Motor Patrol Operator, 01/30/03
 Leoyd Robinson Single Axle Truck Driver, 10/8/03

DISTRICT 6

Shirley Hammett Area HQ Attendant, 07/20/04
 J.W. McDorman Dist. Bridge Insp. Hpl., 01/20/04

DISTRICT 8

Michael Bunton Single Axle Truck Dr., 10/13/03
 William Fales Backhoe/FE. Loader Opr., 10/13/03

The CenterLine

Contact us at: AHTD Public Affairs Office
 P.O. Box 2261, Little Rock, AR 72203

**ARKANSAS HIGHWAY COMMISSION**

J.W. "Buddy" Benafield, Chairman
 Mary P. "Prissy" Hickerson, Vice Chairman
 Jonathan Barnett, Member
 Carl S. Rosenbaum, Member
 R. Madison Murphy, Member
 Dan Flowers, AHTD Director