

The Connection

NEWSLETTER

Fall 2020

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Message from the President

John E. Watkins

What an unusual summer it has been. Who would have thought that the Covid-19 pandemic would still be controlling most of our activities in the fall of the year? But, here we are, and on it goes. I would think that the word has gotten around by now that there will be no statewide retirees meeting this year. The executive board was in unanimous agreement that we should not ask members to come to Bryant under the present circumstances. It's just too risky. We also actually did not have a meeting place at this time as the City of Bryant has closed Bishop Park to the general public.

It looks as if the board will probably recommend that the present officers be asked to continue on for 2021. The board will discuss this again in November. Hopefully we can get back to more normal schedule which will include the visits to all of the chapters.

Speaking of officers, please remember the national election on November 3, 2020. Please go vote if at all possible. More elections are determined by the voters who stay at home than actually vote. Remember, "If you don't vote, don't gripe".

Robyn provided me with some interesting information on the ASHERS investment portfolio. As of the end of June, the rate of return was 9.07% which I believe ranked in the top 5 retirement systems in the nation. ASHERS return was 2.41%.

I would like to give a special thanks to Robyn Smith and her staff for keeping all of the regular retiree business going as if everything is normal.

Please continue to stay safe and healthy and we will do our best to see everyone next spring.



Sibyl Inez Maddox, also known as "Mawmaw" passed away on June 16, 2020. She was an avid Razorback fan that loved to cook, play scrabble, and spent lots of time with her family. She was a mother of 3 and the widow of Clifford A. Maddox Jr., who she was married to for over 66 years.

Sibyl began her career at the Arkansas Department of Transportation in September 1963 as a Clerk-Typist, retiring in October of 1979. Sibyl was very active in the Retiree's Association, serving as the Secretary and Treasurer for District 6 from 1983 until 2002. For many years, you could also always find her smiling face taking your ticket at the Retirees' Association Annual Meeting.

At the age of 102, Sibyl was the oldest member of the Retirees' Association, as well as the oldest retiree at the Department of Transportation, being retired for over 41 years. Her dedication and service to the Association is greatly appreciated and she will be dearly missed.

Address and Beneficiary Changes

Attention all retirees, if you move, please notify
RoShunda Colclough at the

Arkansas State Highway Employees' Retirement Office at
(501) 569-2532. Besides keeping your address and phone number 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.



From left to right: David Mayo – Sr. Vice President,
John Watkins – President, and Doyle Hughes – Secretary/ Treasury.
Not Pictured: Johnny Parks – Vice President



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 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.

Important Information from the Insurance Office

Hello Retirees,

Wow, what a year we have all had! By this time in the year, I have usually made my way around the state visiting the local retiree association chapters, but this year had different plans. I have missed seeing you all.

Coming up for the 2021 plan year, there will be a couple of changes. The big change is that retirees on Medicare or Spouse on Medicare will no longer be covered under the State's Prescription Drug Program.

If you are on Medicare or have a spouse on Medicare, you will need to enroll in a Medicare Part D plan during Medicare's open enrollment (October 15, 2020 – December 7, 2020).

Medicare Part D is not a one size fits all. You will need to do your research and find the plan that best suits your needs. My advice to you would be to go online at www.medicare.gov, call 1-800-MEDICARE (they have counselors available to guide you), visit a local insurance agent that sells Medicare Part D plans, or visit your local pharmacy for guidance.

The other change for 2021 is that rates are going up 5%. Once we have confirmed rates and information, we will be sending that to your home address.

I hope to see you soon face to face at an association luncheon soon, but until then be safe and stay healthy.

Ronda Walthall
Insurance Administrator



Ronda Walthall, Insurance Administrator,
staying safe while working.



In Loving Memory

ADAMS, DANNY
AKIN, JOE
ALLEN , RICHARD
ANDREWS, CARL
AVANTS, KAREN
BARNETT, JAMES
BARNETT, ROBERT
BEARD, DONALD
BERRY , IVA
BISHOP, MARY
BLEDSOE, HELEN
BOLDING, SHERRELL
BOOTH, MYRTLE
BOWEN, MELVIN
BRAMLETT, DOROTHY
BRAMLETT, STERLIN
BRITTINGHAM, JEAN
BROWN, ANGIE
BROWN, DONALD
BROWN, LOTTIE
BROWN, VERLIN
BRYANT, WILEY
BURLESON , CARL
BURROW, DEMPSEY
BUSH, JAMES
CARTER , ROY
CARTER, JIM
CARTER, JOHN
CASTLEBERRY, MARY
CLARK, KATHY
CLEVELAND, JERRY
COBB, LARKIE
DARR, EARLINE
DEATON, LARRY
DICKINSON , ANTHONY
DILLIN, CLEOTA
DYCUS, DOROTHY
FARRIS, DEAN
FAUGHT, NIVA
FORD, LEE
FOX, CHARLES

FULKS, MORRIS
GODFREY, TANNIE
GREENWAY, PATRICIA
HALK , SHELTON
HALL, HOSEA
HAMBRICK, ALVIN
HAMMONDS, KAREN
HARPER, NORMA
HARRIS, INA
HARRISON, ONIA
HOGGARD, JAMES
HORTON, SAMMY
HOUSE , FRANKLIN
HUDSON, BILLY
HUGHES, ROBERT
INGLE, BOBBY
INGLE, JR., LEONARD
JOHNSON, WILLIAM
KEEN, J.C.
LEACH, ROY
LINDSEY, GEORGIA
LINDSEY, LEONARD
LOWE, RICHARD
MADDOX, SYBIL
MAINER, ROBERT L.
MCCLENDON, JAMES
MCDOWELL, KIMMY
MCGEE, O Z
MCILROY, WILLIAM
MCLAUGHLIN, MARIE
MCMAHAN, WILLA
MILAM, BENNY
MILLIKEN, ROWENA
MIXON , DORIS
MOORE, BEVERLY
MOSS, HERBERT
MURRY, CARL
NEIL, GERALDINE
NELSON , CECIL
NELSON, BRENDA

NEWMAN, ARONDA
NICHOLS, JOE
PATTERSON, CHESTER
PERDUE, CHARLES
PRICE, OLLIE
PRINCE, BETTY JO
PRINCE, RICKEY
PRUETT JR., JOHN
RAINES, EARL
REED, DELORES
RICE, RICHARD
RICHMOND, ALICE
ROBERTS, REBECCA
RUSHING, CALVIN
SANDERS, TERRY
SIMMONS, ARABRYANA
SLEDGE , SHELBY
SMOTHERS, CHARLES
STEPHENS, HERMAN
STRINGER, JAMES
STROUD, ROY
STURKEY, JIMMY
TULLOS, LOIS
VESTAL, WILLIE
VICK, JUDITH
WATSON , ROBERT
WATSON, LEE
WELLS, RICHARD
WHEELER, CHARLES
WHITE, GEORGE
WHITE, THOMAS
WIDNER, ERVIN
WILLIAMS, JAMES
WILLIAMS, NORMA
WITHROW, RONALD
WOODS, ARMADENE
WRIGHT, BETTY
WRIGHT, HAROLD
WYCOFF, MILDRED
WYNN, JIMMY



“We regret any omissions”

Stop the Spread of Germs

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.



Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms' length) from other people.



Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands.



When in public, wear a cloth face covering over your nose and mouth.



Do not touch your eyes, nose, and mouth.



Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.



Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.



Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.



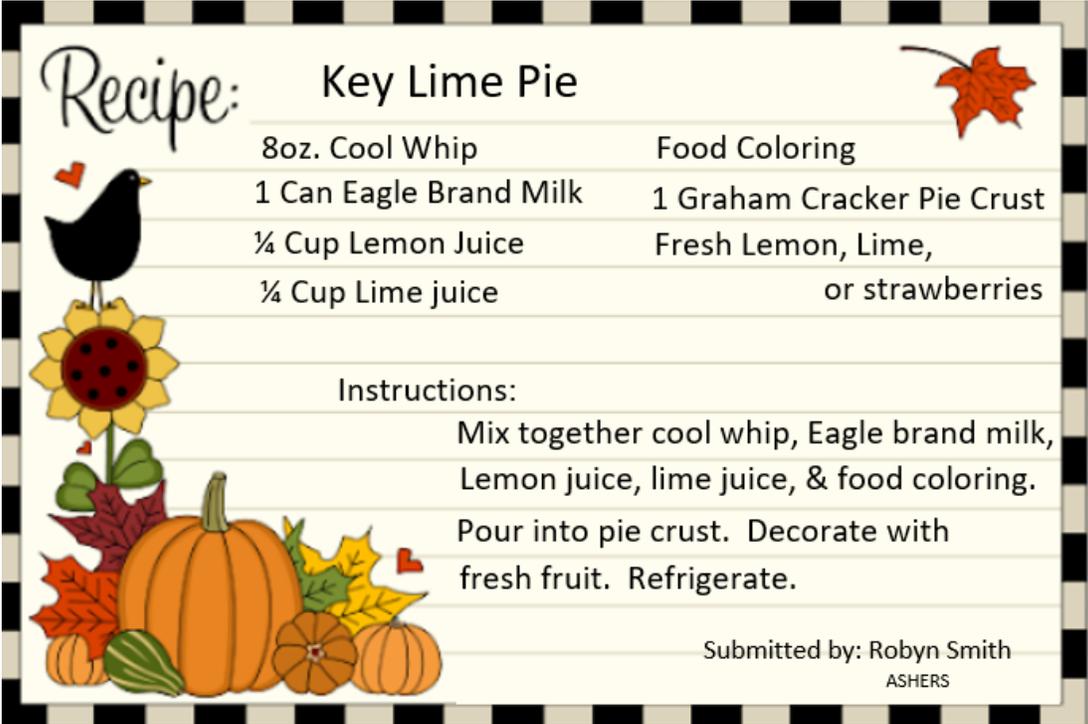
[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

Continued Importance of Dues:

Annual dues are still very critical to the success of our retirees' association. The district chapters are not meeting in person, so we strongly encourage meeting virtually using the Zoom app. Of course it is not the same, but it does allow you see each other in real time. All of the chapters are losing the momentum we once had prior to the Covid-19 pandemic. We need more than ever to maintain contact and support for your District Chapter. The annual dues fee has not changed, only \$15 for the retiree member and \$10 for their spouses. Each chapter secretary has a supply of 2021 Dues cards, or you can use the enclosed return envelope.

We would appreciate any ideas on how we can remain strong and attract new retirees, even after the pandemic eventually goes away.

Thanks,
Doyle Hughes, State Secretary/Treasurer



Recipe: **Key Lime Pie** 

8oz. Cool Whip	Food Coloring
1 Can Eagle Brand Milk	1 Graham Cracker Pie Crust
¼ Cup Lemon Juice	Fresh Lemon, Lime,
¼ Cup Lime juice	or strawberries

Instructions:

Mix together cool whip, Eagle brand milk, Lemon juice, lime juice, & food coloring.

Pour into pie crust. Decorate with fresh fruit. Refrigerate.

Submitted by: Robyn Smith
ASHERS

ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED
ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION EMPLOYEES
INC.



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

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.**

2021 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Retiree Name _____ \$15 Fee Enclosed

Spouse Name _____ \$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 _____