

The Connection

NEWSLETTER

Fall 2023

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Participation in the ARDOT Association of Retired Employees

Greetings to all ARDOT retirees. The Association of Retired Arkansas Department of Transportation Employees was incorporated on December 10, 1982. The petition for incorporation was presented by Hurley H. Perkins, Ralph B. Jones and E. A. Ashcraft. The first official annual meeting was November 2, 1983. Therefore, we are celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Association. I do not have a copy of the original By-Laws, but they were last approved, adopted and signed by C. F. Russenberger, President and Bonnie Wesson, Senior Vice President on October 27, 2016.

Membership and participation in the Association allows us to continue the fellowships developed over our years of service. However, there are other reasons for joining and participating. Among them are:

- To stay informed on what is happening at ARDOT. This includes getting updates about retirement benefits, health insurance and financials.
- To promote or oppose legislation which affects retirees. Although the Association is not a registered lobbying organization, informing retirees about proposed changes to laws and regulations allows retirees to let their local representatives know about their informed opinions of the changes.
- To persuade all retired employees to act as goodwill ambassadors to promote the activities and traditions of ARDOT.



We will have our second statewide meeting since the pandemic at the Bishop Park Recreation Center in Bryant on October 19, 2023 beginning at 11:30 a.m. Further details are included in this newsletter. A special Thank You is deserved to Board of Trustees member Larry Dickerson. He was the Association of Retired ARDOT Employees representative on the Board. Larry did not seek re-election to the Board and retired at the end of his term effective July 1, 2023 after four years of service.

David Mayo, President



STATEWIDE ANNUAL MEETING

Come and join your fellow retirees at the ARDOT Association of Retired Employees Annual Statewide luncheon and meeting beginning at 11:30 a.m. on October 19, 2023 at the Bishop Park Community Center, 6401 Boone Rd, Bryant, AR. Eat My Catfish is catering the event with fish, chicken, all the trimmings and fried pies.

Our guest speaker this year is Mr. Rex Nelson, Senior Editor of the Arkansas Democrat Gazette and frequent columnist on all things Arkansas. Come and enjoy his comments.

Tickets are \$15. While we are using the ARDOT logo, our bank account is still under AHTD Retirees Association. Therefore, checks for the annual meeting should be made out accordingly. Mail the form attached to this newsletter with your payment to Ronnie and Kit Smith, 6396 Bernice Ave., Springdale, AR 72762 or at the door. Please let us know if you are planning to attend.

Address and Beneficiary Changes

Attention all retirees, if you move, please notify RoShunda Watson at the Arkansas State Highway Employees' Retirement System (ASHERS) 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 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.



Johnnie L. Parks Sr. (1951-2023)

It was with much shock and sadness that we learned of the sudden passing of Johnnie Parks Sr. on June 24, 2023. Johnnie retired in 2008 as the Assistant Chief of Internal Audit. He was the Statewide Senior Vice President of the Association and a frequent participant at the District 6/Central Office Chapter's meetings.

Johnnie was a Deacon/Elder at the Longley Baptist Church and a member of Toastmasters. He was often called on to lead invocations at meetings and his eloquent prayers were appreciated by all. Condolences and prayers for his wife Veolia and the family during this time are appreciated. He will be missed.



ASHERS has provisions that allow an individual to retire by disability. Eligibility for disability retirement requires an employee to be vested, and the disability could not have been incurred prior to becoming a member of the System. To qualify for disability retirement, the health conditions of the applicant must prevent them from performing their assigned duties and must be permanent or of long duration.

To receive a disability annuity, an individual must apply through the Retirement Office. Once an application is received, the Retirement Office will contact the member's doctor(s) for documentation of the disability. Upon receipt, the required documentation is submitted to the ASHERS Medical Disability Board for review. The Board will evaluate to determine if the documentation supports approval for disability retirement. If approved the member will receive a full disability benefit based on the benefit calculation of the high 5- year average salary multiplied by years of service and the System multiplier of 2.2%.

A disability retiree may earn an amount less than what is considered by the Social Security Administration as the maximum amount that a person under sixty-five (65) years of age may earn without losing disability benefits. **Periodically, the System will require those retirees, who retired because of a disability, to submit proof of income.** In some cases, those retirees may be required to undergo a medical examination. If and when a medical examination shows that the disability has been removed, the annuity benefit shall cease until such time as the individual reaches the age and service requirements for service retirement.

If a disability retiree under age 65 secures employment making an amount that exceeds the Social Security Administrations maximum for retirement disability annuities, they must notify the Retirement Office. The retiree is allowed a nine-month trial period to earn compensation from that employment during which time ***no monthly benefits from the System will be paid.*** At the end of the nine-month trial period should the retiree wish to continue their employment outside the System, then the disability retirement status shall terminate.

Robyn Smith
ASHERS Executive Secretary



Newly Elected Board of Trustees Member Mitchell Archer

Upon the retirement of Larry Dickerson from the Board of Trustees, an election was held for his replacement. Retiree, Mitchell Archer, was elected to represent the ARDOT Retirees on the Board of Trustees. Mitchell began his full-time career with the Department in 1986 at the Harrison Resident Engineer's Office. He advanced through various positions at the Department. During his employment, he became a Registered Professional Engineer. He served on the ASHERS Board from July 2008 to March 2015. In February 2011, Mitchell was promoted to the District Nine Construction Engineer, a position he held until his retirement in December 2020. He began his term on July 1, 2023. Mitchell will be a great representative of the Association on the Board of Trustees.

"I am extremely honored to have been elected as the retiree representative member of the ASHERS Board of Trustees. I really enjoyed the time I was able to spend on the Board as the active employee representative and I look forward to the opportunity to again serve with professionals who have the best interest of current employees, retirees and future employees in mind. I appreciate the confidence of the retiree community for electing me."

Mitchell Archer

RETIREMENT PAYROLL SCHEDULE 2023

ALWAYS verify your deposit with your bank before spending.

Your monthly annuity payment, by check or direct deposit, should arrive by the NEXT TO LAST BUSINESS DAY of each month.

Those dates are listed to the right.

STATEMENTS ARE ONLY MAILED IN JULY AND DECEMBER

We cannot begin procedures to replace a lost check (if you didn't receive it) until 14 days from the date mailed.

Please be sure to notify us if your address changes so that we can send you the forms to update it.

Your point of contact is RoShunda Watson at 501-569-2532 or by e-mail roshunda.watson@ardot.gov

1/30/2023
2/27/2023
3/30/2023
4/27/2023
5/26/2023
6/29/2023
7/28/2023
8/30/2023
9/28/2023
10/30/2023
11/22/2023
12/22/2023

RECRUITMENT OF OFFICERS

Membership in the ARDOT Association of Retired Employees (the Association) is limited to AHD/AHTD/ or ARDOT retirees and/or spouses, widows or widowers. Individual Chapters are defined in the bylaws as being one or more in each ARDOT District. Each Chapter should have duly elected officers. There is also an additional Chapter set up for Northwest Arkansas retirees.

The Executive Committee of the ARDOT Association of Retired Employees consists of the Association President, the immediate past President, duly elected Association Officers, and Chapter Presidents or their designated representative.

As you are well aware, the last few years have been hard on the World, our Country and our Association. The District chapters are meeting again and your participation is needed for continued success of the Association.

Per the bylaws, a portion of the yearly Association membership dues collected is reimbursed to the Chapters for expenses. Association members can attend the Chapter closest to their residence if they desire.

PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING THE ASSOCIATION AND PARTICIPATING IN ONE OF THE INDIVIDUAL CHAPTERS. THE ASSOCIATION HAS PROVIDED RETIREMENT INSURANCE AND OTHER PERTINENT ARDOT INFORMATION FOR RETIREES AT CHAPTER MEETINGS.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT YOUR LOCAL ASSOCIATION OFFICER.

- **District 1-Roy Morris, President**
Next Meeting September 14, 2023 in Colt, Arkansas
- **District 2-Kelly Slater, President**
Next Meeting September 21, 2023 in Pine Bluff, Arkansas
- **District 3-Don Donaldson-President**
Next Meeting (Fish Fry) September 13, 2023 in Doddridge, Arkansas
- **District 4-No information available**
- **District 5-A. L. "Shorty" Coles**
Met July 11, 2023
- **District 6/Central Office-Mike Selig, President**
Met August 7, 2023. Meets First Monday monthly. (Except holidays-, meet second Monday)
- **District 7-Mike Nelson, President**
Met June 22, 2023. Meets 2nd Thursday bi-monthly.
- **District 8-Janet Boozer, President**
Met August 8, 2023
Next Meeting October 10, 2023 in Russellville, AR
- **District 9-No information available**
- **District 10-No information available**
- **Northwest Arkansas Chapter-Sam Turner, President**
Next Meeting August 29, 2023

IN LOVING Memory

Abernathy, Donald	Forthman, Dolly*	McClusky, Betty*	Shirley, Thelma*
Applegate, Joseph	Franklin, Louis	McConnell, Ewellene*	Showalter, Vada*
Barker, Velma*	Freeman, Leslie	McCoy, Oretta	Shrable, Doyle
Beck, Imogene*	Fulmer, Joel	McCree, Charlie	Sledge, Leodis
Bonds, Johnny	Garland, Billy	McNeil, Edna*	Smith, Cornelious
Bonds, Karen	Garrett, Lee	Meadows, James	Smith, Naida*
Boothe, Rex	Gee, Betty*	Means, Kevin	Smothers, Alyce*
Boyd, Charles	Giese, Orene	Milner, Carolyn	Snellgroves, Buster
Bradley, Rose	Glover, Joyce*	Mize, Bernard	Sorg, Earnest
Bridges, Shirley	Griffey, Leslie	Montalvo, Olga	Spears, William
Brown, Pat	Hanley, Roy	Neal, Mikel	Spencer, Donald
Buell, Don	Harrell, Mary	Nunnery, Martin	Starkey, Earnestine
Bullock, Allen	Harris Jr., Sam	Osmon, Donald	Stevenson, Alice*
Burton, Jerry	Hawkins, Gary	Owen, Loyd	Steward, Marvin
Bussell, John	Hayne, David	Pack, Robert	Stinson, Jimmy
Butler, Shirley	Hite, Gordon	Pangle-Johnston, Anita*	Stovall, Donald
Castleberry, Norma*	Hohnbaum, Marjorie*	Parker, Mary*	Stringer, Carolyn
Cates, Darris*	Horton, Coy	Parks, Johnnie	Stroud, Dennald
Chaney, Shirley*	Huneycutt, Homer	Patrick, Gregory	Strozier, Reuben
Chavers, Martha*	Ivy, Daniel	Patterson, George	Stucker, Ronald
Clayborn, Coy	Jones, Sybil*	Pellham, Nettie*	Taylor, Exie*
Clowers, Wendall	Karber, Billy	Perry, Leslie	Thornton, Jackie
Collums, Joyce*	Keeling, David	Perry, Roberta*	Tims, Troy
Cone, Jimmie	Kerst, William	Perryman, Thomas	Trussell, Michael
Conway, Reginald	Kiernan, Evelyn	Petties, Tony	Voyles, Charlene*
Copeland, James	Kizer, Maxine*	Phillips, Lynda	Waggle, Alene*
Cothrine, Bobby	Land, Spencer	Plummer, Lloyd	Walters, James
Cox, Harold	Lassiter, Calvin	Potter, Don	Ward, Nancy*
Craig Sr., James	Limbird, Michael	Pruett, Sharon*	Weston, James
Craig, John	Lindsey, Nancy*	Pruitt, Brenda	White, Clemon
Darter, Carol*	Luce, William*	Rawls, Calvin	White, Randy
Davis, Martha*	Mabry, Ina*	Ray, Leroy	Whitson, Cletis
Dong, Alive	Maples, Winifred	Reed, Leland	Williams, Fred
Duncan, Eugenia*	Marsh, Charles	Reed, Winfred	Wilson, Jane
Dunn, Winston	Martin, Sara*	Richardson, Lile	Wilson, Mary
Duty, Ruby*	Martin, William	Rose, Frank	Wood, Timothy
Evans, Freddie	Martin-Hall, Peggy	Ross, Albert	Woodard, Esther*
Ferguson, Ellis	Mattox, Frances*	Ruth, Gertie*	Wren, Novella*
Ford, Jo*	Mays, Clyde	Sage, Flo*	Young, Marshall
Forst, Jerome	McArthur, Daniel	Shepard, Melba	

Spouse*

“We regret any omissions”



Tickets for Statewide Annual Meeting
11:30 a.m. October 19, 2023
Bishop Park, Bryant Arkansas
\$15.00 Per Person
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
AHTD Retirees Association
PLEASE RSVP BY OCTOBER 12

Eat My Catfish
 is catering the event
 with fish, chicken, all
 the trimmings and
 fried pies!

District / Central Office Division _____

Name _____	Member _____	Spouse _____
Name _____	Member _____	Spouse _____
Name _____	Member _____	Spouse _____
Name _____	Member _____	Spouse _____

Address to send tickets to: _____

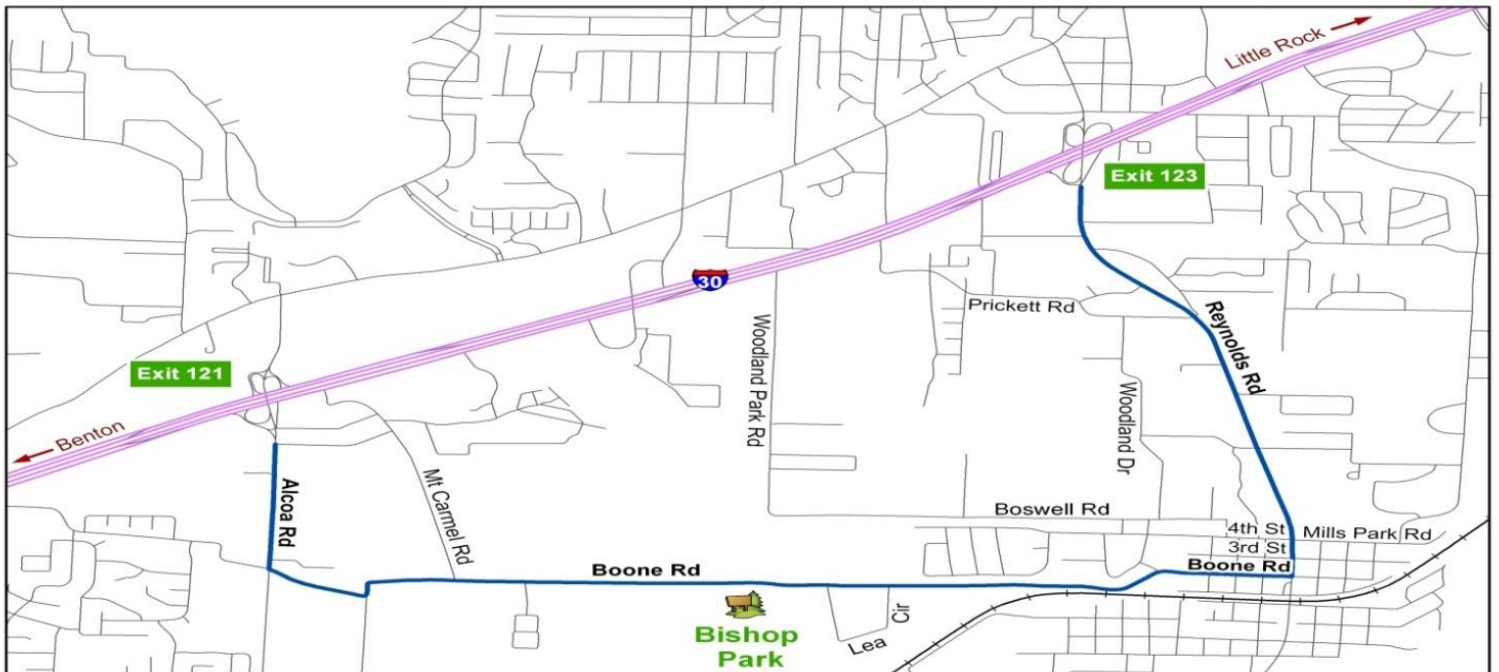
Ronnie and Kit Smith
 6396 Bernice Avenue
 Springdale, AR 72762

Our guest speaker this year is Mr. Rex Nelson, Senior Editor of the AR Democrat Gazette.



Do not miss out on food, fun, fellowship, door prizes and valuable information!!!

BRYANT COMMUNITY CENTER AT BISHOP PARK



ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED
ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION EMPLOYEES
INC.



Ronnie and Kit Smith
Secretary/Treasurer
6396 Bernice Ave
Springdale, AR 72762

Return Service Requested

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

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 membership dues or \$10 annual spouse dues to: **Ronnie and Kit Smith, Secretary/Treasurer, 6396 Bernice Ave., Springdale, AR 72762.** Make your check payable to: **AHTD Retirees Association.**

2024 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Retiree Name _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$15 Fee Enclosed
Spouse Name _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$10 Fee Enclosed
Phone Number (optional) _____	Year You Retired _____	Central Office Division/ District No. _____
Address _____	_____	Zip Code _____
Street or Route & Box No.	City	State
E-Mail Address _____		