

Save the Date

2026 Annual ARTA
State Convention

May 5, 2026

Benton, AR

Submit your photos,
news and content ideas
by October 15 for in-
clusion in the next issue
of this newsletter.

Address changes and
corrections:
office_arta@att.net
501-375-2958



Find and like us on
Facebook to see travel
photos, member news
and upcoming event
announcements.

ARTA Leadership 2025-2026

The officers of the ARTA Board of Directors assumed office on July 1, 2025 as follows:



Paulette Parker

Paulette Parker, a resident of Paragould, AR, graduated from Arbyrd High School in Arbyrd, Missouri and Arkansas State University in Jonesboro. She earned a BSE in mathematics with graduate work done at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville and the University of Central Arkansas. She taught mathematics in the Paragould School District and at Black River Technical College before retiring in 2006.

Since becoming a member of ARTA in 2007, Paulette has served in numerous local, area and board positions. She is also a member of the Greene County Election Commission, Greene County Museum Board, Greene County Genealogy Society Board, and AEA-Retired.



Rita Byers

Rita Byers is a resident of Washington, AR. She has been a member of ARTA since 2015. Prior to her nomination for board leadership, she served as an Associate Director for Area IV. She is also active in her local unit, having served multiple terms as president of the Nevada County School Employees Association.

Contact information for the ARTA Board of Directors, Area Leadership Councils, Local Units, and the ARTA staff is included in the 2025-2026 ARTA Directory, pages 7-10.



Susan Ridings

Susan Ridings spent 35 years in education, working in various positions that included Pre-school teacher, Special Education teacher, Federal Programs Director, Assistant Elementary Principal and Elementary Principal.

Since retiring in 2019, Susan has served as the President of the Cleveland/Dallas County Retired Teachers Association and as Vice President of the Fordyce School Board.

In her spare time, she enjoys traveling with her husband Karl and spending time with her four grandchildren.

Message from the President

Finding Our Strength

My year as ARTA President began on July 1st. This will be the second time I have had the honor to serve as president of ARTA. When I was asked to serve, I was hesitant, thinking that I could not serve in this position again. However, that was not the case. With the encouragement and support of Area III, I humbly accepted.



In January, I began having knee and hip problems to the point that surgery was imminent. The surgeries were total knee and hip replacements on different legs! The surgeries were scheduled for March 18 and June 26. I was concerned that I would have to resign my position, but I wanted to wait until after the first surgery to see if I would be able to do the work of being president. Both surgeries went well as did my recovery. I finished my physical therapy in August. I am now pain free and ready to do the work of ARTA!

A special "Thanks" goes out to Donna Morey, Executive Director, and staff Tammy Gray and Linda Powell. They stayed in touch with me throughout my recovery and kept me updated and advised on anything that I needed to do to get the year started. "Hats Off" to you ladies!

The first ARTA Board meeting was held on August 19th. I appointed committee chairs and an Ad Hoc committee to review the ARTA constitution. I want to thank those of you who accepted the committee appointments. Committee meeting dates will be set later. The fall leadership conferences have also been set. I plan to attend as many as I can. I enjoy visiting with members and hearing what's happening in the area RTA's.

My goal for ARTA is to increase membership. There are thousands of public-school retirees who are not ARTA members. Our task is to locate these nonmembers and ask them to join ARTA. Let them know that ARTA's main goal is to protect our retirement benefits. When we talk to legislators, we need to have a strong, loud voice. Let's get to work and grow our membership! There is strength in numbers. Together, we can make our voices heard!

I reside in Paragould, Arkansas. I ended my 38 year teaching career in the Paragould School District, teaching Junior High Mathematics. I graduated from Arkansas State University, Jonesboro, Arkansas, with a BSE in Mathematics and Science. I am active in the Greene County Election Commission, Greene County Museum Board, Greene County Genealogy Society Board, and the AEA-Retired.

I want to thank you for allowing me the privilege to serve as your president. The success of my term depends on ARTA members working together to truly make 2025-2026 a successful year!

Let me know if I can be of service to you.

Paulette Parker
ARTA President

STOP: Don't forget to pass this copy of the INTERLINK along to a new retiree or other potential member, along with your personal invitation to join.



Important Contact Information

Arkansas Retired Teachers Association

501-375-2958

E-mail: office_arta@att.net

www.artanow.com

* * *

Arkansas Teacher Retirement System Retirement Benefits and Checks

501-682-1517

E-mail: info@arttr.gov

www.arttr.gov

* * *

Arkansas Employee Benefits Division (Health and Life Insurance)

Inside Pulaski County: 501-682-9656

Toll Free (Nationwide): 1-877-815-1017

E-mail: ask.EBD@arkansas.gov

www.arbenefits.org

* * *

United Healthcare Medicare Advantage

844-488-3953

E-mail: stateofarinquiry@uhc.com

* * *

Long Term Care Insurance Cancer/Heart/Stroke Dental & Vision Insurance Medicare Products

Mary Alice Hughes & Lisa Bamburg

501-988-2726

Email: ask@ia-office.com

www.ia-office.com

Matt Hughes

479-967-1339

Email: info@matthughesinsurance.com

www.matthughesinsurance.com

The INTERLINK is published quarterly by
Arkansas Retired Teachers Association

1200 Commerce St Ste 103

Little Rock, AR 72202

Paulette Parker President
Rita Byers President-elect
Susan Ridings Vice President
Mark Gammill Immediate Past President
Evelyn Cash Secretary
Donna Morey Executive Director

Message from the Executive Director

A Community to Support

The new 2025-26 school and ARTA years have begun. Many of us smiled when we thought about no longer needing to have lesson plans ready or even having to dress at 6:30 am to be on the job. All of us smiled when we received our ATRS pension benefit statement in July showing the annual 3% simple COLA increase. Arkansas public education retirees have much to be thankful for.

The ARTA membership codes on the back of this newsletter include Life Continuing (LC) or Continuing Member Plus (CM+). These codes are for members who donate monthly *over and above their membership dues*. These additional contributions are directed to the ARTA Grants Program.

Currently 118 ARTA members contribute monthly to the grant program. This year the program awarded 11 grants to both classified and certified public-school employees. Those 118 members funded almost two of the 11 grants with their contributions! Thank you to the other 117 members for joining me in giving back to the future of our profession.

Please consider adding \$2 or more per month to support grants to active public-school employees to help pay for advanced schooling and additional certification.

Your COLA was much more than \$2 and you will never miss that amount from your benefit payment.

Most of the ARTA membership areas have scheduled their Area Leadership Conferences for this September or October. These

meetings are a great opportunity to see former colleagues and catch up. It is also a time to continue to learn about ways to keep our retirement system and benefits strong, as well as ways to give back to students and staffs of the local public-school community. We are much stronger working together as a group with common goals than as individuals. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. There is a good meal served and door prizes, too.

The progress of the For AR Kids ballot initiative for 2026 is being decided in the State and Federal courts. The original lawsuit filed in May of 2023 by State Senator Bryan King and the League of Women Voters is set to be heard in October of 2025. Since then, there have been more lawsuits to address similar issues with the bills passed in the 2025 session. The length of time this process is taking serves the Law, not Justice. It also disenfranchises voters.

The need for Civics classes, and for students and adults to be informed, is so important. I do believe the United States representative democracy is the greatest test of governing

ever created. It does depend on all citizens to take an active part in the process.

Are you an active part of the ARTA community?

We have room for all to share in the journey.

Donna



“Community is much more than
belonging to something; it is
about doing something together
that makes belonging matter.”

~ Anonymous

REMINDER: AR Benefits Retiree Coverage

You must be on the Public School Employees Plan on your last day of employment AND you must be eligible to begin drawing your retirement from ATRS to enroll in the AR Benefits PSE retiree plan.

Eligible retirees can enroll in retiree coverage **one** time. If you decline coverage, you will have to take multiple steps to apply later. If you drop coverage, you will **not** be able to rejoin later.

Members on the ARBenefits plan for public school employees, including retirees, can preview the anticipated rates for 2026 at www.artanow.com/resources.

ARTA Awards Grants for 2025



Annalise Cornett
Fayetteville School District



Leanne Emerson
Hector School District



Abby Stoops
Sheridan School District



Sandra Allen
Jasper School District



Joy Lovell
Vilonia School District



Crystal Hargrave
Valley Springs S.D.



Rachel Wheeler
North Little Rock S.D.



Randa Edwards
Cedar Ridge S.D.



Kelsey Abeyta
Junction City S.D.



Hannah Johnson
Southside S.D.



Laura Minick
Rogers Public Schools

Thank you to the members of the ARTA Grants Committee, who reviewed the applications, to other local ARTA members who volunteered to present the awards, and to the contributors to the ARTA Grants Fund.

Area Leadership Conferences

ARTANOW is divided into eight membership areas. The Area Leadership Council of each area is responsible for hosting an annual leadership conference for area members.

The purpose of the conference is to provide information and training to local units, to conduct area business, and to facilitate networking between leaders, local units and members.

ARTANOW leadership and staff will attend to share general information of interest to all members while area councils will provide more localized content.

All ARTANOW members are invited to participate in these area meetings.

Area I

October 23, 2025—Ft. Smith
Contact: Patti Floyd

Area II

October 7, 2025—Mountain Home
Contact: Brenda Smyth

Area III

October 9, 2025—Blytheville
Contact: Marcia Raeber-McClain

Area IV

October 28, 2025—Nashville
Contact: Glenda Clark

Area V

October 21, 2025—Sheridan
Contact: Barbara Wood

Area VII

September 23, 2025—Harrison
Contact: Diana Kolman

Area VII

October 16, 2025—Jacksonville
Contact: Linda Thurston

Contact information for area contacts is found in the 2025-2026 ARTANOW Directory, pages 7-10.

Welcome New Life/LC* Members

Arkansas County

Gayle Womack

Benton County

Sandra White

Boone County

Steve Cox
Christine S. Reeding

Bradley County

Gwen Sledge
Penny Vanderzwaln

Clay County

Sara J. Draper

Craighead County

Darryl W. Howerton
Staphanie Lunsford

Crittenden County

Jerri Ruth Hegwood
Joni Hutton
Eric Lee Kirkland

Drew County

Vicki Tilley
Deborah K. West

Faulkner County

Carol Edwards
Elizabeth Harness

Faulkner County

Dean P. King
Lisa K. Mack
Peggy Lea Paxton
Sloan Powell

Garland County

Kevin Catlett
Dana Dianne Gregory
Shawn Higginbotham
S. Renee Tester

Greene County

Kerry Combs
Michael Finch
Lisa Hargrave
Martha A. Highfill

Hot Spring County

Dorothy Miller

Independence County

Fred Denison, Jr.
Malcolm Long

Jackson County

Jerri Ann Mann Woodson

Jefferson County

Lorine Diggins
Billie Rogers

Johnson County

Christel Thompson

Lawrence County

Matthew Allen Stewart

Little River County

James K. Jones

Logan County

Thresa Brown

Lonoke County

Nadey Jo Dunn
Kim Henderson
Dianne Ingle
Ann R. Mayer
Terry Ramsey
Tammy Lynne Reeder
Judy Ruh

Marion County

Cheryl Blasdel

Miller County

Debra Arvin

Mississippi County

Sherry Baker
Shenia D. Culp
Norma Lee
Janet Mason
Ben Rutherford

Pope County

Teresa Joy.Cain
Joey Beth. Fields

Pulaski County

Lizbeth Sue Hall
Tammy D. Higdon
Kathryn Hinson
Lisa Johnson
Vicky Simpson
Kimberly Stafford

Saline County

Robbie Rutherford

Scott County

Randy Rutherford

Searcy County

Leslie W. Macan *

Sebastian County

Lisa Michele Daily
Shantelle Renee' Edwards
Lisa L. Johnson

Union County

Geneva J. Moss

Washington County

Gayle D. Bowman
Shelia Churchill
Dana Henderson

Washington County

Naida Mendez
Charles L. Nokes
Lorna Nulph
Joye Elizabeth Ryan
Patricia Sanders
Melissa Watts

White County

Dawn Atkins
Stacy Falcinelli
Thomas Falcinelli
Karen Wisdom

Out of State

John Warren Bane

* **Life Continuing** members are Life members who have elected to have additional dues deducted from their monthly benefit check.

These additional dues are used to support the ARTANOW Grants Program.

Member News

Area II

The **White County RTA** participated in the annual THV Channel 11 Summer Cereal Drive. Members of the WCRTA are pictured below with Tom Brannon of Channel 11 and Claire Tiffin of the Arkansas Foodbank.



Submit your photos, news and story ideas
by October 15 for inclusion in
the next issue of this newsletter.



Find and like us on Facebook to see
more member photos and local news.

Area V

The **Bradley County RT&EA** held their first meeting of the year in August. The program included updates from Hermitage and Warren school superintendents, recognition of outgoing officers and introduction of new officers, and planning for the new year.



Area IV

The **Clark County RTA** presented two active teachers with scholarships to extend their education. Recipients were Michael Ankton, Social Studies teacher, and Della Miller, Math and Physical Science teacher.

Dr. Ellen Holmes was presented the 2025 Jack Hardy Volunteer Award by the Texarkana Arkansas School District. In addition to her tireless service to the district, Dr. Holmes is a long-time member of both ARTA and the **Miller County RTA**.



Members of the **Ouachita County RTA** took a field trip for their May meeting. They visited Camark Cottage, which holds an extensive collection of CAMARK pottery.

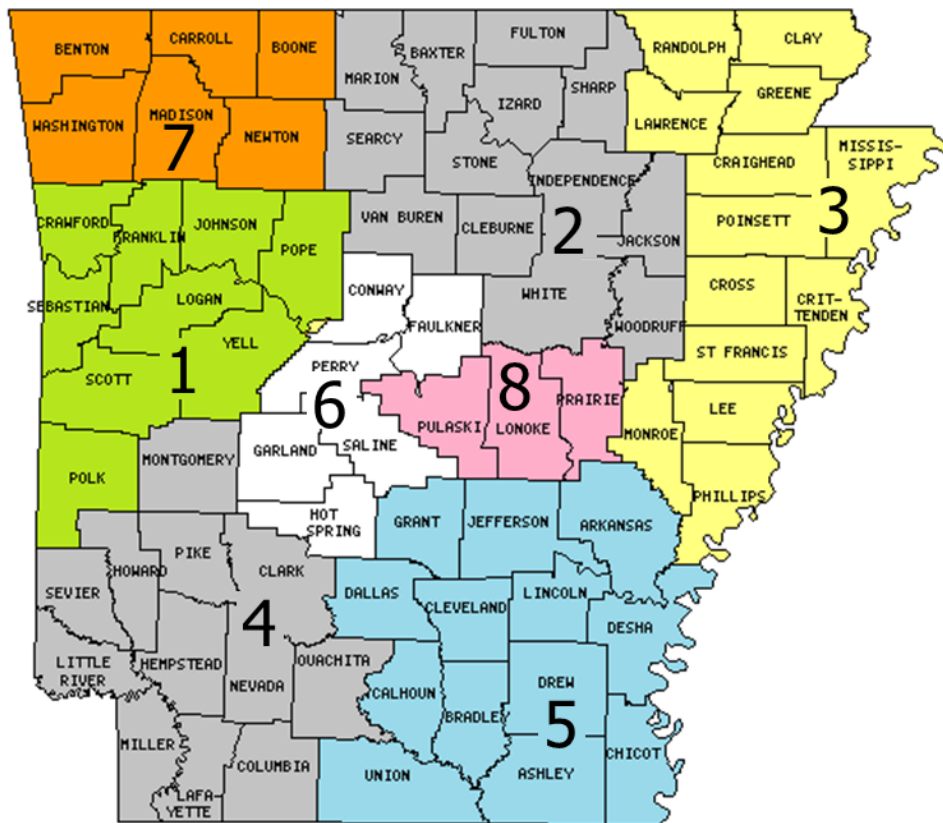
CAMARK pottery is an art pottery produced in Camden, AR from 1926 through the early 1960's.



Photo of pottery made of Camden clay,
courtesy of www.arkansaspottery.com.



ARTA Directory



2025-26

Officers & Board Members

Area & Local Leadership

ARTA Staff

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Paulette Parker
870-476-0113
fpp1944@yahoo.com

PRESIDENT-ELECT

Rita Byers
870-777-2685
rbyers@swat.coop

VICE PRESIDENT

Susan Ridings
870-313-1710
ridhan@windstream.net

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Mark Gammill
501-253-0474
gammillm@gmail.com

SECRETARY

Evelyn Cash
870-325-7242
evelyn.cash1@gmail.com

2025-26 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

AREA I

Meryl Ware, BM
479-414-5324
merylware@yahoo.com

Patti Floyd, AD

479-461-6486
pattifloyd72903@yahoo.com

AREA II

Danny Townsend, BM
501-254-9371
drtowns7087@sbcglobal.net

Brenda Smyth, AD
870-448-6224
brendasmyth0@gmail.com

AREA III

Barbara Davidson, BM
870-995-1164
badavidson58@gmail.com

Marcia Raeber-McClain, AD
870-762-5796
mraeber1@gmail.com

AREA IV

Board Member—VACANT

Glenda Clark, AD
903-733-4624
glendenise@sbcglobal.net

AREA V

Gina Mitchell, BM
870-866-3294
gmitchel@sbcglobal.net

Barbara Wood, AD
501-538-6104
bcwood61@gmail.com

AREA VI

Sandra Bradberry, BM
501-581-9439
springbrier49@gmail.com

Debbie Huddleston, AD
501-529-4348
dhudd1@swbell.net

AREA VII

Board Member—VACANT

Diana Kolman, AD
479-903-3532
dkolman@cox.net

AREA VIII

Rita Bledsoe, BM
501-240-6889
rbmuzic@yahoo.com

Linda Thurston, AD
501-834-6078
r.thurston@att.net

BM—Board Member
AD—Area Director

STAFF

ARKANSAS RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

1200 Commerce St #103
Little Rock, 72202
501-375-2958

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Donna Morey
donna_arta@att.net

COMMUNICATIONS

Tammy Gray
tammy_arta@att.net

OFFICE MANAGER

Linda Powell
linda_arta@att.net

ATRS EX OFFICIO

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mark White
1400 West Third St
Little Rock, 72201
501-621-8853
markw@artsr.gov

TRUSTEE

Anita Bell
501-851-2731
b42mag@aol.com

TRUSTEE

Danny Knight
870-556-0251
dannyknight08@comcast.net

TRUSTEE

Bobby Lester
501-680-0815
blester33@comcast.net

TRUSTEE

Chip Martin
479-530-7776
chipmartinarkansas@gmail.com

TRUSTEE

Jeff Stubblefield
479-965-3256
jstubblefield@tigersmail.org

STANDING STATE COMMITTEES

COMMUNITY SERVICE & PUBLIC RELATIONS

Brenda Smyth, Chair
870-448-6224
brendasmyth0@gmail.com

INSURANCE & HEALTH SERVICES

Anita Bell, Chair
501-851-2731
b42mag@aol.com

MEMBERSHIP

Diana Kolman, Chair
479-903-3532
dkolman@cox.net

GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Barbara Wood, Chair
501-538-6104
bcwood61@gmail.com

LEGISLATIVE

Marcia Raeber-McClain, Chair
870-762-5796
mraeber1@gmail.com



www.artanow.com



Annual ARTA State Convention May 5, 2025

AREA and LOCAL LEADERSHIP

AREA I ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

Cher Horwedel
479-414-5955
maestra@cox.net

Gary & VJ Cunningham
479-970-4527
vj.garycunningham@gmail.com

CRAWFORD COUNTY

Cindy Wofford
479-650-6713
cindywoff@gmail.com

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Charlotte Taff
479-518-0848
taffca@yahoo.com

JOHNSON COUNTY

Debbie Johnson
479-885-6168
alfdeb1981@gmail.com

LOGAN COUNTY

Gary Cunningham
479-970-4527
vj.garycunningham@gmail.com

POLK COUNTY

Contact Area Director

POPE COUNTY *

Katherine Teeter
479-747-6018

SCOTT COUNTY

Contact Area Director

SEBASTIAN COUNTY

Fort Smith RTA

Patti Floyd
479-461-6486
pattifloyd72903@yahoo.com

S. Sebastian Co. RTA

Meryl Ware
479-414-5324
merylware@yahoo.com

YELL COUNTY

Denise Dewveall
479-970-5153
ddewveall@gmail.com

AREA II ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

John Heath
870-731-5044
jbhltc98@gmail.com

Elaine Blair
870-448-6232
elaine_blair1912@yahoo.com

LaDonna McBride

870-291-0971
ladonnamcbride62@gmail.com

BAXTER COUNTY

Carol Wegerer
870-404-0318
carol.wegerer@gmail.com

CLEBURNE COUNTY

Sue West
870-668-3615
cswest@aristotle.net

FULTON COUNTY

Contact Area Director

INDEPENDENCE CO.

Ann Stephenson
870-384-2315
astep424@gmail.com

IZARD COUNTY

Anna Floyd
870-368-5012
annafteacher@hotmail.com

JACKSON COUNTY

Vickie Williams
870-930-6438
vickiew2010@hotmail.com

MARION COUNTY

Contact Area Director

SEARCY COUNTY

Jackye Adams
870-504-0184
jackye46@windstream.net

SHARP COUNTY

Contact Area Director

STONE COUNTY

Contact Area Director

VAN BUREN COUNTY

Mark Gammill
501-253-0474
gammillm@gmail.com

WHITE COUNTY

Danny Townsend
501-254-9371
drtowns7087@sbcglobal.net

WOODRUFF COUNTY

John Heath
870-731-5044
jbhltc98@gmail.com

AREA III ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

Anne Creekmore
870-733-4710
ajcreekmore@comcast.net

Robin Nichols
870-761-0100
robinp.nichols@gmail.com

Barbara Hightower

870-295-2668
barhightower@aol.com

CLAY COUNTY

Contact Area Director

CRAIGHEAD COUNTY

Susan Armstrong
870-931-5520
sarms62.sa@gmail.com

CRITTENDEN COUNTY

John Heath
901-410-3677
lheath1@comcast.net

CROSS COUNTY

Contact Area Director

GREENE COUNTY

Paulette Parker
870-476-0113
fpp1944@yahoo.com

LAWRENCE/ RANDOLPH COUNTIES *

Mike Holland
870-926-7450
jmh_evergreen@hotmail.com

LEE COUNTY

Wayne Williams
870-295-6046
gbud12friend@gmail.com

MISSISSIPPI COUNTY

Wayne Griffin
870-564-2494
wandsgriffin@gmail.com

PHILLIPS/ MONROE COUNTIES

Earnest Simpson
501-626-7166

POINSETT COUNTY

Contact Area Director

ST. FRANCIS COUNTY

Shirley Taylor
870-270-6870

AREA IV ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

Nellene Roberts
870-245-6599
nroberts@suddenlink.net

Elizabeth Tye
870-904-0382
etye@suddenlink.net

CLARK COUNTY

Glenda Aldridge
501-844-6629
glenda.aldridge@att.net

COLUMBIA/ LAFAYETTE COUNTIES

Annie Witcher
870-562-9394
preach2bfree@yahoo.com

HEMPSTEAD COUNTY

Glenda Clark
(903) 733-4624
glendenise@sbcglobal.net

HOWARD COUNTY

Judy Cassady
870-451-3953
ffnft59@gmail.com

LITTLE RIVER COUNTY

Linda Walker
903-293-0473
walkerlinda078@gmail.com

MILLER COUNTY

Cordia Metcalf
903-244-9585
cordiametcalf2020@gmail.com

MONTGOMERY/ PIKE COUNTIES

See West Central Counties

NEVADA COUNTY

Rita Byers
870-703-4524
rbyers@swat.coop

OUACHITA COUNTY

Leota Harvey
870-836-6062
leota45@hotmail.com

SEVIER COUNTY

Contact Area Director

WEST CENTRAL COUNTIES

Bob Thompson
870-403-1195
bobtarta@icloud.com

* Last known contact OR
election pending at time
of printing

AREA and LOCAL LEADERSHIP

AREA V

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

Charles Freeman
870-538-8344
cibf83521@gmail.com

Anne Smith
870-226-6215
annes11145@gmail.com

ARKANSAS COUNTY

Contact Area Director

ASHLEY COUNTY

Lucille Smith
870-364-3856
69lousgirl@gmail.com

BRADLEY COUNTY

Marilyn Johnson
870-952-0421
granmarilyn@gmail.com

CALHOUN COUNTY

Contact Area Director

CHICOT COUNTY

Charles Freeman
870-538-8344
cibf83521@gmail.com

CLEVELAND/ DALLAS CO'S

Susan Ridings
870-313-1710
ridhan@windstream.net

DESHA COUNTY *

Molly Bratton
870-501-2034
molly.bratton@sbcglobal.net

DREW COUNTY

Contact Area Director

GRANT COUNTY

Betty Cook
870-942-6461
jbcook@windstream.net

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Vickie Liddell
jamesvickieldd@sbcglobal.net

LINCOLN COUNTY

Contact Area Director

UNION COUNTY

Sue Hull
870-314-0294
gsh6366@yahoo.com

AREA VI

CONWAY COUNTY

Regina Long
501-977-4556
devildogmom76@gmail.com

FAULKNER COUNTY

Sandra Bradberry
501-581-9439
springbrier49@gmail.com

GARLAND COUNTY

Brenda Seiz
501-538-6615
brendaseiz@gmail.com

HOT SPRING COUNTY

Contact Area Director

PERRY COUNTY

Patricia Allison
479-252-5590
pattiallison404@gmail.com

SALINE COUNTY

Debbie Huddleston
501-529-4348
dhudd1@swbell.net

AREA VII

BENTON COUNTY

Rogers RTA
David Cauldwell
479-721-2747
dcauldwl@gmail.com
BOONE/NEWTON CO'S
Lynn Holmes
870-405-0782
lholmes1959@yahoo.com

CARROLL COUNTY *

Donna Hill
870-423-5388
dappy@windstream.net

MADISON COUNTY

Contact Area Director

WASHINGTON CO.

Berta Seitz-Cobbs
479-799-4829
bertaseitzcobbs@gmail.com

* Last known contact OR
election pending at time
of printing

AREA VIII

ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

Lori Black
501-985-1292
lbblack@yahoo.com

Liz Swinton
501-940-2135
lswinton@yahoo.com

LONOKE COUNTY

Contact Area Director

PRAIRIE COUNTY *

Maryanne Williams
501-231-7600
arbooklady@gmail.com

PULASKI COUNTY

Little Rock Retired Teachers

Rudolph Howard
501-920-1037
rhoward5216@att.net

NLRSD REA *

Lee Tackett
501-251-3166
tack082859@gmail.com

No Pulaski Retired Teachers

Barry Matthews
501-590-1513
barrym13@yahoo.com

Retired Teachers & Other Educators of Little Rock

Pat Dean
501-920-2773
thomasbaskins@aol.com

South Pulaski RTA

Debbie Morris
501-529-5888
rowlanddj@yahoo.com

Find a local unit meeting at www.artanow.com/calendar

IMPORTANT DATES and OTHER NOTES

Area VI

Each year, the **Faulkner County RTA** makes a donation to a local recipient for their contribution to growth in education. The most recent recipient was the Boys and Girls Club of Faulkner County.

Pictured below are FRCTA members Connie Simpson and Jennie Webb presenting a check to Liza Bray, Jimmy Toal and Wesley Simpson of the Boys and Girls Club.



Last year, members of the **Garland County RTA** proposed the addition of Dr. Mamie Phipps Clark to the Arkansas Walk of Fame. Members worked to raise both funds and awareness for the project. Thanks to their efforts, Dr. Clark was recognized this spring with a plaque on the Walk of Fame in Hot Springs, AR.

Members of the GCRTA are pictured below with a poster depicting Clark, who was a pioneer in the field of psychology and a trailblazer for Black women in academia.



To learn more about Dr. Mamie Phipps Clark or the Arkansas Walk of Fame, visit encyclopediaofarkansas.net.

Area VII

The director of Arvest Park, home of the Northwest Arkansas Nationals, joined the **Washington County RTA** for their March meeting, where he shared information about the team and the park, including volunteer opportunities.

WCRTA members had fun with the March theme, which included shamrocks and leprechauns.



Area VIII

The **South Pulaski County RTA** continued their 2023-24 project in 2024-25. Members purchased, washed, pressed, and cut fabric to make pillows for the orthopedic department at Arkansas Children's Hospital. SPRTA made and donated a total of 68 pillows.



ARTA Travel Policy

ARTA members are invited to participate in safe, affordable group travel. Guests are welcome but must travel with an ARTA member. Whenever possible, ARTA trips are escorted by a member of the ARTA staff.

BOOK EARLY—ARTA partners with Collette Travel to offer these customized travel opportunities. Plans include a reserved block of airline seats for each trip. A deposit is required to reserve your seat and to ensure you receive any advertised price reduction. Reservations made after the seating block is filled, or after the booking date has passed, are based on availability and are subject to a price increase. Prices include round trip airfare from Little Rock National Airport. Departures from alternate gateways can be requested when booking.

BOOK ONLINE—Collette Travel utilizes an online reservation booking system. Go to www.artanow.com/travel and click on each trip for the customized web page with itinerary, pricing and online reservation form.

BOOK DIRECT—Collette Travel also offers a direct booking number for those who prefer to call. Call 1-800-581-8942 and refer to the ARTA booking number provided for each trip.

MOTORCOACH TRIPS—ARTA contracts with local companies for motor coach trips to U.S. destinations. These trips require a minimum number of travelers booked **with deposit**. Reservations are accepted on a first come-first serve basis.

For general questions about traveling with ARTA, contact Donna Morey at donna_arta@att.net or call the ARTA office at 501-375-2958.

SAVE ON TRAVEL for 2026

Early booking rates still available on the following trips:

Majestic Cities of Central & Eastern Europe #1336191

April 26—May 9, 2026

Experience the very best of Europe's cultural capitals. Highlights include Berlin, Dresden, Prague, Prague Castle, Vienna, Impact Moment, Viennese Candy Workshop, Budapest, Matthias Church, Krakow and Auschwitz, plus choice of tours and optional add-ons. **Book by September 20, 2025 for best pricing.**



Colorado Rockies

#1244383

June 19—27, 2026

Explore the rolling meadows and towering peaks of Colorado. Highlights include Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado National Monument, Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, Durango and Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad, Mesa Verde National Park and the Pikes Peak Cog Railway. **Save \$150 pp—book by Dec 12, 2025.**



SPACE STILL AVAILABLE

Contact the ARTA office to learn more about booking trips after the seat-reduction date has passed—501-375-2958 or donna_arta@att.net.

Discover America's 250th Anniversary

#1336272

September 7—15, 2026

Celebrate the marking of America's 250th anniversary with a journey from "the Cradle of the American Revolution" through the historic hubs of New York and Philadelphia and to the nation's capital, Washington, D.C. Highlights include the Museum of the American Revolution, West Point Academy, NYC Panoramic Tour, Arlington National Cemetery, U.S. Capitol Building Tour, Lexington & Concord and the Liberty Bell. **Save \$150 pp—book by February 28, 2026.**



Sunny Portugal Discovery

#1336436

October 11—20, 2026

Ancient castles and Roman ruins, groves of orange and almond trees, quiet whitewashed villages, and welcoming locals—Portugal awaits. Highlights on this leisurely tour include Lisbon, Belem, Cork Factory, Evora, Alentejo, Algarve, Picnic Lunch in Monchique, Portuguese Riviera, Obidos, Sintra, and UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Extend your discovery with a tour extension or optional add-ons. **Save \$250 pp— book by April 5, 2026.**



New York City Holiday 2026

#1336124

December 5—9, 2026

"Start spreading the news" - you'll be enjoying America's most exciting city as it shines during the holiday season. Highlights include Greenwich Village, Wall Street, Christmas Spectacular at Radio City Music Hall, Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, 9/11 Memorial, 9/11 Museum, and a Broadway Show. **Save \$500 pp—Book by May 5, 2026.**



Tropical Costa Rica—January 22-20, 2026

African Safari—March 30-April 13, 2026

Alaska Discovery Land & Cruise—May 13-24, 2026

Venice & Croatian Islands Cruise—September 28-October 10, 2026

In Memoriam

"These immortal dead who live again in minds made better by their presence"

Arkansas County

David H. Wood

Baxter County

Loretta D. Cruse
Glenda L. Hopper
Benjamin F. Suddeth
Susan E. Wepprecht

Benton County

Diana L. Bray
Mary E. Daves
Rita J. Duffer
Tommy R. Duncan
Deborah M. Intessimone
Janet D. Jordan
Joseph L. McAtee
Sarah McBride
Sandra K. Millsap
Michael W. New
Teresa J. Powers
William B. Spradlin
Janice V. Willsey

Boone County

Joe W. Clemons
Dennis D. Crunkleton
James H. Hirsch
Martha A. Hutcheson
Dan P. Ohler
Mary E. Silzer
Donald W. Young

Bradley County

Karen R. Ferguson

Calhoun County

Jeannie L. Brewer

Carroll County

Peggy E. Houpt
Bernice Trigg

Chicot County

Ruthie Butler
Sharon R. Spurlock

Clark County

Willa D. Campbell
Charlotte F. Cannon
Margie R. Kluck
John M. Willett

Clay County

Regina K. Crittenden
Constance P. Johnston

Cleburne County

Wanda M. Gallaway
Patsy H. Pillard

Cleveland County

Frankie M. Hall
Vanita L. Hendricks

Columbia County

Elizabeth B. Cheatham
Kimberly J. Wyrick

Conway County

Lindsey L. Parks
Doris M. Riggs

Craighead County

Tommy R. Davis
Juanita F. Felts
Jeanette D. George
Dona A. Goodnight
Linda G. Harris
Cheryl M. Smith
Dana B. Spencer
Ellen L. Wilson
Sherry D. Womack

Crawford County

Leonard J. Breeden
Douglas E. Cottrell
James M. Funderburg
Norman C. Lingo
Marilyn G. Mauldin
Charles R. Reneau

Crittenden County

Leester Gage
Joy H. Landrum
Sammie J. Parker
Carole H. Rash
Jimmy A. Sutherland
Sherry L. Whitman
Anita Woods

Cross County

Zona L. Ellis
Jimmy E. Mitchell
Gary L. Moore

Dallas County

Hubert R. Harper

Desha County

Lula M. Page

Drew County

Nancy C. Andrews
Murle M. Pennington
Edgar R. Spencer

Faulkner County

Ann W. Callaway
Deborah J. Crawford
Robbie Z. Dace

Faulkner County

John H. Duke
James I. Hickman
Mary E. Hutto
Paula J. Kittle
Gary T. Kuykendall
Carolyn R. Mebane
Mary H. Mosley
Debra Taylor
Curtis L. Thurman

Franklin County

Linda F. Proffitt
Nina J. Reed

Fulton County

Patricia L. Neal

Garland County

Jacquelyn S. Anderson
Sherrill
Raymond Barraclough
Paula S. Deist
Jackie DeShazo
Peggy L. Drake
Larry W. Fite
Jerry A. Franks
Margaret A. Hartmann
Pamela A. Kidder
Ted M. Nobles, Sr.
Nancy L. Powers

Grant County

Nita F. Chadwick

Greene County

Timothy L. Dowler
Brenda Stone
Bonnie S. Yow

Hempstead County

Mary V. Echols
Drury S. Hoover
Dora A. Philyaw
Bobbie R. Powell
Billie M. Russell

Hot Spring County

Patricia D. Hughes

Howard County

Marilyn Sepulvada

Independence County

Johnnie E. Babb
Lee R. Brewer
Carlotta A. Brown
Kendall W. Cash
Glenn D. Davis

Independence County

Sandra B. Dobbs
Emma L. Hedden
Lillie M. Morgan
Melvin D. Riddle
George F. Snelgrove
Betty J. Tate
Don H. Tomlinson
Carolyn L. Toy

Izard County

Joy D. Frizzell
Jared T. Moxley
Roy S. Runsick
Paul D. Wilson

Jackson County

Edna R. Armitage
Naomi M. Breckenridge
Beverly K. Papineau

Jefferson County

Lee P. Bruce
Laverne B. Bryant
Shena R. Combs
Tenita L. Gragg
Lucille E. Johnson
Lorean Kelley
Florine J. McDonald
James E. Rinchuso
Bonnie D. Robinson
Harold G. Smith
Jimmy C. Temple
Gwendolyn Williams
Maryland B. Wynne

Lafayette County

Sue Terry

Lawrence County

Constance S. Davis
David W. Fisher
Elizabeth E. Lacy

Lee County

Karen M. Kilgore

Lincoln County

Betty B. Harvey
Billy R. McGehee
Dorothy Smallwood

Logan County

Donna K. Ford
Berneda J. Morris

Lonoke County

Petrevia A. Boardman
Betty D. Buffalo

Lonoke County

Joyce L. Campbell
Joseph H. Harris
Wanda F. Rhine
Jarrel C. Shearer, Jr.
Frankie P. Thomas

Madison County

Murlene Harriman
Roma L. Stepp

Marion County

David W. Duckworth

Miller County

Christophehr M. Witmer

Mississippi County

Brenda M. Holt
Johnnie J. Long
Earlene Macklin
Ella M. Poag
Earnestine Ray
Paul T. Stubblefield

Montgomery County

Ruth N. Stanfill

Nevada County

Merlyn Watson

Newton County

Imogene Streen

Ouachita County

Sarah Y. Green
Margaret Story

Phillips County

Leroy Williams
Gail P. Yates

Pike County

Billy R. Lee

Poinsett County

Pearl D. McGowan
Deborah L. Rhodes

Polk County

June F. Bodkin
Zona Fuchsberger
Elizabeth D. Warren

Pope County

Sharon L. Bell
Delia R. Branch
Alta L. Cheek
Johnnie W. Cox
Gladys V. Hutson
Janis K. Linden

Memorials and Donations

MAY, JUNE, JULY

Thanks to the thoughtfulness and generosity of individuals and local units, \$1,705 in memorials, honorariums and donations were contributed to ARTA in the last three month period. An additional \$908.50 contributed by Life Continuing and Continuing Plus members brings the total to \$2,613.50.

Your gifts to ARTA, for whatever reason, are greatly appreciated and are a meaningful and substantive part of funding the ARTA Grants Program. This program funds grants to Arkansas public-school personnel to further their own education.

Columbia County RTA

In Memory of:

Rae Beasley Buchanan
Kim Wyrick

Conway Co. RTA

In Memory of:

JoAnn Powell

Greene County RTA

In Memory of:

Bernita Rowe Rogers

Independence Co. RTA

In Memory of:

Lee Roy Brewer

Johnson County RTA

In Memory of:

Linda Richardson

Nevada County

In Memory of:

Merlie Watson

Union County RTA

In Memory of:

Sylvia Henley
Ruthal Lowdermilk

Marcia Raeber-McClain

In Memory of:

Leroy Williams

In Honor of:

Johnnie Toney

Stanley & Jeanne Wells

In Honor of:

Patti Hill
Rita Gramlich
Debbie Rainwater
Bruce Womack

ARTA Grants Program

Anne Creekmore
Barbara Hightower
Cher Horwedel
LaDonna McBride
Debbie Morris
James Morris
Elizabeth Tye
Ella Walker-Rolfe
Craighead County RTA
Hempstead County RTA
Nevada County RTA
Phillips County RTA

In Memoriam

Pulaski County

Dennis R. Brant
Joyce C. Bridges
Sterling L. Bryels
Anne O. Burnside
Pamela L. Cash
Sue L. Castle
Eva I. Clowers
William Cornelious, Jr.
Victoria L. Cunningham
Sarilea Deaton
David L. Diggins
Victor V. Eackles
Nancy C. Eddy
Judy L. Fluker
Martha J. Ford
Connie B. Graham
Linda M. Greenwood
Darren E. Harding
Michael L. Hill
Tony M. Hindman
James S. Holloway, Jr.
Nancy L. Howard
Mike Johnson
Mildred B. Jones
Patricia A. Leach
Janice Lewis
Bobette N. Manees
Walter Marshaleck, Jr.
Kathryn D. Martin
Faith R. McLaughlin
Alfreda L. Menefee

Pulaski County

Gloria K. Miller
Patricia C. Racop
Ellen M. Rail
Edward Rosby
Phyllis R. Slaton
Rose M. Taylor
David E. Thomas
Nancy E. Wineburger

Randolph County

Geraldine Brewer
Clarence T. Doan

Saline County

Glenda F. Arey
Demo L. Hampton
Betty J. Hobbs
Eva E. Lequieu
Robert M. Paulovich
Laverne L. Struble
Bobbie J. Tissue
Cathleen C. Treat

Scott County

Vivian A. Napier

Searcy County

Willie M. Pruitt

Sebastian County

Donna J. Bridges
Zelma Green
Barbara L. Hamrick

Sebastian County

Connie J. Hixson
Donna J. Mitchell
Richard G. Rhodes
Jennie L. Rogers
Doyle E. Seamans
Judith A. Tanner

Sevier County

Marlyn S. Phillips
Wanda G. Sullivan

Sharp County

Charlotte K. Fowler
Thelma S. Rook
Lois J. Russell

St. Francis County

Ella J. Davis
Minnie P. Mull
Martha J. Vinson
Ethel L. Westbrook

Union County

James D. Hearnberger
Sylvia N. Henley
Daniel E. Lum
Estelle M. Sewell
Patsy Shope

Van Buren County

Eloise Brown
Marjorie L. Koone

Washington County

Diane S. Breazeale
Jo A. Brown
Shirley M. Danks
Kent B. Detmer
Teri B. Eklund
Patsy A. Green
Winston D. Harper
Ronald D. Jones
Cathy L. Marak

Janice S. Martin
Doyle W. Morgan
William O. Nichols
Jo-Anne Pearcey
Frank S. Price
Barbara G. Rutledge
Billie J. Tucker

White County

Phyllis A. Arrowsmith
Mary S. Billingsley
Wayne R. Coffelt
Vickie Fowlkes
Elbert D. Lee
Naomi R. Noble
Karen D. Roberts
Robert E. Roberts
William M. Spears
Lora L. Swindle

Woodruff County

Cleodis V. Smith

Out of State

Michael L. Arnold
Harry M. Brown
Doris A. Colvin
Charles B. Dryer
Charline T. Dunkle
Anne Fletcher
Anita Gardner
Robert A. Giuffre
Thelma L. Gosby
Frances Hasley
Elizabeth W. Hauptert
Janice S. Hibbard
Donnie R. Hines
Ethel H. Horn
Janice M. Johnson
Mary C. Jones
Marshallene Jordan
Bakri H. Marashi
Sharon K. McCray
Mary A. Morden
Micki D. Orian
Marcella M. Simon
Nancy E. Smith
Alice M. Stuff
Jo E. Thomas
Lois D. Turpin
Terry L. Vestal
Regina D. Wheeler



Arkansas Retired Teachers Association
1200 Commerce St Ste 103 · Little Rock, AR 72202

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 225
Little Rock, AR

Membership Key

Your membership type follows your name on the address portion at right:

Annual Member—number shows the expiration date of membership

Continuing Member—CM

Continuing Plus—CM+

Life Member—LM

Life Continuing—LC



Address changes and corrections: office_arta@att.net or 501-375-2958

Arkansas Retired Teachers Association Membership

JOIN, RENEW OR CHANGE YOUR MEMBERSHIP

1. ☐ I elect to have \$2 per month deducted from my benefit check for ARTA dues (CONTINUING MEMBER, CM) *
☐ Plus \$ _____ per month for the ARTA Grant Fund (CONTINUING PLUS MEMBER, CM+)
2. ☐ I elect to have \$20 deducted from my benefit check for 12 months for a total of \$240 (LIFE MEMBER, LM) *
3. ☐ One-time payment of \$240 enclosed (LIFE MEMBER, LM)
4. ☐ I am already a Life Member AND elect to have \$ _____ per month deducted from my benefit check for the ARTA Grant Fund (LIFE CONTINUING MEMBER, LC) *
5. ☐ Payment of \$36 enclosed (ANNUAL MEMBER, July 1—June 30)
6. ☐ Contact information change **ONLY**

* You are authorizing the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System to deduct your ARTA dues from your monthly benefit check.
This authorization may be canceled only by a written notice from you to ARTA (the association) or ATRS (the retirement system).

Name _____ Signature * _____

Address _____ Telephone _____

City/State/Zip _____

County _____ Social Security Number (last four digits only) _____

Email _____ Date _____

Send completed form and applicable payment to: **ARTA Membership, 1200 Commerce Street Ste 103, Little Rock, AR 72202**