

# HELP PROTECT YOUR RETIREMENT BENEFITS, STARTING TODAY

## SPRING 2020

- If you have not done so already, join the Arkansas Retired Teachers Association, the voice of public education retirees ([www.artanow.com](http://www.artanow.com)). Be sure to include a cellphone number or email so you will receive legislative alerts and other important notifications.

## SUMMER 2020

- Join the local RTA unit near you. There are more than 60 ARTA affiliates around the state where you can stay up-to-date on issues of interest, meet your area legislators, and work with fellow retirees on strategies to communicate with elected officials.
- Read and share ARTA's Effective Communication with Elected Officials ([www.artanow.com/resources](http://www.artanow.com/resources)).
- If you are a local unit leader or legislative chairman, begin developing contact teams for your area legislators. These are individuals who are willing to reach out to candidates or legislators when issues of importance and urgency arise.

## SEPTEMBER 2020

- Attend your fall local unit meeting!
- If you are a local unit leader or program committee chair, invite political candidates to your fall local unit meetings so that your members can meet them and learn more about their stance on social insurance programs such as health insurance, Medicare, Social Security and pensions.
- Send a handwritten letter to the candidates participating in the November general election in your area!

Tell them why a stable retirement income is important to you. Explain how changes in contributions, benefits, premiums and overall costs affect you and your family.

Ask them to support legislation that preserves your retirement benefits, lowers your healthcare and insurance costs, or increases the purchasing power of your income.

## OCTOBER 2020

- Attend your fall local unit meeting!
- Set up a personal meeting between you and some of your fellow retirees with any candidates running for state office in your area.
- Reach out to ARTA after your meeting to let us know how it went, and to help you answer any questions or provide supplemental materials that your candidate requested.
- After meeting with candidates, be sure to follow up with them by sending a thank you note and any additional information they may need.
- Gather with your fellow retirees and make a plan to get to the polls.

## NOVEMBER 2020

- **VOTE VOTE VOTE !!!**
- It is always important to vote. Your consistency and activism proves to elected officials that you care about your health and retirement benefits and that you will be vigilant about making them work for you.

## DECEMBER 2020

- Send a note of congratulations or a holiday card to the elected officials who will be serving as your State Senator and State Representative in January.
- Mail your note or card to the Capitol by addressing one of the following:  

The Honorable (Full Name), Arkansas House of Representatives, State Capitol, 500 Woodlane St. Suite 350, Little Rock, AR 72201-1089

The Honorable (Full Name), Arkansas Senate, State Capitol, 500 Woodlane St. Ste 320, Little Rock, AR 72201-1090.
- Be sure to include the following information in your note or card: your name, contact information, your professional background/history, and your concerns about health and social insurance programs, especially the state health insurance program and your pension fund.

