



INTERLINK

CONNECTING ARKANSAS'S PUBLIC EDUCATION RETIREES

Volume 66, Number 1 | Parkview Towers • 1200 Commerce Street Ste 103 • Little Rock, AR 72202 • 501-375-2958 | Fall 2023

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

ANNUAL MEMBERS

If you are an annual member, as indicated by the "23" on your mailing label, your membership has expired. Please renew or change your membership type using the form on the back page.

Address changes and corrections

Submit form on back page or contact us: office_arta@att.net
501-375-2958



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

Parsons-Burnett Grants Awarded for 2023

The ARTA Board of Directors voted to award 15 grants for 2023.

Three Mitchell-Fair Grants were awarded to classified public-school employees who are working toward becoming licensed teachers. The recipients are:

Rebecca Leveritt, Hamburg
Vicky Parrish, Magazine
Christie Poole, Jasper

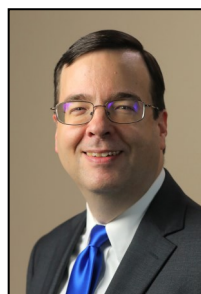
Twelve Parsons-Burnett Grants were awarded to practicing educators for the purpose of furthering their own education. The recipients are:

Jessica Culver, Ozark
Megan Edgar, Cedar Ridge

Marla Edwards, North Little Rock
Cynthia Howard, Fayetteville
Eli Hurt, Westside (Hartman)
Ashley January, Greenland
Angel-Marie McDaniel, Little Rock
Hannah McDonald, Riverview
Katherine Messersmith, Lake Hamilton
Hannah Mhoon, Springdale
Vanessa Mobley-Duran, Riverview
Rose Schmidt Riley, Bay (Jonesboro)

The awards were presented to recipients by ARTA members at school board and other district meetings in late summer. Photos of the recipients will be featured on the ARTA Facebook page and in the next issue of the INTERLINK.

New Director Assumes Leadership of ATRS



Mark White was recently named the new executive director of the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System. On the job since July 1, Mr. White had this message for INTERLINK readers—

As I close out my second month on the job as the Executive Director of your Arkansas Teacher Retirement System, I have learned much and have so many things to be thankful for. Your retirement benefits are entrusted with a System that is financially sound and stable and has excellent performance compared to similar systems around the country. It is a System overseen by a Board of Trustees that is committed to preserving the System for both this generation and future generations. And it is a System whose dedicated employees work hard each day to serve you.

One of my top priorities is to stay connected with our members. If you use Facebook, please

go to the ATRS page and click on the "Like" and "Follow" buttons. We will be regularly sending out useful information and updates. And if you have already signed up for our online portal at www.artrs.gov, make sure you sign up to receive our Executive Director Update emails.

As a 20-year veteran of state government, I know that even the best organizations always have room to improve. I would welcome your suggestions and ideas, as well as your questions and concerns. Please feel free to reach out to me—my email is MarkW@artrs.gov and my direct office phone number is (501) 621-8853.

My vision for ATRS is a retirement system that is faithful to its 140,000+ members, that is fiscally responsible, and that is trusted by our state's elected officials. We at ATRS are here to serve you and to safeguard your retirement.

Mark White

ARTS Executive Director

Message from the President

ARTA Shines

My year as president started July 1, 2023. I began by meeting with Donna Morey, Tammy Gray, and Linda Powell and learning the ropes! I already appreciate these ladies as they are wonderful help and a great source of information.



The theme for ARTA this year is “ARTA Shines.” I am asking that photos of your group’s shining moments be sent to the ARTA office. Be sure to label and get them to Tammy Gray by the first of the year so they can be highlighted as we celebrate ARTA’s 85th anniversary.

I have appointed committee chairs for the year 2023-2024 as follows - Community Service/PR - Cindy Cole, Area I; Grants/Scholarships - Evelyn Cash - Area V; Insurance/Health Services - Anita Bell, Area VIII and ATRS Board of Trustees; Legislative - Marcia Raeber-McClain, Area III; Membership - Jane Webb, Area VII. I also appointed a special committee consisting of area board members who will study changing the boundaries of some membership areas.

A representative from CAPES (Citizens for Arkansas Public Education and Students) addressed the ARTA Board of Directors concerning the effort to place the LEARNS Act on the 2024 ballot. The board passed a motion to join CAPES as a coalition member.

Mark White, the new director of the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System, also addressed the ARTA board. He reported that the retirement system is strong and that the ATRS Board of Trustees approved investments in two Arkansas businesses, Westrock Coffee Company and Hybar Steel Mill. Mr. White invited all members to sign up for his director’s message at www.artsrts.gov.

The Grants Committee recommended that twelve Parsons-Burnett Grants and three Mitchell-Fair Grants be funded. The board voted to accept this recommendation. You can read about the ARTA Grant Program and the grant recipients elsewhere in this publication.

The Insurance and Health Services Committee is monitoring the activity of the Employee Benefits Division. Information about the PSE Health Insurance Plan for 2024 will be shared as soon as it is available.

Other standing state committees will meet at Committee Day on September 20, 2023. A calendar of this and other ARTA meetings was approved for inclusion in the 2023-24 ARTA Directory that is included in this issue.

The ARTA staff reported that membership is currently 11,719. Lawrence and Randolph Counties have reactivated. Plans to contact new retirees were discussed. The need for training at the area leadership conferences was also discussed and a proposed training agenda was approved. More on that to follow.

More information about the work of the ARTA board, committees and staff will also be shared with you throughout the year as it develops.

I hope all this information will help you in the coming year.

Remember...“ARTA SHINES!”

Cissie Pendergrass

ARTA President

Important Contact Information

Arkansas Retired Teachers Association

Inside Pulaski County: 501-375-2958
Toll Free (Nationwide): 1-888-929-0955
E-mail: office_arta@att.net
www.artanow.com

* * *

Arkansas Teacher Retirement System Retirement Benefits and Checks

501-682-1517
E-mail: info@artsrts.gov
www.artsrts.gov

* * *

Arkansas Employee Benefits Division (Health and Life Insurance)

Inside Pulaski County: 501-682-9656
Toll Free (Nationwide): 1-877-815-1017
E-mail: 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 by
Arkansas Retired Teachers Association
1200 Commerce St Ste 103
Little Rock, AR 72202

Catherine Pendergrass President
Mark Gammill President-elect
Mary Ann Hodges Vice President
Cindy Cole Secretary
Donna Morey Executive Director
Tammy Gray Communications
Linda Powell Office Manager

Message from the Executive Director

Paying It Forward

I am so proud that ARTA was able to award 15 grants to Arkansas public-school employees this summer. This year we officially named the grant for classified employees the Mitchell-Fair Grant. It is named for Johnelle Mitchell, the first classified employee to serve as ARTA president, and Dr. Paul Fair, the executive director of ARTA who implemented the grant program. Three individuals currently working in public schools while pursuing a teaching certificate were selected for the award.

Twelve individuals were selected to receive the Parsons-Burnett Grant for certified personnel. This grant is named for Johnnie Burnett and Floyd Parsons, the first two paid executive directors of ARTA. These awards are intended for practicing educators to further their education.

Thank you, ARTA members, for helping us make these awards possible. You may send memorials or donations to the ARTA Grant Fund, as some local units do, or have deductions taken from your ATRS monthly benefit payment. These deductions are designated for the grants, making you a Life Continuing or Continuing Plus member.

Currently 124 ARTA members are giving a minimum of \$2 per month above their dues of \$2. Several members give significantly more. After receiving the 3% annual COLA on your benefit check, the small deduction is not missed. Please consider joining those of us who contribute through this method. Giving back to public school employees is paying it forward. Pictures of the grant presentations will be in the next issue of the INTERLINK.

On paying it forward, the great UCLA Basketball Coach John Wooden said—

“You can’t live a perfect day without doing something for someone who will never be able to repay you.”

Effective August 1, 2023, Arkansas public schools will be implementing Act 237 of 2023, known as the LEARNS Act. The ARTA Board of Directors at the July 18, 2023 board meeting voted to join the Citizens for Arkansas Public Education and Students coalition, known as CAPES. CAPES is the grassroots organization behind the effort to put a referendum on the LEARNS Act on the 2024 ballot. The Board believes that Arkansans should have had the opportunity to learn more about the massive 144-page education reform legislation before it was passed. Putting it to a vote is one way to give voters a choice whether or not they support the changes.



CAPES faced a steep challenge due to another act that was also passed. Act 236 of 2023 changed the requirements for collecting signatures on petitions for items to be placed on the ballot. It increased from 15 to 50 the number of counties needed to collect the required 3% of the registered voters in the State. I don’t know about you, but I did not hear about that being a necessary change in legislation from my elected state senator or state representative. There is a currently a lawsuit on the constitutionality of Act 236, due to it making a change to the Arkansas Constitution by legislation instead of a vote of the people. The plaintiffs in the suit are Senator Bryan King and The League of Women Voters.

ARTA continues to provide safe, worry-free group travel experiences with Collette. Remember that travelers can fly from any gateway in the USA and join the group at the starting city of the tour. Please indicate when you book if you want to travel from a different gateway than the default of Little Rock. If there is an additional airline cost, Collette will contact you prior to booking the trip. As long as one person in the group is an ARTA member you may have guests in your traveling party.

BOOK EARLY! This way you receive an early booking discount and are guaranteed to be in the group. Collette also has the best travel insurance - cancel up to 24 hours prior to departure to get a full refund of the trip cost minus the cost of the trip insurance.

I have visited or am scheduled to visit local units in Lawrence-Randolph Counties, Boone-Newton Counties, Fort Smith, South Pulaski County and Faulkner County this fall. President Pendergrass and I will be attending the NRTA Advocacy Conference October 2-5, 2023 in Washington D C. The Area V Leadership Conference will be October 10th in Fordyce.

Your ARTA staff and president will be happy to visit your local units, if you invite us to come to your meeting. We get charged up by being with other retired public-school educators.

Look for ways to pay it forward!

Donna

STOP!

Don’t forget to pass this copy of the INTERLINK on to a new retiree or other potential member.

REMINDER: You can refer back to past copies of the newsletter at www.artanow.com/newsletter



2023-24 Leadership Advancements

ARTA began a new membership year on July 1. In accordance with the constitutional process for elections and advancement, the new officers for 2023-24 are as follows:



Catherine Pendergrass
President

Catherine “Cissie” Pendergrass lived on a sugar cane plantation in Cuba until Fidel Castro took over. Her family then moved to Fort Smith, Arkansas.

A graduate of the University of Arkansas, Cissie taught in Springdale, Pulaski County, Lavaca and Charleston. Upon retiring, she became active in the Franklin County Retired School Employees Association. Her experience includes serving as the president of FCRSEA and as a member of the Area I Leadership Council.

Cissie is active in her community, as a volunteer with the Charleston School District Spelling Bee, with the Charleston Ministerial Alliance, and in her church. She is also a member of various alumni associations, sororities and other organizations.

She is married to her college sweetheart John Paul Pendergrass. They have two children and three grandchildren.



Mark Gammill

Mark Gammill is a graduate of Southern Baptist College. He earned a BSE in education from Ouachita Baptist University and an MSE in administration from the University of Central Arkansas. Mark retired in 2014 after 36 years in public education.

Mark enjoys the benefits of the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System. He recalls the wise words of one superintendent that he worked for early in his career who told him to “Get in the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System and stay there.” As a member of the ARTA board, he is

looking forward to working with ARTA members to maintain a vibrant and healthy teacher retirement system for current and future retirees.

Mark currently lives in Clinton, AR with his wife of forty years, Vickie Jennings Gammill. His favorite job is being G-pa to his adorable grandchildren.



Mary Ann Hodges
Vice President

Mary Ann Hodges is a graduate of Trumann (Arkansas) High School. She has a BSE and MSE degree from Arkansas State University. Her teaching career began with three years in her home town of Trumann followed by 34 years in the Jonesboro Public Schools. Twenty five of those years was as a Language Arts teacher for sixth grade. She enjoyed her years of teaching and the students and co-workers.

She is now enjoying retirement. She has served as the Craighead County RTA President for three years, as an Area III Director and Co-Director and as ARTA Secretary for two years! She serves to help keep herself and her area's public-school employees, retirees and ARTA members informed about educational issues.

In addition to her service with ARTA, she has also supported and volunteered in the Helping Neighbors Food Pantry for Craighead County, City Youth. She also volunteers and serves in different areas in her church, Central Baptist.

She is married to Curt, and says “We love to travel at home and abroad. We also have a son and daughter and two wonderful teenage grandsons!!”

Contact information for all ARTA board members, area leaders and local unit presidents is listed in the ARTA Directory included in this issue and online at www.artanow.com/resources.

Australia & New Zealand Uncovered #1170747

March 11—April 1, 2024
Optional Post Tour Extension—4 Days/3 Nights in Fiji

The early booking date for this tour has passed, but you can still book this once-in-a-lifetime travel opportunity at current prices. Read about this and other ARTA trips on pages 8-9 or visit www.artanow.com/travel.

Book online or contact us at 501-375-2958 for more information.



2024 Retiree Health Insurance

2024 plan rates for the PSE Retiree Health Insurance Program were pending approval at print time. ARTA will share the rate information, as well as information about the open enrollment process, as soon as it is available (see information at right).

Remember that ARTA does not administer your health insurance benefits. For guidance on the following, contact the Employee Benefits Division directly at 501-682-9656.

- ◆ Active to Retired
- ◆ Eligibility & Enrollment
- ◆ Dependent Coverage
- ◆ Loss of Coverage
- ◆ Medicare Eligibility
- ◆ Pharmacy Benefits
- ◆ Voluntary Products

PSSST

Whispers is a bi-weekly email from ARTA. Sent between issues of the newsletter, it includes time-sensitive information, action items and important dates.

If you are not already receiving this information, please send your email address to tammy_arta@att.net. Be sure to add this email to your contacts list.

Welcome New Life/LC * Members

Arkansas County

Linda Gunnell
Carol Jo Lambert

Benton County

Marilyn Gilchrist
Brenda Jarman
Betsy Kinkade
Tonya Petet
Anne Saullo
Michele Sterrett
Christina L. Sweet

Boone County

Katie Deakins

Calhoun County

Regina Scroggins

Chicot County

Cristy Stone

Cleburne County

Delores L. Clark

Craighead County

Gayla Anderson
Karen Vardell
Angela G. Watson

Franklin County

Belinda Brown
Sammie Brown

Garland County

Cass Adams
Marjorie Beth Davis
Kathy Sue Hopper
Mary Vitro

Grant County

Melissa L. Overton
Pamela J. Thompson

Greene County

Joseph M. Marsden

Hempstead County

Cletus J. Coulter
Kathy L. Owen

Independence County

Lisa Rich

Jefferson County

Kimberly A. Gober
Julie Ann Taylor
Willene J. Ware

Lee County

Lillie Sexton

Logan County

Karen S. Schluterman

Lonoke County

Patricia A. Gregory
Robert L. Hoover, Jr.

Madison County

Lisa Pooree
Connie tenBerge

Miller County

Debra Biddle
Jeff Foreback

Mississippi County

Gerri McCann
Mary J. Smith

Montgomery County

Mary N. Wilson

Ouachita County

Rose M. Sullivent

Phillips County

Cuarlsthine Thomas *
Leroy Williams *

Poinsett County

Vicki McClung

Polk County

Staci Brooks

Pope County

Jeanine Humphrey

Pulaski County

Jill Brooks
Vanessa E. Cleaver
Brenda G. Harris
Glenda L. McCune
Susan Miller

Saline County

Melinda Henthorne
Cynthia W. Rockett
Laura Smithson
Billie Wallace
Janet Watson

Searcy County

Dinah Graham

Sebastian County

Melitta McCorkle

Union County

Shelley Forbess
Sheila Russell
Mark Harrison Smith

Washington County

Arlene Joye Gartsid
Brian Horne
Janet M. Snyder
Tammy M. Tucker
Karen Wikholm
Suzanna J. Williams
Tammy Zulpo

White County

Cheri Wright

Out of State

Kelly Davis
Audrey Roberts

* 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 ARTA Grants Program.

Member News

Area I

The Logan County RTA invited several speakers to present a program on the LEARNS Act at their July meeting. In addition to hearing from school district representatives, they also heard about the petition drive to put LEARNS on the ballot from a CAPES representative.



Area III

The Phillips County RTA awarded four scholarships for 2023.

Recipients were Jordan Franklin, Central High School graduate, Jordan Jacobs, Marvell/Elaine High School graduate, and Lalia Nolan and Kaitlyn Sims, KIPP graduates.

These students were active in their schools, churches and communities during high school. Upon their enrollment in an institution of higher learning, they will receive \$1,000 toward their education from the PCRTA.

Recipients are pictured below with members of PCRTA.



What I Did on my Summer Vacation

By Art A. Unit

Many local units do not meet in the summer months, or meet only to plan their programs for the upcoming year.

To find out when local units meet this fall, or to learn more about planned programs, contact the local unit contacts found in the directory insert, or visit

www.artanow.com/news-events.

The St. Francis County RTA was proudly represented at the Area III Leadership Conference by Elizabeth McNutt, Johnie Toney, Myrtle Jamison, and Donna Johnson.



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

2023-2024
ARTA Directory



Officers & Board Members
Area & Local Leadership
ARTA Staff

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Catherine "Cissie" Pendergrass
479-651-4288
cbpendergrass@yahoo.com

PRESIDENT-ELECT

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

VICE PRESIDENT

Mary Ann Hodges
870-932-1536
hodgesmac@sbcglobal.net

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Dr. Diana Glaze
501-771-1046
dlisow@aol.com

SECRETARY

Cindy Cole
479-847-5708
crmccole@yahoo.com

2022-23 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

AREA I

Andrea Romo, BM
479-667-7681
andrea46romo@gmail.com

Beth Ulrich, AD
479-438-0198
abuiyq@gmail.com

AREA II

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

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

AREA III

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

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

AREA IV

Bob Thompson, BM
870-403-1195
bobtarta@yahoo.com

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

AREA V

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

Betty Cook, AD *
870-942-6461
jbcCook@windstream.net

AREA VI

CONTACT ARTA

AREA VII

Jane Webb, BM
479-685-1541
janewebbar@gmail.com

Dr. Clarice Cox, AD
479-858-1778
wccox1@cox.net

AREA VIII

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

Linda Derden, AD
501-944-5834
lderden@yahoo.com

BM—Board Member
AD—Area Director

STAFF

ARKANSAS RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

1200 Commerce St #103
Little Rock, 72202
501-375-2958
888-929-0955

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@art.rs.gov

TRUSTEE

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

TRUSTEE

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

TRUSTEE

Bobby Lester
501-982-0465
blester33@comcast.net

TRUSTEE

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

IMPORTANT DATES and OTHER NOTES

Area I April 9, 2024

Area II _____

Area III _____

Area IV _____

Area V October 10, 2023

Area VI _____

Area VII _____

Area VIII _____

Annual ARTA State Convention May 14, 2024

Local unit meetings are listed at www.artanow.com/news-events



www.artanow.com

AREA and LOCAL LEADERSHIP

**AREA I
ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS**
Susan Green
479-970-5436
susangreen1973@yahoo.com

Cher Horwedel
479-646-1664
maestra@cox.net

Billie Warrick
479-996-4933
bwarrick@cox.net

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

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

JOHNSON COUNTY
Debbie Johnson
479-979-8439
alfdeb1981@gmail.com

LOGAN COUNTY
Glenda Ezell
479-461-2382
glendagail.55ge@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**
Judy Eldridge
870-291-0064
judyeldridge60@yahoo.com

John Heath
870-731-5044
jheath002@centurytel.net

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.
Alice Simmons
870-307-4595
alicecorinne603@gmail.com

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

JACKSON COUNTY
Jesse Davis
870-523-9335

MARION COUNTY
Contact Area Director

SEARCY COUNTY
Jackye Adams
870-448-2495
jackye46@windstream.net

SHARP COUNTY
Carol Bates
870-847-0365
batescarol7@yahoo.com

STONE COUNTY
Contact Area Director

VAN BUREN COUNTY
Mark Gammill
501-253-0474
gammillm@gmail.com

WHITE COUNTY
Danny Townsend
501-254-9371
drtown7087@sbcglobal.net

WOODRUFF COUNTY
John Heath
870-731-5044
jheath002@centurytel.net

**AREA III
ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS**
Barbara Davidson
870-995-1164
bmdavidson_bea@hotmail.com

John Heath
870-739-4003
jheath02@comcast.net

Linda Kelly
870-919-0218
lindakelly@gmail.com

CLAY COUNTY
Contact Area Director

CRAIGHEAD COUNTY
Stephanie Neely
870-935-2475
ks_neely@yahoo.com

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

CROSS COUNTY
Callie Caradine-Jones
870-270-7064
ccaradinejones@sbcglobal.net

GREENE COUNTY
Kendall Walden
870-335-5599
kendallhwalden@hotmail.com

**LAWRENCE/
RANDOLPH COUNTIES**
John Thomison
870-528-3167
johnthomison@gmail.com

LEE COUNTY
Wayne Williams
870-295-6046
fcbusstation@cablelynx.com

MISSISSIPPI COUNTY
William Wiley
870-763-3048
jw-wiley@hotmail.com

**PHILLIPS/
MONROE COUNTIES**
Leroy Williams
870-995-1989
leroy.williams44@yahoo.com

POINSETT COUNTY
Contact Area Director

ST. FRANCIS COUNTY
Johnnie Toney
870-633-8809

**AREA IV
ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS**
Nellene Roberts
870-245-6599
nroberts@suddenlink.net

Susan Simmons
870-898-3851
ashdownsusan@sbcglobal.net

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

**COLUMBIA/
LAFAYETTE COUNTIES**
Elizabeth Tye
870-904-0382
etye@suddenlink.net

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

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

LITTLE RIVER COUNTY
Susan Simmons
903-277-9359
ashdownsusan@sbcglobal.net

Carolyn Castleman
479-200-7038
claytoncarolyncastleman@
yahoo.com

MILLER COUNTY
Ellen Holmes
903-314-0466
ellen.holmes55@gmail.com

**MONTGOMERY/
PIKE COUNTIES**
See West Central Counties

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

OUACHITA COUNTY
Contact Area Director

SEVIER COUNTY
Contact Area Director

WEST CENTRAL COUNTIES
Bob Thompson
870-403-1195
bobtarta@yahoo.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

Princella Gardner
870-879-2774
eloquent11@hotmail.com

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

ARKANSAS COUNTY Contact Area Director

ASHLEY COUNTY
Lucille Smith
870-364-3389
bigclou05@yahoo.com

BRADLEY COUNTY
Jonalyn Reep
870-952-0307
garrylreep@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
jbcCook@windstream.net

JEFFERSON COUNTY
Linda Lewis Eubank
870-489-0000
leLewis@cablelynx.com

LINCOLN COUNTY Contact Area Director

UNION COUNTY
Sylvia Henley
870-814-1902
shenley2002@hotmail.com

**AREA VI
CONWAY COUNTY**
Regina Long
501-977-4556
devildogmom76@gmail.com

FAULKNER COUNTY
Brenda Bray
501-472-7711
Brenda.bray@sbcglobal.net

GARLAND COUNTY
Mary Loye
501-321-9566

HOT SPRING COUNTY Contact Area Director

PERRY COUNTY
Contact Area Director

SALINE COUNTY
Sharon Mitchell
501-580-9515
mitchell-sharon@att.net

AREA VII ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

Larry Brooks
870-749-2788

David Cauldwell
479-721-2747
dcauldwl@gmail.com

Jennifer Colvin
870-480-2392
jennifercolvin506@gmail.com

**BENTON COUNTY
Rogers RTA**
Debra Lewis
479-659-2605
d.l.lewis8209@gmail.com

BOONE/NEWTON CO'S
Lisa Bailey
870-860-8716
lbailey819@gmail.com

CARROLL COUNTY
Donna Hill *
870-423-5388
dappy@windstream.net

MADISON COUNTY Contact Area Director

WASHINGTON CO.
Shirley Durning
479-442-6367
eansdurning@aol.com

* Last known contact OR
election pending at time of
printing

AREA VIII ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS

Vicki Davis
501-224-3364
vickiwhitedavis@yahoo.com

LONOKE COUNTY Contact Area Director

PRAIRIE COUNTY
Contact Area Director

**PULASKI COUNTY
Retired Teachers & Other
Educators of Little Rock**
Dr. Diana Glaze
501-771-1046
dlisow@aol.com

Little Rock Retired Teachers
Lillie Carter
501-307-5430
lilliecarter52@gmail.com

NLRSD REA
Faith Jones *
501-258-9257
vandrjones1@gmail.com

No Pulaski Retired Teachers
Barry Matthews
501-590-1513
barrym13@yahoo.com

Cindy Reyes
501-425-4902
cindyreyes@yahoo.com

South Pulaski RTA
Debbie Morris
501-529-5888
rowlanddj@yahoo.com

NOTES and OTHER CONTACTS

Area IV

The **Clark County RTA** presented a scholarship to Patsy Bonds of Gurdon. Ms. Bonds is a Special Ed teacher pursuing her Masters degree. She loves working with children and hopes to do more in the Gurdon Schools. She is pictured below left with Glenda Aldridge, CCRTA president.



Area VII

Then-president Beverly Cosby presented Jacob Walker with a scholarship from the **Washington County RTA**.



Area VI

The **Faulkner County RTA** presented a check in the Greenbrier School District this spring. Mandy Edwards (right) accepted the check from Sandra Bradberry on behalf of Eastside Elementary.



Area VIII

The **North Pulaski RTA** met in June to plan an exciting list of programs for 2023-24. They are anticipating a great year!



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

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 are available on request.

BOOK DIRECTLY—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.

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.

COVID 19—All scheduled trips are subject to change prior to the departure date. Travelers with confirmed reservations will be notified if the status of a trip changes in any way.

To suggest a future trip or for general questions about traveling with ARTA, please contact Donna Morey at donna_arta@att.net or 501-375-2958.

Exploring Scotland & Ireland

#1185535

March 24—April 5, 2024

From rugged natural beauty to vibrant and historical cities, the diverse charms of Scotland and Ireland await. Highlights include Edinburgh, Choice on Tour, Whisky Distillery, Loch Ness, Urquhart Castle, Highland Evening, Glasgow, Belfast, Titanic Experience, Giant's Causeway, The Causeway Coast Rail Journey, Derry, Armagh, and Dublin. **Save \$150 pp—Book by September 18, 2023**

- ◆ For a detailed itinerary, pricing, and online reservation form, visit www.artanow.com/travel.
- ◆ For other questions contact Donna Morey at donna_arta@att.net or call the ARTA office at 501-375-2958.

Discover Washington D.C.

#1170751

April 18—23, 2024

Explore America's heritage and history during your stay in the capital city of the United States. Highlights include U.S. Capitol Building Tour, World War II Memorial, Washington National Cathedral, Ford's Theatre, Arlington National Cemetery, Mount Vernon, Old Town Alexandria, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, White House Visitor Center, and Smithsonian Institution. **Save \$100 pp—Book by November 11, 2023**



- ◆ For a detailed itinerary, pricing, and online reservation form, visit www.artanow.com/travel.
- ◆ For other questions contact Donna Morey at donna_arta@att.net or call the ARTA office at 501-375-2958.

Spain's Classics & Portugal

#1187485

July 6—20, 2024

You are on your way to a colorful cultural adventure featuring the best of Spain and Portugal. Highlights Barcelona, La Sagrada Familia, Valencia, Paella Experience, Granada, The Alhambra, Seville, Choice on Tour: Seville Walking Tour or Guadalquivir River Boat Ride, Flamenco Show, Cordoba, Madrid, The Prado Museum, Toledo, Elvas, Lisbon, Belém, Obidos **Save \$150 pp—Book by December 31, 2023**

- ◆ For a detailed itinerary, pricing, and online reservation form, visit www.artanow.com/travel.
- ◆ For other questions contact Donna Morey at donna_arta@att.net or call the ARTA office at 501-375-2958.

Canadian Rockies & Glacier National Park

#1170619

August 24—September 4, 2024

Get ready for a grand adventure that brings together the beautiful expanse of the prairies, the soaring majesty of the Canadian Rockies and the brilliance of Montana’s Glacier National Park. Highlights include Calgary, Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump, Waterton Lakes National Park, Glacier National Park, Going-to-the-Sun Road, Banff, Athabasca Glacier, Choice on Tour: Ice Explorer Glacier Tour or Columbia Icefield Skywalk, Lake Louise. **Save \$350 pp—Book by February 22, 2024**

- ◆ For a detailed itinerary, pricing, and online reservation form, visit www.artanow.com/travel.
- ◆ For other questions contact Donna Morey at donna_arta@att.net or call the ARTA office at 501-375-2958.

Magical Rhine and Moselle Rivers

#1185610

September 12—20, 2024

Discover a dramatic waterway where winding valleys give way to riverside cities and Alpine hamlets. Venture along the Rhine and Moselle and spend time in beloved European cities, getting a taste of the local culture in each stop along the way. Highlights Amsterdam, 7-Night River Cruise, Rhine River, Cologne, Moselle River, Bernkastel, Wine Tasting, Cochem, Lorelei Passage, Mannheim, Speyer, Strasbourg. **Book early—limited cabins available in each category.**

- ◆ For a detailed itinerary, pricing, and online reservation form, visit www.artanow.com/travel.
- ◆ For other questions contact Donna Morey at donna_arta@att.net or call the ARTA office at 501-375-2958.

Grand Hawaiian Adventure

#1170627

October 10—22, 2024

Aloha! Relax and “hang loose” on this tropical adventure that combines culture, history and plenty of time to relax. Highlights include Waikiki Beach, Pearl Harbor, Iolani Palace, Hawai’i Volcanoes National Park, Kona Highlights, Iao Valley, Lahaina, Polynesian Luau, Waimea Canyon. **Save \$100 pp—Book by April 3, 2024**

- ◆ For a detailed itinerary, pricing, and online reservation form, visit www.artanow.com/travel.
- ◆ For other questions contact Donna Morey at donna_arta@att.net or call the ARTA office at 501-375-2958.



Spotlight on New York City Holiday

#1170629

November 30—December 4, 2024

“Start spreading the news,” because today you arrive in America’s most exciting metropolis as it shines during the holiday season. Your New York City getaway is filled with shopping, sightseeing, endless entertainment and holiday cheer. 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 \$400 pp—Book by May 23, 2024**

- ◆ For a detailed itinerary, pricing, and online reservation form, visit www.artanow.com/travel.
- ◆ For other questions contact Donna Morey at donna_arta@att.net or call the ARTA office at 501-375-2958.

In Memoriam

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

Arkansas County

Thomas F. Davis
Cheryl L. Hornbeck

Ashley County

Margaret L. Phillips
John W. Ricks

Baxter County

Angie L. Meeker
Victoria Richardson

Benton County

Janis A. Chadwick
Clifford L. Downs
Janice Hollopeter
Kay L. Hopkins
Charles H. Jones
Mary M. Jones
Jessie I. Khone
Jerry McClendon
John W. McDougal
James L. Smith
David L. Thurstenson
Washington R. White
John C. Williams

Boone County

Mildred H. Crawford
Martha L. Rorrer

Bradley County

Donald H. Whittemore

Calhoun County

Judy G. Freeman
Nealya V. Watson

Carroll County

Terry L. Fancher
John Franz
Thelma C. Poyner
Winona R. Rousey

Chicot County

Robert W. Kizer
Jo A. McKeown

Clark County

William B. Mayo, Jr.

Clay County

Alvin J. Vangilder

Cleveland County

Bobby J. Tucker

Columbia County

Rosalie H. Cranston
Gary C. Hurley

Johnny R. Kirk

Joyce D. Payne
Lois J. Rowe
Mildreth Snell
Earsaline Witcher

Conway County

Elaine H. Andrews
J. M. Duvall
Gayland Moore
Carl W. Renfrow
Carol S. Wren

Craighead County

Charlotte S. Alexander
Lanelle H. Beck
Martha W. Carson
Linda B. Cossey
Alvie W. Dillin
Darrell Dodd
Mary E. Seale
Valdareen L. Smithee
Joyce A. Sullins
Twilla M. Threm

Crawford County

Carolyn R. Bradford
Lenora F. Drummond
Loreta B. Hatfield
Betty Prescott
Donna C. Turnipseed

Crittenden County

Kenneth W. Foster
Evelyn B. Hood

Cross County

Bettye L. Bruner

Dallas County

Lisa A. Tucker
Sammy J. Tucker

Desha County

Ruth E. Gill
Geneva Pickett

Drew County

Verda S. Schell

Faulkner County

Ray G. Berry
Bobbie J. Brady
Gradean Burge
Sandra G. Duncan
Gary A. Duvall
William J. Grummer
Bobbie J. Horton

Dee A. Howell
Barbara A. Jacobs
Joe D. King
Patsy J. McMillen
Leon B. Pavatt
Lillie P. Teague
Dorothea C. Westmoreland

Franklin County

Frances A. Clem
Mary B. Ervin

Fulton County

Raymond S. Dmytriw
Barbara L. Greene

Garland County

Donna L. Box
Pearl A. Campbell
Kathryn A. Lijewski
Patricia Longinotti
Geraldine L. Moss
Belinda A. Stengel
Jewanda S. Tackett

Greene County

Jerry Felts-Fuentes
Kathy Foss
Sandra Hedge
Eva R. McClelland
Ruth Smith
Harriet P. Williams

Hempstead County

Roy C. Turner

Hot Spring County

Eunice O. House
Janice L. Keith
Arkie N. Remley
Joyce A. Walker

Howard County

Larry N. Holliday

Independence County

Glenna J. Conyers
Fred V. Denison
Maribeth T. Nardecchia

Izard County

Glendon N. Mason

Jefferson County

Mary I. Curtis
Joe L. Hart
Cynthia Jackson
Joseph Martin
Jimmie C. Moody

Juanita D. Nelson
Hazel M. Rice
Shirley Stubblefield
Kathy C. Washington
Winnie M. Wilson

Johnson County

Crystal D. Clark

Lee County

Sue M. Moore

Little River County

Ruby Rosenbaum

Logan County

Gordon A. Baker
Robin L. Hardgrave
Harriet A. Lee
Donald R. Loyd

Lonoke County

Mary A. Bennett
Fred T. Dean
Norma D. Ford
Bettye L. Sherraden
Martha M. Walker

Miller County

Patsy V. Simmons
Diva M. Thomas

Mississippi County

Jean H. Cole
Patricia A. Lippelman
Lovie Stewart
Mary W. Thomas

Monroe County

Robert R. Manson

Montgomery County

Fannie L. Booth

Ouachita County

Thetta S. Carelock

Ethel D. Williams

Perry County

Virginia D. Hance

Phillips County

Jesse C. Barber
Kenneth W. Calhoon
Joseph Randall, Sr.
Rachel I. Rogers
Rosa L. Scarbrough

Pike County

Malissia L. Tolliver

Poinsett County

Sophie F. Ballard
Mattie M. Bradley
Myra F. Parrish
Linda Robertson
Alma J. Young

Polk County

James H. Fain
Dayton Holman
Leola J. Rye

Pope County

Jane P. Clawson
Brenda G. Davidson
Joel S. Leavell
Maxie L. Mathis, Jr.
Katie R. Murdoch
Ann Phillips
Irma F. Williams

Pulaski County

Cheryl L. Beavers
Carolyn J. Blome
Katherine A. Borecky
Marilyn J. Brewster
Katherine A. Burlison
Betty G. Burrow
Billy W. Coon, Sr.
Jimmie S. Cromwell
James F. Davidson
Ruby E. George
Janice H. Gilbert
Rita F. Hampton
Bertha M. Irvin
Ruthie G. Johnson
Marie E. Jones
Bobby P. Kerr
Carolyn A. Krone
Lynda B. Langford
Mary R. Lofton
Jeannie M. Love
Mary D. Lyford
Charles A. Marsh
Pearl A. Martin
Wilfred L. Mazurek
Helen J. McCruel
Future M. McHenry
William J. Musgrove
Virginia C. Neill
Judy K. Orintas
Roberta L. Perry
Bobby M. Powell
Joseph P. Presley
Hattie M. Redmon

Thanks to the thoughtfulness and generosity of individuals and local units, \$1,238 in memorials, honorariums and donations were contributed to ARTA in the last three month period. An additional \$977 contributed by Life Continuing and Continuing Plus members brings the total to \$2,215.

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.

Conway County RTA

In Memory of:

Macie Sullivan

Independence County RTA

In Memory of:

Peggy Warren

Izard County RTA

In Memory of:

Rachel Phillips

Little Rock Retired Teachers

In Memory of:

Rosemary Rogers

South Pulaski RTA

In Memory of:

Doris Dennis

Helen McCruel

Robert Perry

West Central Counties

In Memory of:

Edith Small

Yell County

In Memory of:

Kathleen Hicks

Joan McClure Peak

Donna Morey

In Memory of:

Karen Sullards

ARTA Grants Program Fund

Columbia/Lafayette Co. RTA

Independence County RTA

NLRSD REA

YES! I want to make a contribution to the ARTA Grant Fund.

I understand that my non-tax deductible contribution will be used to fund grants for Arkansas public-education employees to further their education.

Name of Individual or Group _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Please make checks payable to ARTA Grant Fund.

In Memoriam, *continued*

Pulaski County, cont.

Esther F. Reed
Rosemary E. Rogers
Katherine D. Saddler
Gwendolyn Slash
Mary C. Smith
Joann W. Stark
Dorothy W. Waddell
Jane B. Williamson
Zelma J. Woods

Randolph County

Herby H. Early

Saline County

Verma Dalrymple
Carolyn G. Fletcher
Tammy L. Graham
James T. Hill
Kathryn J. Hodge
Gina Kalberer
Annette Maddox
Judy J. Parker
Robert W. Raney
Rita C. Rich
Iva D. Roddy
Jo A. Thompson

Scott County

Wilma K. Cabe
Bettye J. Curtis

Sebastian County

Doris A. Best
William H. Cross
Mary L. Hames
Edwin C. Herbert
Larry T. Jones
Edith F. Lane

Betty L. Pittman

Deborah G. Spears

Billy B. Spicer

Jimmy B. Stinebaugh

Ann S. Winters

Sevier County

Laverne B. Addington
Carolyn L. Halsell
Deanna J. McNully

Sharp County

Richard L. Alexander
Vicki Fleming

St. Francis County

Preston E. Koelling
Lidia M. Wallace

Stone County

Mary L. Smith

Union County

Robert C. McMenis
June M. Murphy
Catherine S. Whiddon

Van Buren County

Juanita M. Heard

Washington County

Margaret L. Baker
Georgia A. Caselman
Jamie E. Clark
Janet G. Clower
Vivian C. Daugherty
Kathryne F. Delap
Heather E. Grosze
Donna G. Modica
Deanna R. Moore
Connie W. Porter
Loretta C. Specie

White County

Glendolyn D. Cooley
Wanda L. Cooper
Earl Haynes
Marion L. Hickingbottom
Ladonna K. Moore
Genger C. Pollard
Rebecca A. Tackett
Betty Turner

Yell County

Larry G. Hodges
Rebecca R. Millard

Out of State

Sharon G. Anderson
Reba L. Blazi
Susan J. Brown
Barbara C. Chrisman
James E. Clay
William L. Cook
Aida L. Cox
Billy J. Crumpler
Hattie S. Dorman
Priscilla Q. Douglass
Juanita P. Frazier

Out of State, cont.

Ruth A. Fuller
Pecolia Gillespie
Leonard L. Griswold, Jr.
William D. Gower
Kathryn J. Griffin-McGinnis
Cecelia A. Jackson
Mary E. Jesson
Vana G. Lackey
Gene L. Lavender
Alveretta S. Lynch
Randy G. McAllister
Monteene H. McCoy
Barbara B. McFarland
James A. Miller
Steven D. Parker
Paula Rush
Marilyn Smith
Willie E. Tidwell
John A. Webb
Barbara J. White



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

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

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



Find us on Facebook

Address changes and corrections:

submit form on below or contact us at 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) *
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 Scholarship 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**