



# INTERLINK

CONNECTING ARKANSAS'S RETIRED SCHOOL EMPLOYEES

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## ARTA Dues

Effective January 1, 2019, the dues for annual ARTA membership will increase to \$36.

Life and continuing membership dues will not change.

## 2019 HEALTH INSURANCE

Any changes made to your health insurance during the fall Open Enrollment period, including changes to Medicare plans, are effective Jan. 1, 2019.

Plan rates for participants in the state health insurance program will remain the same as in 2018.

## ARTA DIRECTORY

An updated ARTA membership directory is now available at [www.artanow.com/resources](http://www.artanow.com/resources).

## Clint Rhoden Hired as New ATRS Director

The ATRS Board of Trustees has announced that Clint Rhoden will become the new executive director of the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System. Rhoden replaces retiring director George Hopkins.

According to ATRS board chairman Jeff Stubblefield, Rhoden was the unanimous choice. "The board was highly impressed with his 17 years of work under the ATRS umbrella, including his leadership in the last four years as a part of the executive team."

Mr. Rhoden's background, skill set and dedication stood out to the board, as did his passion and "strong desire to lead the system into the future" (Bobby Lester, ATRS trustee and ARTA board member).

To carry on the goal of recruiting, retaining and rewarding school personnel in Arkansas, Rhoden said that he will "continue to focus on providing exemplary member service for all ATRS members, continue and expand member outreach, and maintain day-to-day business as usual with the help of an outstanding staff already in place".



"I look forward to continuing the ATRS mission of rewarding our retired Arkansas educators. Their long-term dedication to our state and its children is commendable."

**~Clint Rhoden  
Director, ATRS**

## George Hopkins Retires from ATRS

Ten years ago, a journey began at ATRS. A new fellow was chosen to lead the staff at the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System. I could never have imagined how much the following 10 years would impact me, and forever change my life.

I am humbled and grateful for being given the opportunity to serve the educators and school employees of Arkansas as executive director of ATRS. I cherish all the memories

of the smiles, laughs, fellowship, and untold acts of kindness I was given over the years. Forgive me for singing off key when the joy of the moment at an ARTA meeting got the best of me. All of you have brought great joy to me. I sure hope it showed!

All of you have always lifted me up and inspired me. When tough decisions had to be

Continued, page 3

# Message from the President

## Finding ARTA

Potential ARTA members often ask "Why should I join?" or respond to an invitation with "I draw a check from the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System, I thought I was a member!". Our response is usually one of protecting our retirement monies and wanting to be vigilant. There may indeed be new legislation introduced in any session of our legislature to amend the ATRS board of trustees, to combine the Public Employees Retirement System and the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System, or to do away with a defined benefits plan that would let the state out of its responsibility regarding our retirement.

These are important items to be aware of and not taken lightly. The integrity and stability of our retirement system is crucial, as is maintaining the condition of funding. Having retirees and current education professionals on the ATRS Board of Trustees is also essential. But should there be more to our identity than envisioning political entities grabbing up this vast amount of funds and disappearing into the night?

Should we have something that brings the identity of ARTA to another level? If it's just about protecting our retirement funds all we would need is a communication saying to come to Little Rock and be at this session. That would certainly send a message to the parties involved. I am not advocating we abandon this principle but I do believe there needs to be more to ARTA if we are to encourage and attract new members.

I would like to see us do more for our fellow teachers who are in the classrooms across Arkansas. In my opinion if our association made a commitment to assist these teachers with continuing their educational development by pursuing advanced degrees it would position ARTA as an association that truly supports and enhances the Arkansas teaching profession. Associating ARTA with providing scholarships to classroom teachers would give us the identity of a progressive and motivated association with an active interest in Arkansas teachers and students.

If as "Team ARTA" we could pull together and raise funds for scholarships to assist our teachers we could begin to bridge the gap between retirees and current teachers. This would acquaint our association more in a positive role concerning our interactions with public schools. I also believe that areas should be the ones to make these scholarship presentations in the schools. This needs to be done for all teachers and students to see. These scholarship recipients will be the new faces and leaders for ARTA in the future. Another point to consider is that many teachers enter the profession with sizable student loan debt and are therefore limited in advancing their education in their first few years in the profession.

If local units would collect one or two dollars per ARTA member based on our current membership that alone would generate twelve thousand dollars. There are other means such as a slight increase in unit dues, "passing the hat" or any action that would generate income for scholarships. New ideas should be considered and shared with all. The Little Rock Retired Teachers have already made a contribution of \$200 for our 2019 scholarships. I encourage all of our units to step forward and make a difference. Remember we are a team – Team ARTA.

In closing I would like to thank all who had a part in making our convention truly memorable – the Area IV members for their help with table decorations, my fellow officers for their support, the ARTA staff (especially Tammy Gray, for overseeing the details), my officers from Clark County for putting up with me, and finally our silent auction donors and the personnel who did a great job of supervising this fundraiser for future scholarships.



*Bob Thompson*  
ARTA President

## Important Contact Information

### Arkansas Retired Teachers Association

Inside Pulaski County: 501-375-2958  
Toll Free (Nationwide): 1-888-929-0955  
Fax: 501-376-0955  
E-mail: [office\\_arta@att.net](mailto:office_arta@att.net)  
[www.artanow.com](http://www.artanow.com)

### Arkansas Teacher Retirement System Retirement Benefits and Checks

Inside Pulaski County: 501-682-1517  
Toll Free (Nationwide): 1-800-666-2877  
E-mail: [info@artrs.gov](mailto:info@artrs.gov)  
[www.artrs.gov](http://www.artrs.gov)

### Arkansas Employee Benefits Division (Health and Life Insurance)

Inside Pulaski County: 501-682-9656  
Toll Free (Nationwide): 1-877-815-1017  
E-mail: [AskEBD@dfa.state.ar.us](mailto:AskEBD@dfa.state.ar.us)  
[www.arbenefits.org](http://www.arbenefits.org)

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

Mary Alice Hughes  
Lisa Bamberg  
501-988-2726  
Email: [info@ia-office.com](mailto:info@ia-office.com)  
[www.ia-office.com](http://www.ia-office.com)

Matt Hughes  
479-967-1339  
Email: [matt@matthughesinsurance.com](mailto:matt@matthughesinsurance.com)  
[www.matthughesinsurance.com](http://www.matthughesinsurance.com)

**Delta Dental Insurance**  
501-988-2726  
[www.deltadentalar.com](http://www.deltadentalar.com)



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Emilie Monk ..... Vice President  
Mary Ann Hodges ..... Secretary  
Donna Morey ..... Executive Director  
Mary Huie ..... Travel Manager  
Tammy Gray ..... Communications  
Linda Powell ..... Office Manager

# Message from the Executive Director

## Happy Holidays to All

2018 brought some important changes for ARTA members:

- The ARTA Board of Directors recommended a revised ARTA constitution to the state convention. The changes were approved by the members in attendance and will go into effect July 1, 2019. The major change reduced the size of the board.
- The next huge change was that Mr. George Hopkins announced his retirement as ATRS director. ARTA is so grateful for his thoughtful 10 years of leadership to our retirement system. His position was filled by the ATRS Board of Trustees, but he will never be replaced in the hearts of retirees who have grown to love his stories and service. Mr. Clint Rhoden was hired to become the new director. Clint has shown a deep passion for the work of the ATRS during the 17 years that he has been with the system. I know he will continue serving all the members of ATRS, both active and retired.
- Another change for those ARTA members who are Medicare-eligible is that Blue Cross Blue Shield will return to managing the state-sponsored Medicare supplement through the Employee Benefits Division of the Department of Finance and Administration. Each of you who are on the state-sponsored plan should receive new ID cards. For pre-Medicare members, there will be a \$250 decrease

in your deductible for 2019. Neither group will have an increase in monthly premiums, which are withheld from your ATRS monthly benefit payments.

- The November election brought few changes to Arkansas elected offices. My hopes are that you personally know your local elected officials and have their contact information.

ARTA will need each of you to contact your locally-elected members of the State Senate and House of Representatives when issues affect retired public-school employees. I remind all of us that ARTA is nonpartisan, so we feel empowered to make contact with those elected to serve us in local, state and federal government. As retired public-school employees, we have been public servants for most of our adult lives. Our voices should be heard and our opinions valued by those representing us.

At this time of the year we should also all count our blessings. I am reminded that our true gifts are faith, family, friends, and the security of being citizens of the greatest nation on earth.

Peace on Earth - Goodwill to All,

*Donna*



## Hopkins, *continued*

made, I learned to think of my many friends all over the state. I always tried to make a decision that you would have approved. You all gave me the determination to find solutions when without your support, the issues would have otherwise overwhelmed me.

Leading ATRS is a sacred trust. I owe so much to educators and the school employees who saw something in me I could not see myself. Yes, I was a pill at school. You all know that! Despite that, so many helped me over hurdles and challenges. I cannot thank them and all of you enough.

Most never understand how hard ATRS retirees work in retirement. Serving communities and supporting important causes define all of you. I saw the love and dedication that retirees share every day. I also remember many friends who passed on

as we met over the years. The hurt of the loss was tough on all of us. I did notice that others always came to fill in the ranks.

All of you became family to me. You know my weaknesses and strengths. You cried with me when my Mama died. You laughed with me when I admitted to silly mistakes. You stood with me whenever needed. You carried me when I was weak. I hope I gave something in return.

Words that tell you how grateful I am for your friendship are escaping me. I hope that my time at ATRS added something positive in each of your lives. The greatest honor I have ever had is to serve you.

Respectfully,

*George Hopkins*



# Area News

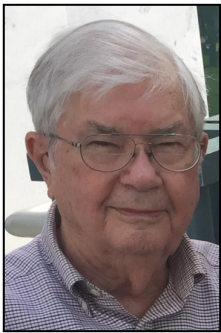
## Area I

Area I was represented at the state convention by 15 members, where the Fort Smith, Franklin County, Johnson County, Pope County, Scott County and Yell County RTAs were recognized for their unit achievements in 2017-18.

Catherine “Cissie” Pendergrass of Franklin County was recognized with an Individual Achievement Award.



## Area II



Approximately 20 ARTA members from Area II attended the state convention. Independence, Izard, Jackson, Sharp and Fulton County RTAs were recognized for their unit achievements in 2017-18.

Dr. Lavern Penn of Cleburne County received the Individual Achievement Award after many years of service to ARTA and the Cleburne County RTA.

## Area III

The Greene County RTA was recognized at the state convention for their youth service project, the Greene County Spelling Bee. The county-wide bee, which is attended by students, parents and individuals from throughout the community, is planned and conducted by unit members each year.

A great deal of planning and preparation goes into the event, which leads to the state and hopefully national competitions.

Doris Hagen, GCRTA member, received the Individual Achievement Award for her numerous contributions in her unit and community.



## Area III

The Craighead County RTA held its first meeting of 2018-2019 in September. Pictured below are new officers and hostesses for the program, which was provided by Mary Alice Hughes of Insurance Advantage.



L to R—Barbara Anderson, Jessica Foster, Mary Nell Masterson, Joan Tosh (Treasurer), Stephanie Neely, Emilie Statler (President), Ruby Pierce (Membership Chair), Donald Mankin

Craighead, Crittenden, Lee, Phillips and St. Francis County RTA's were also recognized for their 2017-18 unit achievements at the state convention.

## Area IV

Clark County RTA was recognized at the state convention for their community service project to support the Clark County Library.

The project was adopted after a presentation by the librarian that described the needs of the historic building. To date, CCRTA members have assisted with cleaning and organizing the library as well as providing supplies.

Clark, Miller, Columbia/Lafayette, Hempstead, Little River, and Nevada County RTAs were also recognized for their unit achievements in 2017-18.

Katherine “Katy” Daniel of Miller County was recognized with an Individual Achievement Award.



# Area News

## Area V

The Ashley County RTA was named runner-up for their youth service project, Realityville, a money management class for high school students.

A local credit union made a presentation to ACRTA and requested volunteers to present the program. Several members of the ACRTA were trained and subsequently participated in a session with students from Hamburg High School.

Members agreed that money management is an important life skill and several expressed that they wished they had had this training when they were in school!

Jefferson County Retired Teachers Association members brought 325 nonperishable food items to their October meeting. The items were donated to Neighbor to Neighbor, a local agency that serves a daily hot lunch, as well as provides food baskets, clothing, household goods, financial assistance for utilities and prescriptions, school supplies and Christmas gifts for children. These services are provided at no cost, so the JCRTA donation was very much needed and appreciated.

Pictured here are Neighbor to Neighbor Director, Charlotte England (second from left) and Sharon Fletcher, JCRTA Community Services Chair (far right) with two Neighbor to Neighbor volunteers.



Sandra Boone of Jefferson County was awarded the Individual Achievement Award at the state convention.

Ashley, Desha, Grant, Jefferson, and Union County RTAs were also recognized at the state convention for their various unit achievements.

## Area VI



Doretta Bright of Faulkner County received the Individual Achievement Award at the state convention..

The Saline County RTA was recognized for unit achievement. Area VI was represented by 21 members at the state convention.

## Area VII

Area VII was represented at the state convention by 16 members. Area units from Boone/Newton and Washington Counties were recognized for their achievements in 2017-2018.

## Area VIII

Area VIII had the largest representation at the state convention, thanks to their population and proximity to the event. More than 60 members attended the event, where Prairie County RTA, Little Rock Retired Teachers, North Little Rock School District REA, and Retired Educators of Little Rock, received recognition for unit accomplishments in 2017-18.



Dr. Ella Walker-Rolfe was awarded the Individual achievement Award. In addition to her years of service on behalf of ARTA and her local unit, she is involved in a number of community projects and organizations.

Little Rock Retired Teachers was named the runner-up for their community service project for veterans. Members assembled shoeboxes filled with personal care items, socks and gloves, and small gift items to be distributed via the Shoeboxes for Vets program.

The Little Rock Retired Teachers also presented a check for \$200 for the Parsons-Burnett Scholarship fund at the convention as part of their annual community service efforts.



# ARTA News



## *Happy Holidays*

The ARTA office will be closed December 20, 2018 through January 2, 2019 for a winter break.

We'll see you in the new year!

Donna, Mary, Tammy and Linda



Booth Bay Harbor, Maine (Colors of New England, October 2018)

## Welcome New Life Members

### **Benton County**

Melissa Cook  
Deborah L. Houston  
Patsy Bolin Mooney  
Janis Sutton

### **Calhoun County**

Helene Lambert  
Carroll County  
Pamela K. Curtis

### **Clay County**

Pam Blasingame Brown  
Kathy Fowler

### **Cleburne County**

Dianne R. Logan

### **Columbia County**

Patricia A. Warren

### **Craighead County**

Linda J. Borders  
Sherry Bryant  
Glenda M. Patterson  
Dorinda G. Pennington

### **Crawford County**

Deborah Smyth  
Alice M. Wilson

### **Crittenden County**

Julia R. Molloy

### **Faulkner County**

Judy A. Harkrider  
Debra J. Laws  
Joyce Mason

### **Franklin County**

Martha Carolyn Law

### **Garland County**

Nancy K. Davis  
Sue S. King  
James E. Sutton  
Laura E. Young

### **Grant County**

Bobby Daniel, Jr.

### **Greene County**

Deborah Adams  
Margaret E. Russom  
Lesia Taylor  
Ruby Jane Taylor

### **Independence Co.**

Rebecca M. Czech

### **Izard County**

Cynthia Weaver

### **Jackson County**

Helen J. Lewis  
Herbert Lewis  
Everett Richardson

### **Jefferson County**

Mattie M. Glover  
Wilma J. Kindle  
Rita G. Walters

### **Logan County**

Glenda Ezell  
Pat Kennedy Sprick

### **Mississippi County**

Kathy P. Holmes

### **Nevada County**

Sue Phillips

### **Ouachita County**

Kelvin D. Johnson

### **Phillips County**

Jerldine Donahoo  
Lavern Glaspie  
Thressa B. Sims

### **Poinsett County**

Larry Hosman

### **Polk County**

Peggy S. Murphy

### **Pope County**

Marlena Mashburn

### **Prairie County**

Roxanne W. Bradow

### **Pulaski County**

Barbara Hicks Beavers  
Patricia L. Branham  
Virginia S. Buck  
Patricia Bullock  
Karen Derrick-Coleman  
Janet Anne Estes  
Renee' Gentry-Heard  
Wanda J. Huddle  
Janet W. Lowe  
Meegan A. McCarrerty  
Joyce McCullough  
Peggy McKinney  
Vannessa Pace-Hampton  
Lori R. Plugge  
Loretta K. Schnarr  
Francine S. Skotko  
Cynthia Warren

### **Saline County**

Allen Lynn Cole  
Oliver Fitzpatrick, Jr.  
Lita Gattis

### **Searcy County**

Jorli M. Blair  
Robbie W. Hagemann

### **Sebastian County**

Dorinda Fletcher  
Joe Graham  
Audrey Lowrey Hall  
Mary W. Moore  
William C. Pittman  
Sallie Schmidt  
Rebecca A. Yates

### **Sevier County**

Verna A. Smith

### **Union County**

Glenda Sue Hull

### **Washington County**

William D. Hart  
Denice A. Nelson

### **White County**

Brenda K. Ballard  
Bobby Nix

### **Yell County**

Linda Shott

### **Out-of-State**

Ellen S. Lawson  
Charlotte D. Meredith

# ARTA Travel



Canadian Rockies & Glacier National Park, August 2018

ARTA members and their families are invited to join us for fun and exciting trips of a lifetime!

ARTA trips are customized for our members. Guests are welcome but must travel with an ARTA member. Whenever possible, ARTA trips are escorted by the ARTA Travel Manager or the ARTA Executive Director.

**BOOK EARLY**—Due to limited airline space, early booking with deposit will help ensure your airline seat and a lower price. Reservations made after ARTA's reserve of seats are booked, or the seat reduction date has passed, are based upon availability and the price reduction no longer applies.

Alternate airline gateways, other than Little Rock, such as Northwest AR, Fort Smith and Memphis are available if you prefer to depart from there (usually at no additional cost). Travelers would join the group at the trip destination.

ARTA contracts with Cline Tours for motor coach trips taken twice a year. A minimum of 40 passengers booked with a deposit is required for these trips. Again, book early! Your deposit is refundable until 30 days before final payment is required.

For pricing and additional information, availability or to have a trip brochure mailed to you, call Mary Huie, ARTA Travel Manager, at 501-993-3767 or 501-843-6190.

Links to detailed trip information are also available on our web site, [www.artanow.com/travel](http://www.artanow.com/travel).

Suggestions for future ARTA trips are always welcome so let us hear from you regarding your dream destination.

*Some of the world's best people travel with ARTA!!*

*Happy Travels,*

*Mary Huie, ARTA Travel Manager*

## Spotlight on San Antonio featuring the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo

**February 10 – 14, 2019 (CLOSED)**

## Spain's Classics

**March 30 – April 9, 2019 (CLOSED)**

## 2019 Travel Opportunities

### Motor Coach Trip to St. Augustine, Florida and the Kennedy Space Center

**April 14—21, 2019**

Travel to the city of St. Augustine, the oldest continuously occupied European-established settlement and port in the U.S. The city was founded in 1565 and served as the capital of Spanish Florida for two hundred years. With nearly 500 years of history, St. Augustine has numerous sights and attractions. With a two-day hop on and off trolley pass you will be able to visit Castillo de San Marcos, the Spanish fort built in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the spring that Ponce de Leon deemed the Fountain of Youth, the Mission of Nombre de Dios, old St. Augustine village, Old Jail, San Sebastian Winery and much, much more. Two nights will be spent in Cape Canaveral where you will spend a full day at the Kennedy Space Center that includes Space Shuttle Atlantis, the Shuttle Launch Experience, the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame, the Imax Theatre film - Journey to Mars and even the Astronaut Encounter where you will meet an astronaut. **Deposit \$250—Book before January 14, 2019**

### Alaska Discovery Land & Cruise

**May 11 – 23, 2019**

Cruise through northern splendor and relax as you tour past epic scenery including the Inside Passage and Glacier Bay. Your tour opens in Fairbanks and this adventure brings together the best of both land and sea. Enjoy an amazing cruise on the Sternwheeler Discovery showcasing Alaska's diverse culture and rich history. You will travel deep into Denali National Park on the Tundra Wilderness Tour which gives the best opportunities to view the regions wildlife. After a rail journey from Denali to Talkeetna in a luxury domed railcar, board the ship and relax for a 7-night cruise. Highlights include: Reliving Alaska's Gold Rush days in historic Skagway, port calls at Juneau, Alaska's capital city and Ketchikan, known as the Salmon Capital of the World and the City of "Totems". **Book an Outside Cabin and receive an upgrade to a Balcony Cabin free. (Upgrade available on a first come, first served basis as space is available at time of reservation.**

## Canadian Rockies featuring Rocky Mountaineer Train

**June 12 – 18, 2019**

Your journey begins in Vancouver, British Columbia. While in Vancouver you will enjoy breakfast at the Capilano Suspension Bridge then tour beautiful Stanley Park, Canada's renowned urban rainforest. Spend the next two days (lodging at hotels at night) onboard the Rocky Mountaineer viewing coastal forests, roaring river canyons and lofty mountain peaks. Arrive in Banff, where you will enjoy a leisurely 3-night stay at Rimrock Resort. Choice on tour in Banff – fun ride across 1,000 feet thick mass of glacial ice **or** take a walk on the Glacier Skywalk. **Early booking date has passed—Call for more information**

## Discover Scotland

**July 21 – 30, 2019**

After an overnight flight, your Scottish adventure begins in Glasgow with a visit to the National Piping Centre. Trip experiences include: visiting a working farm meeting a shepherd and his sheepdogs, the Culloden Battlefield, exploring the legendary Isle of Skye, learning the art of producing Scotch whisky and enjoying an interactive cooking experience at one of Edinburgh's premier culinary institution. Of course, no visit to Scotland is complete without visiting Edinburgh Castle. Other highlights include: Armadale Castle, Dunrobin Castle, a cruise on Loch Ness, ferry to Orkney Islands (once a Viking stronghold), Ring of Brodgar (reported to be older than Stonehenge) just to name a few. **Save \$200 pp—Book before January 15, 2019**

## Hawaiian Adventure

**August 8 – 17, 2019**

Let the spirit of "Aloha" be your guide on this leisurely three-island tour of Hawaii featuring 3-night stays in each in Oahu, Kauai and Maui. Your adventure begins in Honolulu being welcomed with a traditional Hawaiian floral lei. Next to Oahu to embark on a historic journey beginning at the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument to view artifacts from the attack and a short documentary on the Day of Infamy. Then, travel by naval launch to white marble-clad USS *Arizona* Memorial to reflect as you gaze upon the thousands of names inscribed on the wall of remembrance. Other highlights include: Cruise along the tranquil Wailua River in Kauai; learn why surfers from around the world gather in the town of Haleiwa; savor a Polynesian luau featuring tropical drinks and a sumptuous feast; spend time at the largest coffee estate in Hawaii and learn about their crop and visit the stunning Iao Valley and view the 2000-foot-high Iao Needle, one of Maui's famous natural landforms. **Book by February 1, 2019**

## The Best of Eastern Canada

**September 3 – 10, 2019**

An unforgettable cultural and historical experience awaits you in the heart of Eastern Canada. Your tour begins in Montreal with

your choice of a panoramic coach tour highlighting Jacques Cartier Square, McGill University and St. Joseph's Oratory **or** a walking tour with a local guide. Next stop is Quebec City to enjoy the beauty and history of both Old and New Quebec; see the stately Chateau Frontenac, the provincial Parliament and the St. Louis Arch. In Ottawa you will see the Rideau Canal (which becomes the world's largest skating rink in wintertime.) After a memorable cruise through the spectacular 1000 Islands in Rockport, you will travel to thundering awe-inspiring Niagara Falls where no visit would be complete without experiencing the incredible cruise at the base of the falls. In addition, discover Niagara-on-the-Lake with its quaint local shops and charming atmosphere. **Save \$150 pp—Book with deposit by before February 24, 2019**

## Coming October 2019 – Motor Coach Trip to be Announced

## Reflections of Italy

**October 9 – 18, 2019**

Welcome to Italy, a land rich in history, culture, art and romance. Revel in the magic of Italy on this tour that explores the cities of Rome, Florence, Siena, Venice, Assisi, Perugia and Milan. Your tour begins in Rome with a locally guided tour featuring the Piazza Venezia, the Circus Maximus, the Arch of Constantine and a visit to the Colosseum. An optional tour is available to Vatican City, Vatican Museums and St. Peter's Basilica. Delight in the city of Siena with its narrow Gothic streets, magnificent palaces and historic Piazza del Campo. In Florence visit the world-famous Academy Gallery to see Michelangelo's incredible statue of *David*. Travel through the Chianti wine region and arrive in Venice with 117 tiny islands and its lattice work of 150 canals and 400 bridges. On Murano Island, view an up-close glass-blowing. View the Opera House La Scala and Vittorio Emanuele Gallery, the Duomo (this Gothic cathedral is the third largest church in Europe). **Save \$150 pp—Book by April 3, 2019**

## Costa Rica: A World of Nature featuring Tortuguero National Park, Arenal Volcano & Manuel Antonio National Park

**November 3 – 14, 2019**

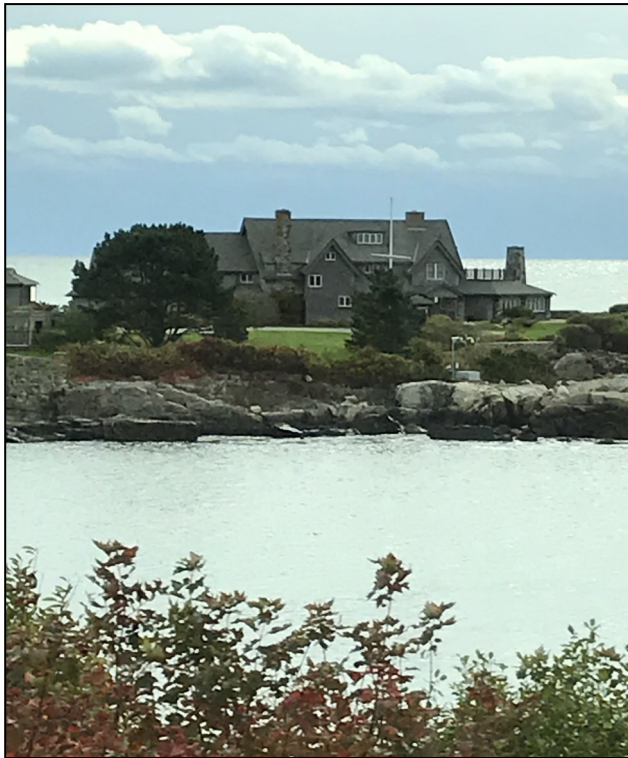
Welcome to the "emerald" of Central America – Costa Rica. This is a small immersive small group touring with just 12 – 24 passengers. Smaller groups lead to bigger experiences giving travelers access to the work in a new way, venturing of the beaten path for more adventure and immersive cultural connections. Learn about Costa Rica's ecosystem and local culture and visit the world's first green turtle research station in Tortuguero National Park. Other highlights include: Sarapiquí Rainforest, Chocolate making demonstration & tasting, Pineapple Plantation, river rafting, hanging bridges, choice of zip lining or volcano lava field hike and jungle crocodile safari & bird watching. **Save \$100 pp—Book before March 27, 2019**



## Classic Christmas Markets

**December 7 – 15, 2019**

Experience the 600-year-old holiday spirit of “Christkindlesmarkets” in Germany, France and Austria. The holiday spirit abounds on this classic European tour filled with delightful Christmas markets, medieval towns and spectacular mountain views. Visit the Nuremberg Christmas Market, one of the oldest and most famous markets in Germany dating back to 1628. Learn about the Imperial Castle and the Justice Palace, where the War Crimes Tribunal sat in 1946. Enjoy a stop in lovely Rothenburg, one of the most well-preserved medieval walled towns in all of Germany. Spend two days in Oberammergau (location of the 2020 Passion Play), a perfect example of a Bavarian Alpine Village. It’s the ideal place to shop for cuckoo clocks, nutcracker and Hummel figurines. **Save \$300 pp—Book before June 1, 2019**



President George Bush Compound, Kennebunkport, Maine (Colors of New England, October 2018)

## Join ARTA and Collette in 2020 for a once-in-a-decade opportunity

Preparations are already underway for the next **Passion Play** in the tiny Bavarian hamlet of Oberammergau. The Passion Play has been performed for over four centuries. The shows in 2020 may seem distant but the excitement is already building for the next production.

**ARTA has contracted for two trips that will include the Passion Play. There is limited availability on these trips due to the demand; in 2010 over 500,000 people attended. All space is on a first come first serve basis. Call the ARTA Travel Manager for deposit information.**

## Classic Danube River Cruise with Oberammergau Passion Play

**June 7 – 16, 2020**

The Danube River is the second largest river in Europe. At 1770 miles in length, this mighty waterway carves its way through a total of ten European countries. Join us as we take you on a lovely cruise along the Wachau Valley region. Beginning in the charming medieval town of Durnstein, you’ll see a dramatic shoreline complete with lofty hills, hilltop castles and charming villages nestled between flourishing vineyards. Schonbuhel Castle, built to protect the entrance to the Wachau Valley, is as impressive today as it was when it was constructed several hundred years ago. Experience the Wachau region from the water and see some of Austria’s most breathtaking landscapes.

## Imperial Cities with Oberammergau Passion Play

**September 23 – October 3, 2020**

Set out on an exciting cultural experience in the Imperial Cities of Central Europe featuring traditional entertainment and the epic Oberammergau Passion Play. Highlights include: Budapest, the “Queen of the Danube,” truly one of the world’s most beautiful cities; a journey to Bratislava, the former Imperial capital of the Hapsburg Empire; Schoenbrunn Palace; fairytale town of Cesky Krumlov; Vienna, the former capital of the Austro-Hungarian Empire; and the magnificent tour of the “Golden City” of Prague, including the Hradcany Castle. In Prague discover the lovely statue-lined Charles Bridge, shop for Bohemian crystal or visit one of the city’s museums, such as the Lapidarium, home of stone sculptures dating from the 11<sup>th</sup> century to the present.

For pricing and additional information, availability or to have a trip brochure mailed to you, call Mary Huie, ARTA Travel Manager, at 501-993-3767 or 501-843-6190.

Links to detailed trip information are also available on our web site, [www.artanow.com/travel](http://www.artanow.com/travel).

# In Memoriam

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

## **Arkansas County**

Linda P. Cover  
Jeff R. Nesbitt  
Patricia M. Rawls  
Bobby B. Young

## **Ashley County**

Robert E. Crain Jr  
Mary A. Franklin  
Martha T. West

## **Benton County**

Bonnie L. Black  
Lewis H. Brock  
Ralph M. Harris  
Marvel Hickson  
William C. Kloepper  
Steven S. Lackey  
Ted P. McConnaughey  
Joyce L. Nell  
Imogene D. Stanford  
James T. Stewart  
Mary J. Strachan

## **Boone County**

JoBeth McEntire

## **Bradley County**

Lovelle W. Watkins

## **Clark County**

Nell M. Everett

## **Cleburne County**

Lura J. Hawkins

## **Cleveland County**

Eathel O. Qualls

## **Columbia County**

Mary J. Edwards  
Hamp P. Smith

## **Conway County**

Barbara C. Wade

## **Craighead County**

Billy G. Cremeens  
Brenda L. Stark  
Anthony Tribley

## **Crawford County**

Kenneth N. Farmer  
Barbara D. Vest

## **Drew County**

Betty C. Doggett  
Kaye H. Roach  
Harold E. Tilley

## **Drew County**

Oscar L. Wigley

## **Faulkner County**

Cleo M. Brewer  
Diane C. Crites  
Betty A. Crook  
Robert J. Gwatney  
Wilma J. Hartwick  
Francess A. Haywood  
Jimmy L. Herring  
Norma I. Holland  
Martha A. Perkins  
Debra S. Reeves

## **Fulton County**

Emma L. Stokes

## **Garland County**

Elizabeth D. Braswell  
Harold T. Cash  
Lindrel N. Hogaboom  
Marian C. Webb

## **Grant County**

Virginia S. Brooks

## **Greene County**

Mary C. Bogan  
Rudy D. Stone  
Mary L. Wallace

## **Hempstead County**

Lawrence D. Kemp  
Emma L. Loop  
Janett A. Winemiller

## **Hot Spring County**

James W. Coston  
Carolyn L. Herrington  
Dorothy M. McNiel

## **Howard County**

Mary J. Billings  
Rosann B. Hartness  
Sammy F. Jackson

## **Independence County**

Gerald W. Davis  
Anna M. Felts  
Lesley G. Hahn

## **Jefferson County**

Ivey L. Bee  
Carolyn M. Case  
Alex Davis  
Joann Kelly  
Peggy S. Koen

## **Jefferson County**

John C. Langley  
Vic Mosby  
Eddye J. Tomboli  
Rose M. Vaughan  
Florida M. Westbrook  
Verna L. Wilson

## **Johnson County**

Brenda A. Minor

## **Lawrence County**

Barbara J. Brannon

## **Lee County**

Barbara J. Patrick

## **Logan County**

Logan A. Green  
Steven P. Robinson  
Mark S. Schmidt

## **Lonoke County**

Mary A. Funderburg  
Kenneth D. Long  
Lorine H. Robinson  
Weston F. Woods  
Lavon L. Yezpe

## **Madison County**

Juanita F. Bailey

## **Miller County**

Juanita J. Brown  
Margaret E. Dixon  
Donna L. Jones

## **Mississippi County**

Gene E. Henton  
Cynthia J. Ray

## **Nevada County**

Margaret R. Hamilton  
Sue E. Nelson

## **Newton County**

Shirley F. Lasater

## **Ouachita County**

Nina J. Woodral

## **Phillips County**

Leonard Fitzgerald  
Rochester Johnson

## **Pike County**

James D. Robbins, Jr.

## **Poinsett County**

Jimmy S. Berry

## **Poinsett County**

Jill Brown

## **Polk County**

Robert D. Barron  
Linda M. Claborn  
Elmer Rainwater

## **Pope County**

Cynthia J. Gowin  
Frada A. Moore  
Jerry D. Ratzlaff

## **Prairie County**

Barbara J. Holmes

## **Pulaski County**

Ella L. Anderson  
Helen M. Ashley  
Paul Baker, Jr.  
Jacquelyn S. Bass  
Thelma P. Carter  
Kenneth R. Cotton  
Carolyn S. Crowell  
Barbara N. Farnam  
Patsy J. Fox  
Bill R. Halbrook  
Adda L. Haney  
Laversa L. Henslee  
Jesse D. Higginbotham  
Naomi L. Hooks  
Nell C. Hudson  
Joe Hundley  
Pauline K. Hussey  
Ophelia G. Johnson  
Maxine Jones  
Mary E. Keathley  
Erma King  
Texelda F. Lockard  
Sheri M. Marquis  
Keith A. Mathis  
Wylie W. Mavity, Jr.  
James D. McGee  
Samuel E. Pack, Jr.  
Shirley J. Perkins  
Carol L. Ruggles  
Carol V. Shellnut  
Edna Simpson  
Lorraine D. Smith  
Helen R. Triplett  
Judith M. Trowell  
Helen M. Tucker  
Dorothy L. Whitley  
Carl D. Wilcox  
Mary E. Worley

## **Saline County**

James E. Buffington  
Ruby J. Campbell  
Gloria J. Fitzhugh  
Audrey J. Holloway  
Sue O. Steele

## **Sebastian County**

Velter T. Anderson, Jr.  
Jeannie Canada  
Elsie M. Chesser  
Jim D. Clark  
Dawn E. Davis  
Betty L. Goddard  
Patricia H. King  
Mary L. Looper  
Jesse I. Miller, Jr.  
Joann P. Molett  
Laura L. Moore  
Betty R. Morris  
Patricia N. Werner

## **Sevier County**

Mildred P. Hodges

## **Sharp County**

John M. Kelley  
Norman E. Pruett  
Robert L. Russell  
Judy F. Wilson

## **St. Francis County**

Linda B. Carter

## **Stone County**

Ray H. Decker

## **Union County**

Allen E. Lachut  
Mary A. Whitlow

## **Washington County**

John P. Bogan  
Brenda A. Boren  
Patty C. Eurich  
Jane A. Hamilton  
Thomas R. McKinnon  
Katherine G. Renner  
Donna M. Stewart

## **White County**

Alice M. Choate  
Amy L. Cunningham  
Virginia C. Isham  
Marie Jones

*Continued, next page*

Thanks to the thoughtfulness and generosity of individuals and local units, \$2,650 in memorials, honorariums and scholarship donations were made to ARTA in the last three month period. An additional \$160 over and above the regular monthly dues contributed by Continuing Members brings the total to \$2,810. Your gifts to ARTA, for whatever reason, are greatly appreciated and are a meaningful and substantive part of funding the Parsons—Burnett Scholarship Grants. These scholarships are awarded for educators currently practicing in Arkansas to further their graduate studies.

## Arkansas County RTA

### In Memory of:

Linda Cover

## Clark County RTA

### In Memory of:

Nell Everett

## Cleburne County RTA

### In Honor of:

Dr. Lavern Penn

## Franklin County RTA

### In Memory of:

Carl Day

William “Dee” Gober

### In Honor of:

Jim Reynolds

## Greene County RTA

### In Memory of:

Pearl Hamilton

## Hempstead County RTA

### In Memory of:

Jean Tomlin

## Howard County RTA

### In Memory of:

Jo Jo Billings

Johnice Blackwell

Charlotte Hill

## Little Rock

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Parsons-Burnett Fund

### In Memory of:

Judy Trowell

## Logan County RTA

### In Memory of:

Logan Arliss Green

## Miller County RTA

### In Memory of:

Margaret Dixon

## Rogers RTA

### In Memory of:

Dolores U. Bartizal

Laquita L. Cannon

## Union County RTA

### In Memory of:

Gloria Jene Dumas

## Van Buren County RTA

### In Memory of:

Wilma Jean Barnum

## White County RTA

### In Memory of:

Glenave Curtis

Marian Webb

## David & Betty Cauldwell

Parsons-Burnett Fund

## Brenda Hancock

Parsons-Burnett Fund

## Patsy Reece

### In Memory of:

Jean Tomlin

## Phil Roberts

Parsons-Burnett Fund

Please let us know of any changes or corrections to the mailing addresses of ARTA members.

Call us toll free at 1-888-929-0955  
or locally at 501-375-2958.

You can also help us stay in touch between newsletters by sharing your email address with us at [office\\_arta@att.net](mailto:office_arta@att.net).

## In Memoriam, *continued*

### White County

William K. Moser

Velda L. Sibley

Earleen B. Temple

### Yell County

Genevieve Spencer

### Out-of-State

Jane E. Bonner

Cheryl L. Bowline

Jesse R. Bradford

### Out-of-State

Walter J. Crofut

Carolyn S. Ellis

Freddie J. Ford

Eugene V. Franks

Retha J. Hays

William E. Leach

Gary L. Mauldin

Cornelia P. Moorehead

Hazel N. Settles

Gerri S. Shope

### Out-of-State

Felicia D. Smith

Claudette Spillyards

Patricia A. Stadum

John A. Stewart

Ernestine H. Thomas

Corrine Turner

Elizabeth S. Wellborn

Georgia K. Wells

Dollie F. Whitney

**YES!** I want to make a contribution to the ARTA Parsons-Burnett Scholarship Fund.

I understand that my contribution is NOT tax-deductible and WILL be used to fund scholarship grants for practicing educators in Arkansas to further their education.

Detach, sign and mail this form with your check made payable to ARTA to 1200 Commerce Suite 103, Little Rock, AR 72012.

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

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- Membership Form



### Arkansas Retired Teachers Association Membership Form

Act 105 of 1985 authorizes the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System to deduct your ARTA dues from your monthly benefit check if you desire. Such authorization may be canceled only by a written notice from you to the retirement system. Please select one of the following options, sign and return this form to ARTA for processing. (Return only if you are not currently an ARTA member or if you wish to make a change.)

#### ARTA CONTINUING MEMBERSHIP DUES

(1) \_\_\_ I elect to have \$2 per month deducted from my benefit checks for ARTA dues.

#### ARTA LIFE MEMBERSHIP DUES

(3) \_\_\_ I elect to have 12 payments of \$20 deducted from my benefit checks for a total of \$240.

#### DIRECT PAYMENT

(2) \_\_\_ Annual Membership (\$28 check enclosed).

(4) \_\_\_ One-time payment of \$240 enclosed.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security Number (last four digits) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Send completed form and applicable payment to:

**ARTA Membership, 1200 Commerce Street Ste. 103, Little Rock, AR 72202**

(Return this form only if you are not currently an ARTA member, or if you wish to make changes.)