

On the Right Path

2021—2022 Annual Report **Arkansas Retired Teachers Association**





Where we've been

July 2021
11,826 members

MILESTONES

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| July 2021 | ARTA Board of Directors meets in person for the first time since January 2020 |
| Summer 2021 | ARTA awards 12 Parsons-Burnett Grants, the most ever awarded in a program year |
| Fall 2021 | Life Continuing Membership * is promoted as a way to continue funding the grant program at pandemic levels |
| Fall 2021 | ARTA begins contracting for group travel to resume in 2022 |
| January 2022 | The ARTA Board of Directors approves funding for at least one grant for a classified employee seeking teacher licensure |
| Spring 2022 | At members' request, ARTA creates the Continuing Plus Membership * |
| May 2022 | Four Area Leadership Councils host in-person conferences for the first time since the spring of 2019 |
| June 2022 | Approximately 200 people attend the first in-person state convention since October 2019 |

* Life Continuing and Continuing Plus members are those members of ARTA who have elected to have an additional amount deducted from their monthly benefit check to support the Parsons-Burnett Program.

July 2022
11,766 members



Current Location

2021-2022 was spent navigating “the new normal”

The ARTA Board of Directors, standing state committees and ARTA staff used this time to identify what worked and what didn't (both prior to and during the pandemic), to make adjustments and improvements, and to strategize how we could best return to familiar territory without going backward.

*In 2020-2021, ARTA was able to give 12 Parsons-Burnett Grants with funds that were not spent on meetings and travel. In 2021-2022, the ARTA board took two steps to ensure that this level of funding could be maintained. First, an Investment Committee was appointed to reinvest ARTA's funds to maximize earnings. Second, the Life Continuing Membership * was reintroduced. Later, in response to a request from a Continuing member, the Continuing Plus Membership * was created.*

In 2020-2021, most meetings were held virtually. In 2021-2022, meetings were “hybrid”. This enabled ARTA staff, leaders and even more volunteer representatives to attend, virtually or in person, meetings of the Joint Legislative Committee, Arkansas Teachers Retirement System Board of Trustees, and the State Board of Finance (State and Public-School Life and Health Insurance Program).

2021-2022 also saw the return of members in local communities to pre-pandemic activities, including local unit meetings, group outings, service projects and volunteerism.

While membership officially remained flat in 2021-2022, ARTA took various steps to increase membership. These included verifying the accuracy of the membership list and identifying new ways of identifying and inviting new retirees and other potential members to join ARTA.

In summary, 2021-2022 was a year of reorientation—putting plans and processes in place to ensure effective leadership, meaningful engagement, and tangible benefits for current and prospective ARTA members.



image: Flaticon.com



Along the way

Local units of education retirees also found themselves navigating “the new normal” in 2021-22. They forged ahead in spite of the challenges, proving once again what a valuable resource they are to local members, schools and communities.

There were 61 local units in contact with ARTA in 2021-2022. These units provided important information and resources, social connections and volunteer service opportunities to their members and their communities.

Approximately half of the active units submitted an annual report to ARTA for 2021-22. While the reports showed that units were not back to pre-pandemic levels of programming and membership, they also showed that local members remained active in serving their peers and communities.



\$39,901
cash and items
donated by local units

\$3,960,049
dollar value of volunteer time
donated by local units

Local units and individual members are vital to their communities and to ARTA. We look forward to sharing the journey ahead with each and every one of you.

Arkansas Retired Teachers Association

1200 Commerce Suite 103 | Little Rock, AR 72202
501-375-2958 | 888-929-0955 | www.artanow.com