



INTERLINK

ARKANSAS RETIRED TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

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REMINDER

The ARTA membership year is July 1 through June 30. **Annual Members**—If you have not renewed your membership for 2016-2017, please do so as soon as possible to ensure that you continue receiving the INTERLINK and other benefits of ARTA membership. You can change your membership type at any time by completing the membership form on the back page.



Find us on
Facebook

Electing to Affect Your Future

ARTA is a nonpartisan organization. As such, we cannot endorse any particular candidate. We *can* educate them about the needs and concerns of members, which we continually strive to do.

We also work to keep our members informed about issues that affect you. We encourage you to become an advocate not only for these issues, but any issues that are important to you.

There are numerous resources and opportunities available as you spend the next few months learning more about the issues and discussing them with candidates. We've listed a few of our favorites here.

Take a Stand—AARP's campaign to educate consumers and to get you to press candidates on specific plans for the future strength and stability of Social Security. For an overview of the major

presidential candidates' current stands on Social Security, and how they affect you and your family, visit takeastand.aarp.org.

State Ballot Issues—Arkansas currently has four ballot issues on the November 2016 ballot. The Public Policy Center at the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service publishes fact sheets that include background information and basic explanations of each issue. For more information, contact your County Extension Agent or visit www.uaex.edu and search "voter education".

ARTA Now—The ARTA web site includes information and materials to assist you in working with both colleagues and candidates. Visit www.artanow.com regularly to see what we've added, or to request additional resources to support your membership and advocacy efforts.

You're Invited!

All ARTA members are invited to attend the 2016 Annual State Convention on September 27, 2016 at the Benton Event Center in Benton, Arkansas. Program details and registration information are on page 4.

ARTA:
*The Voice of Retired
School Employees*



September 27, 2016

Insurance Updates for 2017

Rates and Benefits

The State and Public School Life and Health Insurance Board has established the monthly premium rates for the 2017 plan year. The plan benefits have not changed. Tables showing the rates can be found on page 11.

Complete benefit and coverage information can be found at www.ARBenefits.org.

Open Enrollment

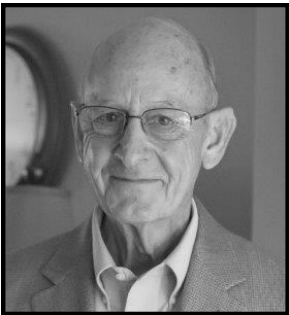
The open enrollment period for Public School Employees will be October 1-15, 2016.

For assistance with plan changes, contact the Employees Benefits Division (EBD) at 501-682-9656 or 1-877-815-1017.

Message from the President

The ARTA Journey

On July 1 this year I started a journey as ARTA’s President. I am asking that you join me in this journey as I serve. I am honored and humbled to have been elected as the president of ARTA, an organization that is 12,228 members strong. My first stop in this journey was to conduct the 2016 summer Board Meeting. The experiences, knowledge and wisdom of the board members and officers were focused on one agenda: Actions and decisions that will benefit ARTA membership. When I retired in 2009, I did not know much about the organization except that Boone County had a retired teachers association. My wife had retired from teaching two years earlier and was an ARTA member. I attended our local fall meeting, paid my dues with the expectation of going to a few meetings each year and enjoying the fellowship with other educators. I soon found myself involved in the local activities as local chapter president and chairman of a state committee. The challenge for ARTA today is that approximately two thousand retire annually from schools and colleges. What can each of us do to help the new retiree become informed and involved? Past President Dr. Ella Walker-Rolfe, as well as many others, has worked tirelessly in an effort to increase membership. Yes, their efforts made a difference! Now with each current member becoming actively involved in getting new members there will be more growth and a stronger organization. I urge you to continue the good work of Dr. Walker-Rolfe. Get involved and involve others.



The theme we have selected for the Annual Convention on September 27 is “ARTA – the voice of retired school employees”. In May all six areas had their spring meetings, which I attended as President-Elect. I was awed and inspired by the strengths and activities in each of the areas. Each area had a different program and focus but all six areas were united as members of ARTA. There is a wealth of information and knowledge to be shared within the six areas of the state. As you and I continue in this journey, I want us to find a way to share programs and activities that work within our organization, provide leadership training activities, and grow our local and state membership. The past and present members have provided an organization for us and we, the current members, need to be involved to keep ARTA strong and improved for the next group of retirees.

ARTA’s constitution has six stated purposes that are intended to encourage our involvement. One purpose talks about programs planned to help its members remain active in meaningful community activities while another purpose asks for support of legislative efforts designed to improve and protect the professional, social, and economic welfare of educators. These are lofty purposes and can only be accomplished through the involvement of our members. As you and I make this year’s journey with ARTA, please consider ways to be involved and to involve other retirees. Together we can serve, support and grow ARTA.

James T. Morris
ARTA President

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E-mail: office_arta@att.net
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Inside Pulaski County: 501-682-1517
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E-mail: info@artsr.gov
www.artsr.gov

**Employee Benefits Division
(State Health and Life Insurance)**
Inside Pulaski County: 501-682-9656
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www.arbenefits.org



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ADDRESS CHANGES
Please let us know if you or an
ARTA member you know has moved.
Call us toll free at 1-888-929-0955
or locally at 375-2958.

You can also help us stay in touch between
newsletters by sharing your email address with
us at office_arta@att.net.

Thanks for helping us all stay connected.

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Paulette Parker President-Elect
Bob Thompson Vice President
Sharon Rapp Secretary
Donna Morey Executive Director
Mary Huie Office/Travel Manager
Tammy Gray Communications

Message from the Executive Director

New Beginnings

The 2016 – 2017 schoolyear is here. As a retired public school teacher and coach, I smile thinking of no longer having to prepare for the opening of the school year and attending all those 8 A.M. meetings. I *do* miss the students' first day with their energy and sense of wonder. The ARTA new year began in July with our 2015 – 2016 President, Dr. Ella Walker-Rolfe, passing the role of President to Mr. James Morris for 2016 – 2017. Dr. Walker-Rolfe was a joy to work with as she strove to increase the membership of ARTA and local units around the state. I know she will continue to push all of us to ask retirees to join ARTA. President Morris will have an opportunity to lead the organization with his vision to streamline the committee structure and by encouraging the ARTA Area board members to have greater involvement with their local unit leaders.

ARTA was chartered in 1939 soon after the Arkansas Teacher Retirement System enabling legislation was passed. This was a trying time in our nation's history. Most of our current ARTA members were not employed in schools in the 1930's. At that time, female teachers were not allowed to be married. Many of our ARTA members did work in public schools when all women and African American men were paid much less than white men working in the same positions. I am thankful those practices have changed for all public school educators to be on the same salary schedule at local school districts in the United States. This is why ATRS pensions are so important for all public school retirees—they guarantee added security for all who spent years serving in Arkansas' public schools. ARTA has been active in the political process to maintain and improve pensions and other benefits for all public school active employees and retirees. ARTA is nonpartisan, which al-

*"We find **comfort** among those who agree with us—**growth** among those who don't."*

— Frank A. Clark

lows us to have an audience with all law makers to share our concerns as well as compliments.

The General Elections are Nov. 8th. Every member of the Arkansas House of Representatives and many State Senate seats will be decided. I ask that you visit with your local candidates to ask their views on: public education, Arkansas Teacher Retirement System and its defined benefit plan, the state's support of health insurance for public school employees and retirees, and your personal questions. These issues are important for all who have been or are currently employed and those in the future. George Hopkins often says the ATRS is about the three R's - recruit, retain and

reward individuals who work in Arkansas' public schools. The other important part of the ballot in November will be the initiated acts and proposed changes to the Arkansas Constitution. We will send emails with links to nonpartisan explanations to all those items closer to early voting dates. If ARTA does not have a good email address for you,

please send an email to Tammy Gray, tammy_arta@att.net or Mary Huie, mary_arta@att.net to be added to our email list. Knowledge is power and each of you must vote your best informed choices.

I hope to see all of you at the ARTA State Convention. Thank you for your service to the children of Arkansas' public schools. You are all public servants, worthy of a wonderful public pension with many other benefits. Enjoy sleeping in during those early morning faculty meetings!

Donna



The Clark County Retired Teachers Association recently collected gently used shoes for distribution at the Ecumenical Food Pantry. Their contributions were among approximately 190 pairs of shoes, enough to share with the Beehive and Lighthouse Ministries after the food pantry recipients were served.

For more Local Unit news, see page 6.

ARTA Convention—September 27, 2017

Proposed Program

- 8:30 A.M. Registration/Check-In
- 9:30 A.M. Business Session/Awards Program
- 10:45 A.M. Breakout Session A
A 1—Traveling with ARTA
A 2—Health Literacy
- 11:35 A.M. Breakout Session B
B 1—Prepare to Care: A Planning Guide for Families
B 2—Fraud Protection
- 12:30 P.M. Convention Luncheon
AR Teacher of the Year/Scholarship Recipients
- 1:30 P.M. ARTA/ATRS Director's Reports
- 2:30 P.M. Adjourn

The Silent Auction will be open from 8:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.
Winners will be announced before the close of the luncheon.
Items will be paid for and taken home the day of the convention.

Benton Event Center 17322 I-30 Benton, Arkansas

The Benton Event Center is located in the Hickory Square Shopping Center on the west side of I-30 (across the highway from Wal-Mart).

From I-30 W, take Exit 118 at Congo Road and stay on the frontage road until you arrive at the entrance to the shopping center. The event center is on the right. Behind Tropical Smoothie Café.

From I-30 E, take Exit 117 to Hwy 35 S/West Carpenter Street and turn left. Stay right onto Hwy 5 then left onto Kenwood Road. Turn left onto Sharron Road. Turn right

onto Nalley Street, which runs behind the shopping center. You will enter the parking lot from back/north side between the Cinemark Tinseltown Theater and the event center.



Annual ARTA State Convention

Tuesday, September 27, 2016
Benton Event Center
9:30—2:30

**Please make your reservation
by September 16, 2016**

**NO RESERVATIONS ACCEPTED
AFTER SEPTEMBER 20, 2016**

Mail to: ARTA Convention
1200 Commerce Street Suite 103
Little Rock, AR 72202

Reserve by phone:
501-375-2958 or 888-929-0955

If you are registering multiple members, please include a list with the following information for each attendee:

Name _____

Address _____

City/County _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Breakout Sessions

- ☐ Traveling with ARTA, Collette Travel
- ☐ Health Literacy, Arkansas Cooperative Extension
- ☐ Prepare to Care: A Planning Guide for Families, AARP
- ☐ Fraud Protection
- ☐ Other sessions may be added

Tickets can be picked up on the day of the convention. **To have tickets sent to you in advance, please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope.**

_____ ticket(s) @ \$25 each (refreshments & luncheon) = _____

Check Name _____ Check # _____ Received _____

Welcome New Life Members

Ashley County

Curry Martin

Baxter County

Kandis S. Croom

Benton County

Roger Busse

Boone County

Virginia L. Holsted
Donnie Marie McBride
Philip Milan

Clark County

Elaine Roe

Clay County

Brenda Gail Burns

Craighead County

Donna K. Hatley
Cindy L. Martin
Melinda Miller
Sherry Moody
Cheryl Reeves
Linda Sue Sims
Krisiti Thomas
Donna K. Trammel

Crawford County

Elizabeth A. Arndt
Mary E. Duncan
Ronnie D. Newton
Rosemarie Newton
Elizabeth J. Williams

Crittenden County

Debbie Kay Reginelli

Dallas County

Sarah E. Zoll

Desha County

Geneva Pickett

Drew County

Martha V. Crossett

Faulkner County

Kathey Farley
Lena A. Fulmer
Dee Ann Howell
Leigh A. Moravec
Gloria W. Parker

Garland County

Helen L. Albrecht
Robert Pierce

Greene County

Karla Blackwood
Alantha Ann Branch
Beverly L. Murray
Mary Ann Rand

Hempstead County

Carolyn McCorkle
Vanessa McCraw

Howard County

Pamela A. Wynn

Independence County

Glenita K. Anderson
Nancy M. Kramer

Izard County

Dena Shipley

Jackson County

Linda Black

Jefferson County

Nancy R. Briggs
Karon Henderson
Ramona K. McLemore
Deloris Riley
Thelma A. Jones -
Sanders
Anita Wynne
Seth Wynne

Johnson County

Tracy Norris

Lafayette County

Judy G. Bridges

Lawrence County

Loretta J. Murphy

Lincoln County

Carol Jacobs

Little River County

Sheri M. Collins

Lonoke County

Sandra R. Wagner

Madison County

Janice S. Moore

Miller County

Charlotte P. Potter

Mississippi County

Letroy Gathen
Laura A. Harrison
Katherine A. Morton
Elizabeth Ann Wells
Doris Willyerd

Nevada County

Cheryl Morrison

Newton County

Jerry Harrison

Perry County

Sherry L. Holliman

Phillips County

Vallie J. Cartwright

Pike County

Rhonda K. Mullen

Poinsett County

Sandra Eastin

Polk County

Deborah G. Brantley
Griffin G. Liles II
Lydia Razo
Brenda Robins

Pope County

Carol A. Gray

Pulaski County

George Belew
Melanie Churchill
Darlene C. Clark
Patricia Ann Gilkey
Vickie L. Halpine
Felicia L. Bell Hobbs
Carolyn C. Island
Vearlon Jeffries
Forrest L. Kyle
Anita J. Mounger
Donna Gail Muldrew
Judith A. Stewart
Penelope H. Thomas
Helen M. Todd
Shelley Vickers
Herman H. Williams

Randolph County

Susan H. Simmons

Saline County

Victoria G. Barney
Sarah Brumley
Linda M. Byrd
Pamela L. Evans
Buddy E. Jones
Nanette C. Ramsey
Rebecca Denise Rucker

Scott County

Jacqueline A. Plummer

Searcy County

Brenda Smyth

Sebastian County

Debbie S. Barclay
Susan Haines
Connie H. Sell

Sharp County

Nola Ann Stephenson

St. Francis County

Frank L. Shaw III
Shirley W. Thorn
Evelyn Willis

Union County

Eva Mae Barnes

Van Buren County

J. Benton Allen Sr.
Debra L. Smith
Kathryn E. Treadaway
Michael L. Treadaway

Washington County

Carolyn T. Anderson
Linda C. Davis
Diana L. Fuqua
Kathie B. Miller
Debra J. Moore
Rhonda J. Porter
Earl D. Rowe

White County

Tanya Mullen

Out-Of-State

Shirley Nelms
Karen E. Widdifield

Local Units Support Education with Scholarships



The Phillips County Retired Teachers Organization awarded three \$1,000 scholarships to local students in pursuit of higher education.

Charles Jones, Jr. (Tonya and Charles Jones, Sr.) Ariel House (Dwight and Fleita House) and Jaylen Randolph (Harvey L. Randolph) are 2016 graduates of Central High School in Helena-West Helena.

Pictured at left are the recipients and members of the scholarship committee. From left to right: Lula Orsby-Jones, Gertie Charles, Hazel Coleman, Cora Blakely, Jones, House, Leroy Williams, (President) and Jaylen Randolph.

Not pictured: Loistyne Burns, Scholarship Committee Chair.



The Clark County Retired Teachers Association awarded five scholarships local teachers to assist them with educational needs. Recipients (above, left to right) and their schools are:

Lea Myers (Peake Elementary, Arkadelphia), Brandi Cotton (Goza Middle School, Arkadelphia), Jodie Daniell (Peake Elementary, Arkadelphia), Mona Jackson (Peake Elementary, Arkadelphia), and Lindsey Fant (Centerpoint School, Amity).



The North Pulaski Retired Teachers Association awarded a scholarship for \$1,000 to Callie Elizabeth Bonds.

The scholarship is given annually to a student who states an intent to pursue a career in the teaching profession and meets other scholarship requirements. Ms. Bonds plans to attend the University of Arkansas and major in Elementary Education.

Pictured at right are Callie Elizabeth Bonds and Kathy Helmer, Chairperson of the NPRTA Scholarship Committee.

Unit news and photos may be submitted to ARTA directly or to your Area Director. Items will be shared via Facebook and in the INTERLINK as space permits. The deadline for the next issue is October 21, 2016.



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D4 2016-2017

2017 Monthly Insurance Premiums for Medicare Primary Retirees Effective January 1, 2017—December 31, 2017

	Base Month-ly Premium	Subsidy/ Plan Contri- bution	Total Monthly Retiree Cost
Retiree Only	194.78	94.00	100.78
Retiree & Spouse	795.37	11.45	783.92
Retiree & Child(ren)	757.10	0	757.10
Retiree & Family	1521.48	0	1521.48
Retiree & Medicare Primary Spouse	365.66	102.62	263.04
Retiree & Medicare Primary Spouse & Child(ren)	888.58	0	888.58

The rates shown here were provided by AR Benefits (Employee Benefits Division).
For more information, contact EBD directly at 501-682-9656 or 1-877-815-1017.

2017 Monthly Insurance Premiums for Non-Medicare Retirees Effective January 1, 2017—December 31, 2017

	Total Monthly Retiree Cost
Premium	
Retiree Only	641.14
Retiree & Non-Medicare Spouse	1457.18
Retiree & Child(ren)	1192.60
Retiree & Non-Medicare Spouse & Child(ren)	2008.64
Retiree & Medicare Primary Spouse	795.12
Retiree & Medicare Primary Spouse & Child(ren)	1346.58
Classic	
Retiree Only	273.30
Retiree & Spouse	565.78
Retiree & Child(ren)	469.82
Retiree & Family	746.20
Basic	
Retiree Only	148.50
Retiree & Spouse	269.72
Retiree & Child(ren)	238.52
Retiree & Family	335.72

Travel Opportunities

ARTA members and their families are invited to join us for fun and exciting trips of a lifetime! 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. A detailed itinerary and the cost for each trip are available by calling the ARTA office at 501-375-2958 or by visiting our website artanow.com.

ARTA reserves 25 airline seats with Collette for each trip. Therefore, an early booking with deposit will help ensure your airline seat and a price reduction. Reservations made after ARTA's airline 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, are available if you prefer to depart from there (usually at no additional cost). You would join the group at the trip destination.

For the last three years ARTA has partnered with **Collette – Guided by Travel** and one of the benefits Collette provides is: travel loyalty, through a simple online process, after booking a trip. Once you depart you will receive, from Collette, a \$150 credit per person towards your next trip if you travel within the next 12 months or \$100 credit per person if you travel before the end of 24 months. Another benefit is a worry-free travel protection plan. If you need to cancel for any reason, right up until the day prior to departure, you will get a full refund (less the cost of the insurance plan). Additionally, you are covered on tour. If you have to stop your trip or return home early, need medical assistance or evacuation, suffer a baggage loss or delay, or are delayed on tour for 12 hours or more you are covered.

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. Suggestions for future ARTA trips are always welcome so let us hear from you regarding your dream destination. Remember – “book early, book early.”

Happy Travels,

Mary Huie, ARTA Travel Manager

2016 Travel

September 13-25, 2016

Alaska Discover Land & Cruise—**SOLD OUT**

October 8-16, 2016

Magical Rhine & Moselle—**SOLD OUT**

Bus Trip to Smoky Mountains FOR Fall Foliage—**SOLD OUT**

November 28-December 2, 2016

Spotlight on New York Holiday—**SOLD OUT**

2017 Travel

February 10-16, 2017—Iceland's Magical Northern Lights. Discover Iceland, a land and culture forged by fire and ice. Steaming lava fields and massive glaciers sculpt mountains and valleys, leaving thundering waterfalls and plunging fjords. In this land of many natural wonders, enjoy the rare opportunity to see the aurora borealis – one of nature's most dazzling light displays, also known as the northern lights. **A deposit of \$250 per person is due upon reservation. Reservations are made on a first come, first served basis. Reservations made after August 4, 2016 are based upon availability. Book now and save \$200 per person.**

March 10-19, 2017—Sunny Portugal—Estoril Coast, Alentejo & Algarve (with optional Madeira Island post tour extension). Portugal – a historic land of great explorers is waiting for your own exploration. Discover ancient castles, Roman ruins, groves of lemon and almond trees, quiet whitewashed villages and kind, gentle people. Experience local cuisine and wine while immersed in the moving sounds of Fado. Other highlights include: a stop in historic Evora, known as the “Museum City of Portugal; 3-night stay on the the Portuguese Riviera; tour of Lisbon; overnight among vineyards and farmland in the heart of the Alentejo region and 5 UNESCO World Heritage sites. For more information on the optional Madeira Island post tour, call the ARTA office. **A deposit of \$250 per person is due upon reservation. Reservations are made on a first come, first served basis. Reservations made after the deposit due date of September 5, 2016 are based upon availability. Book now and save \$200 per person.**

May 9-21, 2017—Alaska Discovery Land & Cruise. (This trip will require a passport) Enjoy three nights at stunning Princess lodges while you visit Denali National Park; take a Tundra Wilderness Tour; cruise on the Sternwheeler Discovery and be entertained at the Music of Denali Dinner Theater. A luxury domed railcar allowing you to view incredible landscape, with rail guides, will take you to Anchorage. There you will board one of the Princess Cruise Lines' lovely ships to cruise the Inside Passage and Glacier Bay. Explore Skagway and relive Alaska's Gold Rush days; visit Ketchikan known as the “Salmon Capital of the World” and the “City of Totems” and Juneau, the capital city of Alaska. **A deposit of \$250 per person is due upon reservation. Reservations are made on a first come, first served basis. Reservations made after the deposit due date of November 2, 2016 are based upon availability. Book an outside cabin and receive an upgrade to a balcony cabin free. Free balcony upgrade is available on a first come first served basis as space is available at the time of names in. Valid on land/air inclusive bookings only.**

**June 2017—Bus Trip to Charleston & Savannah
DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED**

Travel Opportunities

July 18-25, 2017—America's Cowboy Country. Welcome to Jackson Hole, America's most famous cowboy town. Find yourself amid its rare blend of elegance and western charm. Your first taste will be a covered wagon ride to enjoy a chuck wagon dinner with entertainment. The National Park Service is celebrating 100 years of service in August, 2016, so you must explore Yellowstone National Park, the first national park in the world watching Old Faithful geyser erupt, sending steam high in the air. Other highlights include: a visit to rambling Deadwood, a National Historic Landmark; embarking on either a relaxing wildlife float trip or an exciting whitewater rafting adventure and a Black Hills gold tour. **A deposit of \$250 per person is due upon reservation. Reservations are made on a first come, first served basis. Reservations made after January 11, 2017 are based upon availability. Book now and save \$100 per person.**

August 10-19, 2017—Discover Switzerland, Austria & Bavaria. Begin your tour in Bern, the capital of Switzerland and a UNESCO World Heritage site nestled in the Swiss countryside. A panoramic sightseeing tour of Bern features the Bundeshaus (the Swiss Parliament), the famous Bear Pit, the Rose Gardens and the gothic cathedral which dominates Old Town's skyline. Experience a ride on the Golden Pass Panoramic train from Montreux to Gstaad; walk the halls of the legendary, medieval Chateau de Chillon, located on the shores of Lake Geneva and witness the musical tradition of Austria during a Tyrolean folklore show. Other highlights are: a day exploring Salzburg's historic past; a walking tour of Lucerne's Altstadt (old town); traveling to Bavaria and seeing the famous Nuschwanstein Castle. Delight your taste buds experiencing local cuisine such as cheese fondue and a wonderful dinner at the 1,200-year-old St. Peter's Restaurant, Austria's oldest.

A deposit of \$250 per person is due upon reservation. Reservations are made on a first come, first served basis. Reservations made after February 4, 2017 are based upon availability. Book now and save \$250 per person.

September 13-20, 2017—Pacific Northwest & California. Your scenic tour through the Pacific Northwest and California opens in one of America's most picturesque cities, Seattle. Embark on a sightseeing tour of the "Emerald City," including the colorful restored waterfront area, historic Pioneer Square and lively Pike Place Market, a famous fish and vegetable market dotted with restaurants and shops. Traveling south through Oregon, discover the awe-inspiring landscapes on a tour of the magnificent Columbia River Gorge and the Bonneville Dam, where you will learn about its fascinating hydropower and history. On the way to the coastal town of Newport you will see the Willamette Valley. It contains some of the most fertile agricultural soils of Oregon and nurtures vegetables, flowers, herbs and vineyards. Next stop – Gold Beach, known for amazing wildlife including bald eagles, cormorants, seals and blue heron. Further south, you will enter the Redwood Country of California. In Redwood National Park see trees that rise to nearly 300 feet tall and later enjoy Eureka, CA, a historic timber and fishing village featuring Victorian architecture of Old Town. Last but not least, San Francisco with several different choices for you to enjoy your time there.

**October 2017—Bus Trip to the Amish Country
DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED**



ARTA travelers enjoyed a trip to Canyon Country in May.

**Late Early November 2017
Spotlight on Washington, D.C. (DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED).** Explore America's heritage and history on this in-depth tour of the capital city of the United States. Spend five memorable nights in the heart of Washington, D.C. Highlights include: a visit to Mount Vernon, the beloved home of the first U.S. president, George Washington; Smithsonian Institution; choice of famed Air and Space Museum or the National Museum of American History; Washington National

Cathedral; Ford's Theatre; Arlington National Cemetery with a narrated tour including the Tomb of the Unknowns and the Kennedy gravesites; World War II Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the Korean War Memorial.

Continued on page 15

In Memoriam

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

Arkansas County

Robert A. Almond
Twyla K. Watkins

Ashley County

Margaret R. Alexander
Elmer A. Sparks
Anne Tiebel

Baxter County

William W. Thomas

Benton County

Sophia J. Barton
Mary L. Green
Carla K. Jump

Boone County

Frances Aldrich
Sharon K. Record
Mary C. Rose

Bradley County

Sybil F. Morgan
Glendola C. Pinson

Chicot County

Brenda J. Phillips

Clark County

Charles E. Crockett
Gladys V. Johnson

Clay County

Mary L. Rogers

Cleburne County

Barbara L. Moody
Rodney W. Todd
Doris M. Ward

Cleveland County

James M. Russell
Ruth W. Sadler

Columbia County

Sue A. Burchfield

Conway County

Rosalie Winningham

Craighead County

Don R. Belk
Pauline N. House
Mattie R. Parker
Brenda D. Summers
Linda C. Wisdom

Crawford County

Louise B. Bassham
Dora B. Hodges
Rebecca K. Riddle
Mary M. Simmons
Cathy A. Webb

Cross County

Helen C. Morgan

Dallas County

Loyce F. Brazeale
Charles R. Lasiter
Vivian T. Scott

Desha County

Ladoskie B. Keeling
Diane G. Ridgell
Alta E. Weatherford

Drew County

Shirley M. Haskew
Virginia M. Knight
Beatrice I. Pearson
Robert S. Pearson

Faulkner County

Shirley D. Austin
Ila R. Blackwell
David S. Floyd
Helen V. Freeman-Lynch
Mary E. Fuller
James D. Hall

Franklin County

Helen M. Wells

Garland County

Mary L. Benberg
Elmer D. Bridges, Jr.
Harold E. Curtis
Lucille P. Foster
Joel A. Frazier
Wilma I. Hanner
Glenn E. James

Grant County

Nancy A. Elder
Patsy J. Woolems

Greene County

Joe K. Yeargain

Hempstead County

Shirley A. Cooper

Hot Spring County

Retha K. Kilmer
Shelby J. Rood

Independence County

John H. Barker
Carroll L. Lake
Beverly A. Ratliff
Cloy G. Roberson

Izard County

Richard L. Billingsley
Rachel R. Dillard
Joel D. Martin

Jackson County

Lawanda M. Cornwell
Thomas O. Dickinson
James D. Free

Jefferson County

Elmaurice Carlton
Louvenia J. Clark
Mary E. King
Ella K. Quarles

Lawrence County

Loretta K. Dulaney
Charles W. Dunn

Lincoln County

Ella M. Rawlings

Little River County

Gloria M. Potts

Lonoke County

Dorothy I. Childres
Vernon L. Collins
Eugene Cooney
Martha C. Harris
Oscar Shaffer

Madison County

Karl Middlebush

Mississippi County

Patsy J. Haynes

Monroe County

Jeanette W. Burton

Montgomery County

Billy Lewis

Nevada County

Frederick A. Thomas

Newton County

Mary K. Brasel
Katherine A. Hayford
Glenda F. Niswonger

Phillips County

Elbert Jarrett

Pope County

Jeaneane Markham
Paula L. Phillips
Mary A. Pugh
Martha P. Williams

Prairie County

Betty L. Blaylock

Pulaski County

Pat A. Boyd
Evelyn K. Davenport
Rebecca J. Davison
Sharon A. Ellis
Jewell L. Ferren
Bernice S. Graves
Marilyn J. Hagberg
William E. Hogan
Elva S. Hunt
Norma J. Justus
Gussie C. Love
Cindy L. Lybarger
Wynell Martin
Robert J. Momon
Mary E. Owens
Henry R. Paulus
Veronica V. Paxton
Alice C. Rand
Lee E. Ratcliff
Wilma J. Robinson
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Walter B. Shelton
Barbara J. Thomas
Shirley D. Trantham
Eugene Waire
Lorene O. Wise

Randolph County

Ruth M. Riddle

Saline County

Jannis B. Ball
James D. Diemer
Janet L. Foster
Virginia A. Greenway

Sarabel Leech

Peggy J. Morehead
Marie N. Nowlin
Lula B. Rippberger
Gary A. Tollett

Sebastian County

Milton O. Gilbreath
Rosarita Huber
Edwin L. Johnson
Hannah B. Primm
Lee J. Russell
Jane B. Wiswall

St. Francis County

Future M. Jeffers
Sandra G. Me urrier

Stone County

Joe D. Harris
Ronnie D. Lee
Velma B. Woody

Union County

Joseph L. Brice
Shirley J. Crawford
John E. Ross
Marcelle G. Vick

Van Buren County

James L. Kirkendoll

Washington County

Patricia S. Cockram
Cathi L. Cook
Jay P. Manor
Jeannine Presley
Tracee J. Rhodehouse
Carl B. Schafer
Maureen Shireman
Eleanor Smitherman

White County

Lula J. Mallett
Betty C. Rippy
Jessie C. Staggs

Continued on page 15

Thanks to the thoughtfulness and generosity of individuals and local units, \$699.00 in memorials, honorariums and scholarship donations were mailed to ARTA in the last three month period. An additional \$15.00, over and above the regular monthly dues contributed by Continuing Members, brings the total to \$714.00. 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 to educators currently practicing in Arkansas to further their graduate studies.

Columbia/Lafayette County RTA

In memory of:
Sharon Eichenberger

Faulkner County RTA

In memory of:
Ben Bakker
Betty Courtway
Elizabeth Lynch
Bill Stephens

Fort Smith RTA

In memory of:
Clara Alverson
Ronnie Bramlet
Bill Gordey
Gene Maddox
Donna Perceful

Gay Presley
Wenda Thomas
Danna Turpin

Hempstead County RTA

In memory of :
Shirley Cooper

Izard County RTA

Donation
Parsons-Burnett Scholarship

Jefferson County RTA

In memory of:
Estella Clark
Sara Cromer
Iliff Dalby
Ora Donaldson
Reba Gist

Virginia Jones
Bobbie Joyce
Lucy Lucas
Gertrude Schimmel
Beth Dean Gilmore Smith
Marjorie Stewart
Leatta Sweatt
Clytie Watkins
Inez Westbrook

Marion County Donation

Parsons-Burnett Scholarship

North Pulaski RTA

In memory of:
Dorothy Ruffin

Prairie County RTA Donation

Parsons-Burnett Scholarship

Van Buren County RTA

In memory of:
Sue Blakeney

Patsy Reece

In memory of:
Shirley Cooper

Jana Smith

In honor of:
Mary Purselley
Les Upton

In Memoriam, cont.

Out-of-State

Tolitha K. Adams
Joe P. Altheimer
Iris I. Barnes
Nancy I. Barr
Jacquelyn Brennan
Bessie A. Cleveland
Mary C. Cobb
Inez F. Cotton
Linda S. Crawford
Mary C. Da genhart
William D. Dillon
Theodore E. Dove
Wilmetta R. Eckford
Mary H. Harris
Josie M. Hefner
Ada M. Jumper
Martin M. Logan, Jr.
Jewell R. Poag
Virginia A. Price
Eva A. Shideler
Carrie L. Stewart
Doris. P. Williford

CORRECTION

Marjorie A. Bishop (deceased) should have been listed in Lafayette County, not Bradley County, in the Summer edition of the INTERLINK.

Travel Opportunities, cont.

December 29, 2017-January 2, 2018—California New Year's Getaway (with optional 3-night Las Vegas post-tour extension).

Ring in the New Year in style with the ever-popular tour featuring the Tournament of Roses Parade. Arrive in Pasadena with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to view the floats in their final stages of decorating. Next attend Bandfest which features selected bands from all over the country that will perform in the parade. Return to Los Angeles for free time to explore on your own. Perhaps you will visit The Grove, a large shopping complex with several shops and 10 restaurants, or hop aboard the trolley to see the historic Farmers Market. Sunday get ready for a

New Year's Eve Gala Dinner Dance with live entertainment and a champagne toast to help ring in the New Year. Monday – Welcome to the Tournament of Roses Parade, a grand tradition since 1890. You will have reserved seating for prime viewing. The parade consists of 43 floats and 21 marching bands. For more information on an optional 3-night Las Vegas post tour call the ARTA office. . **A deposit of \$250 per person is due upon reservation. Reservations are made on a first come, first served basis. Reservations made after July 22, 2017 are based upon availability. Book now and save \$100 per person.**



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Little Rock, AR 72202

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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 checks, if you desire. This authorization may be canceled only by a written notice from you to ARTA. You may also select one of the other membership options listed below.

ARTA CONTINUING MEMBERSHIP DUES

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

ARTA LIFE MEMBERSHIP DUES

(3) ☐ I elect to have \$20 deducted from my retirement checks each month for 12 months (Total \$240).

DIRECT PAYMENT

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

(4) ☐ Life Membership (One-time \$240 check enclosed).

Name _____

Signature _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

County _____

Social Security Number (last four digits) _____

Email _____

Date _____

Complete this form and return it 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 a change.)