

Branscum Elected Chairman of Highway Commission

Commission Vice Chairman Herby Branscum, Jr. of Perryville assumed the Chairmanship of the five-member Arkansas State Highway Commission at its September 22 meeting in Little Rock. Branscum had been serving as Vice Chairman.

He replaces Bobby Hopper who stepped down from the Chairman's spot at the same meeting. Hopper remains on the Commission until his term expires in January 1999. Hopper said the upcoming legislative session was a big factor in his decision to step down. "We need someone in this position who will still be on the Commission when the Legislature convenes in early 1999," Hopper said.

Branscum, a native of Timbo in Stone County, was appointed to a ten-year term on the Commission January 23, 1991 by former Governor Bill Clinton. His term on the Commission expires in the year 2001. He is a graduate of the University of Central Arkansas and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock School of Law. Branscum has practiced law in Perryville and Little Rock since admission to the Arkansas State Bar in 1967.



**Herby Branscum, Jr.
Commission Chairman**

John "M" Lipton of Warren will replace Branscum as Vice Chairman of the Commission. Former Governor Jim Guy Tucker appointed Lipton to a ten-year term on the Commission January 14, 1993. Lipton is a graduate of the University of Arkansas at Monticello. He served 12 consecutive terms in the Arkansas House of Representatives and served as Speaker of the House for the 78th Arkansas General Assembly in 1991-1992. His term on the Commission expires in January 2003.



**John "M" Lipton
Commission Vice Chairman**

Also at its September 22 meeting the Commission increased speed limits from 55 m.p.h. to 60 m.p.h. on urban interstates and from 60 m.p.h. to 65 m.p.h. on suburban interstates. The Commission also increased the speed limits on many rural expressways from 55 m.p.h. to 65 m.p.h.

The Department began replacing speed limit signs on September 23 and hopes to have them all in place within two weeks. The new speed limits will affect interstate stretches concentrated in populated areas, including Little Rock, West Memphis, Fort Smith, Springdale, Texarkana, Jonesboro, Fayetteville, Hot Springs and El Dorado.

Arkansas State Highway Employees Retirement System

Status As Of June 30, 1998

	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>Increase</u>
Number of Active Members (Employees)	4,068	3,671	(397)
Number of Retired Members	2,005	2,044	39
Number of Drop Plan Members	0	218	218
Annuities (Benefits) Paid	23,578,197	26,523,398	2,945,201
Cash and Short Term Investments	12,214,829	8,818,794	(3,396,035)
Investments (Cost)	565,573,612	657,442,269	91,868,657
Interest and Dividends from Investments	24,671,733	26,765,800	2,094,067
Gain on Sale of Securities	52,554,246	68,994,267	16,440,021
Yield to Cost:			
Fixed Income	7.14%	6.87%	(0.27)%
*Common Stock	1.01%	1.03%	0.02%
Yield to Market:			
Fixed Income	7.15%	6.66%	(0.49)%
*Common Stock	0.84%	0.81%	(0.03)%

*Excludes capital gains on sales for 1997 and 1998 of \$52.6 million and \$69.0 million, respectively.

As shown above, your retirement system has investments in stock and fixed income securities of \$657,442,269 from which we received earnings of \$26,765,800. These investments are composed of the following securities at cost:

	<u>Average Rate Earned on Cost</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Portfolio</u>
Corporate Bonds:			36%
Automotive and Machinery	6.78%	860,448	
Banks and Financial	7.32%	75,379,041	
Drugs, Medical and Chemical	7.35%	15,566,100	
Electronics and Office Equipment	7.10%	15,553,119	
Housing and Building Materials	6.88%	3,996,604	
Insurance	7.60%	8,076,926	
Paper	7.69%	5,970,482	
Petroleum Products and Equipment	7.19%	20,187,030	
Retail and Restaurants	7.61%	35,991,355	
Transportation	6.99%	6,957,210	
Utilities	7.47%	45,382,294	
U.S. Government Agencies		174,319,979	26%
Common Stock:			38%
Aerospace		751,140	
Automotive and Machinery		5,846,873	
Banks and Financial		17,255,938	
Drugs, Medical and Chemical		68,667,651	
Electronics and Office Equipment		59,921,719	
Housing and Building Materials		6,481,873	
Insurance		13,466,363	
Paper and Forest Products		821,489	
Petroleum Products and Equipment		24,542,034	
Retail and Restaurants		41,724,973	
Transportation		652,470	
Utilities		9,069,158	

Overall, the assets of the retirement system increased from \$585,137,465 to \$678,478,327; a gain of \$93,340,862.

Health Insurance Open Enrollment

Open enrollment for employee health care plans for calendar year 1999 begins October 1 and lasts through November 16, 1998. Seven different plans are available to select from during the enrollment period.

All AHTD employees currently covered by a state health plan **must re-enroll** this year during the open enrollment period. Eligible employees not currently covered by a state plan but who desire such coverage should also enroll at this time. *Eligible employees who do not enroll during the enrollment period will not be allowed to enroll past the November 16 deadline unless they qualify as a late enrollee according to strict federal guidelines.*

Meetings are being scheduled around the state to provide additional information for employees. A schedule of these meetings will be announced soon.

Shown below are the bi-weekly rates for each plan available which will take effect January 1, 1999.



Bi-Weekly Health Insurance Rates for Active Employees Under 70 (Without Basic Life Insurance)

	Employee	Emp. & Sp.	Emp. & Child	Emp. & Family
Blue Cross/Blue Shield (PPO/Indemnity) ...	\$50.77	\$134.77	\$87.69	\$152.31
QualChoice/QCA (POS)	29.54	92.31	55.38	97.85
American HealthCare (HMO)	29.54	92.31	55.38	97.85
CIGNA (HMO)	29.54	92.31	55.38	97.85
HMO AR/Health Advantage (HMO)	27.23	87.69	51.69	91.38
QualChoice/QCA (HMO)	27.23	87.69	51.69	91.38
United HealthCare (HMO)	27.23	87.69	51.69	91.38

Basic Life Insurance (\$5,000) at \$1.29 per pay period not included in above premiums.

The AHTD CENTERLINE

Published monthly by and for employees of the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department as a medium of departmental news and other information. Correspondence and materials should be directed to the Public Affairs Office, 10324 Interstate 30, Room 1002, P.O. Box 2261, Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-2261, (501) 569-2227.

ARKANSAS STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION

HERBY BRANSCUM, JR., CHAIRMAN
JOHN "M" LIPTON, VICE CHAIRMAN
BOBBY HOPPER
J.W. "BUDDY" BENAFIELD
MARY P. "PRISSY" HICKERSON

DAN FLOWERS
DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

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CLAIMS CLARIFICATION

According to Internal Revenue Code Section 213(d)(3), only drugs and medicines that require a prescription from a doctor and which cannot be purchased over the counter are eligible to be reimbursed under a Health Care Flexible Spending Account.

Over-the-counter medications do not require a prescription from a doctor and are considered ineligible, even if you have a prescription. Examples of ineligible expenses can include prenatal vitamins, aspirin or ibuprofen. All of these medications could be purchased without a prescription.

In addition, prescriptions for larger dose medications (for example, 800 mg) are ineligible if a smaller dose (200 mg) is available over-the-counter.

If you have questions concerning this information or any other eligible expense contact Benefit America at 1-800-361-9414.

AHTD PEOPLE



NEW EMPLOYEES

Human Resources

Ryan Abernathy, Mail Clerk; **John Cumbie**, **Felicia Malone**, General Laborers

Right of Way

Dale Hodges, ROW Plans Designer I

District 2

Robert Hill, **Hershal Garrison**, General Laborers

District 4

David Nelson, General Laborer

District 6

Bradley Hubbard, **Michael Hanson**, **Clinton Howell**, General Laborers; **Robert Adams**, **Timothy Ford**, Single Axle Truck Drivers

District 7

Bobby McAteer, Single Axle Truck Driver; **Ray Barnes**, General Laborer

District 8

Wendell Allen, **Chad Holmes**, Single Axle Truck Drivers

District 9

Jeffery Upton, Single Axle Truck Driver

District 10

Tina Burrow, **Larry Henson**, **Willie Johnson**, General Laborers; **Loretta Wallace**, Single Axle Truck Driver

PROMOTIONS

Bridge

Carl Fuselier, Staff Bridge Design Engineer

Computer Services

Perry Comithier, Programmer II

Highway Police

Daniel Morales, **Jerry Perry**, **Lowell Stephens**, Patrol Officers First Class; **Rebecca Roberts**, Data Collection Technician

Maintenance

Michael Crumley, Sign Erector; **Odell Johnson**, Traffic Clerk; **Ronald Porter**, Maint. Aide II; **Ronald Tittle**, Paint Transport Truck Driver

Materials

Donnie Thornton, Geotechnical Drill Operator

Planning and Research

Lorie Tudor, Engineer II

State Aid

Charles Ridge, Jr., Senior Designer

District 1

Willie Colbert, **Edward Piche**, Single Axle Truck Drivers

District 2

Kirk Howard, Maint. Aide I; **Roy Lester, Jr.**, Paver Operator

District 4

Hope Rogers, **Robert Wagner**, Single Axle Truck Drivers

District 6

Aaron Grainger, Carpenter; **LaDonna Pasley**, Maint. Aide I; **Tamara Stafford**, Single Axle Truck Driver

District 7

Robert Cottrell, Senior Mechanic; **Travis Greer, Jr.**, Crew Leader

District 8

Roselie Conley, Const. Helper II; **William Fales**, Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator; **Alfred "Chip" Johnson, III**, Assistant Resident Engineer; **Randall Sommers**, Maintenance Aide I

District 9

Billy Fisk, Distributor/Roller Operator; **Kendall Shelton**, Const. Aide II; **Karen Wasson**, Personnel Clerk

District 10

Lubie Larnce, Single Axle Truck Driver

SERVICE

40 Years

S.L. Swink, D-5 Resident Engineer

35 Years

Ronald Hedges, D-5 Assistant Maint. Superintendent

30 Years

Dan Flowers, Director of Highways & Transportation; **Julia Hopkins**, AHP Permit Technician; **Cornelius Peters**, D-4 Area Maint. Supervisor

25 Years

Ralph Williams, ROW Senior Utilities Coordinator; **Charles Sanders**, D-1 Const. Aide III; **Kermit Gay**, D-5 Single Axle Truck Driver; **Michael Lackey**, D-5 Crew Leader; **James Thompson**, D-6 Area Headquarters Attendant; **Michael Allman**, D-6 Senior Inspector; **Charles Loyd**, D-8 Inspector

20 Years

Kenneth Parker, E&P Equipment Specialist; **Scotty Hesselbein**, P&C Reproduction Technician; **James Key**, P&R Research Assistant; **James Fourthman**, D-1 Area Headquarters Attendant; **Dan Marrs**, D-1 Street Sweeper Opera-

tor; **William Kendall**, D-2 Maint. Job Superintendent; **Dwight Wells**, D-2 Senior Inspector; **Clinton Isaacs**, D-4 Area Maint. Supervisor; **Lionel Elder**, D-4 Motor Patrol Operator/Finish; **Leon Sanders**, D-5 Motor Patrol Operator; **Randy Rector**, D-5 Maint. Aide I; **Tommy Harper**, D-5 Rest Area Attendant; **Patty Jackson**, D-5 Field Clerk II; **Patricia Blair**, D-6 Area Headquarters Attendant; **Evandrew Washington**, D-7 Const. Aide II; **James Woods**, D-7 Sign Crew Supervisor; **John Brandon**, D-7 Motor Patrol Operator/Finish; **Billy Pruitt**, D-8 Single Axle Truck Driver; **Bobby McKinney**, D-8 Single Axle Truck Driver; **Betty Weston**, D-9 Area Headquarters Attendant; **Loyce Brown**, D-10 Crew Leader; **John Allison**, D-10 Crew Leader

15 Years

David Stovall, AHP Patrol Officer First Class; **Frank Dobbins**, Maint. Striping Crew Supervisor; **Charles Smith**, Roadway Design Adv. Hydraulic Design Engineer; **Worthy Morgan**, D-2 Maint. Aide II; **Nicky Mings**, D-4 Maint. Aide II; **Linda McCaskill**, D-7 Rest Area Attendant; **James Meadows**, D-7 Maint. Aide II; **David Pratt**, D-10 Maint. Aide II

10 Years

Donna Gardner, Environmental Analyst I; **Mona Struble**, AHP Permit Technician; **William Pay**, Materials Geologist; **Mark Glenn**, Surveys Aide III; **David Morgan**, D-1 Backhoe/Front End Loader Operator; **William Johnson**, D-1 Motor Patrol Operator; **James Cramer**, D-3 Resident Engineer; **Charles Howard**, D-6 Maint. Aide II; **Douglas Hicks**, D-6 Senior Mechanic; **James Holdcraft**, D-7 Maint. Aide II; **James Suggs**, D-9 Area Headquarters Attendant; **Michael Tarry**, D-10 Const. Materials Inspector

5 Years

Troy Charles, Maint. Heavy Bridge Repairer I; **Henry Maxfield**, D-3 Senior Mechanic; **Patrick Pasteka**, D-6 Maint. Aide I; **Samantha Hale**, D-10 Area Headquarters Attendant

RETIREMENTS

Roger Almond, Deputy Director and Chief Engineer, retired August 4 with 30+ years service.

Jim Lee, Highway Police Corporal, retired August 4 with 18+ years service.

Jeri Burks, Materials Testing Equipment Specialist, retired August 26 with 35+ years service.

Billy Hamilton, District 1 Motor Patrol Operator/Finish, retired August 6 with 24+ years service.

James Ralph Davidson, District 2 Resident Office Technician, retired August 19 with 38 years service.

L.J. Durrough, District 10 Maintenance Aide II, retired August 10 with 21 years service.