



AGFIRST

NEWSLETTER

DISTRICT RETIREE ASSOCIATION

Happy 2026 to all of you!

Hard to believe we're starting another year already - I just got used to writing 2025! I remember when I started working in 1970 at Graham (PCA) Production Credit Association in Graham, NC. It's hard to believe that was 56 years ago! I also remember looking at my first retirement date, which according to the old rule of 85 (at least 55 yrs old with 35 yrs of service) would be March 2005 and thinking ...*man I'll never be able to work that long!* Well, life happened, the years passed quickly, and before I knew it I retired on December 31, 2007, with almost 38 years of service.

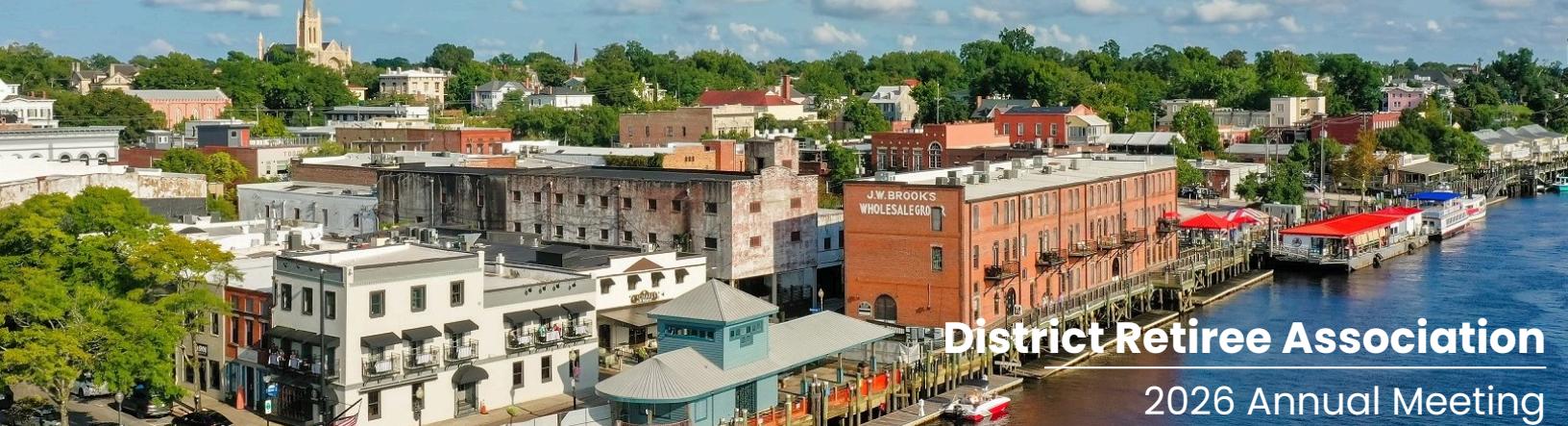
I formed many valuable friendships during my tenure, and I appreciated working for an organization that consistently treated its employees with dignity and respect. Farm Credit is still a great organization providing a much-needed service to farmers, ranchers and rural homeowners by service minded individuals who have a strong desire to help those who feed and clothe our nation.

January means it's time for us to register for this year's Annual Meeting! This year we will be at the Embassy Suites Wilmington Riverfront. This meeting is a time to visit, catch up and spend time with your Farm Credit family. Wilmington's azaleas should be in full bloom to welcome us to North Carolina, so get your registrations in early and let's make this one of the best annual meetings ever.

I look forward to seeing you in Wilmington.

- Larry





District Retiree Association

2026 Annual Meeting

HOTEL

Embassy Suites Wilmington Riverfront

9 Estell Lee Pl, Wilmington, NC 28401
(910) 765-1131

Room Rate: \$199.00
Check-in: 4:00 pm
Check-out: 11:00 am

REGISTRATION

Hotel Booking Link: 2026 AGF Retirees Meeting

Reservations due: before Friday, March 13th

AGENDA

Sunday, April 26th

Monday, April 27th

All day	Arrivals
9:00 am – 11:00 pm	Executive Board Meeting
11:30 am – 5:00 pm	Ag Tour (<i>*\$25 per person</i>)
5:30 pm – 6:30 pm	Welcome Reception at the Hotel

Tuesday, April 28th

7:00 am – 9:00 am	Breakfast Buffet
9:00 am – 11:00 am	Annual Meeting
12:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Free Time / Group Activities
5:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Reception
6:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Banquet

Wednesday, April 29th

All day Adjourn and departures



**NOTE: The Ag Tour is \$25 per person, limited to 55 people and will be filled on a first come basis. A waiting list will be maintained should there be any cancellations.*



AREA ATTRACTIONS



Tuesday afternoon is a great opportunity to explore the local area. Here are a few ideas and locations to consider:

Stroll along the Riverwalk and enjoy a breathtaking view of the Cape Fear River. Stop into an assortment of markets, unique boutiques, art galleries and independently owned outdoor cafés and restaurants that line the two-mile scenic walkway, all set against a picturesque river backdrop. Or explore the area's historic roots on a self-guided or carriage ride of downtown's National Register Historic District.



Tour the decks of the World War II-era Battleship North Carolina, named one of the "Best Museum Ships" by USA TODAY, and experience how the sailors lived aboard the ship during wartime.



Get lost in Airlie Gardens' 67 acres of formal gardens, walking trails, seasonal blooms, centuries-old oak trees, artistic sculptures and more. Spy over 200 species of birds that have been observed within the gardens, see the famous Airlie Oak -the largest Live Oak in North Carolina at 128 feet high.

Find free spirited, laid-back good times at one of Wilmington's three islands: Carolina Beach, Kure Beach and Wrightsville Beach. A vintage seaside boardwalk, miles of pristine sand and world-class fishing can all be found at these authentic Carolina beaches.

AG TOUR

Monday, April 28th | 11:30 am – 5:00 pm | \$25.00 per person
(Limited to 55 people – filled on a first come basis.)

Johnson Nursery

Established 40 years ago, Johnson Nursery is a family-owned 300-acre wholesale nursery with over 2,000 plant varieties serving garden centers, other nurseries, landscapers and botanical gardens. The tour will include lunch, a guided walking tour of the Showcase Gardens and a mobile guided tour of the nursery.



Sweetberry Farms

Sweetberry Farms is a family-owned mega 1,500-acre blueberry commercial operation located in Bladen County. The business was started in 2000 and continues to expand. The processing facility will be a main feature of the tour.



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How to Register for the Annual Meeting



Register Online

This year, the fastest way to register is online at [2026 Annual Meeting Registration](#). After completing your registration, it will automatically take you to the hotel booking page. Once these are completed, you are all set!



Submit a Registration Form

Complete the form below and email to mcorbett119@gmail.com

District Retiree Association – 2026 Annual Meeting Registration

please submit by March 13th

Member Name: _____

Spouse/Guest Name(s): _____

Association/Bank Retired From: _____

Have you made a reservation at the Embassy Suites? yes _____ no _____

_____ Number attending Ag Tour, 4/27 (11:30am-5:00pm) \$25.00 per person

_____ Number attending Reception, 4/27, 5:30pm

_____ Number attending Annual Membership Meeting, 4/28, 9:00-11:00am

_____ Number attending Reception & Banquet, 4/28, 5:00-9:00pm



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District Retiree Association 2026-2027 Officers

Larry Shoffner

President & Board Chair
Lwshoff48@gmail.com

Richard Monson

Vice President & Vice Board Chair
rmonson67@gmail.com

Donna Gantt

Treasurer
Dgantt63@gmail.com

Maribeth Corbett

Secretary
mcorbett119@gmail.com



District Retiree Association 2026-2027 Directors

Seat #	Director	Term Expires	Representing
1 (Assn at Large)	Rosanna Herren	2027	AgGeorgia
2 (Assn at Large)	Allyn Lamb	2026	Horizon/AgChoice
3 (Assn at Large)	Richard Monson	2026	Southwest Georgia
4 (Assn at Large)	Frank Whitaker	2026	AgSouth/Carolina
5 (Assn at Large)	Rob Teston	2026	Central Florida/Florida
6 (Assn at Large)	Bill Melton	2027	AgFirst/Cape Fear
7 (Assn at Large)	Teresa Harris	2027	FC of the Virginias
8 (Assn at Large)	Lindsay Harnish	2027	Central Florida
9 (Assn at Large)	Clement Hathaway	2027	Horizon/MidAtlantic
10 (Bank)	Janet Reynolds	2026	AgFirst
11 (Bank)	Maribeth Corbett	2026	AgFirst
12 (Assn/Bank)	Larry Shoffner	2027	AgSouth/Carolina
13 (Assn/Bank)	Beverly Ratcliff	2026	AgSouth/Carolina



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Notes From the Board

PRESIDENT

Have you visited our Facebook page? We share new retirements, Association updates, meeting information and photos throughout the year. Please tell other members to visit and follow to hear the latest updates from our group.

SECRETARY

If you're receiving this newsletter through the mail and would like to receive it via email, send a message to mcorbett119@gmail.com. This method saves on printing and postage costs. You can always find the most recent edition of the newsletter on our website and Facebook page.

TREASURER

Remember: payment of annual dues is required in December of each year for the upcoming year. Payment is the responsibility of the member. Statements or reminders are not sent, so please set this up on your calendar for the annual payment. If you need confirmation of your membership status, please contact Donna Gantt at Dgantt63@gmail.com.

On the move?

Has your contact information changed?
If so, please send your new information to:
Maribeth Corbett at mcorbett119@gmail.com



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AgFirst District Retiree Association Membership Application

Date: _____

Please select one of the following:

- New Member
- Annual Dues
- Life Membership
- Paying Annual Membership Renewal
- Converting from Annual Renewal to Life Membership

Last Name _____

First Name _____ MI _____

Address _____

Phone # _____ Cell # _____

Email _____

Spouse _____

Retirement Date _____

Retired from _____
(Name of Association/Bank)

Please select Membership Level:

- Annual Dues* \$10.00 (due annually)
- Life Dues (one-time payment as noted by age)

Age 60 or below \$120.00

Age 61 - 65 \$100.00

Age 66 - 70 \$95.00

Age 71 - 74 \$85.00

Age 75 or older \$65.00

Please make check payable to the **AgFirst Farm Credit Retiree Association** and mail along with this application to:

AgFirst Retiree Association
628 Newberry Dr., Chapin, SC 29036



AgFirst District Retiree Association
628 Newberry Dr.
Chapin, SC 29036

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