
RETIREE UPDATE

AGFIRST FARM CREDIT RETIREE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Issue 1

www.agfirstretireeassociation.org

January 2022

President's Message



ar. In our last Newsletter, I shared how Mac Davis in the 70's wrote a song, "Texas in My Rearview Mirror." And, how the message of the song was that Mac thought he was leaving a bad memory behind and could find happiness anywhere but in his home town of Lubbock, Texas.

At that time, I pointed out, because of COVID, for many of us 2020 was our "Texas in My Rearview Mirror" moment. And then along came 2021 and as Yogi Berra said, it was "déjà vu all over again."

For the past two years, friends and family members have not been able to gather, including our Farm Credit Retiree Association family members. It started with our scheduled meeting for April 27-28, 2020, at the Williamsburg Lodge, Williamsburg, Virginia, which was rescheduled to September 9-10 then to May 3-4, 2021, and now to March 14-15, 2022, still at the Williamsburg Lodge.

Our focus, however, should not be on "our rearview mirrors." When you compare the size of a rearview mirror to your front windshield, there is no comparison. We should be focused on the opportunities before us and not on past issues.

Our meetings should be a blessed gathering, a time of sharing. And, we will have that opportunity in Williamsburg, Virginia, at our annual meeting on March 14-15.

We all have "stories to tell" and "lessons learned," not just on Covid but also from decades full of events, decisions, co-workers, clients, committees and more. I had some which did not appear humorous at the time but looking back, they are now. Wisdom can sometimes come from bad decisions! I look forward to hearing your experiences.

Sincerely,

David Bridges,
President

Annual Meeting to be held March 14-15, 2022 at The Williamsburg Lodge, Williamsburg, Va



The Williamsburg Lodge, Autograph Collection is situated in the heart of Williamsburg.

The hotel blends Southern elegance with modern comforts for a homelike feel. Drawing from the time of Colonial Williamsburg, the accommodations offer Chippendale fretwork and unique furnishings.

This 18th-century style blends harmoniously with modern amenities including complimentary high-speed Wi-Fi, mini-refrigerators and flat-panel TVs with premium movie channels.

Sample Southern and American fare for breakfast, lunch and dinner at Traditions and Sweet Tea & Barley, the two restaurants.

Work out in the fitness center and take a dip in one of the multiple pools. To elevate your visit, pamper yourself with a spa treatment or tee off at Golden Horseshoe Golf Club.

The hotel is just minutes from historic Jamestown, Yorktown and Busch Gardens Williamsburg.

Jamestowne Settlement and **American Revolution Museum at Yorktown** have historical adventures that the entire family is sure to enjoy. You can try on armor, wander through Continental Army tents, or take part in spring plantings of period gardens and crops.

Busch Gardens welcomes spring visitors to its season opener, where you can delight in thrilling coaster rides, dazzling Broadway-inspired shows and an assortment of restaurants.

Hotel Information

The room rate at The Williamsburg Lodge is \$179. The deadline for assuring that you receive this rate is **February 14**. This rate will apply three days prior and three days after our meeting. To make reservations, call 800-261-9530 and reference AgFirst Retiree Association as the group. You may also make your reservations on line: The Registration site is:

<https://book.passkey.com/go/5ed3b9ae>

Hotel Amenities & Policies

Payment: All forms of payment are accepted.

Payment is required at time of booking. Visa, MasterCard, Amex, Diners Club, and Discover are accepted. **Deposit:** one room nights stay (per room) due at booking.

Pet Policy: Service animals allowed. Pets allowed. Maximum amount: two pets per room. Fees: \$50 per day, per pet cleaning fee.

Accessible Rooms: Accessible rooms are available. Please notify request at time of booking.

Adjoining Rooms: 91 adjoining rooms are available. Please notify request at time of booking.

Cancellation Policy: 72 hours prior to arrival.

Cribs, Pack-in-Plays & Rollaways: Based on availability, no fee associated.

AgFirst Retiree Association
Annual Meeting Registration
Return by March 1
(NOTE: Room reservations are due by February 14)

Member Name: _____

Spouse/Guest Name(s): _____

Do you have room reservations at the Williamsburg Lodge? _____yes _____no

_____ Number playing golf, 3/14, (afternoon)

_____ Number attending Reception, 3/14, 6:00 p.m.

_____ Number attending buffet breakfast, 3/15, 7:30 - 9:00 a.m.

_____ Number attending Annual Membership Meeting, 3/15 - 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

_____ Number playing golf, 3/15 (afternoon)

_____ Number attending Reception/Closing Banquet, 3/15, 6:00 p.m./7:00 p.m.

Mail form to:
Beverly Ratcliff
706 North Carolina Avenue
Statesville, NC 28677

or scan the completed form and email to:
bratcliff@roadrunner.com

Things To Do In and Near Williamsburg



Historic Jamestowne

It is an amazing feeling walking through the site where some of the first British colonists to the New World walked and lived. Located on Jamestown Island, Historic Jamestowne was the original capital of Virginia Colony and the first English permanent settlement in North America. The life of the early colonists was not easy – they suffered diseases, hunger, and bloody conflict with local Powhatan Indians.

The city burned to the ground in 1676, and all that remains is a brick church tower that stands today as a reminder of human resilience.

The site of the original settlement is an active archeological excavation, and visitors can have a look at more than 1,000 discovered artifacts, meet the conservation staff, and learn about their significance and the secrets they tell us about the life of early colonists in 17th century. Children are invited to participate in sorting through some of the excavated material such as shells, seeds, and animal bones. Park rangers and guides in historic costumes offer guided tours through the site of the adjacent Historic Jamestowne, a living-history museum and one of the top Williamsburg VA attractions.

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Attention - New Retirees

Welcome to the "Land of the Retired." We hope that you will consider joining your fellow retirees and former business associates by becoming a member of the AgFirst District Retiree Association.

Dues are only \$10 a year (unless you opt to join as a Life Member (see dues schedule on the membership application on page 5)).

We come together annually for a fun-filled meeting and would love for you to be a part of our annual gathering. There is also a membership application on our Web site, www.agfirstretireeassociation.org. Please consider joining today.

AgFirst Farm Credit Retiree Association

Membership Application

Today's Date _____ / _____ / _____

Please select one of the following:

_____ New Member

_____ Paying Annual Membership Renewal

_____ Converting from Annual Renewal to Life Membership

Applicant Last Name _____ First Name _____ MI _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zipcode _____

Phone # _____ Cell Phone # _____ Email _____

Date of Retirement _____ / _____ / _____

Retired from _____ (name of association or bank)

if married, list spouse name:

_____ **Annual**
Annual Dues*\$10.00

Life Dues

Age 60 or below\$120.00

Age 61 to 65\$100.00

Age 66 to 70\$95.00

Age 71 to 74\$85.00

Age 75 or older\$65.00

Make check payable to the AgFirst Farm Credit Retiree Association and mail along with application to: **Joan Edwards, Treasurer 223 Philmont Dr. Columbia, SC 29223** or email completed form to: **joan.edwards107@gmail.com**

**Payment of annual dues are required in December of each year for the following year. Payment is on the responsibility of the member. Statements or reminders aren't mailed out, so please set this up on your calendar for annual payment.*

Colonial Williamsburg

Walking through the Colonial Williamsburg and passing by people in historic 17th or 18th century clothes may feel like you stumbled into the middle of a movie set. They even talk using the diction and grammar of the times, which is just different enough that we cannot understand them. You will pass by beautifully restored buildings as the Governor's Palace, the Courthouse, the Raleigh Tavern, and the Capitol.

The restoration is so excellent that it is hard to believe that all those lovely old buildings have been around for hundreds of years. You can also listen to the music Jefferson liked, watch the 18th century dancing, or check one of the city's many excellent restaurants.

101 Visitor Center Dr, Williamsburg, VA 23185,
888-965-7254



Governor's Palace, Williamsburg, VA

Built in 1706, the Governor's Palace served as a residence to seven royal governors and the first two Virginia elected governors. Everything about the palace was meant to impress and convey British wealth and power. The original palace burned down in 1781 and was meticulously reconstructed in 1930, including its grand ballroom, elegant furniture, and the huge display of period swords.

300 Palace Green St, Williamsburg, VA 23185,
800-447-8679



American Revolution Museum at Yorktown

The American Revolution Museum at Yorktown tells the story of the nation's founding, from twilight of the colonial period to the dawn of the Constitution and beyond. Exciting indoor galleries feature period artifacts, immersive environments and films, including "The Siege of Yorktown," with a 180-degree surround screen and dramatic special effects.

In the outdoor areas, visit a re-created Continental Army encampment to learn about the life of a soldier and take in daily demonstrations on camp life and cooking. Explore a Revolution-era farm, based on a real-life, 18th-century family.

NOTE: Tickets for area attractions purchased on-line may provide a discount. (Go to www.colonialwilliamsburg.org.)

ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Monday, March 14

10:00 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. - Board of Directors mtg.

1:00 p.m. – Free Time

6:00 p.m. – Reception

7:00 p.m. – Dinner on your own

Tuesday, March 15

7:30 - 9:00 a.m. – Buffet Breakfast

9:30 - 11:30 a.m. – Annual Membership Meeting

12:00 p.m. – Free Time

6:00 p.m. – Reception

7:00 p.m. – Dinner & Entertainment

Wednesday, March 15

a.m. – Check out and depart

Retirement Quotes

Retirement is like coming home one day and telling your wife, honey, I'm home... for good!

Retirement is just a never-ending vacation.

Think about retirement as being two six-month holidays per year.

The best part about retirement is that you don't have to worry about getting caught for doing nothing.

Now Fridays aren't the best day of the week anymore... they all are!

When is a retiree's bedtime? About 30 minutes after he falls asleep on the couch.

I never reveal my age, but I do let people know I'm retired. They can just guess my age from that statement.

How do you know it's time to retire? It's when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it!

I love being a grandparent in retirement. I give my grandkids a lot of sugar and then leave them with their parents to deal with them.

Why don't retirees mind being called seniors? Because the term comes with a 10% discount.

Why do retirees smile all the time? Because they can't hear a word you are saying!

I wish I could reveal my age, but I just can't. It keeps changing all the time.

Just when the wife thinks they got rid of their kids for living in the house, the husband decides to retire.

During your work life you pick up a lot of bad habits... like working.

The world's longest coffee break is often referred to as retirement.



Retirement is wonderful. It's doing nothing without worrying about getting caught at it.

~ Gene Perret

You can retire, but you can't retire from being great!

~ Anon

Retirement is like a long vacation in Las Vegas. The goal is to enjoy it to the fullest, but not so fully that you run out of money.

~ Jonathan Clements

The trouble with retirement is that you never get a day off.

~ Abe Lemons

Retirement: It's nice to get out of the rat race, but you have to learn to get along with less cheese.

~ Gene Perret

You're retired - goodbye tension, hello pension!

~ Author Unknown

Retirement, a time to do what you want to do, when you want to do it, where you want to do it, and how you want to do it.

~ Catherine Pulsifer

There is no need to be bound by convention, push the envelope, do it weird, do it different, but most of all, do it fun!

Important Annual Meeting

Registration Deadlines

Deadline to make hotel reservations:

February 14, 2022

Deadline to submit meeting registration
form:

March 1, 2022

FROM THE TREASURER

If you are not a life member and have not paid your annual meetingship dues of \$10 in several years, contact Joan Edwards to get the amount due or consider becoming a Life Member and never have to worry about annual dues again.

FROM THE SECRETARY

Register for the Annual Meeting On-line

An easy way to register for the meeting has been set up for you on the Association's Website: agfirstretireeassociation.org. Select Annual Meeting and fill out the form and click "submit." (Every field needs to contain an entry, even if it is "zero.")

If you're receiving this newsletter through the post office and would like to receive it via email, send a message to bratcliff@roadrunner.com, asking to be added to the email list. This method saves on printing and postage costs. And you can find the most current edition of the newsletter on the Association's Website.

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