
RETIREE UPDATE

AGFIRST FARM CREDIT RETIREE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Issue 1

www.agfirstretireeassociation.org

February 2020

President's Message



Sometime back while attending a funeral, I noticed several of the gravestone markers. Some were unique but there were some consistencies on each one. Specifically, each had a place for a born date, a dash and a death date. Some spouses

had not passed away and the death date was not included.

That got me to thinking, if you are reading this message, then you and I are living in our "dash." The question then arises, what are we doing in each of our individual dashes? Whose lives have we touched and made a difference? What opportunities have we missed? What goals are we still pursuing?

While each of us may be bound by certain limitations (physical, health, financial, etc.), we all have much to offer. So the next time you feel like you cannot be used, just remember:

- Noah was a drunk
- Abraham was too old
- Isaac was a daydreamer
- Jacob was a liar
- Leah was ugly
- Joseph was abused
- Moses had a stuttering problem
- Gideon was afraid
- Jeremiah and Timothy were too young
- Zaccheus was too small
- Elijah was suicidal
- Martha worried about everything
- Job went bankrupt
- Naomi was a widow
- Timothy had an ulcer....AND
- Lazarus was dead!

Our decision is frequently based on our desire(s) not to become involved and not invest our lives/time in others. But, there are Divine appointments every day for us. His grace gives us what we need to make a difference in others. We just have to be sensitive to those opportunities.

We are looking forward to seeing you this year in Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia. Our meeting is being held at the Williamsburg Lodge, April 27-28. Details for registration, etc. are in this Newsletter.

Last year we toured one of Farm Credit members operation and we are continuing that tradition this year.

On Monday afternoon, we have the opportunity to tour the Gauthier Vineyards and Equestrian operation. Part of the tour will include a wine tasting. (Additional information can be found on page 3 of this newsletter.)

That evening, we will gather for a meal back in Williamsburg.

This is a great opportunity to visit friends, catch up on events in our lives, continue comradery, get updates on the System and perhaps visit a part of our country you may not have seen.

Look forward to seeing you there.

David Bridges

2020 Annual Meeting to be held April 27-28 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.

Jamestown 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 \$169. The deadline for assuring that you receive this rate is March 26. This rate will apply three days prior and three days after our meeting. To make reservations, call 800-261-9530 and reference AgFirst as the group. You may also make your reservations on line: <https://book.passkey.com/go/deb6a46a>

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.

Early Check-In/Late Check-Out: Available, depending upon availability.

Extra Person Fees: None.

Parking: On-site parking: Available. Self-

AgFirst Retiree Association

Annual Meeting Registration

Return by April 3

Member Name: _____

Spouse/Guest Name(s): _____

- _____ Number attending Tour, 4/27, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.
_____ Number attending Dinner, 4/27, 7:00 p.m.
_____ Number attending buffet breakfast, 4/28, 6:30 - 8:30 a.m.
_____ Number attending Annual Membership Meeting, 4/28 - 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
_____ Number playing golf, 4/28 (afternoon)
_____ Number attending Reception/Closing Banquet, 4/28, 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

Farm Tour and Wine Tasting at Gauthier Vineyards

On Monday, April 27, we will be visiting Gauthier Vineyards, LLC.



Gauthier Vineyard, LLC is a family-owned working farm, equestrian center, vineyard and winery located in scenic New Kent County, Virginia. The facility is located 15 miles from Williamsburg.

We will be traveling by bus as a group to enjoy the beautiful countryside and tour the entire operation, followed by a tasting of nine different award-winning wines.

The equestrian operation, Hensley Show Horses, is a world class equestrian center complete with a barn full of champions. Local relic hunters have also validated this land's service as a Civil War encampment for both Union and Confederate forces during the lengthy Peninsula Campaign.

Come join us on the tour and enjoy a lazy afternoon on the large covered winery veranda overlooking the century old pond stocked with bass and numerous snapping turtles. It will be fun, informative and relaxing afternoon.

To learn more about the winery visit the website at: www.gauthiervineyard.com/

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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.*

Places to Visit in 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, 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.

Island Drive, Jamestown, VA 23185,
757-856-1250

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

The 10 Commandments of Growing Old

#1 - Talk to yourself, because there are times you need expert advice.

#2 - Consider "In Style" to be the clothes that still fit.

#3 - The biggest lie you tell yourself is, "I don't need to write that down. I'll remember it."

#4 - These days, "on time" is when you get there.

#5 - Lately, You've noticed people your age are so much older than you.

#6 - "Getting lucky" means walking into a room and remembering why you're there.

#7 - When you were a child, you thought nap time was punishment. Now it feels like a mini vacation.

#8 - You thought growing old would take longer.

#9 - Aging sure has slowed you down, but it hasn't shut you up.

#10 - You still haven't learned to act your age, and hope you never will.

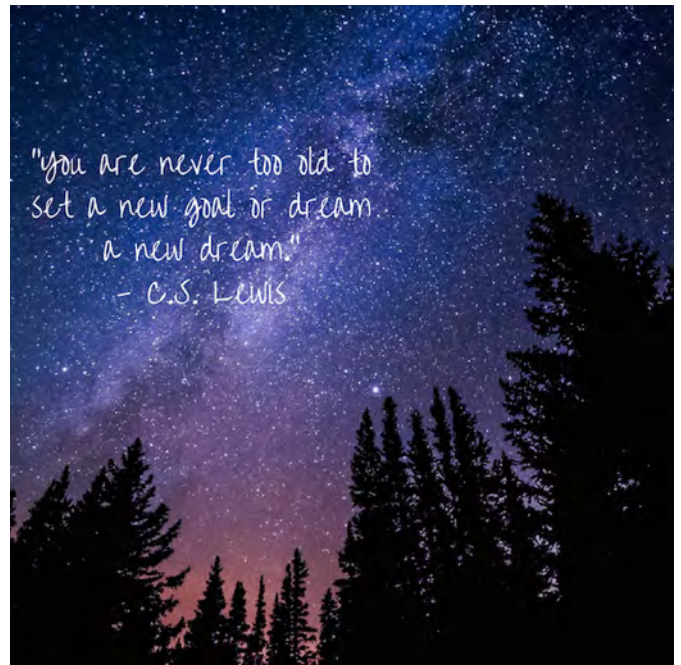
Inspirational Retirement Quotes for a Happy, Healthy, & Wealthy Life

"The question isn't at what age I want to retire, it's at what income." - George Foreman

"Choose a work that you love and you won't have to work another day." – Confucius

"Don't simply retire from something; have something to retire to." – Harry Emerson Fosdick

"Often when you think you're at the end of something, you're at the beginning of something else." – Fred Rogers



"Don't act your age in retirement. Act like the inner young person you have always been." – J. A. West

"Retirement is wonderful if you have two essentials — much to live on and much to live for." – Unknown

Important Annual Meeting

Registration Deadlines

Deadline to make hotel reservations:

March 26, 2020

Deadline to submit meeting registration
form:

April 3, 2020

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 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.

AgFirst Farm Credit Retiree Association
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