SINCE 1967 JUNE 2017

# The TVA Retirees Association

The Tennessee Valley Authority Retirees Association I 400 West Summit Hill Drive SPT 5A I Knoxville, TN 37902 | www.mytvara.org | 865-632-3318

# A Fast 50 Years Spent Representing Retirees

By DeWITT BURLESON, TVARA Valleywide President

How often do we talk about how fast time passes, and the older we get, the faster it goes? It is now almost summer, and it seems just a few weeks ago there was snow to shovel. One season turns into another and then years go by.

Most retirees remember the decade of the '60s like it was not that long ago. The Ford Mustang began sales in 1964, the movie "Dr. Zhivago" premiered in 1965, the miniskirt was the fashion rage of 1966, and in 1967 the rollout of Medicare became the impetus for the creation of our retirees association.

It is hard to believe that was 50 years ago. Aubrey Wagner was the TVA

Board Chairman, and neither the Twin Towers in Knoxville nor the office complex in Chattanooga existed.

For a nonprofit organization that relies on volunteer officers to be able to last for 50 years, key things had to happen just right.

One was that the purpose of the association had to be worthwhile. Article 1 of the TVA Retirees Association's constitution and bylaws says it well — "The primary purpose of TVARA is the betterment of conditions of TVA retirees, their spouses and dependents, and the beneficiaries of deceased employees, through communication and negotiation with TVA management

and the TVA Retirement System and to represent their interests before other corporations, organizations, Government agencies, and legislative bodies."

That purpose and the actions of the association are as true today as in 1967 and will be, going forward. It has also been validated over time.

The association had to have a continuing succession of dedicated capable volunteers to serve as leaders.

One of the strengths of TVARA is the veteran chapter officers who faithfully commit their time and talent to the

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# TVARS Reports Investment Earnings

The TVA Retirement System reports that for the quarter ending March 31, 2017, investments earned 3.98 percent, compared to the system's policy benchmark of 3.69 percent.

System assets, fiscal year-to-date, had earned about \$324 million, and contributions from TVA totaled \$150 million.

Benefit payments for the same period totaled about \$353 million. The system's annualized returns over the past three-, five-, and 10-year periods have been 4.38 percent, 7.38 percent, and 4.69 percent, respectively.

# Tips for Traveling on a Budget

By LES BAYS

In the past few years, I have learned a few tips that have helped me save money when traveling. If you can do some price checking and online booking, you, too, can save yourself some money on travel.

#### **EASY: Hotels**

There are several online hotel aggregators that make it easy to get an idea of the vacant rooms in a city for the time you wish to travel. Several names are <a href="Expedia.com">Expedia.com</a> (Orbitz.com, Hotwire.com, and Hotels.com are subsidiaries), <a href="Priceline.com">Priceline.com</a> (Booking.com and Agoda.com are



LES BAYS

subsidiaries) and many more.

If you check prices from both these large aggregator families (Expedia and Priceline), you are usually going to find a reasonable price for the time of year you travel.

For example, try <u>Hotels.com</u> for your trip, and you will find a hotels that you can sort by price

list of hotels that you can sort by price, guest rating, distance from landmarks, and so on.

If you find one, say a Marriott, in the Continued on page 9

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Call TVA Retirement System toll-free @ 1-800-824-3870 or visit website @ www.tva.gov/retireeportal

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Call toll-free 1-888-275-8094 or 423-751-8800 in Chattanooga or 865-632-8800 in Knoxville

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its Facebook address is www.facebook.com/tvaretireesassociation

The TVA Retirees Association is the official organization of all TVA retirees. It was organized to serve the varied interests of TVA and its retirees and their beneficiaries, and to help keep them informed of TVA developments affecting their interests. It has been recognized by TVA as the responsible representative of retirees in conveying retiree views.

# TVA NEWS & NOTES

The following news items were submitted to TVARA News by TVA's Internal Communications department.

#### Johnson Speaks Out on Coal

News outlets all over the country picked up remarks by TVA President/Chief Executive Officer

Bill Johnson recently about the future of the utility industry, specifically the declining use of coal.

Speaking to the Associated Press in Nashville, Johnson commented on promises by President Donald Trump to revitalize



the coal industry, saying he thinks very little will actually change for TVA under the Trump administration.

"Our statutory duty is to produce electricity at the lowest feasible rate," said Johnson. "What's the cheapest way to serve the customer?"

This echoes and reinforces what Johnson has said many times to TVA employees and news media in recent years: that TVA has a legal mandate under the TVA Act of 1933 to always provide power "at rates as low as are feasible."

Because of numerous trends including emerging renewable technology, customer demand, and the low cost of natural gas, the traditional energy model is changing. By the end of 2018, TVA will have retired five of its 11 original coal-fired power plants.

"As the largest public power-provider in the United States, our priority continues to be least-cost planning," says John Thomas, TVA Executive Vice President/Chief Financial Officer.

"We've been diversifying our generating fleet for some time to use a more diverse portfolio of energy sources that will better serve our customers."

 In FY 2015, TVA's generation portfolio was 33-percent nuclear, 29-percent coal, 18-percent natural gas, 9-percent hydro, 3-percent wind and solar, and 7-percent energy efficiency with a total capacity of 171,000 gigawatt-hours.  By FY 2026, generation portfolio is estimated to be 38-percent nuclear, 15-percent coal, 24-percent natural gas, 9-percent hydro, 3-percent wind and solar, and 11-percent energy efficiency with a capacity of 178,000 gigawatt-hours.

#### **Investing in Cleaner Energy**

In addition to keeping rates low, TVA has stated that using a balance of various fuels to generate electricity will continue to happen because of environmental benefits. Brenda Brickhouse, Vice President of Environment & Energy Policy at TVA, has been quoted as saying overreliance on coal these days just doesn't make sense.

"It costs a lot of money to keep some old coal plants running; it costs a lot of money to keep them up to date," Brickhouse says. "So we're investing in low-cost, cleaner gas. We just invested in Watts Bar 2, which generates enough emissions-free electricity to power 650,000 homes. We're also committed to hydro, to renewables, and to energy efficiency."

Brickhouse and other TVA leaders say companies are increasingly demanding cleaner power, and TVA must continue to adjust to meet its customers' needs in order to keep the Tennessee Valley thriving.

# Paradise Gas Plant Goes into Commercial Operation

The Paradise Gas Plant was released for commercial operation on Friday, April 7. It replaces the existing units 1 and 2 at Paradise Fossil Plant.

Federal environmental regulations would have required extensive environmental controls be placed on Paradise Fossil Plant units 1 and 2 to continue operation. After evaluating alternatives, TVA determined it was not economically feasible to do so.

Units 1 and 2 were retired from service April 16. The 1,025 megawatts produced by the gas plant replace generation and support grid stability. Paradise Fossil Plant Unit 3 will continue to run.

"I'm especially proud of our team," says Bob Deacy, Senior Vice President, Generation Construction, Projects & Services. "This project was completed 2½ months early and slightly under budget at \$900 million."

The gas plant reinforces TVA's commitment to a cleaner generation mix, though coal will remain an important part of TVA's generation mix.

"Gas units provide flexibility in that they can be dispatched quickly and provide the needed reliability," Deacy says.

The plant, now under Power Operations' management, has 30 employees.

"Our 15 local power companies and 15 directly served customers will continue to receive the low-cost, reliable energy they have enjoyed in the north-central Kentucky region since TVA began serving them in 1963," says Senior Vice President, Power Operations, David Sorrick. "Kentucky and Muhlenberg County are vital and important parts of our service region, and TVA remains committed to the area."

#### **Paradise Gas Plant Facts:**

 The gas-plant construction project generated in excess of \$46 million in local spending with small businesses and greater than \$80 million in Kentucky



- through equipment, contractors, suppliers, and payroll expenses.
- About 900 workers installed 1,462,655 linear feet of cable, 71,000 linear feet of underground pipe, 100,000 feet of above-ground pipe, 53,000 linear feet of underground conduit, and 80,000 linear feet above-ground conduit.
- They also backfilled 298,000 cubic yards of earth, poured 40,000 CY of concrete, and erected 4.550 tons of structural steel.
- Since construction began, about 2.5 million workhours have been dedicated to this project.

# Retiree Takes Walk through Watauga

Howard Brown's love of dams goes way back. A surprise 86th birthday gift let him experience that joy again. On March 30, he received a tour of Watauga Unit 1, led by Power Service Shop employees and Generation Construction Management staff. Brown's interest in the interworking of TVA goes back decades. He was a contributor to the construction of the Hiwassee Unit 2 Reversible Pump-Turbine project, which is a national historic mechanical-engineering landmark that continues to serve the Tennessee Valley today.

He began working on the project after his graduation from Tennessee Tech University in 1952. Upon the project's completion, Brown served TVA as a Civil Engineer in Knoxville. After another stint as a Civil Engineer for the Clinch River Railroad System, Brown completed his career working as the General

Manager for Erwin Utilities, one of TVA's local power companies.

Brown passed his interest and expertise in the power industry on to his son, Lee Brown, who currently serves in his father's previous role as General Manager of Erwin Utilities. Lee Brown coordinated with Watauga Unit 1 employees to grant his father's visit.

# Biological-Treatment Plant Draws Honors for Kingston

Kingston Fossil Plant has received a Host Plant Site Recognition Award from the Electric Power Research Institute for two successful pilot studies on wastewater treatment.

The facility and team were recognized for outstanding efforts to support the physical-chemical-wastewater-treatment-optimization studies that were conducted using GE and Nalco chemicals at the gypsum-dewatering plant last year. The site was also recognized for its support and cooperation in a biological-treatment pilot study conducted there.

EPRI said it was the first truly successful biological-treatment pilot it had run.

These studies will help inform the future wastewater-treatment upgrades at the gypsum-dewatering plant and other TVA locations, and will prove invaluable to TVA, helping sites have better compliance with future treatment requirements and the evaluation of any new equipment needed for them.

#### A Fast 50 Years Spent Representing Retirees...continued from page 1

benefit of TVA retirees year after year. While each year sees some transitions in leadership, other talented retirees step up to fill vacancies.

And members who may no longer hold an elected office frequently serve in other ways. For example, of the seven Valleywide presidents since 2002, six currently serve on committees or are involved in other supporting activities.

TVARA has benefited from a steady and faithful membership whether through annual dues payment or helping with a picnic, Christmas luncheon, or worthy project. People who were industrious before retirement join in when asked, and many are regulars at the quarterly chapter meetings.

Over the past 50 years several TVA management teams have worked cooperatively with TVARA. TVA retirees have always been interested in what is happening at TVA and fortunately many of our program speakers and TVARA News articles are provided by TVA for that purpose.

Each year TVA sponsors the annual Valleywide retiree picnic and during the year provides other support.

Thanks to the retirees of the early years who established the framework and path for the years that followed. And thanks also to the chapter officers who take responsibility for actions that continue to meet the initial and continued purpose of TVARA.

I hope you enjoy the special historical section in this newsletter and will join in celebrating our 50th anniversary as your retiree association.

## Preventive-Care Benefits — Discover Hidden Treasures

By JENNIFER BECKETT, TVA Senior Program Manager, Healthcare Plans

(Note: This article is applicable to retirees and dependents enrolled in either the 80% PPO or Consumer-Directed Health Plan.)

Most people are aware of standard preventive-care services, such as routine physicals, mammograms, and well exams, but did you know the TVA medical/prescription plan also covers preventive-care services at 100 percent\*?

#### They include the following:

# Prescription Drugs/Supplements (prescription required)

- Medicine and supplements used to prevent certain health conditions for adults, women, and children
  - Aspirin (to prevent cardiovascular disease for men and women of certain ages)
  - Folic Acid Supplements (women who may become pregnant)
  - Iron (children 6-12 months at risk for anemia)
- Medicine and products for quitting smoking or chewing tobacco (tobacco cessation)
  - Generic nicotine-replacement products (patch, gum, and lozenges)
  - Nicotrol (nicotine nasal spray)
  - Bupropion, Chantix, and Zyban
- Medicine used before screenings for certain health conditions in adults
  - Bowel-preparation medicine for colonoscopy procedures in adults 50-74
- Contraceptives for women

#### **Screenings**

- Cancer (colorectal, breast, lung, cervical, etc.)
- Depression (adults and adolescents)
- Diabetes (gestational, type 2)
- Hepatitis B & C
- Autism (0-21 years of age in conjunction with well child/ preventive health exam)
- Hearing loss
- Vision (all children)
- Osteoporosis (bone density)

#### **Vaccines**

- Tetanus
- Influenza (flu shot)
- Mumps
- Human Papillomavirus (HPV)
- Immunization (as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention)

#### Counseling

- Diet & obesity
- Breastfeeding comprehensive support
- Alcohol abuse
- Domestic and interpersonal violence
- Depression

IMPORTANT NOTE: Not all preventive-care services are covered at 100 percent. If you are uncertain, check with BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee before you make an appointment with a doctor for preventive care including those mentioned in this article. Restrictions may apply, and sometimes your doctor will order tests during your preventive-care visit that are not considered preventive care. These tests may be subject to deductibles, co-pays and/or co-insurance. Your doctor also may treat an existing condition (or you may have symptoms of an illness at the time of your visit). Treatment or tests for that existing condition are not preventive-care and are subject to deductibles, co-pays, and/or co-insurance.

If you need additional information or have questions about preventive-care coverage, call toll-free either to BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee at 1-800-245-7942 for medical questions or Express Scripts at 1-800-935-6203 for pharmacy questions.

\*There are limits to the number of preventivecare visits covered each year, and some services also have certain age requirements.



# Prescription-Drug Safety — Advice & Common Sense

Taking medication is something a lot of us do every single day. According to the Mayo Clinic, seven out of 10 Americans take at least one prescription drug. It also reports that more than half of Americans take two prescription drugs and 20 percent take at least five.

That leaves room for a lot of opportunity for prescription drugs to not be handled safely or appropriately. If you, or loved ones, are taking prescription drugs, the following are some tips of how you can keep yourself and your loved ones safe.

- Be informed Talk to your doctor and ask questions when in doubt.
- Read prescription information and labels Ask your doctor or pharmacist if unclear.
- Follow directions Your doctor prescribed specific dosages on purpose.
- Store medications properly Most should be stored in a dry place at room temperature, away from direct sunlight, while others may require refrigeration.
- Keep a list of your medications Provide to those when needed; be sure to include over-the-counter medications as well as vitamins, herbal medications, and supplements.
- Avoid others' medications Taking others' medications may cause adverse reactions or interactions.
- Don't share your medications Your medications were prescribed only to you; other people can have adverse reactions to your medications.
- Put the Poison Help number in your phone and on the refrigerator (toll-free 1-800-222-1222).

#### Need to dispose of some medications?

According to the FDA, if you don't have a medicine takeback program or DEA-authorized collector in your area, and there are no specific disposal instructions on the label, you can dispose of most medications in the household trash.

- 1. Mix medicines (do not crush tablets or capsules) with an unpalatable substance such as dirt, kitty litter, or used coffee grounds.
- 2. Place the mixture in a container such as a sealed plastic bag.
- 3. Throw the container in your household trash.
- 4. Scratch out all personal information on the prescription label.

#### Have children living or visiting with you?

Be sure to keep all medications out of children's reach. Keep in mind any medications you might have in nightstands and purses; think of other products such as diaper-rash remedies, vitamins, and eye drops. Be sure to use childproof containers. And if you have visitors in your house, be alert of medications they may have and ensure they are out of children's reach.

It's also important that you talk to children about medication safety. Be sure young children understand that medication should always be given by a trusted adult and discuss the importance of not taking medications that are not meant for them. And also be sure to model responsible behavior and never refer to medicine as candy. This can cause confusion and temptation to take when not needed.

#### **Need more information?**

Talk to your physician or pharmacist about any concerns you have. You can also visit <u>fda.gov</u> for more information on prescription-drug safety. — JENNIFER BECKETT

### PhysicianNow: A Prescription for What Ails You

(Note: This article is applicable to retirees and dependents enrolled in either the 80% PPO or Consumer-Directed Health Plan.)

TVA Benefits reminds retirees to take advantage of the PhysicianNow telehealth program. A virtual office visit limits exposure and reduces the potential spread of infection to others.

The program is a convenient, lower-cost option for retirees and their covered dependents enrolled in a TVA medical plan (for example, 80% PPO or Consumer-Directed Health Plan).

Physicians are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to diagnosis and treat acute, non-urgent health issues such as sinus infections, pink eye, influenza, and more. Similar to retail drop-in clinics, PhysicanNow is more accessible than urgent-care or emergency

centers and is available during hours when many physician offices are closed (nights, weekends, and holidays).

#### Feeling healthy? Great.

Don't wait until you're sick to sign up for the program — do it now. You can easily sign up and activate your account by one of the following methods:

- Log in to BlueAccess at <u>bcbst.com</u> and click on the My Health & Wellness tab. First-time users will need their BlueCross Member ID card.
- Call the toll-free number: 1-888-283-6691.
   Callers will need their BlueCross Member ID card.

3. Download the mobile app, available on the App store and Google Play.

#### How much does it cost?

Getting started is free; however, there is a \$38 consultation fee per appointment. Consultation fees are applicable toward your medical-plan deductible and out-of-pocket maximum expense. PhysicianNow accepts most major credit and debit cards as well as Health Savings Account cards.

#### **Need additional information?**

Call 1-888-283-6691 toll-free to speak with a highly trained health service specialist standing by to take your call 24/7.

# TVARA, TVA, Other Volunteers Re-Launch Waterworks Model

Young visitors at the Children's Museum of Oak Ridge enjoy splashing and floating boats through the locks and dams in the TVA Waterworks exhibit. So when the aging exhibit needed an overhaul to stay afloat, Tennessee Valley Authority employees and retirees joined members of the local carpenters union to plan and make the needed repairs.

"The children love this exhibit even more, now that they have better access to it, thanks to the carpenters," said Suzan Bowman, former TVARA Valleywide President and a Children's Museum of Oak Ridge board member, speaking at a recent ribbon-cutting for the renovated exhibit.

"Plus, it is safer for them in many ways, thanks to the engineers. And they still love to get wet as they learn about locks and dams."

Bowman knew who to call for help when the museum's Facilities Manager, Bucky Smith, told the board the exhibit needed refurbishing. Having worked for TVA for 30 years before retiring in 2009, she knew many of the TVA employees who had built the model of locks and dams.

Originally done for the TVA barge at the 1982 Knoxville World's Fair, the model later was donated to the Children's Museum.

First, at Bowman's request TVA employees from the Norris Engineering Laboratory — Matt Williams, David Torrance, David Bush, Mark Goins, Ryan Tinker, and Jeff Northern —

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Work in progress



Journeyman Carpenter Nick Carter was among the variety of volunteers participating in the project.



From left, TVA employee Mark Goins, TVA retirees Bill Haire and Hal Stephens, and TVA employee David Bush discuss progress on the restoration of the exhibit.

# DISCOUNT COUPON Valid only for August 19 or August 20, 2017

# "TVA DAY" - You are invited to visit the TVA Waterworks Exhibit!

WHAT: Children's Museum of Oak Ridge, Tenn., cordially invites TVA retirees to visit the newly renovated TVA Waterworks Exhibit and tour the rest of its awesome facility and many exhibits

WHEN: Saturday, August 19, 2017, 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. or Sunday, August 20, 2017, 1-4 p.m.

WHERE: Children's Museum, 461 W. Outer Drive, Oak Ridge, TN 37830

Phone: 865-482-1074

Per TVA retiree and per immediate family members.

Children under the age of 3 are admitted free.

Present this coupon, or a photocopy, at the entrance to receive the special discount.

Note: On Sunday, additional special events will be offered such as the Train Display and the Garden Open House. Amateur Radio Demonstrations also will be held on Sunday. See the website childrensmuseumofoakridge.org for more details.

Special Section of TVARA News celebrating 50 years of the TVA Retirees Association

# History of the TVA Retirees Association

Fifty years ago this October, the TVA Retirees Association came into existence. In 1998 the late Lee Sheppeard, a former Editor of the TVARA News, compiled a history of TVARA. In this anniversary year, here are excerpts of that history:

The TVA Retirees Association came about as part of a "rush job" that began in 1966. By that time TVA itself was 33 years old, and its Retirement System had been in place since 1939.

The TVA Retirement System had been based on a plan developed by a joint employee-management committee, using the latest ideas in business and government about providing pension benefits. TVA was still a young organization then, with fewer than 100 retirees by 1939.

This model Retirement System served TVA retirees well. But as the number of retirees grew over the next 25 years, and changing economic conditions affected fixed incomes, there began to be discussions about the need for some kind of organization to provide a single responsible voice for TVA retirees.

The four Knoxville retirees most active in these discussions all had experience with TVA personnel and retirement matters: Harry B. Tour, Harry Wiersema, Lloyd Huntington, and E.B. Schultz.

#### THE IMPACT OF MEDICARE

The need for a retiree organization became urgent after Congress passed Medicare legislation in the mid-1960s, creating a national



Harry B. Tour

F.B. Schultz

healthcare program for all Americans age 65 and over. Most TVA retirees were in that age group, and they had been allowed to continue their coverage under TVA's Blue Cross/Blue Shield Comprehensive Plan for active employees.

With Medicare alone, they would soon have less adequate medical coverage than they had under the TVA employee plan.

When the Knoxville group learned in April 1966 that TVA was considering dropping retirees from the TVA medical plan, they invited other retirees in the Knoxville area to a meeting to discuss creating a retirees' organization.

On May 5, the Knoxville group met with representatives of the Retirement System and Blue Cross. The group was told that the Retirement System Insurance Committee had developed a group plan to supplement Medicare benefits, and Blue Cross agreed to make it available to retirees.

But there was a big catch. At least half of all TVA retirees and beneficiaries would have to sign up for the new supplemental coverage by June 1 — just a few weeks away. That would mean getting about 750 to participate.

The new retirees group prepared a letter explaining the new coverage and sent out the letter with an enrollment form. The 50-percent subscription goal was reached before June 1, and the new supplemental group medical contract for retirees took effect July 1, 1966.

#### **ORGANIZING VALLEYWIDE**

This important effort for retiree medical coverage helped create broader interest in the new Retirees Association. In May 1966 retirees in the Chattanooga and Muscle Shoals areas met to begin organizing local chapters.

In August Tour presented a statement to the Retirement System Board with several proposals for consideration:

- a. TVA contributions to retiree health-insurance premiums,
- b. Cost-of-living adjustments in pension benefits,
- c. Permission for a retiree representative to be part of or observe the Retirement System Board's meetings.

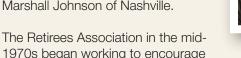
All of these steps would eventually come about, in one form or another.

Continued on next page



Meanwhile the local groups continued to organize and expand. In October 1967 the active retirees in Muscle Shoals, Chattanooga, Knoxville, and Nashville authorized formal creation of a Valleywide organization. By-laws were adopted in November, and an announcement of this action was sent to all TVA retirees.

A Board of Directors was established, made up of the chapter presidents. The initial Board included Kenneth Hapgood and Rufus Partain of Chattanooga, Harry Wiersema and J. Harry Scott of Knoxville, Donald Dugger of Muscle Shoals, and Marshall Johnson of Nashville.



1970s began working to encourage wider participation among TVA retirees, and creation of more local chapters. By the late 1980s this would result in 20 active chapters across the TVA region and one in Florida. By the late 1990s TVARA had more than 6,000 members.

Chapter presidents and Valleywide officers hold quarterly Board meetings at Nashville to plan activities, exchange information, and set policies for the Association.

#### RETIREES NEWSLETTER

The TVA Retirees Newsletter had modest beginnings. In 1971 Wylie Bowmaster, Treasurer of the Knoxville Chapter, began sending out a periodic notice showing which chapter members had paid dues. Along with that list he provided some news items of interest to retirees.

The Bowmaster newsletter was so popular that in 1973 it was expanded to become the Association's quarterly publication for distribution to retirees nationwide.

The Retirees Association uses this newsletter, and local chapter meetings, to inform retirees about developments affecting them. This includes information about the decisions

individual retirees face from time to time about pension and healthcare options.

For two decades Knoxville, Chattanooga, and Muscle Shoals chapters took turns producing and distributing this newsletter. TVA credit unions in those three locations provided the printing, with teams of retirees preparing the bulk mailing.

In the 1990s, because of changes in postal regulations and the huge growth in the retiree mailing list, newsletter printing and distribution were turned over to commercial operations. Most of the dues money from TVARA members goes to cover those costs.

#### A SEAT AT THE TABLE

Retiree representation on the Retirement System Board, the third of the original TVARA proposals, has never been formally adopted. Under the System's original 1939 Rules

& Regulations, three of its Directors are named by management, three are elected by employee members, and the seventh is elected by a vote among those six.

However, in 1994 the Retirement System Board of Directors agreed to consider candidates nominated by the Retirees Association for a vacancy on its seventh seat. The Board selected Lewis E. Wallace, a former TVARA President and retiree



Lewis E. Wallace

leader. The following year he was elected Chairman of that Board.

#### RETIREMENT SYSTEM INDEPENDENCE

A great strength of the TVA Retirement System has been the financial independence and integrity built into its basic structure — with TVA as employer having a strong voice in decisions but sharing control with the System's members.

# VALLEYWIDE PRESIDENTS OF TVARA

Harry Scott	1968	Henry Carr	1977	Lewis E. Wallace	1990-91	Pat Miller	2003-2004
Nathan Way	1969	L.J. Van Mol	1978-79	Jack E. Gilleland	1992	W.E. "Buster" Smith	2005-2006
Rufus Partain	1970	M. Graham Wells	1980-81	Clem C. Schonhoff	1993	Ron Loving	2007-2008
Hendon Johnson	1971	Godwin Williams	1982-83	Edgar M. Gober III	1994-95	Tom Swanson	2009-2010
Edwin Shelley	1972	W. Dave Thompson	1984-85	Bernie Zellner	1996-97	Theresa Habiger	2011-2012
Sherrill Milliken	1973	Benton P. Dana	1986-87	Earl Evans	1998-1999	Suzan Bowman	2013-2016
Wylie Bowmaster	1974	Edward H. Lesesne	1988	John Bynon	2000-2001	B. DeWitt Burleson	2017-present
Charles Davidson	1975-76	Horace H. Mull	1989	Larry Edwards	2002	o o o	



The Retirees Association has worked hard to assure that this independence is maintained. Retiree leaders in the late 1980s and early 1990s became concerned about various internal TVA staff proposals they felt could threaten the System's status.

The Retirees Association made TVA aware of retirees' concerns. The proposals that had raised concerns were rejected or modified, and TVARA got pledges from successive TVA Boards that the independence provided in the System's charter would be respected.

#### STRENGTHENING THE TVARA

For many years, Retirees Association membership lists and dues collection were handled primarily by individual local chapters.

In 1993 a computerized TVARA Valleywide membership list was created by George Jacobs in Knoxville, using a computer and office space provided by Bicentennial Volunteers Inc. It was used to keep track of dues payments and send out dues reminders.

As a result, membership in TVARA nearly doubled. This strengthened the Association's effectiveness as a voice for retirees, and provided needed financial help.

In the middle 1990s TVA and the Retirement System established closer working relationships with the Retirees Association. This included regular discussion meetings of retiree representatives with TVA Board members and officials, as well as meetings with TVARS Board and quarterly briefings on the System's financial condition.

The Association also had no quick way to share information among its officers, chapters, and committees across the region. In 1997 a system of Internet email communication was set up. TVA agreed to provide surplus personal computers where needed (surprisingly, nearly all the chapters and TVARA officers already had access to PCs and the Internet).

#### **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

Some of the work of TVARA on behalf of retirees is not related to TVA matters. For example, in 1966 the State of Alabama had exempted the pension benefits of Civil Service retirees from state income taxes, but did not include TVA and military retirees.

After long efforts to correct this inequity through the Alabama legislature, in 1988 Bernie Zellner and



Bernie Zellner

seven other members of the Muscle Shoals TVARA Chapter brought a successful class-action suit to achieve equity. As a result, the pensions of several thousand TVA retirees in Alabama became exempt from Alabama's 5-percent state income tax.

#### **RETIREES' ANNUAL PICNIC**

The first TVA Retirees' Picnic in 1976 was a pot-luck affair at Norris Dam State Park, attended mostly by Knoxville-area retirees. This event has grown since to a Valleywide reunion attended by well over a thousand retirees and spouses each year.

In recent years it has been held at Guntersville, Alabama. It is organized by the Retirees Association, with TVA as host and extensive groundwork by the Northeast Alabama Chapter, the BVI staff, and the Guntersville community.



Hosted by TVA, the Valleywide TVA Retiree Appreciation Picnic is an annual get-together.

#### **RETIREE SUPPORT FOR TVA**

The Retirees Association is an independent organization dedicated to the interest of retirees. It sets its own policy positions and does not hesitate to make these views known, even when they have not always agreed with actions of TVA's management at the time.

However, retirees who are active in this Association tend to have a continuing interest in the success of the organization where they served for years. When there are outside threats to TVA and the interests of the region's people, TVARA often joins with other regional organizations in defending those interests by contacting decisionmakers and opinion leaders here and in Washington.

In recent times this has included legislative issues concerning deregulation of the electric-utility industry.

TVARA supports legislation that would recognize the unique pattern of power supply in this region and permit

TVA to operate on an equal footing with its competition in a restructured power industry.

Continued on next page

#### PUTTING VOLUNTEERS TO WORK

The Retirees Association is an organization of volunteers. Its local and Valleywide officers and committee members, past and present, have served without pay.

Before the Nation's Bicentennial celebration in 1976, TVA came to the Retirees Association to ask for another kind of volunteer work. TVA wanted to help celebrate the country's 200th birthday with a "Bicentennial Caravan" of exhibits that would travel throughout the region. But staffing this exhibit would take more manpower that TVA could provide.

TVA asked if retirees could help. TVARA agreed. Bicentennial Volunteers Inc., a state-chartered nonprofit organization, was created and TVA contracted with BVI to manage and staff the project with volunteers.

By the time the caravan completed its 9,000-mile journey, retiree volunteers had contributed 60,000 free hours of work.

A few years later volunteers were needed again to staff a large exhibit on barges for the 1982 Knoxville World's Fair. This exhibit also would travel to communities along the region's rivers in 1983 for TVA's 50th Anniversary celebration. BVI was reactivated, and again retiree volunteers did the job.

A TVA staff member who worked with all of these events, Russell Allen, said the retirees "were the best goodwill ambassadors TVA could have."

The effectiveness of retiree volunteers in these specific assignments led to the idea that retirees could serve a variety of needs for TVA and other agencies. In 1984 TVA and BVI revised their contract to provide that BVI would administer a broad program of activities, taking advantage of retirees' varied experience and skills.

Since that time BVI has contracted with TVA and other agencies, public and private organizations, universities, and others in providing hundreds of assignments for TVA retirees in 38 states and several foreign nations.



TVA Bicentennial Caravan in 1975

The TVA World's Fair barge in 1982





### TVA RETIREES ASSOCIATION

#### **ACTIVE CHAPTERS (2017)**

Watts Bar Browns Ferry Knoxville Johnsonville Paradise Huntsville Muscle Shoals Northeast Alabama Florida Chattanooga Memphis Western Area Kingston Upper East Tennessee Jackson Paducah Area Nashville Gallatin Cleveland Mississippi

#### **GROWTH IN MEMBERSHIP**

From the organization's beginning in 1967, paid membership grew to 2,000 retirees by 1984. As the number of TVA retirees grew, membership reached 3,500 in 1990. Then it nearly doubled in the 1990s and totaled about 7,600 in 1998. As of April 2017, membership stood at 8,456.



#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Sources of this history include:

"TVA Retirees Association, the First Ten Years," Marvin Shadel, 1975.

"A Short History of Bicentennial Volunteers Inc.," Tony Holmes, 1997.

Files of the Retirees Association and TVA Retirees Newsletter.

#### Waterworks...continued from page 6

visited the museum to assess the model. They discovered it was structurally unsound.

Bowman then enlisted the aid of area TVA retirees, gathering a team to plan for improving the exhibit. Hal Stephens became the lead engineer on the project, with Bill Haire handling electrical engineering. Retirees Michael Parker, John and JoAnne Pantanizoppoulos, Bill and Sharon Pitkin, and David Gengozian also pitched in. More than 400 hours of volunteer labor were donated by the TVA retirees.

Another retiree, Reny McClain-Lee, TVARA Valleywide Volunteer Coordinator, led Bowman to the carpenters union. Four members of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters & Joiners Local 50 volunteered to build a sturdy, waterproof deck around the locks-and-dams model. McClain-Lee's late husband was a member of the union local.

Mike Machado, Journeyman Carpenter and Job Steward, led the team of Rick Bolinger and Nick Carter, Journeyman Carpenters, and Ben Mullins, Carpenter Apprentice who remembered splashing in the Waterworks exhibit as a child.

"They worked 8-10-hour days at Y-12 (National Security Complex) and came to the Children's Museum after their workday," said Mike Boner, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Mid-South Carpenters Regional Council, who came from Nashville for the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The carpenters brought in their own equipment from home when needed to complete the job, contributing more than 180 hours to the project, Boner said.

Bowman said the project was funded by a number of donors. Although she originally expected a five-year fix for the exhibit, the engineers came up with innovative solutions expected to keep the exhibit open 20 years.

"We were tearing down and building back up, cleaning, and blowing the dust, and four weeks later, the outcome is what you see here at the museum," Bowman said.



From left at the refurbished Waterworks ribbon-cutting, museum staffer Bucky Smith, TVA retiree Bill Haire, Children's Museum Director Beth Shea, TVARA Volunteer Coordinator Reny McClain-Lee, TVA employee David Bush, Journeyman Carpenter Mike Machado, President of the museum's Board of Trustees Tom Beehan, Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Mid-South Carpenters Regional Council Mike Boner, TVARA Project Coordinator Suzan Bowman, TVA retiree Hal Stephens, and TVARA Valleywide President DeWitt Burleson

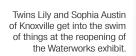


From left, TVA retirees Hal Stephens and Bill Haire check the miniature gates.

Other contributors included Cuts Inc., Consolidated Pipe & Supply, and Local Motors, which 3-D-printed new redand-green gates for the miniature locks and dams. TVA Communications' Public & Community Relations also supported the project.

The Children's Museum of Oak Ridge is open from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, and 1-4 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$7 for seniors 62 and older, and \$6 for children ages 3-18. Admission is free for children under 3 and museum members.

For more information, see the Children's Museum website at <u>childrensmuseumofoakridge.org</u> or call 865-482-1074.





The exhibit provides fun for young and old alike, but particularly the young.



Look, Up in the Sky – Another Successful Hatching!

By JOHN BLACKWELL

The latest chapter in our continuing story began last fall when the bald eagles began to rebuild the nest at our home on Wilson Lake in North Alabama.

While the nest was very much intact, evidently the eagles wanted some more work done. They were seen bringing in limbs, and every stick seemingly had its place. Then the eagles started bringing in grasses.

All of this was to prepare for the nesting, laying of eggs, and hatching.

The nest is in a tall pine in our front yard and appears to be more than 90 feet high, and about 7 feet wide and 6 feet deep. It is massive compared to other birds' nests.

Around the first of February, according to our local eagle experts, the eggs had been laid. The signal is when the eagles stay for extended periods in the nest with only their heads showing.

They rotate sitting on eggs about every four hours. If one was late for its shift, the nesting eagle would be screaming in a loud voice.

When an eagle sits on the eggs, it parts the feathers on its stomach so that the eggs are against its flesh.

Since the nest is so high off the ground, we see very little of the eagles and what is taking place in the nest. The photographers who came to our house were about 300 feet away from the nest, using a very expensive telephoto lens. I really admire these folks because they sit there all day long waiting for a split-second opportunity to take a picture. However, they have seen so much of the eagles' behavior that they can tell when events are taking place.

Everything was moving forward for a late February or early March hatching. The activity of the eagles changed about



the first week in March when one was seen taking fish to the nest. This was a sure sign the eggs had hatched. I have never seen an adult eagle eat a fish in the nest.

Several weeks went by, and not a sign of an eaglet. Then, finally, an eaglet stuck his head up so that the photographer could capture a picture.

For several days, there was no sign of another eaglet. However, we recalled that last year the second eaglet appeared several weeks after the first.

Finally, the second eaglet showed its head.

The adults work hard keeping the eaglets in food. The diet is fish and turtles.

As mentioned last year, the first lesson the eaglets learn is to go to the bathroom at the edge of the nest. So never go under a nest when there is an eaglet!

Next the eaglets are taught to fly. They learn by standing in the nest or on limbs near the nest and flapping their wings.

The adults entice the eaglets to fly to nearby trees by holding food for them. The eaglets scream, wanting the food brought to them, but finally they realize they must fly to get food.

Finally, they start to fly, and fly they do, but landing is not so good. However, before long they are flying and landing equally well.

Next the parents teach them to fish. When they eaglets learn that, they are considered ready to be off on their own by their parents. Not only do the parents not let them return to the nest, they will fight them off like a mortal enemy.

And another cycle is completed.

#### Tips for Traveling on a Budget...continued from page 1

right location for you at a price you like, you can always go to Marriott's site to compare. Marriott's site may have a Senior or AARP rate, or AAA Travel Agency rate, or you may even still qualify for a federal government rate.

If you belong to a hotel reward plan, such as Hilton Honors, and if you can book with Hilton for the same rate as <u>Hotels.com</u>, you may get a later cancellation date, or a couple of bottles of water or free snacks when you check in.

If you are satisfied to go ahead when booking with <a href="Hotels.com">Hotels.com</a>, there is a rewards program, as well. If you book 10 stays through that website within a certain time period, you get one night free.

Be sure to enroll for the rewards programs, whichever method you use to book your room. Just be sure to keep your member numbers and passwords in a secure place.

BEWARE of extremely discounted pre-paid, nonrefundable rates unless you are very sure about your travel plans. While you can normally save some money, if you are flying to your destination and your flight is delayed overnight, you would likely not get the money back for your hotel, since it's nonrefundable.

#### **MORE DIFFICULT: Flights**

Whenever I am thinking about flying somewhere, once I know specific dates, or a date range, I go to matrix. itasoftware.com to begin searching. You cannot book your flight from the site, but you have a lot of search options to choose from that can save you money or optimize your layovers.

Matrix.itasoftware may be difficult to get the hang of at first, but you can play around in it without worrying that you are going to book a flight by mistake. It is only for searches.

You can search by specific dates, or plus or minus one or two days. Also, you could choose the flexible-date option

and search nearly a month at a time by typing in your earliest start date and about how long you plan to be gone (for example, start searching for a seven-day period beginning July 1 or later, or even a range, such as six to nine days).

The more flexible you can be, and the more you travel on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and sometimes weekends or holidays, you should find the most affordable flights.

One of the best options in matrix is the

"nearby" option. For example, I can start searching with my local Tricities airport "TRI," and a "nearby" option shows up. In the "nearby" option, I can ask it to search airports within 200 miles, and then Asheville and Knoxville options show up.

I can decide if I would rather take a \$400 flight from Tricities or drive to Knoxville for a \$200 flight. The more family or friends going, the more I would tend to drive to Knoxville.

BEWARE: If you choose the "nearby" search option, you will likely need to look at the bottom of the matrix page and "uncheck" the box that says "allow airport changes"; otherwise, you could mistakenly find a cheaper trip that has you flying out of one airport and back into another (with your car parked at the first airport). Or you could be flying into Miami and back out of Fort Lauderdale. It's okay if you intentionally planned to do that, but it might not be possible to take a car rented in Miami back to Fort Lauderdale without paying a "one-way rental" charge.

Disclaimer: I don't believe Southwest Airlines or Allegiant Air (and possibly other discount airlines) are listed on the matrix. itasoftware site, so you may wish to check them separately.

You can search for round-trip, one-way, or multiple-destination flights by selecting the right tab. You can search by the lowest cost for "complete trips" or "individual flights" (I prefer individual).

The more you use matrix.itasoftware, the more skillful you will be with it. You can Google "how to use matrix by itasoftware," and several websites with explanations will be available. Some of these sites get very complicated.

BEWARE: Be sure to check the ADVISORY column on the list of flights that comes up on matrix for warnings that you may have a long layover, a risky connection, or the like. Those are things you want to avoid! Once you find the flight you desire, you can go to the airline's website and book it, selecting the flight you found on matrix. If you call the airline to book it, you usually pay an extra \$50 fee. Some people don't want to do all this and would prefer to let the airline or a travel agent find their flight for them and pay the fee.

In the next issue of *TVARA News*, I'll provide some tips about valuable reward programs, credit cards for bonus points, air miles, and such.

If you give matrix a try and have questions for me, feel free to email me at <u>Lpbays1@yahoo.com</u> with "HELP LES" in the subject line, and provide your phone number. I'll contact you as soon as possible.



#### In Memoriam Jan. 27, 2017 - Apr. 28, 2017

Retirement Management received notifications of the deaths of the following retirees for the period January 28, 2017, through April 28, 2017, as well as as other previously unreported deaths. They are listed with the date of death (and date of retirement). To report the death of a retiree, call the TVA Retirement System toll-free at 1-800-824-3870.

**Abrams, Louie H.,** 4/4/2017 (10/31/1991)

**Addington, Phillip C.,** 4/12/2017 (1/5/1999)

**Akins, William L.,** 1/15/2017 (01/08/2005)

**Anderson, John F.,** 3/16/2017 (1/5/2008)

**Arnold, Virginia B.,** 4/2/2017 (10/1/1978)

**Bain, Edmund C.,** 3/29/2017 (4/12/1999)

**Banner, June E.,** 3/29/2017 (4/18/1987)

**Barnett, Haskell A.,** 4/12/2017 (9/2/1983)

**Barnett, Horace P.,** 4/12/2017 (3/1/1989)

**Barton, Richard L.,** 1/30/2017 (Unknown)

Blaylock, Larry R., 3/29/2017 (5/5/2001)

**Brock, Ronald E.,** 04/24/2017 (10/17/1994)

**Butler, Hugh L.,** 3/11/201 (9/12/1983)

**Carter, Shirley A.,** 2/8/2017 (4/22/2000)

**Castleberry, Steven E.,** 3/2/2017 (12/15/2001)

**Clark, James B.,** 2/5/2017 (6/29/1990)

Cleveland, Joan G., 4/10/2017 (10/1/1988)

Comer, Mary E., 3/7/2017 (7/2/1988)

Crow, Charles C., 3/2/2017 (Unknown)

Cullom, John R., Jr.,

3/10/2017 (8/16/1988) **Dantzler, Andre J.,** 

3/16/2017 (1/7/2003)

**Devault, Royce R., Sr.,** 4/18/2017 (5/5/1990)

**Dial, Mary L.,** 2/21/2017 (1/8/1994)

**Dockery, Noah 0.,** 2/18/2017 (12/28/1991)

**Elkins, Bobbie V.,** 1/24/2017 (1/1/1995)

**Enloe, Virginia R.,** 3/19/2017 (2/6/1984)

Foster, Paul S., 3/21/2017 (10/1/1988) Franklin, Timothy H., 2/8/2017 (7/9/2005)

Fuller, Gary L., 4/18/2017 (6/17/2000)

**Gonia, Rama C.,** 1/5/2017 (08/26/1989)

**Gunter, Jo Ann,** 3/1/2017 (9/27/1997)

**Hale, Fred L.,** 3/26/2017 (10/17/1994)

**Harper, Leroy F.,** 04/17/2017 (07/19/1992)

**Harris, L. Lyle,** 1/24/2017 (9/18/1982)

**Hartley, Jackie D.,** 2/10/2017 (8/1/1988)

Hastings, Carey H., 4/20/2017 (Unknown)

**Headley, Nelson B.,** 1/21/2017 (2/13/1988)

Henderson, William F., 2/11/2017 (7/27/1982)

Henderson, William J., 2/27/2017 (9/10/1983)

Henley, Samuel R., 3/23/2017 (12/8/1986)

**Hillis, Pauline H.,** 2/25/2017 (7/29/1978)

Hodge, Carl James, 3/5/2017 (5/8/1982)

Holdbrooks, Jimmy R., 3/11/2017 (Unknown)

Hopson, Jimmy R., 3/2/2017 (4/14/1979)

Horner, Gene R., 1/5/2017 (9/13/1992)

Humphreys, Carole A., 1/23/2017 (9/10/1988)

**Ingram, M. Inez,** 2/26/2017 (6/3/1978)

**Isbell, Terry R.,** 3/5/2017 (Unknown)

Jackson, Gentle P., 1/18/2017 (4/5/1977)

**Jarvis, Nathaniel D.,** 3/22/2017 (9/12/1983)

Jenkins, Hobart L., 1/27/2017 (6/5/1988)

**Jenkins, Rex H.,** 4/02/2017 (8/7/1973)

Jones, Betty S., 1/31/2017 (2/1/1995)

Jones, Wanda J., 2/20/2017 (7/7/1996) **Jones, Charles Paul,** 3/12/2017 (12/1/1990)

**Kidd, Archie,** 2/21/2017 (10/17/1994)

**Lewis, Mark R.,** 4/02/2017 (3/5/1993)

**Linde, William C.,** 4/19/2017 (6/30/1990)

**Linn, John E.,** 3/19/2017 (10/1/1982)

**Lombardo, Deloris,** 4/09/2017 (4/18/1984)

**Lovelace, William Oran,** 3/18/2017 (8/19/2006)

**Lovelace, Neal L.,** 4/01/2017 (10/9/2001)

**Lovin, William C.,** 3/11/2017 (1/6/2005)

**Lowe, Carlyle M., II,** 1/7/2017 (10/17/1994)

**McFarland, Thomas,** 2/1/2017 (5/29/2004)

Mealer, John Andrew, 3/31/2017 (Unknown)

Munn, Jere A., 3/16/2017 (10/2/1996)

**Murrell, Ralph E.,** 3/18/2017 (8/1/1988)

**Nesbitt, Paul B.,** 1/15/2017 (10/17/1994)

**Owens, Gary R.,** 1/26/2017 (10/1/1989)

**Patel, Ashwin R.,** 1/23/2017 (10/1/1988)

Patton, Donald K., 4/11/2017 (7/3/2004)

Payne, Gerald A., 3/25/2017 (10/17/1994)

Phillips, John K., 3/1/2017 (6/29/1991)

Phillips, Richard L., 2/16/2017 (7/20/1989)

**Richardson, Wayne R.,** 3/16/2017 (1/9/1988)

Richie, Albert C., 3/27/2017 (1/2/1988)

Robinson, Eldridge H., 2/6/2017 (Unknown)

Schonhoff, Clem C., 1/29/2017 (1/1/1988)

**Sikkema, Beverly J.,** 3/12/2017 (10/4/2003)

**Siler, Vernon R.,** 04/25/2017 (01/01/1993)

**Sims, Andrew J.,** 4/1/2017 (8/9/1988)

**Slaton, O. Mancil,** 3/27/2017 (10/1/1997)

**Smith, Edward L.,** 1/23/2017 (10/17/1994)

**Smith, Ludie F.,** 2/24/2017 (7/7/1984)

**Smith, Willie L.,** 2/5/2017 (4/7/1990)

**Speers, Georgia H.,** 3/14/2017 (2/2/1985)

**Stackhouse, Clavon,** 1/6/2017 (4/3/1982)

**Staggs, Hoyt L.,** 4/1/2017 (7/1/1999)

**Stephenson, Danny L.,** 3/1/2017 (8/23/2001)

Stevens, Sammy R., 3/31/2017 (Unknown)

**Taylor, William D.,** 4/5/2017 (10/4/2003)

**Taylor, Dallas E.,** 3/17/2017 (11/3/2006)

**Thompson, Ralph E.,** 2/10/2017 (10/1/1996)

**Thompson, Michael B.,** 3/23/2017 (7/1/2000)

**Thompson, Charles E.,** 3/16/2017 (4/15/2000)

2/13/2017 (7/11/1998) **Trew, Leland J.,** 2/27/2017 (4/2/2006)

Tipton, Patricia A.,

**Tyler, Annie R.,** 11/23/2016 (9/27/1997)

Watson, Walter A., 3/4/2017 (9/18/1982)

Weatherford, Michael B., 4/14/2017 (Unknown)

**Wilkerson, W. Howard, Jr.,** 3/26/2017 (9/15/1984)

Willingham, Dwayne M., 04/03/2017 (09/30/1988) Wilson, Richard F.,

3/6/2017 (1/23/1993) Wright, Matthew B.,

2/14/2017 (Unknown)

### **Upcoming June 2017 Chapter Meetings**

#### **BROWNS FERRY**

#### June 13, 2017, Noon

Stanfield's Restaurant, Rogersville, Ala.

· Guest Speaker: DeWitt Burleson, President of TVARA

John Corcetti, President

256-233-3587/sundevil71@gmail.com

#### **CHATTANOOGA**

#### June 13, 2017, 10 a.m.

Catoosa County Civic Center, (The Colonnade) 264 Catoosa Circle, Ringgold, Ga. **Annual Picnic** Registration 10:30 a.m. Serving 11:30 a.m.

· Featured Speaker: Lynn Evans, TVA Board and former Chair Tom Swanson, President

423-344-6892/twswanson@comcast.net

#### **CLEVELAND**

#### June 9, 2017, 10:30 a.m.

Hopewell Church of God, Fellowship Hall, 5765 Eureka Road NW **Annual Summer Picnic** Program: TBD John Austin, President 423-472-2720/austintnutfan@charter.net

#### **FLORIDA**

#### September 29, 2017, 10:30 a.m.

Lakeside Inn.

100 N. Alexander St., Mount Dora, Fla.

- Annual Meeting
- · Program: TBD

Patrick Hughes, President

321-392-3097/patnqiqi@yahoo.com

#### **GALLATIN**

#### June 14, 2017, Noon

Gallatin Public Library, East Main Street Guest Speaker: Chief of Gallatin Fire Department, speaking on Fire Safety Ronnie "Blue" Monday, President 615-325-9473/ronniemonday@att.net

#### **HUNTSVILLE**

#### June 8, 2017, 10 a.m.-Noon

First Baptist Church, East Entrance Door Code 53158. Parlor Meeting Room, 600 Governors Drive

· Guest Speaker: TBD Richard Dearman, President 256-683-7920/redearma@comcast.net

#### **JACKSON**

#### June 14, 2017, 9:30 a.m.

St. John's Masonic Lodge, 1341 North Highland Ave.

 Presentation by the Madison County Sheriff's Department

Alan Campbell, President 731-988-8814/abcjax@eplus.net

#### **JOHNSONVILLE**

#### June 8, 2017, 10:30 a.m.

Country Western Steakhouse. Camden, Tenn.

· Program: TBD

Randall W. Clark, President

731-584-7629/rwclark29@gmail.com

#### **KINGSTON**

#### June 26, 2017, 10:45 a.m.

Kingston Community Center, 201 Patton Ferry Road

Program: TBD

Marcus C. Melton Jr., President 865-388-3919/mcmelton@nxs.net

#### **KNOXVILLE**

#### June 15, 2017,

#### 10 a.m. Hospitality Time 10:30 a.m. Meeting

Fellowship Church, 8000 Middlebrook Pike
• Program: "What's Goin' On"

Susan Fendley, President 865-588-2390/fendley5@yahoo.com

#### **MEMPHIS**

#### June 19, 2017, 11:30 a.m.

Allen Fossil Plant

- Annual BBQ (pork & chicken), \$5 per
- RSVP by calling David Teuton at 901-212-3822, or Dennis Anderson at 901-356-1104 by June 15

David L. Teuton, President

901-212-3822/davidteuton@yahoo.com

#### **MISSISSIPPI**

#### June 13, 2017, 10 a.m.

Tupelo TVA Customer Service Center, 3197 Brooks Road, Belden, Miss.

Program: TBA Tim Meeks, President

256-366-2530/meekstim100@yahoo.com

#### **MUSCLE SHOALS**

#### June 20, 2017, 10 a.m.

Florence Lauderdale Coliseum

· Annual Picnic & Healthcare Fair Timothy "Tim" Cornelius, President 256-757-5220/timwcornelius1@gmail.com

#### **NASHVILLE**

#### June 14, 2017, 10 a.m.

Piccadilly Cafeteria, 865 Murfreesboro Pike

- · Guest Speaker: DeWitt Burleson, President of TVARA
- Drawing for a \$25 door prize Charles P. Smith Jr., President 931-381-0255/charlesjewel@charter.net

#### **NORTHEAST ALABAMA**

#### June 13, 2017, 11 a.m.

Mud Creek Restaurant, Hollywood, Ala.

· Program: TBA

Larry A. Hancock, President

256-437-8220/lah35772@gmail.com

#### **PADUCAH AREA**

#### June 20, 2017, 10 a.m.

Pizza Inn, Joe Clifton Drive

• Guest Speaker: Pat Brackett, Executive Secretary, TVARS Board

Ken Dickerson, President

270-442-9539/kenneth.dickerson@comcast.net

#### **PARADISE**

#### June 13, 2017, 10:30 a.m.

Powderly Catfish Dock, Powderly, Ky.

Program: TBA

Gary Southerland, President

270-526-3451/glsouth@bellsouth.net

#### **UPPER EAST TENNESSEE**

#### June 14, 2017, 11 a.m. (2nd Wednesday)

Rogersville City Park Shelter

- Annual Picnic RSVP on or before June 10 by calling Jerry Alvis at 423-235-2439 or Denver Bennett at 423-587-6505 or email Les Bays at Lpbays1@yahoo.com
- · BBQ, water, and soft drinks provided
- Bring a covered dish

Leslie P. "Les" Bays, President 423-782-8458/<u>Lpbays1@yahoo.com</u>

#### **WATTS BAR**

#### June 12, 2017, 10:30 a.m.

United Methodist Church, Life Center, Spring City, Tenn.

Program: TBA

Lunch catered, \$7 per person

 Please RSVP by June 9 by calling 423-365-9048

Kathleen Garrison, President

423-365-9048/eddiekathleen@bellsouth.net

#### **WESTERN AREA**

#### June 21, 2017, 10:30 a.m.

Paris Landing State Park Inn Buchanan, Tenn.

- · Review of May TVARA Board Meeting in Nashville
- · Guest Speaker: TBA Larry Doyle, Interim President

270-753-8250/sldoyle@newwavecomm.net

Please visit the TVARA website at www.mytvara.org and hover your mouse over the tab "Local Chapters" to find your chapter. Click on your chapter to view meeting details and announcements.



The Tennessee Valley Authority
Retirees Association
400 West Summit Hill Drive SPT 5A
Knoxville, TN 37902

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### Patriotism & Pride in Our Country

The American flag was first adopted June 14, 1777, and through the years millions of people have fought for and served under the flag. Our American flag is a recognized symbol that is proudly flown by many year-round and widely displayed on civic holidays such as Memorial Day, June 14 (Flag Day), July 4, Veterans Day, and Presidents Day.

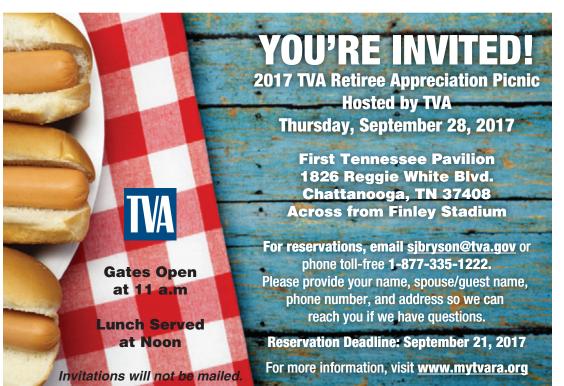
TVA retirees also honor and show respect by including the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag at chapter meetings.

Gallatin Chapter members honor the 37 veterans from their community who gave their lives for our freedom by placing at the main intersection



in Portland, Tenn., 37 crosses with the names of those individuals. Flags are also placed with the crosses to honor all of the chapter's veterans who served their country.

The ceremony was started and organized by Chapter President Ronnie "Blue" Monday and is performed on Memorial Day, July 4, and Veterans Day.



### Five Chapters Announce Picnic Plans

Five TVARA chapters — Chattanooga, Cleveland, Memphis, Muscle Shoals, and Upper East Tennessee — are having picnics in June.

The time, location, and reservation details for these picnics can be found on the June 2017 Chapter Meetings listing on page 11.

Also note the TVA Retiree Appreciation Picnic has a change in the date and location this year. See the adjacent invitation.