

Upcoming Meetings:

September 13, 10:00 a.m.

TVA Community Credit Union

Program: TVARA History, Scholarship

& Essay Awards

Free Lunch, Door Prizes

December 13, 10:00 a.m.

TVA Community Credit Union

Program: To Be Announced

Free Lunch, Door Prizes

March 14, 10:00 a.m.

TVA Community Credit Union

Program: To Be Announced

Free Lunch, Door Prizes

Be sure to receive this newsletter enter/update your email address by sending it to Reba Whitson at rjwhitson@tva.gov@tva.gov

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### MS CHAPTER TVARA QUARTERLY MEETING

The winter quarterly TVARA Muscle Shoals Chapter Membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 13, 2017, at 10 a.m.

The location of the meeting is the TVA Community Credit Union, Main Office, 1405 Wilson Dam Road, Muscle Shoals Alabama.

Our program includes two very special young ladies, Bridgett Helms and Lakin Berry. They are our Chapter Endowed Scholarship winner and our Essay winner respectively for this year. Look for articles on each in this issue, and also look for Lakin's essay. John Blackwell will be speaking on TVARA 50th Anniversary, its history and interesting facts. In addition, we will be giving seven 2018 TVARA memberships away as door prizes, and we may also have a surprise or two in store. You don't want to miss this meeting—it promises to be special!

Lunch will be provided by the TVA Community Credit Union.

PLEASE NOTE: The credit union staff has asked us not to park in the spaces at the front of their building. Parking will be available at the rear of the credit union, in the grass lot on the south side of the credit union, and in the parking lot of Tri-Cities Church of Christ.



Join a Caring Community. Five clubs in Shoals area meeting at various times and days. Call Cameron Kay at 256-810-6569 for a club near you!

#### Your TVARA MS Chapter Board:

President: Tim Cornelius

Vice President:

Treasurer: Joan Marsh

Secretary: Carol Sherer

Board Member: John Blackwell

Board Member: Cameron Kay

Board Member: Jim Green

Board Member: Bill Baggett

TVARA Picnic Mgr.: Buster Smith

Garden Program Mgr.: James Bedsole

Hospitality: MJ Ligon

Wilson Dam Visitors WT: Lewis

Frederick

UNA Endowed Scholarship: John

Ingwersen

Newsletter: John Ingwersen, Janice

Berrv

#### Contacts:

For Problems (Benefits, Pharmacy), TVA Service Center 888-275-8094

Comments or recommendations for your

newsletter: Send to

jlingwersen@gmail.com

Our Advertisers:

TVA Community Credit Union

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Civitan

Court Appointed Special Advocates

(CASA)

Safeplace

TN Valley Arts Association (TVAA)

United Cerebral Palsy

#### From Our President

It was good seeing everyone who attended the Annual Health Fair and Picnic. We had a very good turn out and I hope everyone had a good time.

I thank all of the exhibitors who participated and provided door prizes and handouts.

I give a special thanks to the TVA Community Credit Union for their generous contributions to support the event.

Congratulations to the recipient of the University of North Alabama scholarship and also to the essay contest winner sponsored by our chapter. Both will be recognized at our next meeting (September 13, 10:00 A.M.). Hope to see everyone there.

Tim Cornelius

# Chattanooga Bound

**September 28, 2017** 

Ride the Bus to Chattanooga for the annual 2017 TVA retirees' valley-wide picnic. We will leave Florence at 0630 and return directly after the meeting and

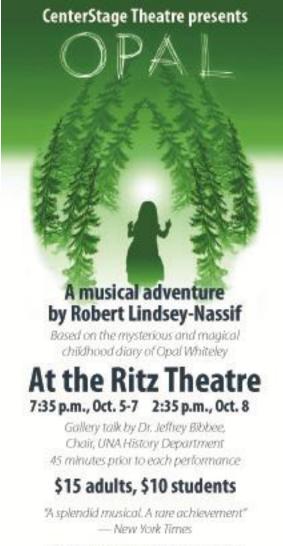


picnic lunch. We should arrive back to Academy Sports (old Kmart parking lot) by 4 pm.

Cost is \$25 round trip.

Call or see:

Billy Baggett (256 394 1435) Cameron Kay (256 810 6569)



# 256-383-0533 | tvaa.net

# MUSCLE SHOALS CHAPTER TVARA ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

This is the third year for our endowed scholarship, and it is now self-sufficient, supporting one \$1,000 scholarship to UNA per We are close to having enough to endow a second scholarship but must have your financial support through contributions to the fund if we are to reach that next level. Students attending UNA may apply for our scholarship online from November through the end of January for the following academic year. Those who have a Muscle Shoals Chapter TVARA relation are given preference over others applying for the scholarship. Our Chapter confirms to UNA that applicants are eligible for the preference, and UNA awards the scholarship based on this and other UNA criteria. In addition to the scholarship, our Chapter selects the best of the essays submitted for a special \$100 award. Both the scholarship recipient and the essay winner will be presented at our September Quarterly meeting. This year's awardees are presented in the following two articles. Come and meet both these lovely ladies at our September meeting.

### Scholarship Winner—BRIDGETT NELMS

Bridgett Nelms has been awarded the Muscle Shoals

Chapter TVARA 2017-2018 Scholarship. She is the daughter of Kim and Alan Nelms and the granddaughter of Thomas Crow (TVA Retiree). She has a sister, Brandi Nelms. Bridgett was born in Colbert County and, at an early age, was diagnosed with dyslexia. She says that, "Through this disability, I have learned that you have to work for what you want, and good things do not come easily." Her parents taught her to not treat dyslexia as a disability but rather as "a new opportunity to show my dedication to achieve what I desire." And she has shown herself more than capable of accomplishing this challenge by achieving a 4.0 GPA at Muscle Shoals High School while serving as a Varsity Cheerleader and Vice President of the Student Council. She has three dogs and a cat, which her parents say will go with her when she graduates and moves into a full time job.

She is planning to continue her part time work at Tan City and with Nelms and Gasque Construction while at UNA. She is not yet sure of her major but leans toward Business Management and Art Education.





Domestic violence is an experience that affects children for the rest of their lives. Safeplace has three programs to build the necessary resilience to overcome trauma.

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Bridgett leaves us with this thought, "I would like to thank TVA Retirees Association for choosing me to receive this scholarship and taking some of the financial strain off of my family and me. Allowing me to further my education and meet my goals, this scholarship is a great blessing that my family and I will not soon forget." (See her full letter of May 9 on page 13.)

safeplace Bridgett will be presented a certificate

representing the award of the Muscle Shoals Chapter TVARA 2017-2018 Scholarship at our September 13<sup>th</sup> Quarterly meeting. The Scholarship will go toward paying \$1,017 of her UNA costs.

### Essay Winner—LAKIN BERRY

Lakin Berry won the Muscle Shoals Chapter TVARA 2017-2018 Best Essay Award. She is the daughter of Jennifer and Jonathan Berry. She lived in St. Louis, Missouri, until her sophomore year in high school when her family moved to the Shoals area, and she enrolled in Mars Hill Bible School where she graduated in 2016. While at Mars Hill, she played on the soccer team and was an Elite Show Choir member. She is currently a sophomore at UNA, majoring in elementary education. She notes that she "was proud to be on the Dean's List throughout her freshman year and served in the National Society of Leadership and Success."

Lakin works at Mars Hill Preschool and is active in the Stony Point Church of Christ college group and the Christian Student Center on campus. In her spare time, she is a runner. She is planning to rush a sorority this fall. She says, "I am very honored to have been recognized for the essay award, and I thank everyone involved."

Lakin will be presented this award, along with a check for \$100, at our September 13 Quarterly meeting.

See Lakin's essay on page 10.



# Muscle Shoals Chapter TVARA/UNA Endowed Scholarship Your Support Needed!

The Muscle Shoals TVARA must have an average, over three years, of \$25,000 in the endowment to enable it to be active and cover the annual scholarship. As of March 31 of this year, our endowment had reached \$41,798.86 (up from \$35,057.03 this time last year). Now we can start looking forward to increasing the endowment so that

we can either give more than one scholarship or increase the amount of the scholarship.



Scholarship Lunch
Front: Bridgett Nelms, Lakin Berry
Back: Tim Cornelius, John Ingwersen, Joan Marsh

Donations are tax deductible. Make your check payable to Muscle Shoals Chapter TVARA/UNA Endowed Scholarship and mail it to:

UNA Foundation Office (Attn: Endowed Scholarships) Box 5113 Florence, AL 35632-0001



Call 256-765-0041 for more information or visit www.ShoalsCASA.org. Mailing address: CASA, 118 E. Mobile Street, Suite 10, Florence, AL, 35630



## SUPPORT OUR ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

We have a number of organizations providing financial support for our endowed scholarship through advertising in our newsletter. They are thus helping fund our endowed scholarship fund. Please support these organizations as they support us!

## Donors to Muscle Shoals Chapter Scholarship

The following contributions were received from May 1 through July 31 of this year: Linda Roden.

THANK YOU!

#### VALLEYWIDE MEETING

#### STRATEGIC PLANNING

The Valleywide meeting was held on August 3, with keynote speaker Clayton Clem, Vice President of Strategic Projects and Initiatives. He said that TVA is currently seeing a flat-to-declining load, with exceptions in some "hot spots" around the valley. This situation, along with the shutdown of some coal fired plants and the startup of new green power sources such as the 75 MW Solar Facility in Western Lauderdale County, are providing a challenge for the transmission system which has been built around

our plants. Work to address these issues will be under way for the next several years.

In the Economic Development area, TVA is looking closely at active industrial parks around the Valley. While 837 sites are identified as industrial parks, only 30 have significant activity taking place. These areas are being closely watched to ensure the availability of power as needed. One area which has a large number of such sites is all of the north Alabama area from Huntsville to the Shoals. The need for fiber optics is also necessary for economic development, and TVA is currently working toward providing 3,500 miles of fiber optic cabling across the valley.

A new Transmission Control Center is also in the planning stages. It is to be located between Chattanooga and Knoxville and will have many advanced features, including hardening for tornado protection, some limited hardening against Electro

UNITED
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MARCH 5, 2017
1 pm - 5 pm
ON WHDF- 15
THE VALLEY'S CW

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UCP SHOALS. OR G

Magnetic Pulse (as from an atmospheric nuclear detonation), and ability to withstand such potential threats as tornadoes.

#### RETIREMENT BENEFITS

Justin Vineyard reported on the health of the Retirement System. Currently, 23,000 retirees are receiving benefits totaling \$700 million annually. Returns over the past year for the retirement system have been \$520 million, with a TVA contribution of \$225 million. The current \$7.3 billion reserve means the system is now 76% funded vs 71% two years ago. In addition, the TVA Board is expected to approve a \$300-million payment into the system in the coming year.

#### **HEALTHCARE BENEFIT**

As reported by Jennifer Beckett, open enrollment periods are near and will include Delta Dental. These will be announced in the next TVARA Newsletter, along with a Reference Booklet which will be mailed in October.

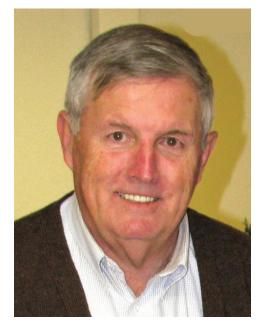
#### **MEMBERSHIP**

A report by Richard Wilson shows the number of current TVA retirees at 24,758, and the number of current TVARA members at 8,957. Encourage those you know who are not members to join the TVARA today. The Muscle Shoals Chapter area includes more than 1,000 retirees who are not members of TVARA and are missing out on the many opportunities membership brings for only \$15.00 per year. Just give (or send) them a copy of this newsletter so they can see what they are missing out on and invite them to join us for our next meeting.

#### John Blackwell Honored

John Blackwell, TVA retiree, recently received recognition from the Office of Personnel Management

(OPM) for his contribution to the 2016 Muscle Shoals Area Combined Federal Campaign. OPM recognizes volunteers who have made extraordinary contributions to the CFC through their dedication and creativity. John has been involved with the CFC since his arrival at TVA in 1963, and he continued through his tour with the United States Army and with his nearly 30 years with TVA. Upon retirement, John has continued to be involved with the CFC. Since 1997 he has volunteered over 6800 hours and has driven over 62,000 miles to support the CFC. John works with management and employees in TVA, other Federal agencies, and TVA partners to implement the CFC each year. John is very happy to be helping make the Shoals area, the Tennessee Valley, and the world a better place. John was presented the award by Gary Ford, General Manager, Power Services Shop, at a recent staff meeting.



#### **VOLUNTEERING IS AN ADVENTURE!**

By Joan Marsh

In June, Ann McAnalley and I volunteered with BVI to be hostesses at Fontana Dam, North Carolina. Not it a great only was experience but educational. In May, there were 6,465 visitors at the dam. They were from several states in the US, as well as foreign countries including Ukraine, Lithuania, Columbia, Virgin Island, Germany, Canada, Austria, Puerto Rico, South Africa, and Poland. A lot of people were on vacation, and a host of motor cycle riders who had driven on the nearby Tail of the Dragon ride in Deals Gap stopped in the center. This is 11 miles of 318 curves which has a



(Right - Left) Joan Marsh, Ann McAnalley

"Tree of Shame" at the end of the ride that displays motorcycle parts from those that have wrecked.



Of interest were the many people who were walking the Appalachian Trail which crosses Fontana Dam. TVA has set up hot showers at a nearby trail shelter, and grateful hikers who have taken rest there have dubbed it The Fontana Hilton" because of its restrooms, view, spaciousness, and cleanliness. Additional showers are at the Fontana Dam Visitor Center.

Some of these hikers were geocaching. Near the dam there are at least 12 sites for them to find. In the Florence, Alabama, area there are 94 sites. At least two guys stopped in to tell us they had found the caches they were looking for. They told us that about 1,000 geocachers

were expected over the weekend at a "Woodstock Geochacing" meeting in Waynesville, NC.

Geocaching is an outdoor recreational activity in which participants use a Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver or mobile device and other navigational techniques to hide and seek containers, called "geocaches" or "caches", at specific locations marked by coordinates all over the world.

A typical cache is a small waterproof container containing a logbook, and sometimes a pen or pencil. In the logbook, the geocacher enters the date they found the container and signs the logbook with their established code name in order to prove that they found it. After signing the log, the cache must be placed back exactly where the person found it. Larger containers, such as plastic storage containers (Tupperware or similar) or ammunition boxes, can also contain items for trading, such as toys or trinkets, usually of more sentimental worth than Geocaching shares many aspects financial. with benchmarking, trigpointing, orienteering, treasure-hunting, letterboxing, waymarking.



So now you know what geocaching is, and who knows—you may want to join in the hunt!

### TVA Community Credit Union—There IS a Difference

When you walk through our doors, you will feel it. With each interaction you have with us, you'll see it—The Difference—The TVACCU Extra Mile Difference. Extra Mile Difference is our promise to you to always go beyond merely meeting your needs, but to surpass them in every way. Credit Unions were founded on the philosophy of 'people helping people'. At TVACCU that philosophy is at the heart and soul of who we are. In a fast-paced world, we understand the importance of taking the time to let you know how important you are to us. Let us show you The Difference—the Extra Mile **Difference** at TVA Community Credit Union!



# **TVARA Retirees Endowed Scholarship Essay**

**By Lakin Berry** 

The Wilson Dam is located on the Tennessee River in the Northwestern corner of Alabama. The dam was built right after the United States decided to enter World War I. Wilson Dam is the only dam created as a neoclassical-style dam in the entire TVA system. The dam has ancient Greek and Roman architectural themes running throughout the structure. Although construction began on the dam in 1918, TVA didn't acquire it until 1933. The dam was originally built to assist and supply electricity needed to power and run the two nitrate plants that the federal government had also recently built for the making of munitions. Besides bringing electricity, TVA, and the dam, also opened the Tennessee River to navigation. Whatever was able to be brought in on barges, they had for the first time in the shoals and surrounding areas. The Wilson Reservoir, and more specifically, the Wilson Dam, has impacted not only the nation and the shoals area, but even family members of my own.

My grandmother, Janice Thorne Berry, is a member of the TVA retirees association. Janice's grandfather, Ellis Thorne, would tell Janice stories about TVA and the Wilson dam while she was growing up. The stories were passed along to my father, and then to me and my cousins as we grew up. The earliest story I remember being told about my great grandfather is of him walking across the Tennessee River, jumping from stone to stone. Without the dam, this would have been impossible, and this was one of his favorite memories growing up. Before the dam, the land would have been flooded. The dam controlled the river so that the land did not flood, and people, like my great grandfather, were able to make precious memories like this one.

Another story I remember hearing about my great grandfather involving the dam was when he would study for school. The biggest thing that the dam brought to our area was electricity. I remember being told that, before the dam, my great grandfather would study by a coal oil lamp, which could get expensive during that time. After the dam, however, Ellis was able to study under electric lights making it much easier for him, and all the other students during that time.

When the World War was over, a question arose on what to do with the nitrate plant. A Senator Norris, from Nebraska, was very instrumental in arriving at the decision to use the plants to develop nitrate fertilizers. The national fertilizer Development Center (NFDC) was created to develop fertilizers and to give farm demonstration programs to teach farmers how to use the fertilizers produced properly. For the first time, farmers had fertilizers that were non manures. Farm demonstration programs were held all over the United States, and my grandmother, Janice Berry, worked there during the last part of this era. Before the demonstration programs were held, farmers were plowing hillsides vertically, and the rain would wash the land down the hills, meaning that the land was being eroded into the Tennessee River. The demonstration programs showed the farmers how to plough furrows around the hills so that the land would not be eroded. The programs also taught them how to use the fertilizers properly. More than 70 percent of the world's fertilizers were developed in Muscle Shoals at TVA's National Fertilizer Development Center. My grandmother, Janice, worked here from November of 1976 to April of 1997. This is where she earned the money needed to send my father and aunt to Mars Hill Bible School here in Florence Al, so they could receive a Christian education. This also impacted me, because without my father and aunt attending Mars Hill, I wouldn't have gotten the chance to attend the school either, and I can say without hesitation that being a student at Mars Hill changed my life in a positive manner forever.

My great grandparents were young adults when TVA was developed. The Wilson Dam was, and still continues to be, a big-deal attraction. In fact, my great grandparents actually had their honeymoon at

Wilson Dam, which consisted of a romantic picnic at the dam right after their wedding had ended on October 1, 1937. The site has grown and now includes hiking trails, a small wild life area, creeks, and an ideal habitat for many varieties of ferns. The Wilson Reservoir, and more specifically, the Wilson Dam, has impacted not only the nation and the shoals area, but even family members of my own.

# Support TVARA Endowed Scholarship Big Brothers/Big Sisters By Gina Mashburn

Editor's Note: Big Brothers/Big Sisters carries an advertisement in our newsletter every issue thus supporting our Endowed Scholarship Fund. Please give your support to them!

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Shoals is embarking on a new initiative called "Bigs with Badges". We are actively recruiting police officers from local city jurisdictions, plus sheriffs' deputies from 3 counties, to serve as volunteer mentors to our unmatched



Littles. The officers will have the option to choose Community-Based or School-Based mentoring. We plan to target children on our waiting list, as well as in our service delivery area, who have a negative connotation of law enforcement officials, have close relatives who are or have been incarcerated, or have been adjudicated themselves.

Lauderdale County Sheriff, Rick Singleton, is a former Big Brother with our program. He states that he absolutely supports the concept of law enforcement officers' becoming role models to our Littles. Colbert County Sheriff, Frank Williamson, has served as a Celebrity Waiter during one of our fundraising events and, when approached about this project, he stated that BBBS is a worthy cause and that Bigs with Badges is a great idea! He hopes it will help children have a better sense of well being by knowing they have a friend who is a police officer. The overall goal of the project is to improve community relations between our local police and at-risk children, while providing these children with the positive role models that they need and want.

Sponsorship opportunities for the project are available and needed. For more information, please contact Gina Mashburn 256-248-1931 ext. 129.

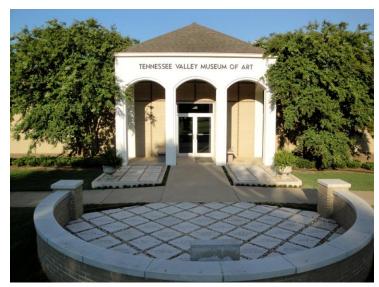
### Support TVARA Endowed Scholarship Tennessee Valley Art Association By Bobby Bozeman

Editor's Note: Tennessee Valley Art association carries an advertisement in our newsletter every issue, thus supporting our Endowed Scholarship Fund. Please give your support to them!

The Tennessee Valley Art Association incorporated in 1964 for the purpose of constructing a museum and providing arts programs for the people of Northwest Alabama. The organization is now the largest multi-disciplined arts organization in the tri-state region.

The Tennessee Valley Art Center was constructed on the city of Tuscumbia's public Commons in 1972. In 1978, a performing arts wing was added to the organization's visual arts program. For more than seven years, music and theatre programs rehearsed and performed at the Art Center in a single gallery

amid changing exhibitions. In 1985, the components music incorporated independently as The Shoals Symphony and moved to a new home at a local church. The theatre arts remained part of the TVAA and relocated to the historic Ritz Theatre, a 1927 former silent movie house refurbished as a performing arts venue by the Association. The Art Center more than doubled its exhibition space in 1998. A permanent exhibit of the Martin Petro glyph was included in the expansion. The 3,000pound pre-Columbian artifact celebrates the art of the earliest people of our region. A plaza honoring TVAA founder, Ethel Davis, was constructed in 2008, and the Art



Center was re-named "The Tennessee Valley Museum of Art" in 2009.

The Ritz Center Stage, Summer Stock, and Time Out for Theatre programs currently perform six plays annually, and the Museum curates six to eight exhibitions annually. The February Jake Landers Concert perpetuates Alabama's bluegrass tradition, and the Ritz School for the Performing Arts provides professional level theatre arts training for 9th through 12th grade students. The Southern Circuit Tour of Independent Filmmakers features six documentary films that include a post-screening discussion with each filmmaker.

Educational components for arts programs at the Museum and Ritz include workshops and classes, docent-led tours, educational outreach programs in schools, and traveling educational trunks. Three tactile reproductions, inspired by works from the Association's permanent collection, may be explored by individuals who are blind and/or visually impaired.

May 9, 2017

Tennessee Valley Authority Retiree Association Endowed Scholarship

2207 Jackson Ave.

Muscle Shoals, AL 35661

Dear TVA Retiree Association Members,

I am writing to thank you for your generous \$1,017 Tennessee Valley Authority Retiree Association Endowed Scholarship. I was very happy and appreciative to learn that I was selected as the recipient of your scholarship.

I am considering majoring in Art Education. I plan to pursue a career in secondary education teaching skills such as drawing, painting, and sculpting. I am currently a senior carrying a 4.0 GPA, and plan to graduate in the spring of 2017. After graduation, I will attend The University of North Alabama to earn my Art Education degree. Thanks to you, I am one step closer to that goal.

By awarding me the Tennessee Valley Authority Retiree Association Endowed Scholarship, you have lightened my financial burden which allows me to focus more on the most important aspect of school, learning. Your generosity has inspired me to help others and give back to the community. I hope one day I will be able to help students achieve their goals just as you have helped me.

Sincerely,

Bridgett P. Nelny
Bridgett Paige Nelms

#### **BEST**

It is almost time for the BEST Robotics Competition, and volunteers are needed to help with many facets of the competition. Here is the schedule:

The 2017 BEST season is quickly approaching!

Aug 26—Kick Off—CROSSFIRE!—6-week season begins!



Sept. 23—Mall Day (practice Robot driving), (tentative) Florence Mall

Want to Help?

Contact Stephanie S. Newland phone (256) 764-4661 fax (256) 766-9017 snewland@shoalschamber.com http://nwalabamabest.org October 5—Marketing Presentation, etc. Judging (8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.) (NW-SCC)
Engineering Notebook Judging (5:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.) (NW-SCC)

October 7—GAME DAY! Robotics, Trade Show Booths, Spirit & Sportsmanship, etc. Judging (9 a.m. – 5 p.m.) (NW-SCC)

### Help! We Need Your Help!

Do you enjoy writing or photography? We're working to make this newsletter the best, and your talents are needed. If you would like to occasionally write an article on your experiences, or on a TVA person who



deserves recognition, please let me know, and I will schedule your article for a future newsletter. Do you enjoy photography? We could use a designated photographer to get pictures at our various events. We have been somewhat haphazard at this and would like to get better. Call John Ingwersen at 256-757-5325.

# **Suggestions?**

We want your feedback, comments, and suggestions. Let us know what you would like for TVARA programs, for our newsletter, and/or ways we can improve, in any way, our service to you.