

PARADISE TVARA CHAPTER MINUTES  
ANNUAL PICNIC  
September 12, 2017

Chapter President Gary Southerland called the meeting to order.  
The invocation was given by Ron Hart.  
The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Joe Roney.

A welcome was given to all those present. Gary shared with the group that the Mayor of Morgantown, Billy Phelps was unable to attend due to other commitments but he sent his greetings to the TVARA group. Special recognition was given to the following guests: DeWitt Burluson, TVARA President; C.B. Embry, Kentucky State Senator of District 6; Melinda Gibbons Prunty, Kentucky State Representative of District 15; and Greenville Scout Master Jon Hunter and Steve Kulijof Assistant Scout Master both representing Troop 3040. Glenn Clark was recognized as he came to Paradise in 1968 as Results Supervisor.

A summary of the foot bridge project at Lake Malone was given. Volunteers from the Friends of Lake Malone, TVARA Paradise Chapter members and Greenville Scouts coordinated efforts to complete this project. TVA retiree, Donald Phelps who also is a member of Friends of Lake Malone expressed thanks from this group to all those who participated. Charles Perry expressed thanks to those who donated money to buy lunches for the workers at the bridge project.

Gary Southerland recognized Pat Cobb for her volunteer work in taking pictures for the Paradise Chapter's activities and also for being the Chapter's website administrator. [www.mytvara.org](http://www.mytvara.org)

Charles Perry shared names of those who have passed or have health problems since the last meeting. Others shared names of those who are ill. Cards have been or will be sent.

James Davison – health problems	Tyler Peay – death in family
Sharon and David Winn – health problems	Paula Davis – death in family
Mitch Cundiff – death in family	George Rust – health problems
Jim Brigance family – Jim Passed	Jack McIntyre family – Jack passed
Terry Wink – death in family	Jimmy Ramage – death in family
Ronald Hollman – death in family	Phil Davis – health problems
David Sims – health problems	Harold O'Brien – health problems in family
Bob Beasley – health problems	Jeff McPherson – health problems
Jackie Lee – health problems	Ron Weathers – health problems

A reminder was given to the Chapter to donate cards or money so this ministry can be continued. A donation basket was placed at the entrance. Stamps and many cards were donated as well as \$197.00 to buy cards. Thank you for helping to reach our fellow retirees and families in their times of distress.

A reminder was given to pay dues and meal money to Treasurer, Sue Bartlett. It was stated that there is a potential for over 900 members in the Paradise Chapter. At present there are less than 400 paying members which is about 39%. Of the 20 active chapters in the TVARA system, Paradise Chapter has the third highest number of paid members. Membership dues are \$15/year. Spouses are encouraged to become members also.

The TVARA Board gave each chapter 25 cents/paying member to spend however they chose to celebrate TVARA's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Paradise received a check for \$92. The chapter voted to spend this money on a Banner and placemats commemorating the anniversary. The total bill for these items came to \$182. A motion was made and seconded for the chapter to pay the additional difference. Motion passed.

A motion was made and seconded to suspend the regular business meeting to allow time to enjoy the meal and visit with each other. Motion passed.

Gary Southerland recognized the picnic committee for their work in putting this event together. The picnic committee included Betty Woodlee, Larry Dunn, Jerry Hargrove, Donnie Webster, Danny Walker and Pete Sinks. The picnic attendees expressed their appreciation to these and all others involved. Pictures were made of the group. These may be seen on the mytvara.org website under the Paradise Chapter page. (Scroll to the bottom of the page for picnic pictures)

A delicious meal was prepared and served by the Green River Caterers. The Chapter expressed its appreciation to these ladies for the good food and service.

After lunch, Gary Southerland introduced the guest speaker DeWitt Burleson, President of TVARA. Mr. Burleson is visiting all 20 chapters of TVARA to get to know each group and extend an opportunity for individuals to speak with him about any concerns they may have regarding the retirement system. He stated he had spent 38 years with TVA in various positions before retiring. He began by pointing out the benefits of the TVARA newsletter and the various articles and sections that can be found in each issue. He encouraged anyone who has ideas for the newsletter to contact him as the newsletter is meant to keep retirees informed and up to date on retiree news and issues. DeWitt also noted the upcoming TVA Retiree appreciation picnic hosted by TVA which is being held at Chattanooga this year on Thursday, September 28. At present there have been about 900 reservations made.

DeWitt gave a brief background of the TVA organization and how its board affected retirees over time. Out of this need for retirees to have a voice, the TVARA board was developed. There has been and will continue to be a close communication between TVA's board and TVARA's board to express issues of retirement. There will also be an effort to have the TVA Board to get to know retirees and be familiar with their issues so they can include retirees in their planning. The group was asked why they are members of the TVARA. Several responded with answers such as "we are family", "to be represented before the TVA board" and "there is strength in numbers." DeWitt stated there are 24,000 potential members for the TVARA but there are only 10,000 paid members. Being part of TVARA gives direct access to information on retiree benefits and happenings. He stated in August the retirement system was 76% funded. TVA has since contributed an additional \$500 million to the retirement system and it is now 83% funded.

He also listed some of the projects that have been or are being done by TVA retiree chapters throughout the Valley. These include building ramps for handicap access, work on houses for those needing assistance, establishing vegetable gardens and teaching people how to raise their own food, repairs on a barge, ballpark at Rochester (Paradise Chapter), foot bridges at Lake Malone (Paradise Chapter), repairing an old schoolhouse and using it for a community center, hiking trails, TVA oral history, robotics in high schools and Lego building in middle schools.

DeWitt finished by encouraging the retirees to think to the future about TVARA. He encouraged the group to recruit younger retirees to become members and participate in leadership. He also mentioned that in several areas the TVA plants are being closed and that will affect the future of the TVARA Chapter in those areas. He also stated the nine member TVA board will soon have five new members that must learn about retirees. He asked that anyone with ideas/suggestion about TVARA contact him.

The Paradise Chapter expressed appreciation for DeWitt attending our picnic and several took time to speak with him afterwards. DeWitt brought many giveaway items with him which the group enjoyed.

A drawing was held for 3 art prints by the late Joyce and Floyd Hammers, local Butler County artists.

Medicare open enrollment is Oct 15-Dec 7 and for those not on Medicare, enrollment is Oct 11 – Oct 31.

The event was dismissed.  
Respectfully submitted,

Anita Southerland, Secretary

Those attending the September 12, 2017 picnic:

Greg Martin	Delila Bush	Garry McKee
Patricia Cobb	Marvin Bush	Diane McKee
Joe Roney	Tom Ford	Steve Layne
Ron Hart	Linda Ford	Shirley Perry
Ronnie Brooks	Fran Hunt	Charles Loney
Donna Brooks	J.B. Hunt	Ann Loney
Charles Hicks	Gerald Joines	Donnie Webster
Tommy Latham	Lynn Joines	Vonda Webster
Nell Latham	Terry Wink	L. Paula Davis
Jackie Burden	Ann Wink	Gary Southerland
Bill Wilson	Ronald Pharris	Anita Southerland
Wanda Wilson	Bryan Pharris	Janet Penrod
Ann Loyd	John Hunter	David Penrod
Wallace Loyd	Steve Kulijof	Tony Epley
Donald Phelps	David Craig	Angela Epley
Gerald Hawkins	Kathy Craig	Sharon Travis
Denice Hawkins	Butch Childers	Joe Travis
Glenn Clark	Loye Hammers	Darrell Smith
Brenda Veach	Judy Hammers	Louis Travis
Anne Scott	Frank Fox	Sue Bartlett
Hugh Evans	Ruby Fox	Larry Johnson
Danny Walker	Roger Wright	Janie Johnson
Bud Miller	Roy McManaway	David Grace
Janice Grace	Dean McManaway	Doris Grace
Terry Meredith	Buddy Johnson	Ann Burden
Danny Lynch	Beverly Johnson	Linda Weesner
Mary Lynch	Naomi Cornette	Randy Weesner
Martha Hargrove	Donald Geary	Charles Perry
Jerry Hargrove	Earl Jones	Jean Mullin
Bobby Neal	Mary Jones	Darrell McClellan
Karin Neal	Murl Gray	Terry Settle
Barry Barnard	Mary Gray	Larry Hammond
Charlotte Barnard	Larry Miller	Gordon McKee
Bob Moore	Martha Miller	Pam McKee
Betty Moore	Jackie Sommers	Terry Southerland
Bill Ewing	Melinda Gibbons Prunty	David Clark
Geraldine Ewing	Ivan Bryant	
Linda Bailey	Carrol Cook	
David Bailey	Gayle Greenwood	
Sue Embry	Corinna Greenwood	
Philip Embry	Janice Stevenson	
Jewel Daugherty	Homer Stevenson	
Cathy Daugherty	Tommy Calvert	
Stanley Lambert	W.T. Doss	
Becky Ramage	Juanita Milam	
Jimmy Ramage	Frances Whitmer	
Judy Jernigan	Robert Whitmer	
Lannie Jernigan	Sen. C.B. Embry, Jr.	
Bob Knight	Carl King	
Darrell Sisk	Ron Hollman	

