

# TVARA NEWS

The TVA Retirees Association

The Tennessee Valley Authority Retirees Association | 400 West Summit Hill Drive WT 8C-K | Knoxville, TN 37902 | www.mytvra.org | 865-632-3318

## How're Things with TVARA? Well – But Better'd Be Better!

By **DeWITT BURLESON**, TVARA Valleywide President

From time to time I am asked, "How is it going with the retirees association?"

I respond that things are going well, because they are.

Our chapter presidents and officers, along with our staff in Knoxville, our treasurer, editors, and volunteer project leaders keep abreast of what needs to be done and make it happen.

While 2018 was a mostly normal year, there were a couple of items to note.

During the year I (along with Bob Steffy of Bicentennial Volunteers Inc.) was privileged to meet with the TVA Board of Directors.

The TVA Board has several recently appointed members, and it was our desire to familiarize them with the continuing interaction and support between TVA retirees and TVA.

Also, in 2018 the TVA Retirees Association submitted two proposals for the TVA Retirement System Board to consider, and one was put in place.

We have improved our ability to communicate with retirees by implementing the mass-email services of Constant Contact, which has been a leading expert in email marketing for more than 20 years.

We had a robust year for community projects and increased our support of robotics programs.

Working with TVA we had a very successful Valleywide retiree picnic.

However, our organization does face challenges.

We are at the point in time when the number of retirees being added each year is less than the number passing away.

The difference in 2018 was 200.

We know this trend will continue, and our association will gradually decline in numbers, and that that eventually will affect our organizational structure and finances.

Retirees often have competition for their time because of reasons such as grandchildren care, eldercare, other group interests, or re-employment.

If your situation permits, participate in your local chapter.

Page 15 of this issue has the dates of the next meetings.

Mark your calendar and attend.

I usually learn something when I do.

## TVARS Searching for Seventh Director, Executive Secretary

By **JUSTIN VINEYARD**  
Senior Retirement Consultant, TVARS

After receiving and reviewing applications from 36 retirees interested in being considered for the seventh director position on the TVA Retirement System Board, the board selected five applicants to interview in-person. These interviews were held by the TVARS Board in Chattanooga Jan. 28.

Once selected, the term of the new seventh director will be from the effective date of the selection to Oct. 31, 2021.

### TVARS Executive Secretary

Current TVARS Executive Secretary Pat Brackett has announced his plans to retire at the end of the fiscal year, Sept. 30.

Pursuant to its governance policies, the Chair of the TVARS Board established an Executive Secretary search committee that identified potential candidates who are qualified for the position. The search committee recommended six internal candidates for in-person interviews, and the TVARS Board conducted these interviews in Chattanooga on Feb. 6.

The desire of the TVARS Board was to select the new Executive Secretary soon, in order to allow for a transition period with Pat Brackett before his retirement.

### 401(k) In-Plan Roth Rollovers

The TVARS Board has approved an

*Continued on page 3*

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

TVA News & Notes	<b>2</b>	Community Gains from Paradise	<b>12</b>
Adopting Spots & Trails	<b>3</b>	Washington Update	<b>12</b>
Medicare Open Enrollments	<b>4</b>	A Match Made on High	<b>13</b>
Awareness of Colorectal Cancer	<b>5</b>	In Memoriam	<b>14</b>
BVI's Dam Docents	<b>6</b>	Chapter Meetings	<b>15</b>
Driving a Dream Car	<b>7</b>	'Uncle Sam' at Wilson Dam	<b>16</b>
A Warm Spot for Chile	<b>8-11</b>		

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TVA Retirement System  
 400 West Summit Hill Drive  
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Call toll-free @ 1-800-824-3870

**FOR INFORMATION REGARDING:**

Pension Benefits and 401(k) Accounts

Call TVA Retirement System

toll-free @ 1-800-824-3870

or visit website @

[tva.gov/retireeportal](http://tva.gov/retireeportal)

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Call *BlueCross Blue Shield (medical)*

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Call *Express Scripts (drug)*

toll-free at 1-800-935-6203

Or call *TVA Employee Benefits*

toll-free at 1-888-275-8094

*Over 65? Call Via Benefits*

(formerly OneExchange) toll-free

at 1-866-322-2824

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**Retirement Services Information**

Call the Bank of New York Mellon

toll-free at 1-877-876-4975

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.

# TVARA NEWS & NOTES

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

## Strategic Real Estate Plan reduces 1.4 million square feet and counting and counting

TVA continued to reduce its footprint, to lower costs, and to boost local economies in 2018 through a series of successful actions implemented under its Strategic Real Estate Plan.

Last year's progress included auctions, property sales, relocations, consolidations, and building improvements across the Tennessee Valley. To date, the Strategic Real Estate & Governance Team has reduced more than 1.4 million square feet.

The most visible actions in 2018 included:

- Sale of 19 acres and two buildings at Singleton Marine in Louisville, Tenn., for \$960,000.
- Sale of 900 acres and 55 buildings on the Muscle Shoals Reservation for \$5 million.
- Sale of five acres and one building in Harriman, Tenn., for \$55,000.
- Sale of the former Knoxville Customer & Transmission Service Center in Knoxville for \$570,000.
- Relocation of the Lenoir City Watershed Team to the Knoxville West Tower, which eliminated a yearly lease payment.
- Removal of modular structures at Kingston Fossil Plant.
- Initiation of a Master Plan for Chickamauga Power Service Center.
- Completion of a Master Plan to consolidate all buildings in the Knoxville region into the KOC

West Tower and Norris Engineering Labs.

- Relocation of the Customer Service Center in Memphis to the Peabody Place Office Tower.
- Implementation of enterprise governance, including standard processes and procedures for all real-estate transactions.
- Establishment of business-unit-reduction targets in TVA's 2019 business plan.

"This has been a team effort across the board," says Mike Dobrogosz, Senior Manager of Strategic Real Estate. "Over the past five years, the SREG Team has worked closely with Enterprise Improvement, the Office of the General Counsel, Financial Services, and many TVA business units to find ways to right-size our real-estate portfolio and lower cost to TVA."

As part of these efforts, the SREG Team focused much of 2018 on consolidating the Knoxville region.

"We have 55 buildings in the Knoxville region," says Bill Threlkeld, Property Portfolio Manager. "Like Chattanooga, our goal is to consolidate our Knoxville facilities into two central locations — one for corporate offices and one for field services, such as laboratories, warehousing, and fleet materials. Ultimately, this will reduce cost by eliminating underutilized buildings and focus TVA's future investments and maintenance on two core locations."

In addition to the Knoxville consolidation efforts, the SREG Team is still working to obtain



TVA's East Tower in downtown Knoxville

Photo by Michael Patrick, *Knoxville News Sentinel*

occupants for the vacant East Tower and Summer Place Garage.

## Investing in weatherization of homes in Memphis

The City of Memphis Weatherization Assistance Program received more than 600 applications and secured funding from the Tennessee Housing & Development Agency to weatherize 90 homes in 2018. Now TVA is providing \$1 million to benefit an additional 100 applicants on the waiting list for the services.

“We are changing people’s lives one home at a time,” says Frank Rapley, TVA Senior Manager, EnergyRight Solutions. “By investing in home-energy upgrades, we are helping our neighbors save money on their power bills, live healthier, and enjoy a better quality of life.”

Home assessments and upgrades began in January and will run through the summer. Upgrades could include HVAC repair and/or replacement, insulation, air-penetration reduction, windows and doors, and minor health-and-safety repairs that may be necessary to enable the energy upgrades.

Back in March 2018, TVA also announced a \$1-million investment in the Memphis Light Gas & Water Share the Pennies program for 2018 and 2019. That partnership with MLGW and the Metropolitan Inter-Faith Association provided no-cost energy upgrades to qualified Share the Pennies applicants.

TVA is piloting similar weatherization programs with local power companies in other areas around the Tennessee Valley.

## More solar coming to Valley (look it up!)

TVA is working with developers to build two more solar facilities in the Tennessee Valley, adding almost 300 megawatts to power Google’s two data centers — one in Clarksville, Tenn., and the other in Jackson County, Ala.

“TVA recognizes that renewable energy is a tremendous asset in terms of economic and environmental benefits,” says Doug Perry, TVA Vice President of Commercial Energy Solutions. “We’re excited to partner with Google and make this happen for our region.”

## TVARS Searching for Seventh Director, Executive Secretary...continued from page 1

amendment to the 401(k) Plan Provisions that will allow participants to elect voluntarily to convert or “roll over” money from their pre-tax and after-tax accounts to a Roth account within the 401(k) Plan. The in-plan Roth rollover feature will allow some participants who want to exercise this option to diversify the types of taxable accounts with their retirement benefits, without having to take or roll their money out of the 401(k) Plan.

This in-plan Roth rollover feature will be available in the 401(k) Plan beginning April 1, 2019, and will be available to retirees and their beneficiaries who have money in the 401(k) Plan. TVARS will be providing communications and education around Roth accounts in the 401(k) Plan and the new in-plan rollover option on the TVARS website ([tvars.com](http://tvars.com)) and on Fidelity NetBenefits, where you access your account information.

You also can call Fidelity Investments toll-free at 1-800-354-7121 for questions about Roth accounts in the 401(k) Plan, as well as the new Roth in-plan rollover option.

## Financial Update

For the quarter ending December 2018, investments declined 7.7 percent. As of Dec. 31, 2018, TVARS assets were about \$7.26 billion. After the large equity market selloff in December of around 9 percent, the equity markets recovered in January and were up around 8 percent.

## Bank of New York Mellon

To get a reprint of your 1099-R tax form or to update your personal information, visit [bnym.accessmyretirement.com](http://bnym.accessmyretirement.com) and log in or create your account using your 15-digit Bank of New York Mellon account number found on your monthly deposit statement or call BNYM toll-free at 1-844-545-1256.

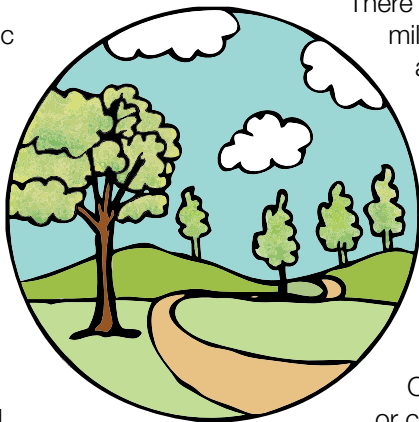
# Adopt-a-Spot, Adopt-a-Trail

As a retiree, you should have more time to enjoy the lakes, streams, rivers, and public lands of our beautiful Tennessee Valley.

TVA is entrusted with 293,000 acres of public lands, 11,000 miles of shoreline, and 650,000 acres of reservoir surface waters throughout the region. For years TVA’s public lands and waters have provided locations for people of the Valley to have picnics, hike trails, and launch boats.

TVA Natural Resources has an opportunity for individuals to assist in maintaining recreation sites.

The programs Adopt-a-Spot and Adopt-a-Trail are listed on the TVA website [tva.gov/volunteer](http://tva.gov/volunteer) along with an explanation and form to become a site steward.



There are 37 spots and 170 miles of trail. Some likely are near you, and if you have enjoyed the facilities, now is an opportunity to help monitor and report on their condition by making as few as four visits per year.

Check out the website or call 1-800-882-5263 toll-free or send an email to [volunteer@tva.gov](mailto:volunteer@tva.gov).

Plan to enjoy the outdoors while serving a good purpose.

# Observations About Medicare Open Enrollment for 2019

By JOHN BLACKWELL

*At the December meeting of the Muscle Shoals TVARA Chapter, Jerry Landon, Senior Program Manager of Healthcare Plans, discussed TVA Retiree experience in dealing with Via Benefits and selection of medical insurance for TVA retirees covered by Medicare Insurance.*

*This article will use information Landon presented at this meeting:*

## TVA Retirees' Experience in Dealing with Via Benefits

During the Medicare Open Enrollment period of Oct. 15-Dec. 7, 2018, Via Benefits received more than 2,600 phone calls from 13,530 TVA retirees who purchased their insurance through Via Benefits.

### Via Benefits TVA Medicare Open Enrollment Period Statistics 10/15/2018-12/7/2018

<b>Total Inbound Calls</b>	<b>2,610</b>
Abandoned Calls	62
Average Speed to Answer	40 seconds
Average Inbound Handle Time	33 minutes, 38 seconds
Total Scheduled Appointments 10/15-12/7	296

It has been my personal experience in dealing with Via Benefits and talking with retirees, that the process has gone more smoothly this year. The improvement is because retirees have had two years to deal with medical-insurance options and know more about what to expect. As a result, very few retirees want to make changes to medical insurance, as the table below shows.

## Changes TVA Retirees Made in Their Medical Plans

### TVA Retiree Insurance Plan Changes through Via (as of 12/11/2018)

2018 Plan	2019 Plan	Changes	% of Changes
Medicare Advantage	Medicare Advantage	13	18.1%
Medicare Advantage	Original Medicare + Supplement	1	1.4%
Original Medicare + Supplement	Medicare Advantage	29	40.3%
Original Medicare + Supplement	Original Medicare + Supplement	29	40.3%

That table reflects that retirees made few changes in their medical-insurance plans. However, 638 retirees changed their Part D Prescription Drug insurance plans as shown below. Medicare encourages retirees to review their prescription-drug insurance plans every year, and it appears that many TVA Medicare-covered retirees are doing that and making changes as a result of their review.

### TVA Retiree Insurance Plan Changes thru Via (as of 12/11/2018)

2018 Plan	2019 Plan	Changes	% of Changes
Prescription Drug	Prescription Drug	638	89.9%

The main reasons for shifting Part D coverage were increase in out-of-pocket cost, pharmacy changes by insurers, and changes in drugs covered by insurance. That reflects the feedback I have received from the retirees in the Muscle Shoals chapter.

## Medical Insurance Plans Selected by TVA Retirees Through Via

The table below reflects the participation of TVA retirees in the various plans offered through VIA.

### Medical Insurance Medicare Supplemental vs. Medicare Advantage Plans

Plan Type	Enrolled	%	Notes
Medigap Plan F	8,215	60.7%	Includes Plan F (7,186) and Select Plan F (1,029)
Medigap Plan G	3,390	25.1%	
Medigap Plan N	775	5.7%	Includes Plan N (767) and Select Plan N (8)
Other Medigap Plans	111	0.8%	
Medicare Advantage Plans	1,089	7.7%	
<b>Total Medical Enrollments</b>	<b>13,530</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	

Medigap Plan F will be closed for selection on January 2020. If you are in this plan, you can continue. However, those in this plan may see premium increases due to the increasing average age of participants in the Plan F insurance pool.

## Top Health-Insurance Carriers Selected by TVA Retirees for 2019?

### What Were the Top Health-Insurance Carriers Selected by Retirees?

Top Medical Carriers	Top Part D Carriers
Cigna Total Choice Medicare Supplements	Humana
AARP Medicare Supplement from United Healthcare	AARP Part D from United Healthcare
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Tennessee	SilverScript
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama	Aetna
Humana	Wellcare

It is my observation from discussion with retirees in the Muscle Shoals Chapter that this table reflects their choices.

**Q: My selection of Medigap insurance was not the top choice of the retirees. Should I rethink my choice for 2020?**

**A:** While it is good to see what other retirees selected, the most important thing is to select the plan that is best for you. If you have doubts about your choice, I would recommend you get another opinion. As a first step, to confirm your selection is best is for you check with 1) Via Benefits, 2) the State Health Insurance Program for your state (phone

number on the back cover of the Medicare & You white book), 3) one of the many Medicare Supplement Insurance brokers, or 4) directly with health-insurance agents.

### General Observation About TVA Retiree Experience with Medicare Insurance

For those who did not chose an Advantage Plan, it has been my observation that most retirees have been pleased with the Part A and B coverage of the Medicare Supplement Plans. There has been more dissatisfaction with the coverage of the

Part D Prescription Drug Plans. This has been not because of the premiums, but the out-of-pocket cost for drugs. A number of our retirees have had very high out-of-pocket costs for specialty drugs for cancer, lungs, and kidneys. These costs are in the range of several hundred dollars a month. While these retirees have received no financial relief, they say they “have just learned to cope.”

*(Jerry Landon's presentation was reflective of a report he received from Via Benefits, formerly OneExchange.)*

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## New Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Ends March 31 — What You Need To Know...

*The following contains information from an article by Ross Blair, eHealth Medicare:*

Most seniors and caregivers are aware of the annual Medicare Open Enrollment Period that runs from Oct. 15 until Dec. 7, but the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is now offering another important time when changes can be made to one's coverage.

Starting in 2019, Medicare beneficiaries can utilize a Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period (MAOEP) that runs from Jan. 1 through March 31 each year.

During the new MAOEP, beneficiaries enrolled in Medicare Advantage Plans (also known as Part C) can cancel their coverage if they find it does not fit their needs. Those who elect to do so can

switch to another Advantage Plan or revert to “Original Medicare.”

Original Medicare consists of Part A and Part B, which are offered directly through CMS rather than a private insurance company. Beneficiaries who choose to revert to Original Medicare also have the option to enroll in a stand-alone Prescription Drug Plan (Part D). However, during the new MAOEP, beneficiaries cannot switch from Original Medicare to an Advantage Plan.

Furthermore, those already on Original Medicare cannot join a Part D Plan or switch to a different Part D Plan during this new period.

If you're planning to switch from a Medicare Advantage Plan to Original

Medicare, you may want to consider bolstering your coverage with a Medicare Supplement policy (also known as Medigap) to cover the medical expenses remaining after Medicare pays its share.

For those considering a Medicare Supplement Plan, March 31 will be your last chance to choose the most popular Plan F (which covered the Medicare Part B deductible and was guaranteed issue), as this plan will close to new participants at the end of 2019.

If you need assistance weighing coverage options, call your State Health Insurance Assistance Program at the phone number listed on the back cover of the Medicare & You white book for free one-on-one insurance counseling.

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## March Is National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month

By **JERRY LANDON**, Senior Program Manager, TVA Healthcare Plans

Colorectal cancer is the third-most common cancer in the United States and the second-leading cause of death from cancer.

Every year, about 140,000 Americans are diagnosed with colorectal cancer, and more than 50,000 deaths result from it.

However, the disease is highly preventable by getting screened beginning at age 50.

People age 50 and older have the highest risk of colorectal cancer. You may also be at higher risk if you are African-American, smoke, or have a

family history of colorectal cancer.

The best way to prevent colorectal cancer is to get screened regularly starting at age 50. There often are no signs or symptoms of colorectal cancer — that's why it's so important to get screened.

For retirees and dependents who are covered under one of TVA's medical plan options (that is, 80% PPO or Consumer-Directed Health Plan), the plan pays 100 percent of the cost of allowable charges for preventive-care exams with no dollar limit. That

includes colorectal cancer screening for members age 50-75.

***Everyone can take these healthy steps to help prevent colorectal cancer:***

- **Get screened starting at age 50.**
- **Encourage your family members and friends over age 50 to get screened.**
- **Quit smoking and stay away from secondhand smoke.**
- **Engage in plenty of physical activity and eat healthy.**

# Visitor Center Volunteers Give a Darn about Dams

By **MARKA SMITH**, BVI Program Manager

TVA currently has four Visitor Centers — Fontana, Kentucky, Norris, and Raccoon Mountain — staffed by about 200 Bicentennial Volunteers Inc. volunteers.

These volunteers consist of TVA retirees and their spouses. The Fontana and Kentucky centers open the first Saturday in April and close the last Sunday in October. Raccoon Mountain stays open all year, and the Norris center does not close until the Monday before Thanksgiving.

Each center offers three audio and video displays.

The first display is related to the history of TVA, the second has information about the specific dam where the center is located, and the third talks about TVA's mission and vision for the future.

The centers have brochures, maps, and historical photos. But best of all, they have the personal touch of having a volunteer who can answer questions.

BVI President Jim Russell says, "At any time, you might find our BVI volunteers providing duct tape or a needle and thread to a hiker at Fontana, giving campsite directions to Norris campers, showing Kentucky Dam visitors how high the water on the Ohio River got on the bridge pillars, or explaining how the Raccoon Mountain Pumped Storage facility works."

Here are some frequent questions visitors ask our volunteers at each site:

## Fontana

- **How tall is Fontana Dam?** At 480 feet, it is the highest dam in the TVA power system and the tallest dam east of the Rockies.
- **Does part of the Appalachian Trail actually go across Fontana Dam?** Yes.
- **How long did it take to build Fontana Dam?** Almost three years (Jan. 1, 1942-Nov. 7, 1944).
- **Was the movie "The Fugitive" that starred Harrison Ford filmed here?** No, but close by, at Cheoah Dam.
- **Was the movie "Nell" with Jodie Foster filmed here?** Yes, on Fontana Lake.

## Kentucky

- **What is the length of Kentucky Dam?** At 8,422 feet, it is the longest dam on the Tennessee River.
- **How much cargo goes through the lock?** About 50 million tons each year.
- **How much in "damages averted" does Kentucky Dam provide?** "River management operations at Kentucky Dam during floods on the lower Ohio and Mississippi rivers avoids about \$20 million in damages

annually on average," says TVA spokesperson Scott Brooks.

## Norris

- **How long did it take to build Norris Dam?** Construction started on Oct. 1, 1933, and the dam began operating July 28, 1936.
- **Was Norris Dam the first TVA dam?** Yes.
- **Are there hiking trails?** Yes, River Bluff Trail, Songbird Trail, and Loyston Point Trail.
- **What kind of fish are in the Clinch River?** Rainbow, brook, and brown trout.
- **What kind of fish are in Norris Lake and what kind of bait should be used?** Spotted bass (white spinners and plastic grubs on lead-head jigs); crappie (small minnows, small crank baits, and flies); largemouth bass (top water lures, fly rigs, and large spinners); and walleye (doll flies, shiners, and crank baits).

## Raccoon Mountain

- **How does a pumped-storage plant work?** Water is pumped from the lower reservoir to the upper one during periods of low demand on TVA's power system. It is stored there until power is needed, and then water is pulled from the reservoir into a large concrete pipe that leads almost 1,000 feet down inside the mountain. The flow of water spins the turbines, which rotate a shaft inside an electromagnetic coil, producing electricity. When power generation is not needed, the turbines operate in reverse, pumping water back up into the upper reservoir.
- **How far does the water drop?** The water drops 990 feet from the upper reservoir to the turbines deep inside the mountain.
- **Is the elevator at Raccoon Mountain really as tall as the Empire State Building?** Yes.

TVA and BVI staffs provide training to the BVI volunteers in March and April of each year. The training covers topics such as TVA's current mission, how to handle an emergency, what to do if someone comes in the visitor center with a firearm or exhibits other inappropriate behavior, and the policies regarding visitors flying drones on TVA property.

BVI volunteers contributed about 24,000 hours of volunteer service in 2018.

"BVI volunteers are the face and voice of TVA," Russell says. "Their dedication to the time spent at the Visitor Centers is astonishing. They love to tell their TVA story and are very thankful for their time spent at TVA and what it has done for them and the entire Tennessee Valley.

"It would be hard to find another volunteer group that could match their dedication and devotion."

# More Car Talk — How I Scored a TD & Fulfilled a Dream

By NORRIS CLINE

When I was in middle school, someone told me I could motivate myself to work hard and do my homework by putting pictures above my desk of a couple of things I really wanted to own someday. So for a few years there were pictures of a classic MG car and a Cessna airplane there.

While in graduate school at the University of Kentucky, I saw a 1954 MG TF with a “For Sale” sign. It wasn’t exactly what I wanted, because by ’54 they had “messed them up” by integrating the headlights into the front fenders.

I wanted one with the headlights mounted on TOP of the fenders, like a ’52 TD, for example. I didn’t pursue the TF at first but later decided to check to see if it might be listed in the “want ads” in the newspaper.

When I checked, THERE was a ’52 MG TD listed! I called, went to look at the car, and totally loved it.

The owner was a control-tower operator at Bluegrass Field airport. I believe he had bought the car new but had a couple of kids by then (not a good fit for a TD) and was wanting to buy a little farm around Lexington, so needed some cash.

Salli and I had been married only a few months but had managed to save up a little money. We wanted to be very “wise” in our use of money in our new marriage. So my



challenge was to persuade my new bride that buying a 1952 MG TD was the “wise” thing to do at this point. We went together to look at “Cindy,” the name given to the car by the selling family.

Fortunately, Salli loved the car, too. We agreed to buy it if we could pay cash for it. (I wasn’t able to persuade Salli that borrowing money for a TD was a good way to start a new household!)

So then there was the price to negotiate. The “asking price” was quite a bit more than we had. But happily the family liked us, maybe because they could tell we loved the car as they had (and we even

agreed to keep her named “Cindy”).

Years ago, our son’s best friend — a car enthusiast who had beautifully rebuilt an MG A — wanted to buy Cindy. I wasn’t interested, but I asked him what he wanted the car for. He said he would like to “rebuild it, drive it occasionally on weekends, and take it to car shows.”

I said, “Well, you can rebuild it, drive it occasionally on weekends, and take it to car shows — you just can’t own it.”

So we made a deal. He took Cindy to his garage, I bought the parts, and he renewed her. Later, he took her to one car show (Atlanta, I believe) and won first place. Then his family began expanding, and I guess he didn’t have time for such things anymore.



Norris Cline now shares his treasured MG TD with children at his church.

Besides an occasional drive with Salli and/or a grandchild, I guess my favorite use of Cindy has been to give rides to the kids who are part of a program at our church for international, refugee, inner-city, and other kids. Last time we did that, we gave rides to 47 kids and ONE mom, who, I could tell really wanted to go for a little ride. I don’t speak much Spanish, but I could tell she had a fun time.

So, while still in grad school I had already reached one of the two “pictorial” goals I had set in middle school. I had a ’52 MG TD (plus a wife and \$25 cash — that was it).

That was 50-plus years ago. While living in North Dakota, I did take lessons and learned to fly but I still don’t own that airplane in the other picture.

*(Norris Cline retired from TVA in 1994 as an Engineer in River Control and in Local Flood Relations, then as a Manager in Information Services. He and his wife live in Knoxville.)*



## More car talk?

If you have an old car, truck, motorcycle, jeep, or other vintage vehicle and would like to share stories about it in TVARA News, email Theresa Habiger at [thabiger@charter.net](mailto:thabiger@charter.net).

# Chile

## Provides Warm Memories for Retiree Travelers

By TOM FINE

My wife, Trish, and I decided to go to Chile on a pure whim.

Originally, we had thought to catch another solar eclipse somewhere in South America, but that idea did not work out.

However, we had learned enough about Chile in that process to inspire us to plan a trip there. October seemed a good choice — springtime in the Southern Hemisphere.

We started in Santiago, the capital and largest city, settled by the Spanish during the conquest in the 16th century. We stayed in the older part of the city at the

Singular Hotel, another good choice. The staff members were friendly and attentive, and their command of the

English language more than made up for our worse-than-rudimentary Spanish.

We had one (good, I must say) dinner in the hotel's restaurant and several excellent breakfasts. One welcome bonus was that the hotel arranged our transportation to and from the airport and to dinner at the one restaurant we patronized that was some distance away.

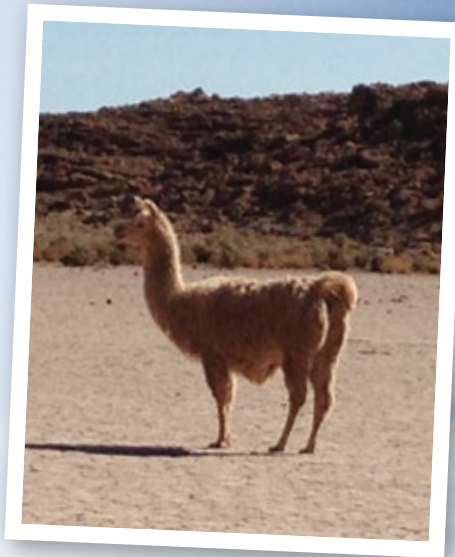
Trish is something of a foodie, and one of her restaurant choices provided a wonderful experience. Borego, a world-



Above: Trish Matteo and husband Tom Fine  
Below: Santiago, Chile







Left: Visiting the petroglyphs in the Atacama  
Above: A llama, one of the varied Chilean wildlife to be seen

renowned restaurant, had an atmosphere of minimalist rustic elegance.

The menu provided a choice between an eight-course meal or a 16(!)-course meal, with each course paired either with an excellent Chilean wine or a fruit juice. We went for the eight-course meal out of an abundance of caution and were delighted with our selection.

I had the wine pairings, while Trish had the fruit juices. Each course was presented to us on stoneware dishes. The focus was on Chilean-sourced ingredients that gave the food delicious earthy flavors somewhat foreign to our North American palates.

We spent some time walking around our part of the city, inhibited by my knee problems. We were able to get some of the flavor of the place, strolling through several parks, including one hill that gave us views of the city and vistas of the Andes Mountains in the distance.

We spent a little time in the Chilean Museum of Pre-Columbian Art, but between my knee and the large groups of schoolchildren we only scratched the surface of the museum's collection.

After Santiago, we flew north to the Atacama Desert. A glance at an atlas will show that Chile is a very long country, stretching more



Cerro Santa Lucia Park in Santiago

Background: The Atacama Desert

than 2,500 miles along the Pacific Ocean, but it is only about 215 miles wide at its widest point.

Going from Santiago to Calama, the major airport in the far north, takes 2½ hours by plane.

Trish and I love the desert environment, perhaps a little odd for a former Bostonian and a native of Macon, Ga. But we have spent many good times in New Mexico and Arizona and so were looking forward to the Atacama.

To say that the Atacama is dry is a crashing understatement. There are parts of the desert that have no records of any precipitation.

The Atacama is caught in not one but two rain shadows. A coastal range of mountains blocks the moisture from the Pacific, while the Andes catch the rainclouds coming from the Amazon basin to the east.

The Andes do provide water to the desert in the form of underground streams and some aboveground rivers, but the supply is limited both in volume and location.

Given the lack of water, you may well ask what brought Europeans to the desert — mineral wealth.

Copper ore is the principal target for exploitation, but not the only one. Gold, silver, iron, boron, lithium, nitrates, and potassium also attracted the attention of prospectors and miners. The planes we flew into and out of Calama were full of miners.

This mineral wealth was also the source of conflict between the countries in the area as they won their independence from Spain in the early 19th century.

Peru, Bolivia, and Chile finally came to blows in the War of the Pacific between 1879 and 1883. Chile defeated Peru and Bolivia on land and sea in the war and took over what is now the northern part of Chile, conquering several southern provinces of Peru and cutting Bolivia off from the Pacific in the process.

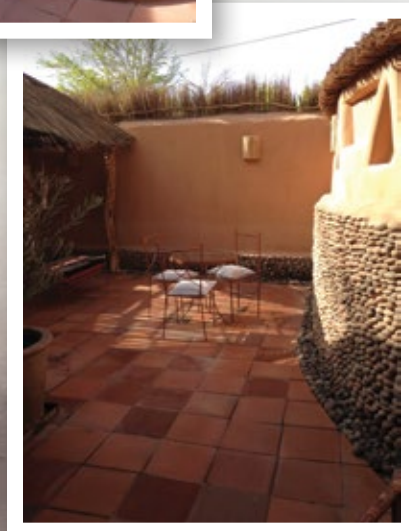
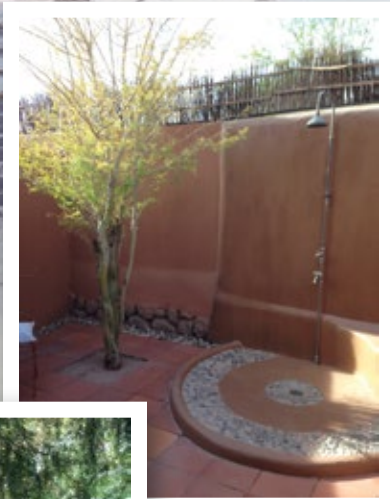
There was little fighting in the Atacama itself — the desert was a hostile place for large bodies of troops and their cavalry and supply animals. The major battles took place along the coast and farther north.

We stayed at the Awasi resort in San Pedro de Atacama, a town in an oasis created by several small rivers flowing from the nearby Andes.

The Awasi is a special place. Our room was attractive, sizeable, and comfortable — an adobe, stone, and wood structure built in a round shape inspired by pre-Inca ruins.



Accommodations at the Awasi Atacama hotel in San Pedro de Atacama





The Licancabur volcano on the border of Chile and Bolivia, near San Pedro de Atacama

The staff was friendly and helpful. The food in the restaurant was excellent, with different gourmet selections each night. Each dinner began with a specialty cocktail dreamt up by the bartender, and the excellent Chilean wines complimented each meal.

The best part of the stay was our guide — Sebastian — provided to us by the resort. Sebastian picked us up from the airport for the long ride into the desert, a fascinating experience in itself, and sat down with us to plan our excursions.

We saw some of the fascinating topography of the desert — a geologist's delight. We visited salt lakes and drove up into the Andes (to nearly 14,000 feet) and saw pink flamingos in serried ranks at a mountain lake, together with ducks with blue bills.

He also took us to see some ancient petroglyphs — sacred drawings carved into the red rocks. All in all, a great experience. Trish and I have taken some memorable trips together — riding the Orient Express from London to Venice, standing on Omaha Beach — but our trip to Chile was very special.

*(Tom Fine was a TVA Attorney for more than 35 years, spending most of his time litigating labor and employment cases. Trish Maffeo worked for TVA as a Clinical Psychologist in the 1980s and has been in private practice since leaving TVA.)*

Memorial for indigenous peoples at Cerro Santa Lucia Park, Santiago, Chile



Background: Salar de Atacama, near San Pedro de Atacama

# A Proud Profile of Paradise Chapter — Combining Camaraderie, Community

By GARY SOUTHERLAND, Past President, TVARA Paradise Chapter

The Paradise Chapter is the TVARA Retirees Association's northernmost TVARA chapter and one of its most active.

According to the latest statistics, of 950 potential members we have 370 paid members for 39-percent participation, which makes Paradise the third-highest of all TVARA chapters. Of course, all chapters have plenty of room for improvement to increase total TVARA membership and participation.

Paradise meets the second Tuesday of March, June, September, and December at 10:30 a.m. Central Time.

All meetings except September's are at the Catfish Dock in Powderly, Ky. Usual attendance is 50-60 retirees and spouses. At each meeting there is a drawing for a door prize.

The September meeting is our annual picnic. The picnic's location, caterer, and menu

are voted on at our June meeting after our volunteer picnic committee presents several options to our chapter. The picnic is by far the most well-attended meeting. It draws anywhere from 120-170 persons.

The Paradise Chapter is very active and community-oriented. Since the spring of 2016, four projects have been completed, and another is slated to start in the spring of 2019.



## WASHINGTON UPDATE

# New Faces, Old Issues as 116th Congress Steps In

By JUSTIN MAIERHOFER,  
TVA Vice President, Government Relations

The dust is still settling in Washington from last November's election results. With Democrats taking control of the House, but Republicans retaining their Senate majority, the 116th Congress is split between parties and full of new faces.

In the Tennessee delegation, there are three new House members.

Republicans Tim Burchett of the state's second district (TN-02), John Rose (TN-06), and Mark Green (TN-07) all handily won their bids to replace outgoing members.

Returning members Phil Roe (TN-01), Chuck Fleischmann (TN-03), Scott DesJarlais (TN-04), Jim Cooper (TN-05), David Kustoff (TN-08), and Steve Cohen (TN-09) also overwhelmingly won their seats again.

In the Senate, Marsha Blackburn (R) won an impressive 92 of 95 counties over former Gov. Phil Bredesen (D) to replace outgoing Sen. Bob Corker (R).

And still another big shakeup for the Tennessee delegation is yet to come — Sen. Lamar Alexander has announced he will not seek re-election in 2020. No future candidates tossed their hat in the ring immediately, but it would not be surprising if the list is lengthy.

In Mississippi, Sen. Roger Wicker won re-election with 58.8 percent of the vote, while the special election for the seat vacated by Sen. Thad Cochran went to a runoff ultimately won by Republican Cindy Hyde-Smith.



JUSTIN MAIERHOFER

The Mississippi delegation also gained one new representative with Michael Guest winning the 3rd congressional district to replace retiring fellow Republican Gregg Harper.

Since the November elections, work in Washington has mostly come to a halt as Republicans and Democrats have found themselves at an impasse on almost all issues.

Hundreds of the President's nominations fell victim to the gridlock at the close of the 115th Congress, with the Senate unable to come to an agreement.

One of the many nominees left pending was Memphis lawyer and TVA Board nominee John Ryder. President Trump nominated Ryder in February 2018 to replace 2017 outgoing TVA Board Member Michael McWherter. And although Ryder received unanimous bipartisan support from the Senate Environment & Public Works Committee, without a confirmation vote on the Senate floor he was unable to fill the vacant post.

In January, President Trump renominated Ryder for the TVA Board, so the process began once more on his confirmation. As of the end of January, Trump had not yet announced his nominee to replace Director Eric Satz, who completed his service on the Board in December.

As of the beginning of the session, it remained unclear whether the Senate will find more agreement over nominations in 2019, but the Republican majority will certainly be working to staff these government posts with the President's picks throughout the year.

Members of the TVA Government Relations team will continue to work closely with our delegation, all members of Congress, and the Administration on these matters as we share the TVA story.



From left, Donald Phelps, Tommy Latham, Charles Perry, Sean Winn, Darrell Sisk, Terry Southerland, Roger Griffin, Lewis Travis, Johnny Hunt at Paradise's bridge project at Lake Malone State Park.

Some of these projects have been featured in *TVARA News*. All of these projects have been made possible with generous grants from Bicentennial Volunteers Inc.

The first two projects and the largest was total electrical lighting of the Rochester

ballpark and the purchase and installation of a scoreboard for the park. The third project was two trail bridges for Lake Malone State Park.

The last project was completed April 2018 at the "Hope to All" Drakesboro (Ky.) Food Pantry. Two restrooms were renovated there.

This spring we will participate in the restoration of Spring Ridge School at Paradise Park

in Powderly. Three new ramps and landings will be built after foundation work on the former one-room school is completed by another group.

This year the members of the Paradise Chapter donated nonperishable food items to the Mercy Ministry food pantry. Each

Christmas the chapter gives money to various organizations and individual families.

In December 2018 we donated \$100 each to Toys for Tots, St. Jude Children's Hospital, and the Salvation Army. We gave \$200 each to Wounded Warriors and to a TVA employee's son who was having health issues.

Last but not least, we have a year-round card ministry. We have a dedicated retiree who sends get-well, sympathy, and thinking-of-you cards to retirees and their families. Primarily chapter members donate cards, stamps, and money to fund this project.

We are blessed as a chapter to not "worry about ourselves" and instead to supply "hands and feet" in our Paradise retiree community.

Thanks to our great chapter and super volunteers. May we continue to reach higher.

## Eagles Update — Love Is in the Air Again

By JOHN BLACKWELL

During most of my 77 years growing up on the Tennessee River I never saw bald eagles. However, in recent years the bald eagles have been making a comeback.

It is a great experience seeing the national symbol soaring through the skies above the river. More and more folks in the Tennessee Valley are realizing that the eagle population is increasing and are enjoying this spectacular sight.

As I have reported over the past several years, a pair of bald eagles established a nest on our property on Wilson Lake near Wilson Dam. This nest is one of many in Colbert and Lauderdale counties, which border the Tennessee River in northwest Alabama. We have proven to be good neighbors, and this is the 14th year the eagles have returned. Wildlife photographer Steve Letson and other enthusiasts have been spending time watching and photographing the eagles.

The eagles built a large nest consisting of twigs and limbs and grass. It is about 90 feet up in a pine tree and has a great view of Wilson Lake. The nest has a bowl-like depression in the



Photo by Steve Letson, Wildlife Photographer

center. The parents fill that depression with grass and straw to make a level surface, and in the middle they excavate a smaller cup.

Eagles reuse their nests season after season, with some nests believed to have been occupied for hundreds of years continuously.

January is the time of year when the eagles begin to get the nest ready. After some rebuilding work, the next step is to mate. The eagles are seen courting and mating and in two or

three weeks the eggs are laid. The female settles on the cup of the nest and lays her egg into it.

Eagles usually lay between one and three eggs. Most of the time it is three days between eggs being laid.

Once the first egg is laid, the eagles protect the nest by sitting on it around the clock.

The incubating period starts from the time the first egg is laid. An egg usually weighs about four ounces, compared to a chicken egg, which weighs 1.5 to 2.5 ounces. The eggs hatch in the same order in which they were laid, three days apart.

The eagles share the incubating duties. Each eagle sits on the eggs for about five hours, keeping them warm and turning them occasionally.

The eagles part the feathers on their chests to be sure the eggs are against bare skin.

The incubation period is about 35 days. If things go as planned, some time in March there will be a hatching. So stay tuned!

# In Memoriam

Nov. 1, 2018 – Jan. 31, 2019

TVA Retirement Management received notifications of the deaths of the following retirees for the period Nov. 1, 2018, through Jan. 31, 2019, as well 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.

**Adams, Steven H.,**  
10/27/2018 (11/16/2015)

**Adams, Louis W.,**  
10/21/2018 (9/27/1997)

**Allen, Sharon L.,**  
1/25/2019 (9/4/2001)

**Anderson, Monte F.,**  
12/15/2018 (10/17/1994)

**Anderson, Jack W.,**  
11/25/2018 (7/30/1988)

**Atterton, Thomas D.,**  
11/12/2018 (3/10/2014)

**Ball, Harold L.,**  
11/27/2018 (6/8/1991)

**Beard, Michael R.,**  
1/1/2019 (1/2/2011)

**Bersebach, David E.,**  
1/1/2019 (10/17/1994)

**Blosser, Theron V., Jr.,**  
11/10/2018 (10/27/1990)

**Brabson, Charles J.S.,**  
11/24/2018 (9/29/1990)

**Breece, Ronald R.,**  
12/19/2018 (10/1/2007)

**Buchanan, Berkley O.,**  
1/17/2019 (9/29/1990)

**Burlison, Richard C.,**  
1/18/2019 (1/2/1999)

**Butler, James L.,**  
11/14/2018 (9/30/1989)

**Cannon, Jackie G.,**  
1/5/2019 (10/17/1994)

**Caraway, Thomas A.,**  
11/7/2018 (10/3/1999)

**Cassetty, John T.,**  
1/3/2019 (12/20/1992)

**Chandler, Carl W.,**  
1/10/2019 (3/26/1996)

**Cheek, Jimmy N.,**  
12/26/2018 (2/2/2003)

**Clark, George E.,**  
11/23/2018 (7/10/1993)

**Cole, John D.,**  
12/13/2018 (11/10/2012)

**Crayford, Forrest J., Jr.,**  
1/28/2019 (1/1/1993)

**Crites, Thomas S.,**  
11/8/2016 (6/26/1982)

**Crowe, Mickey C.,**  
11/29/2018 (3/11/1997)

**Daugherty, Clorene,**  
10/28/2018 (12/9/1997)

**Dazey, Herbert L.,**  
12/12/2018 (1/7/2007)

**Draper, Michael E.,**  
1/2/2019 (10/17/1994)

**Duncan, Joseph C.,**  
11/29/2018 (Unknown)

**Duncan, Russell D.,**  
1/5/2019 (8/13/1988)

**Ellis, Don C.,**  
12/21/2018 (10/1/1988)

**Evans, Dewayne L.,**  
1/15/2019 (11/15/1991)

**Evans, Charles T.,**  
11/30/2018 (11/30/2013)

**Ferguson, D. Dale,**  
1/22/2019 (6/7/2008)

**Fields, R. Louise,**  
1/9/2019 (2/14/2004)

**Fountain, Bobby H.,**  
10/31/2018 (5/22/2004)

**Fugate, Charles E.,**  
11/19/2018 (12/30/1989)

**Gelzer, John R., Jr.,**  
11/30/2018 (10/13/1984)

**Hamm, Dorothy A.,**  
1/29/2019 (11/17/1990.)

**Hammer, Donald A.,**  
1/3/2019 (10/17/1994)

**Hanks, George R.,**  
12/1/2018 (1/1/1993)

**Harris, Robert S.,**  
1/12/2019 (12/31/1994)

**Heath, Larry L.,**  
11/25/2018 (1/6/2001)

**Hightower, James H.,**  
12/16/2018 (4/26/1997)

**Hinote, Hubert,**  
12/15/2018 (1/2/1999)

**Hixson, Lorraine M.,**  
1/29/2019 (5/7/1988)

**Hochdorf, Martin,**  
11/29/2018 (1/7/1979)

**Hoyle, Charles R.,**  
1/13/2019 (7/17/1980)

**Jackson, Douglas C.,**  
1/29/2019 (11/15/2003)

**Johnson, Martha Jewell,**  
1/11/2019 (3/16/1990)

**Johnson, Edward L.,**  
1/27/2019 (12/31/1977)

**Jones, William L.,**  
11/25/2018 (1/9/1982)

**Kincheloe, Nancy L.,**  
1/3/2019 (10/1/1988)

**King, Herbert N.,**  
1/19/2019 (8/14/1975)

**Kirkpatrick, Max,**  
10/30/2018 (4/3/2008)

**Krick, Willis B.,**  
12/4/2018 (2/26/1983)

**Ledford, Richard A.,**  
12/19/2018 (12/29/1998)

**Ledford, Kenneth R.,**  
1/13/2019 (3/2/2004)

**Liles, Gerald A.,**  
12/25/2018 (2/3/2000)

**Major, James M., III,**  
1/14/2019 (8/9/2014)

**Malone, Alonzo T., Jr.,**  
10/20/2018 (10/17/1994)

**May, Roy,**  
1/25/2019 (5/1/1978)

**McBee, Kenneth B.,**  
9/30/2018 (3/7/1981)

**McElrath, Thomas E.,**  
12/18/2018 (10/2/2006)

**McIntyre, Ralph R.,**  
11/11/2018 (12/30/1989)

**McLean, John L., Jr.,**  
1/15/2019 (8/20/1988)

**Moore, Billy B.,**  
11/22/2018 (10/17/1994)

**Moore, James D.,**  
11/24/2018 (10/2/2005)

**Neblett, Madge Evans,**  
11/16/2018 (7/29/1978)

**Neely, Jesse R.,**  
1/6/2019 (9/23/2000)

**O'Brien, Harold L.,**  
11/8/2018 (1/6/2007)

**Owens, David A.,**  
12/27/2018 (10/7/1978)

**Owens, Virginia M.,**  
12/19/2018 (10/26/1993)

**Parrott, George E.,**  
11/22/2018 (10/17/1994)

**Paul, Carl D., Jr.,**  
1/24/2019 (10/2/2011)

**Peebles, Wendell Chett,**  
1/9/2019 (10/23/2013)

**Persinger, George L.,**  
1/5/2019 (10/17/1994)

**Raby, Joe O.,**  
10/28/2018 (4/2/1992)

**Ray, Thomas L.,**  
1/12/2019 (3/28/1987)

**Rhoden, Connie,**  
11/23/2018 (8/2/1988)

**Riddle, James W.,**  
11/9/2018 (12/28/1991)

**Roberts, Jimmy T.,**  
12/29/2018 (4/1/1996)

**Roddy, Kenneth E.,**  
11/17/2018 (6/3/2000)

**Rossmeier, Tony,**  
1/23/2019 (10/23/2001)

**Salisbury, Richard F.,**  
12/31/2018 (10/1/2002)

**Sharp, John A.,**  
11/15/2018 (10/19/2002)

**Shea, Thomas N.,**  
12/26/2018 (9/4/1982)

**Skipworth, Ervin S.,**  
11/8/2018 (1/12/2013)

**Smith, Bill Don, Jr.,**  
10/30/2018 (3/2/2008)

**Smith, Danny H.,**  
12/13/2018 (3/14/2014)

**Smith, Rufus J.B.,**  
1/16/2019 (4/30/1988)

**Smith, Charles P., Jr.,**  
1/22/2019 (4/2/2007)

**Songy, Michael G.,**  
11/11/2018 (2/24/1996)

**Stacey, J.C.,**  
11/10/2018 (3/26/1985)

**Stewart, Dewayne H.,**  
1/17/2019 (11/7/2009)

**Stewart, Danny P.,**  
12/16/2018 (9/3/2008)

**Strickland, Kenneth R.,**  
12/5/2018 (8/4/2007)

**Sullivan, James E.,**  
12/30/2018 (4/22/2011)

**Taylor, Jerry W.,**  
11/9/2018 (10/17/1994)

**Todd, Thomas E.,**  
1/5/2019 (5/30/1991)

**Turner, John W., Jr.,**  
11/27/2018 (7/1/1999)

**Venable, Hollis R.,**  
12/3/2018 (8/9/2003)

**Weisenstein, John Von,**  
10/30/2018 (10/17/1994)

**Waldrop, Jesse H.,**  
12/24/2018 (10/17/1994)

**Walker, Billy L.,**  
11/14/2018 (11/28/1994)

**Wilcox, Wade W.,**  
11/11/2018 (10/1/1988)

**Williams, Jimmy,**  
10/19/2018 (3/31/1996)

**Williams, Clayton E.,**  
12/2/2018 (10/1/1988)

# Upcoming March 2019 Chapter Meetings

## BROWNS FERRY

*Catfish Cabin, Athens, Ala.*

**March 12, 2019, Noon**

- Program: Discuss minutes from Feb. 7 TVARA Board Meeting conference call
- Terry Chinn, President  
256-230-3660/terryandjanachinn@yahoo.com

## CHATTANOOGA

**March 12, 2019, 10 a.m.**

*Brainerd United Methodist Church, Fellowship Hall, 4315 Brainerd Road*

- Program: TVARS Update by Pat Brackett, Executive Secretary, TVARS Board
- Tom Swanson, President  
423-344-6892/twswanson@comcast.net

## CLEVELAND

**March 15, 2019, 10 a.m.**

*Hopewell Church of God Fellowship Hall, 5765 Eureka Road, NW*

- Program: Discussion of future chapter projects and other chapter activities
  - Guest Speaker: TBD
- John Austin, President  
423-472-2720/austintnutfan@charter.net

## FLORIDA

**October 2019, 10:30 a.m.**

*Lakeside Inn, 100 N. Alexander St., Mount Dora, Fla.*

- Annual Meeting
  - Guest Speaker: TBD
- Charles L. "Chuck" Bach, President  
865-414-0313/1wxman1@gmail.com

## GALLATIN

**March 13, 2019, Noon**

*Gallatin Public Library, East Main Street*

- Program: Discuss minutes from Feb. 7 TVARA Board Meeting conference call
- Ronnie "Blue" Monday, President  
615-325-9473/ronniemonday@att.net

## HUNTSVILLE

**March 14, 2019, 10 a.m.-Noon.**

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

- Guest Speaker: Presentation by the Huntsville Land Trust
- Betty Fischer, President  
256-830-0528/zharv@bellsouth.net

## JACKSON

**March 13, 2019, 9:30 a.m.**

*Jackson/Madison County Library, 433 East Lafayette St., main conference room*

- Speaker: Jason Compton, Madison County Commissioner and General Manager of Jackson Generals baseball team
- Alan Campbell, President  
731-988-8814/abcjax@eplus.net

## JOHNSONVILLE

**March 14, 2019, 10 a.m.**

*City of Johnsonville Safe Room, 233 Long St.*

- Program: Demonstration of The Footbar Walker, developed by Johnsonville retiree Gary Morris for benefit of our older retirees
- Leroy Uptain Jr., President  
931-535-2696/lrarms@tds.net

## KINGSTON

**March 25, 2019, 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

**March 14, 2019**

*Time: 10:00-10:30 (social time)  
10:30-Noon (meeting)*

*Fellowship Church, 8000 Middlebrook Pike*

- Guest Speaker: Representative from the Alzheimer's Tennessee organization.
- Vickie L. Ellis, President  
865-805-1512/vlellis@aol.com

## MEMPHIS

**April 15, 2019, 11:30 a.m.**

*New Location: Steak by Melissa, 4975 Pepper Chase Drive, Southaven, Miss.*

- Program: Discuss minutes from Feb. 7 TVARA Board Meeting conference call; Allen Plant personnel will report on plant demolition; other items TBD
- David L. Teuton, President  
901-212-3822/davidteuton@yahoo.com

## MISSISSIPPI

**March 12, 2019, 10 a.m.**

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

- Guest Speaker: John Blackwell, Author
  - Topic: "Improving Your Retiree Health"
- Tim Meeks, President  
256-366-2530/meekstim100@yahoo.com

## MUSCLE SHOALS

**March 13, 2019, 10 a.m. CST**

*TVA Community Credit Union Conference Room, 1409 Wilson Dam Road, Muscle Shoals*

- Program: Presentation by retired U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Ed Yeilding of Florence, who in 1990 set a coast-to-coast aircraft speed record of 67 minutes, 54 seconds, in an SR-71 spy plane
- Timothy "Tim" Cornelius, President  
256-757-5220/timwccornelius1@gmail.com

## NASHVILLE

**March 13, 2019, 10 a.m.**

*Piccadilly Restaurant, 865 Murfreesboro Pike*

- Guest Speaker: Susan Lauver, TVA Communications & Marketing Manager
- Jeffie Gammons, President  
931-729-9974/y2kunderthehill@gmail.com

## NORTHEAST ALABAMA

**March 12, 2019, 11:00 a.m.**

*Mud Creek Restaurant, Hollywood, Ala.*

- Program: Discuss issues and enjoy a good luncheon
- Larry A. Hancock, President  
256-437-8220/lah35772@gmail.com

## PADUCAH AREA

**March 19, 2019, 10 a.m.**

*Pizza Inn, Joe Clifton Drive*

- Guest Speaker: Pat Brackett, Executive Secretary, TVA Retirement System
- Ken Dickerson, President  
270-442-9539/kenneth.dickerson@comcast.net

## PARADISE

**March 12, 2019, 10:30 a.m.**

*Catfish Dock, Powderly, Ky.*

- Program: Recognize all new retirees, new attendees, and new officers; discuss the latest chapter project, restoration of the Spring Ridge School; discuss minutes from Feb. 7 TVARA Board Meeting conference call
- Patricia "Pat" Cobb, President  
270-338-6667/pecobb1942@att.net

## UPPER EAST TENNESSEE

**March 13, 2019, 11 a.m.**

*Golden Corral, 2905 W. Andrew Johnson Hwy., Morristown, Tenn.*

- Guest Speaker: Pat Brackett, Executive Secretary, TVA Retirement System, will provide a TVARS status update
- Leslie P. "Les" Bays, President  
423-782-8458/lpbays1@yahoo.com

## WATTS BAR

**March 11, 2019, 10:30 a.m.**

*Spring City United Methodist Church Life Center*

- Guest Speaker: Red Cross representative
  - Lunch will be served after the meeting
  - Please RSVP by Friday, **March 8**, to 423-365-9048 or send email to [eddiekathleen@bellsouth.net](mailto:eddiekathleen@bellsouth.net)
- Kathleen Garrison, President  
423-365-9048/eddiekathleen@bellsouth.net

## WESTERN AREA

**March 20, 2019, 10:30 a.m.**

*Lake Barkley State Resort Park*

- Guest Speaker: Aviva Yasgur, Executive Director, Friends of Land Between the Lakes
  - Guest Speaker: Representative from TVA Retirement System
- K. Renee Turnbow, President  
270-205-5277/kturnbow@gmail.com

Please visit the TVARA website at [mytvara.org](http://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.

## TVARA Website, Email Addresses

Have you visited the TVARA website lately? The web address is [mytvara.org](http://mytvara.org). You will find information about chapter meetings, volunteer opportunities, membership, and healthcare information, as well as other news of value.

We will be sending emails to all members from time to time concerning invitations to chapter meetings, volunteer opportunities, the TVA Retiree Appreciation Picnic, Membership Dues Notices, and other important information.

Please update your address book with the following email addresses from the TVARA Staff:

Reba Whitson — [rjwhitson@mytvara.org](mailto:rjwhitson@mytvara.org)  
Jean Bryson — [sjbryson@mytvara.org](mailto:sjbryson@mytvara.org)  
Richard Wilson — [rtwilson@mytvara.org](mailto:rtwilson@mytvara.org)

## A Guided Tour of Wilson Dam with 'Uncle Sam'

Thanks to John Blackwell, a group of third-grade students from Lawrenceburg, Tenn., got a guided tour of Wilson Dam from "Uncle Sam" this past fall. The tour group included about 75 students and 10 teachers and parents.

Blackwell explained that he was appearing as Uncle Sam because Uncle Sam represents the U.S. Government, which — along with the people of the United States — owns Wilson Dam. The Tennessee Valley Authority is the caretaker.

The tour began at the overlook pavilions, where John discussed the early history of the Tennessee River and the reasons for the construction of the dam. Then students were given information about the birds that make



John Blackwell, providing a colorful history lesson and tour to visiting schoolchildren at Wilson Dam

the area around Wilson Dam their home because of the abundant food source.

The tour next stopped off at the Rock Pile Recreation area, followed by a

walk up to the waterfall and caves.

On the return to the bus, the students were excited to see a flock of pelicans fly by. Then they enjoyed the playground.