

# TVARA NEWS

The TVA Retirees Association

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

## New Year, New Decade, New Valleywide President

By **VICKIE ELLIS**  
TVARA Valleywide President

Welcome to 2020 and a new decade with the TVA Retirees Association! We are excited for a new year ahead.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve as the Valleywide President. We owe a big thanks to outgoing President DeWitt Burluson, who served for the past three years.

DeWitt brought thoughtfulness and dedication to the position, and we are grateful for his service to the organization.

We have three new chapter presidents this year.

Jo Anne Lavender is President of the Knoxville Chapter, Daniel Simmons is President of the Huntsville Chapter, and Mickey Blackburn is President of the Johnsonville Chapter.

Your chapter officers are busy planning the quarterly meetings for the coming year. Please plan to attend one or more of the meetings and show your support. It's a great opportunity to reconnect with friends and colleagues.

The first-quarter meetings are shown on page 15 of this newsletter.

This issue also features many great articles.

The Upper East Tennessee Chapter is highlighted this quarter. Be sure to read the informative and timely article from the American Red Cross on smoke detectors, the travel article by Lynn Morehous, and the car article by Wayne Sneed.

Don't forget to renew your dues for 2020. Dues remain \$15, and notices have been mailed to members.

Thanks again for allowing me to serve as your President. Feel free to contact me or your chapter officers with any questions or recommendations to improve our chapter meetings.

## Muscle Shoals Chapter Proving Past Can Provide for the Future

By **JOHN INGERSWEN**, Muscle Shoals TVARA Chapter Scholarship Chair

It all began in early 2013 as John Blackwell and I were driving to Nashville for the quarterly TVARA Valleywide Board meeting.

Through great management and generous, hard-working TVA retirees, the Muscle Shoals Chapter had been steadily accruing a surplus of cash that at that time had grown to \$17,000 and sat in a Certificate of Deposit.

With a lot of time to talk, John and I found we shared a desire to do

something with this money that would benefit our TVA retirement community — or more specifically Muscle Shoals TVA retirees, since they were the ones responsible for the large cache of cash.

It took very little time for us both to come to the same conclusion — a scholarship that would benefit a deserving relative of a chapter member.

We brought this back and discussed it at the next meeting of our chapter

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## TVARS Reports Earnings of 17 Percent for 2019

By **JUSTIN VINEYARD**, Senior Retirement Consultant & TVARA Liaison, TVA Retirement

The TVA Retirement System reports that as of the calendar year ending Dec. 31, investments earned more than 17 percent for 2019.

The returns were driven by strong performance in equities and fixed income, which returned an estimated 23 percent and 13 percent, respectively.

Continuing the positive investment performance of 2019, assets rose to \$8.3 billion.

## Seventh-Director Update

The TVARS Board appreciates the number of

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Pension Benefits and 401(k) Accounts

Call TVA Retirement System

toll-free @ 1-800-824-3870

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Over 65? Call *Via Benefits*

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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.

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

## Innovative research feeds elderly in need

Many seniors received high-tech produce last Thanksgiving from the Second Harvest Food Bank of East Tennessee. The special delivery was made possible by a two-year study at the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, which is exploring the possibilities of indoor agriculture.

In partnership with TVA, Knoxville Utilities Board, and the Electric Power Research Institute, UT professor Carl Sams is growing leafy greens inside a climate-controlled shipping container. Replacing dirt and sunlight with LED lights, piping and damp felt, the Fresh Electric Farm transfers nutrients to plants through hydroponic technology, regardless of the weather outside.

All produce harvested during the study is donated to the Second Harvest, which helps provide fresh produce to elderly people in need across an 18-county, 8,000-square-mile service region.

The Fresh Electric Farm looks like a garden inside a space shuttle. Sprouting from plastic trays positioned in what looks like a stainless-steel tanning bed, kale seedlings absorb a mixture of blue and red light — specific wavelengths required for natural photosynthesis.

When the seedlings are large enough to transplant, they are “planted” inside a plastic gutter lined with foam and felt. The foam holds the plant in place, while the felt surrounds the plants’ roots. Once the gutter is hung vertically beneath a dripping header, the felt works as a lantern wick, slowly absorbing the nutrient-rich solution while gravity pulls the water past the roots of each suspended plant.

Hovering next to hundreds of lights that dangle in neatly strung rows, the kale leaves look as



if they are shrouded by illuminated strands of Mardi Gras beads.

“Each plant captures the blue and red light, then turns that light into carbohydrates the plant converts to food for use,” Sams says. “Our goal is to be able to produce a high-quality, high-yield produce at a cost-effective price.”

By adjusting the light, temperature, fertilizer, and plant spacing, the team can not only boost edible weight and reduce growth times, but it can effectively control the taste and the nutritional value of each plant.

The research is not limited to Knoxville. Sams and his partners are working with teams across the nation as part of the EPRI study and demonstration program. By comparing their respective findings, they will be able to determine how the ambient temperatures of different regions across the nation influence the total energy consumption required to grow produce in a controlled hydroponic atmosphere.

“TVA started in the agricultural business by developing and producing fertilizers to help farmers replenish soils depleted and eroded from decades of cotton and tobacco farming,” says TVA Vice President of Innovation & Research Joe Hoagland. “TVA is helping communities by building on that innovation, in hopes of finding economical solutions for farmers and other job-creators who can use this technology to meet the growing demand for locally sourced, fresh foods.”

## Historic dam plaques restored, replaced

Over the years, even the most solid objects can become worn with time. Sometimes, unfortunately, they disappear, becoming the victims of thievery or vandalism. And when an object is truly unique, repairing or replacing it presents a unique challenge.

Decades ago, TVA installed heavy, cast-aluminum map and dedication plaques at most of its mainstream dams across the Tennessee Valley. Weather conditions, vandalism, and even one instance of being struck by a car, had left several of the signs damaged and/or faded.

As an enhanced stewardship project, Natural



Making a rubbing of the existing sign at Nickajack Dam



Before and after restoration



Resources began working with contractor GUBMK to refurbish the existing maps and plaques, which included restoring their finish to original surface textures and colors.

Most were restored in place, but three of them — at Pickwick, Chickamauga, and Nickajack — were moved from their original locations because those spots became inaccessible to the public after the 9/11 terrorist attacks. They now reside in recreation areas where visitors can enjoy them.

In all, 20 vintage Valley map plaques and 11 dedication plaques were restored to like-new condition.

However, four plaques had disappeared since they were first installed and needed to be

recreated entirely. The team decided to start with the ones missing from Hiwassee and Kentucky dams, launching a painstaking process to re-create the historic plaques from the original plans and other existing plaques.

In a filing cabinet in Muscle Shoals, TVA Project Manager Randy McCann found the first essential piece of the process: the original blueprints for the plaques. According to a stamp on the blueprints, the plaques were created by the now-defunct Michaels Art Bronze Co. of Covington, Ky. Records show that the company, founded in 1913, stayed busy throughout the 20th century creating metal structures and ornaments for buildings and bridges, as well as parking meters, lamps, tablets, signs, cemetery urns, and more. (One of its more unique projects was the casting of a 560-pound crucifix, more than 11 feet high, for the Holy Family Church in Dayton, Ohio.)

Next, Natural Resources worked with TVA Communications to find a company that could re-create the plaques, selecting Crone Memorials in Memphis. The foundry sent special transfer rubbing paper so TVA could create a detailed image from an existing plaque.

TVA Communications Creative Designer Amber Bergdoll, with some helpers, created the transfer from the plaque at Nickajack Dam, carefully copying the plaque in sections. Unlike a simple paper rubbing from a gravestone, for example, this process required precisely transferring the lettering through layers of the material.

“The rubbing itself took the hands of three people,” Bergdoll says. “We had to roll out the special blueprint paper in two pieces and hold it in place. I used a kitchen scouring pad to transfer the plaque to the paper, overlapping in the middle. As we went along,

I referenced a photo making sure to get all the details underneath. Then we carefully rolled up the blueprint and sent it back to the foundry. We had one shot to get it right.”

Once it was complete, the paper rubbing was sent to Memphis, where Crone completed draft images of the replacement plaques, so TVA employees could confirm that every letter and comma were exactly as desired.

“We decided to leave the wording and map features just as they had been on the original plaque,” says Tiffany Foster of Natural Resources Public Outreach. “These plaques were crafted when our dam system looked a little different. If you look closely at the plaques, you will notice that Fort Patrick Henry is referred to as Fort Henry, and Hales Bar is shown just downstream of Chickamauga, where we now have its replacement, Nickajack.

“You also will not see Tellico Dam on the plaque because it was completed in 1979, long after these plaques were originally cast. We didn’t change any of these, because that wouldn’t have been true to the spirit of the historic originals.”

The process took weeks to complete. The two new plaques, 3-feet-by-5-feet and weighing at least 45 pounds each, were furnished with support hardware and packed for shipping. They arrived at the Knoxville Office Complex loading dock about two months after the first planning meeting for the project.

Now, GUBMK will fabricate frames as necessary, working with TVA Facilities Management to install the plaques. The two remaining missing ones are scheduled to be created and replaced in FY ’20.

## Uganda public power visits TVA hydro facilities

After more than 80 years of building and operating hydroelectric dams, it may be tempting to take for granted TVA’s experience in things like flood control, dam safety, and river navigation. But in some parts of the world, challenges TVA solved still exist for power providers serving their developing nations.

Last fall, TVA hosted visitors from Uganda, where the nation’s sole public power provider — Uganda Electricity Generation Co., Ltd. —

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# TVA Retirees Proud Part of History in Historic Area

By LES BAYS, President, Upper East Tennessee TVARA Chapter

Greetings from the Upper East Tennessee Chapter of the TVA Retirees Association.

Lots of folks in our corner of Tennessee have clung to the “Upper East Tennessee” moniker when, for some reason, some of the politicians here decided we needed to be called “Northeast Tennessee.”

TVA employees and retirees hereabouts know we live in a historic area. You can read about the “State of Franklin,” which preceded the State of Tennessee by several years. A leader named John Sevier was elected Governor of Franklin, then later of Tennessee. (“Sevier,” by the way, was an Americanized spelling of the French name “Xavier,” with the governor being a French Huguenot descendant.)

Many of our chapter’s retirees are proud to have worked at John Sevier Fossil Plant, the most reliable TVA fossil plant for most years from the late 1950s until it was shut down in 2012.

The plant, of course, was named after the historic figure. And the newer John Sevier Combined Cycle plant is close

by, continuing the site’s legacy of supplying reliable electric power.

Several of our retirees originally worked at the Phipps Bend nuclear site before it was cancelled. It was a “big thing” to have a job there, but alas ... . There is still a critical 161 kV-500 kV switchyard in service there.

Our chapter’s retirees also come from the hydro plants in the area. Mostly built in the 1940s, the area dams have helped prevent Chattanooga from flooding numerous times.

Our citizens have to tolerate the “drawdown” of the area lakes in the fall and winter, as our contribution toward the flood-control effort. The users of Boone Lake, especially the property-owners adjacent to the lake, are currently tolerating a multiyear effort to correct the leakage problems at Boone Dam.

Some of our retirees, of course, spent their careers helping take care of the Holston and Clinch rivers, which in many ways are the lifeblood of the area. As has been said before, without the rivers, TVA is just another power company.

## Special Honor Salutes Late Veteran and TVA Retiree Jerry Alvis

At an Upper East Tennessee TVARA Chapter meeting several months ago, members got news that one of our retirees had received a posthumous honor. The retirees at the meeting asked that others around the Tennessee Valley be told about this honor and the very special person to whom it was given.

Jerry Alvis retired from TVA in the early 2000s. He and his wife, Marilyn, were 100-percent fans of the Tennessee Volunteer football team. His co-workers could never be mistaken: Home games, away games, neutral-site games, Jerry was most likely there ... . But there was something even bigger in Jerry’s life.

Jerry worked for TVA at Phipps Bend, Morristown, and John Sevier, and was also on the TVA Veterans Association Board of Directors.

Bobby White, a veteran also retired from John Sevier, saw Jerry make the bulk of a presentation to the TVAVA Board (and then-TVA Chairman Craven Crowell), providing the justification for and a request to begin a new benefit that we now know as the Healthcare Credit.

Jerry was just as proud of the establishment of the TVAVA’s Scholarship program, and the fact that the John Sevier Chapter of the TVAVA maintained 100-percent membership.

Jerry was a disabled veteran, having served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War as a hospital corpsman. Before his retirement from



JERRY ALVIS

TVA, he began his service as Commander of the Disabled American Veterans Chapter 59 for 20 years.

One of the major projects accomplished in 2009 was the purchase of two vans for the purpose of transporting ambulatory veterans from the small Veterans Administration clinics in Rogersville and Morristown to the larger VA Hospital in Johnson City. The chapter raised \$27,000 to purchase the two vans.

Recently, the Morristown Chapter 59 of the DAV honored Jerry by renaming the chapter the “Jerry Alvis DAV Chapter 59, Morristown. Ray Shockley, a spokesperson for the chapter, says, “Approval was sought and granted at the state and national levels for this to happen. No one is more deserving of this honor. He was an outstanding commander of the chapter for 20 years.”

The Upper East Tennessee TVARA Chapter wanted to let all TVA retirees and veterans know about Jerry’s accomplishments in life and the receipt of this posthumous honor, received in December 2018, after he passed away in March 2018.

Jerry also served as an officer of his TVARA chapter until his death. May he rest in peace.

To all veterans who served our country with honor, and to all our fellow retirees who served the Tennessee Valley, we thank you!

— LES BAYS

## A Tale of Two Chevys ... By WAYNE SNEED

In 2017 I purchased a 1957 Chevy Belair from the original owner's widow. The car was bought new in 1958 from Rutledge Chevrolet in Lafayette, Ga.

It was an original 250-horsepower, fuel-injected engine, automatic, with air-conditioning.



Wayne and Carolyn Sneed

The entire car was completely disassembled, as the original owner was going to restore it, but passed away two years earlier.

A complete off-frame restoration to original was performed, except for the engine, transmission, and air-conditioning. They were replaced with a new 350-cubic-inch engine, 700 R4 transmission, and vintage air-conditioning system.

About 95 percent of the stainless steel is original. I only replaced mirrors and door handles on the exterior.

It was painted back to the original matador

red. That was the only red offered on 1957 Chevys. When my wife, Carolyn, and I met each other in 1967, I owned a 1955 Chevy Belair two-door hardtop sedan. The color of the car was regal turquoise and ivory.

I sold the car, and we married in 1969.

After moving around the Tennessee Valley and building six houses, I retired in Ringgold, Ga., in 2000 with 39 years of service.

Forty-five years after selling the two-door sedan, I purchased a 1955 Chevy Belair two-door hardtop shown here.

It is an off-the-frame restoration to original except for 14-inch wheels, 1960 Impala hubcaps, 1960 Impala steering wheel, 350-cubic-inch. Motor, and 350 transmission.

And, yes, the color is regal turquoise and ivory.



Wayne Sneed's 1957 Chevy ...



... and his 1955 Chevy

**More car talk?** If you have an old car, truck, motorcycle, jeep, or whatever type of vintage vehicle and would like to share stories about it in *TVARA News*, contact Theresa Habiger at [thabiger@charter.net](mailto:thabiger@charter.net).

### TVA News & Notes...continued from page 3

uses hydroelectricity harnessed from the Nile River to generate roughly 80 percent of its energy portfolio. The government-owned utility serves as the primary source of electricity for Uganda's 39 million people, producing about 2,000 MW of hydroelectric energy daily.

"TVA is well-known in Uganda and has been successful in managing issues that we ourselves are facing — despite our difference in size — which is why we're here," said Harrison Mutikanga, CEO of UEGCL.

Those issues relate to aging infrastructure, as well as new dams are currently under construction.

"Our oldest dam was built in 1954, but the rest were constructed in just the past few years," Mutikanga said. "Our newest dam is only seven months old."

During their visit, the UEGCL team visited Watts Bar Dam for an inside look at how



Visitors from Uganda meet at Watts Bar Hydro Plant to study TVA's operations.

TVA keeps the 77-year-old asset running reliably. It also engaged in technical sessions led by TVA on Dam Safety, Concrete Growth, and Asset Management & Maintenance Strategy.

"Watts Bar is an older dam, but very successful," Mutikanga said. "With greater

than 97-percent reliability, we know it as one of the best in the world. We want to learn what you're doing to get the most value from your assets, so we can do the same."

Another highlight for the visitors was a trip to TVA's Hydro Dispatch Control Center,

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## TVA News & Notes...continued from page 5

located inside the Chattanooga Systems Operation Center.

“The automation is very impressive,” said Proscovia Njuki, Chair of UEGC’s Board of Directors. “To be able to operate and monitor all of your dams from one central



Watts Bar Hydro Plant Manager Robby Floyd (right) gives Ugandan guests a tour of the facility.

location — that’s something we want to pursue.”

With the new dams that UEGC has been adding in recent years, and with guidance from larger utilities like TVA, the utility hopes to be able to move in that direction in the not-so-distant future.

The company also hopes to soon begin diversifying its portfolio with solar power, tapping into Uganda’s sunny climate and location at the Equator.

“TVA has a very good energy mix,” Mutikanga said. “We will definitely be back to learn more,”

Michelle Ray, Director of Asset Performance in TVA Generation Services, welcomes the relationship.

“When we talk about TVA’s mission of service, we’re usually thinking about the 10 million people we serve across the Tennessee Valley,” she said. “We forget that it’s much broader than that — people around the world are learning and benefiting from what we’re accomplishing. It’s a great honor to meet and work with those improving lives in other nations.”

## Employee’s quick action saves co-worker’s life

More than a year ago, Richard Broyles, Maintenance Manager at Kingston Fossil Plant, experienced a medical emergency on

## Muscle Shoals Chapter Proving Past Can Provide for the Future...continued from page 1

board, and the idea was unanimously approved.

Over the next several months, we worked toward establishing an endowed scholarship that would be administered by our chapter.

That required standing committees to manage the investments, raise more funds, evaluate and award scholarships, and provide general administration. And we began to see all that as significantly more than we could effectively take on — especially since these committees would have to forge on not for a year or two but in perpetuity.

Not intending to abandon the concept, we began conversations with the University of North Alabama, where we found we could establish an endowment and place stipulations that a preference go to relatives of active Muscle Shoals Chapter members.

We also wanted applicants to provide us with an essay of what TVA has meant to them and/or their relatives (although not a requirement for receiving the scholarship).

We worked over the next several

months with UNA personnel to ensure the scholarships would be awarded based on criteria we agreed to, and, on April 22, 2014, I had the pleasure along with Joan Marsh, our Chapter Treasurer, to sign an agreement with UNA.

An article on the endowed scholarship and the signing ceremony appeared in the inaugural issue of our new chapter newsletter, *Connect!*, in May of the same year.

With a starting amount of \$18,000 in the endowment, we established our first goal of \$25,000.

At this point (2014), the scholarship money available from the endowment was based on 4 percent of the three-year average of the endowment — which was very close to zero.

However, in order to really get our scholarship program underway, our board voted to fund the first scholarship with \$1,000 from our budgeted funds.

Caleb Smith of Loretto, Tenn., the grandson of TVA retiree Henry H. Hill, was recognized as the first recipient of our new scholarship for the 2014-2015 academic year. He was attending UNA

as a freshman planning to major in biology with an eye toward becoming a physical therapist. He graduated in 2014 from Loretto High School with a 3.25 grade-point average. He received \$500 toward tuition for the fall semester and \$500 for the winter semester.

This was the headliner for our endowment fund in the fall 2015 issue of *Connect!*

A new goal of \$50,000 was set, although not announced until we were closer to achieving it.

This was also the first year we established a charge for advertising in our newsletter.

It was a modest fee payable to our endowment and included advertising in all four of our quarterly newsletters.

We were overwhelmed with the response and actually considered limiting participation for the next year — that or reset the price. A second scholarship of \$100 was awarded, funded every year from our chapter budget.

By 2016 the endowment had exceeded \$37,000, although the

a job away from home. And a co-worker saved his life.

Traveling for work, Broyles and Kingston Engineering Manager Joey Sales were looking for material at Allen Fossil Plant for potential reuse. Then they stopped for dinner.

"I started sweating, blacking out," Broyles says. "My left side felt funny. I could tell something was wrong,"

Sales knew something was off. "I've known Richard since we hired in together in 2002," Sales says. "I could tell right off the bat that something was wrong. He wasn't acting right and looked strange. When I asked if he was all right, he said no, and I took him to the hospital."

What Broyles was experiencing — sweating, drooping on the left side, confusion — were all common signs for stroke. Other signs include severe headache, arm weakness, vision problems, and trouble walking, according to the American Heart Association.

After he was released from the hospital, Broyles was rushed home by another co-worker, Richard Walker.

"My wife, Terri, didn't recognize me," Broyles says. "So I went back to the hospital, and the doctor didn't know how I'd survived. I'd had a major stroke."

Broyles' co-workers acted fast to get him the help he needed, using the 4 Vital Behaviors in this life-or-death situation. They identified that something was wrong

and took action by seeking medical help.

"I'm so grateful for what they've done," Broyles says. "They aren't just co-workers, they're family. We spend more time with co-workers than at home, and that makes them family."

Sales was honored with a Lifesaving award at the 2019 TVA Safety Awards ceremony.

"It's great to be recognized, but it's most important that he's okay," Sales says. "If you find yourself in this situation, don't take a chance."

"Time is of the utmost importance. If you have any doubt, stop immediately and get help. A few minutes can make a difference."

average was not enough to spin off a \$1,000 scholarship. However, by the summer of 2017 that all changed. Our fund had exceeded \$41,800, and the first scholarship from the endowment was awarded to Bridgett Nelms, who had achieved a 4.0 GPA at Muscle Shoals High School, while serving as a varsity cheerleader and Vice President of the Student Council.

She is the daughter of Kim and Alan Nelms and the granddaughter of TVA retiree Thomas Crow. Lakin Berry received our Essay Award.

With the overwhelming success of our advertising program in *Connect!*,



Back row, from left, Muscle Shoals TVARA Chapter's President Tim Cornelius, Scholarship Chair John Ingwersen, and Treasurer Joan Marsh, with 2017 scholarship winner Bridgett Nelms (left) and 2017 Essay Award-winner Lakin Berry

in 2018 we moved to expand advertiser benefits to advertising in the newsletter AND the opportunity to talk to more than 400 retirees at the annual picnic (a privilege we had provided for free in the past). Once again, we had an overwhelming response, taking in close \$6,300 for our endowment.

By April 2018 our endowment had grown to nearly \$55,700, and \$1,600 was available for scholarships. For the first time we awarded two scholarships, going to two great students, Michael Smith and Anna Wilson.

By April 2018 our endowment had grown to nearly \$55,700, and \$1,600 was available for scholarships. For the first time we awarded two scholarships, going to Michael Smith and Anna Wilson.

The advertising benefits for 2019 were modified once again, based on our experiences in 2018, and prices increased to what we perceived as a fair value. Once more we were surprised and pleased at the advertiser



Lauren Willis



Madison Borden

interest and finished with contributions to the endowment of \$9,200 — a nearly 50-percent increase over the previous year. We awarded two more scholarships — to Lauren Willis and Madison Borden — for the 2019-2020 academic year, as well as our annual essay winner, at the September meeting of our chapter.

The opportunity to help pay for the expensive educational costs of these students and the opportunity to meet and talk with them has been a most rewarding and uplifting experience.

There were growing pains experienced in the first five years of the program, but we are settling now into a more normal operation, and the rewards have far outweighed the problems we have faced over the years.

And the greater reward is knowing that more worthy and deserving youths will be receiving these scholarships far into the future.



# CASTLES, CAVES, & DUCKS, DUCKS, GEESE...

By LYNN MOREHOUS

Tourism has grown so much in recent years that popular spots are too crowded to be fun.

My wife, Fran, and I now prefer the “closer feel” possible in smaller towns and villages. This drove our choice to the far southwestern corner of France for a three-week trip last May.

The area we visited first after landing in Toulouse was the small French Basque area nestled up to the Spanish border.

French Basque is much smaller than its Spanish cousin, but both were once a part of the historic Kingdom of Navarre, a major Protestant stronghold during the 16th-century Wars of Religion.

Commercial development is mainly along a narrow strip of Atlantic coast that runs from the Basque beach town of St. Jean de Luz in the south, along miles and miles of sandy beach said to have the best championship surfing waves in Europe. It ends in the north at Biarritz, a long strip of beach that during the 19th

century was developed into an elegant “beach city,” with dozens of exclusive hotels dedicated to serving Europe’s royalty and rich and famous.

Just inland from Biarritz is the Basque capital of Bayonne. It is an old port city which in the 1500s began launching explorers and pirates into the Atlantic and Caribbean.

Locals claim it is the first place in Europe where cocoa beans, brought by Basque sailors trading in the Caribbean, were turned into the substance we know today as chocolate. As a result, the city has specialty chocolate shops and an informative/enlightening chocolate factory and museum.

It also has shops featuring Basque hams, and a fascinating museum of Basque culture. We were struck by the similarity



St. Jean de Luz Cathedral with its unusual balconies



Lynn and Fran Morehous in south-central France taking in a view of the cliffside village of Rocamadour





View from hotel of Pyrenees foothills



of traditional Basque designs and those of the Pennsylvania Dutch.

Inland is a different world. It is home to the raising and curing of those Basque hams and also the site of orchards famous for producing a particularly tasty black cherry. Its fields grow a special Basque hot pepper called *piment d'espelette*.

The nearby Pyrenees foothills and mountains are beautiful, with farms giving way to mountain streams and waterfalls and the rocky ridges along the summits.

Our room in a small hotel — which is almost an afterthought to its well-known restaurant — overlooked a cow pasture and the foothills. One morning we took a tiny cog railway to the summit of the Pyrenees and the Spanish border, with great views all the way to the Atlantic.

Northwest of the Basque country lies Gascony, an area known to some as home of D'Artagnan, the main character in the Three Musketeers novels. Today it is best known for the raising of ducks and geese for foie gras, along with a cognac-like brandy called Armagnac and made by scores of family-owned distillers, the harvesting of wild truffles, and simple but delicious food. Fortunately, we stayed at a small country hotel with a fine chef.

I was particularly interested in just how foie gras was made, so we pulled into several farms and asked the farmer for a tour.

One farmer only raised the ducks (hundreds of them at a time) from hatchlings to early adulthood. Another small



Cog railway to the Pyrenees

farmer, a customer of the first, showed us how he force-fed the ducks to fatten their livers, and then butchered the ducks and processed their livers into foie gras.

He was especially proud of the efficiency of the butchering process and equipment he had invented and bragged how he had taught many of his neighbors to use it. Not a tour for the queasy.

It turned out that the chef (and owner) of our hotel had once been his student.

A striking feature of Gascony was the existence of two of the major 900-year-old pilgrimage routes from France to Santiago de Compostela in Spain. These routes extend south through Gascony and the Basque countryside into Spain.

Many 12th- and 13th-century monasteries, small medieval

*Continued on next page*



Armagnac distiller



Geese being raised for foie gras



Entrance to fortified village of Domme



Battlements-on-a-budget at Dordogne



English fortress from Hundred Years War

bridges, and hidden chapels were built along the trails to serve the pilgrims. Several remain available for modern hikers, although most of these travelers stay at the many convenient and inexpensive hostels in nearby villages.

We hiked only a couple hundred yards and crossed one medieval bridge, perhaps not enough to claim having joined the elite ranks of through hikers.



Chateau de Camperos

From Gascony, we drove north to the renowned Sauterne wine region just south of the city of Bordeaux. We stayed there at Chateau de Camperos, an outstanding art-deco mansion run as a B&B by an elderly couple.

The husband made breakfast and was the all-around factotum. His wife prepared truly wonderful dinners almost to custom order.

The interior of this “modern” 19th-century chateau was beyond belief. It had been designed in the latest fashion of the day by the famous French architect Violette LeDuc, who

is most known for his pioneering efforts to restore the great medieval buildings of France, including the walled city of Carcassonne and Notre Dame Cathedral.

The Sauterne area itself was a surprise — one of the most expensive wine regions in the world, it consists of damp, misty fields of grapes bordered by small streams and a series of down-in-the-mouth working-class villages.

Some wineries looked equally down-in-the-mouth, with children’s toys scattered in the yard. Other wineries were, however, another matter — large, elegant, beautiful, where even the working areas of wine production were neat and spotless.

Chateau Guiraud, one winery we visited, even included eight electrified parking spaces reserved exclusively for Teslas!

Bordeaux is a beautiful city, with parks, a tree-lined waterfront, and a mixture of medieval and lovely 19th-century buildings with streets that rival the best of Paris.



Market day in Sarlat



Dordogne castle and garden



Lascaux cave painting



Pilgrimage churches in Rocamadour

We drove into the city on a Sunday and were entertained by the crowds and lively street performers. Our mistake was not giving more time than one day to explore its streets and sights.

After leaving Bordeaux, we drove east through the St. Emilion and Monbazillac wine areas to a region known as the Dordogne, a land of castles and caves.

In contrast to the almost tourist-free areas visited earlier, Dordogne is a major tourist draw both for the French and English, as well as a popular retirement area for the latter.

The area was on “the front lines” of the Hundred Years War between England and France, but it remains amazingly well-preserved today.

The formerly walled town of Sarlat is said to have the largest number of 15th-century buildings of any town in France. Every day there’s at least one public market in the area, featuring local produce, cheeses, meats, and duck parts.

Yes, ducks, ducks, and more ducks, for lunch, dinner, and foie gras. Farms and processors of ducks — and geese — abound in the countryside.

One of our hotels served only duck for dinner. The other one, fortunately, had an inspired chef, and dinner was served under the spreading limbs of a large tree.

Initially, we concentrated on some of Dordogne’s numerous prehistoric caves.

Lascaux, discovered only 75 years ago, has 17,000-year-old paintings of animals — paintings that are among the finest and most sophisticated ever found.

Another large cave is accessed at the bottom of a massive



In Bordeaux city

sinkhole. Still another has a small train to take you to its paintings deep within.

Also interesting, if not as ancient, were the remains of linear ancient villages that had been carved into the softer rock under long rock ledges, reminiscent of some Native American village designs in the Southwest.

Visiting medieval castles is a must in the Dordogne, and we saw our fair share, most of which had been

turned into elegant palaces sometime in the 17th and 18th centuries. However, a battlements-on-a-budget affair built up the side of a rock face was the most unusual. It used the natural caves and features of the cliff to fashion rooms, stairs, and protective walls.

Our final stop before heading to Toulouse for our flight home was Rocamadour, a striking village perched on the side of a cliff, which is today the second-most-visited site in France outside of Paris.

Legend has it that in the 12th century a peasant of the area convinced an important church official that he had unearthed the remains of St. Amador, a holy man of the area. In any event, the church official had a chapel constructed in honor of St. Amador, and over the years the place grew into a popular pilgrimage site, with additional chapels and a small town built to support the profitable pilgrimage trade.

Three weeks can be a long time to wander the countryside on your own, and we were ready to come home. In addition, by late May it’s beginning to get hot in that region just as in East Tennessee, making the oftentimes unairconditioned hotels uncomfortable at night.

*(Lynn Morehous retired from TVA in 1999 as Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Budget & Congressional Relations in the Office of the General Counsel in Knoxville.)*

# TVA Partnership Awards \$600,000 in STEM Grants

By **JOSH CLENDENEN**, TVA Public Relations

TVA, in partnership with Bicentennial Volunteers Inc., has announced the award of \$600,000 in grants to educators in public schools to develop science, technology, engineering, and math-education projects all across the Tennessee Valley.

The competitive STEM classroom-grant program, also operated in partnership with Battelle Education, received more than 290 grant requests from across TVA's seven-state service territory.

"This is the second year we offered this program to the entire Valley, and we saw a major increase in grant applications this year," says TVA Community Engagement Senior Program Manager Rachel Crickmar. "There is a demand in the Valley for workforce development through STEM education, and I am proud of the way TVA and our retirees are responding to that demand."



Wes Hall, Interim Senior Vice President for Education & Philanthropy at Battelle, says, "Thanks to this continued support, students in six states will experience hands-on learning in new and exciting ways."

"TVA and BVI are growing awareness of STEM education and its importance throughout the Valley."

Among the 142 grant awards is "Aquaponics Workforce" at Mount Juliet (Tenn.) High School. Students benefit from work-based learning with the aquaponics tanks.

"Having funding for this versatile project is a great boost to our agriculture program," says teacher Lindsay Nicholas. "Students will be setting rations and balances, weighing fish, monitoring nutrition, learning food-processing and testing water and pH. Ag classes also will be keeping up with care and maintenance of the fish and water and will be learning to cycle fish manure to use as fertilizer for plants in the greenhouse."

"It truly is a project every Ag class can take part in to learn how to manage a whole system."

Another project that received funding is in rural Byrdstown, Tenn., where first-year math teacher Maria Holt is excited to answer the question she is often asked by students: "When will I ever use this math?"

"Telling students the benefits of math and showing them are two different things," she says. "I'm excited to be able to purchase equipment to use for projects where students can see how math is used in some of the careers they might be interested in pursuing."

"Thanks to TVA and BVI, I now have the tools to increase students' drive and motivation in mathematics."

The vision of the New Albany (Miss.) School District is "Preparing ALL for Success."

That is what New Albany Middle School is doing with its grant. The school is implementing an "IMAGINE STEM Lab" that all students will rotate through on a weekly basis as part of their technology-seminar classes.

This project will allow all students of all academic abilities to have access to hands-on STEM learning.

Across the Valley, educators submitted projects large and small to further STEM-education initiatives in the classroom.

"The projects were all across the STEM spectrum," TVA's Crickmar says. "We had requests for traditional things like science-lab and robotics equipment, but we also had projects where students are challenged with designing energy-efficient housing and building prototypes of inventions created to assist senior citizens in their communities."

"We had a great cross-section of applications that were very representative of life in the Valley."

The competitive grant program provides teachers an opportunity to apply for funding up to \$5,000, and preference was given to grant applications that explored TVA's primary areas of focus: environment, energy, economic and career development, and community problem-solving.

Schools that receive grant funding must receive their power from a TVA distributor.

A full list of the grant recipients can be found online at [tvastem.com](http://tvastem.com).

# Working Smoke Alarms Smart Way To Save Lives

By SHERRI MCKINNEY

The American Red Cross responds to nearly 64,000 disasters a year, and most are home fires.

People can reduce their family's risk of being harmed in a home fire by installing smoke alarms on every level of their home, inside bedrooms, and outside sleeping areas. They should test them every month and replace the batteries at least once a year.

**SIMPLE STEPS TO SAVE LIVES** — Fire experts agree that people may have as little as two minutes to escape a burning home before it's too late to get out. The Red Cross is calling on everyone to take two simple steps that can save lives: Create and practice a home-fire escape plan and check smoke alarms. Other safety steps include the following:

- If you don't have smoke alarms, install them. At a minimum, put one on every level of the home, inside bedrooms and outside sleeping areas. Local building codes vary, and there may be additional requirements where someone lives.
- If you do have alarms, test them today. If they don't work, replace them.
- Make sure everyone in the family knows how to get out of every room and how to get out of the home in less than two minutes.
- Practice that plan.

**RED CROSS APPS** — People can download the all-inclusive Red Cross Emergency app, which combines more than 35 emergency alerts to help keep the user safe. And there is a special mobile app — Monster Guard — designed for kids, teaching them to prepare for emergencies at home

by playing an engaging game. Users can find the apps in smartphone app stores by searching for the American Red Cross or going to [redcross.org/apps](http://redcross.org/apps).



**HOME FIRE CAMPAIGN** — Seven times a day, someone in this country dies in a fire. The Red Cross has been working to reduce that number through its Home Fire Campaign, a multiyear effort to reduce the number of home-fire deaths and injuries by 25 percent. Since this effort was launched in October of 2014, the Red Cross and thousands of campaign partners have helped save numerous lives, as well as installing one million smoke alarms in homes all across the country.

**WHAT PEOPLE CAN DO** — People can visit [redcross.org/homefires](http://redcross.org/homefires) to find out more about how to protect themselves and their loved ones from fire. They can become Red Cross volunteers and find their local chapter by visiting [redcross.org](http://redcross.org). They also can help by donating to Red Cross Disaster Relief by visiting [redcross.org](http://redcross.org), calling 1-800-RED CROSS toll-free or texting the word REDCROSS to 90999 to make a \$10 donation. Donations to Disaster Relief will be used to prepare for, respond to and help people recover from disasters big and small.

*(Sherri McKinney is Regional Director of Communications & Marketing for the American Red Cross Tennessee Region.)*

## TVARS...continued from page 1

well-qualified applicants for its vacant seventh-Director position.

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

## 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) or call BNYM toll-free at 1-844-545-1256.

## Has Your Contact Information Changed?

Did you recently change your email address or phone number? If so, go to [mytvara.org/your-current-membership-information/](http://mytvara.org/your-current-membership-information/) and correct the appropriate data. If you have changed your home address recently, notify the TVA Retirement System in writing. Also, you can change your home address through the Bank of New York Mellon website: [bnym.accessmyretirement.com](http://bnym.accessmyretirement.com).



# In Memoriam

Nov. 1, 2019 — Jan. 31, 2020

TVA Retirement Management received notifications of the deaths of the following retirees for the period Nov. 1, 2019, through Jan. 31, 2020, 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, Richard H., Sr.,**  
11/11/2019 (1/1/1993)

**Ailey, Richard E.,**  
12/10/2019 (10/17/1994)

**Anderson, Roy D.,**  
12/23/2019 (1/16/1988)

**Ashley, Glenn R.,**  
11/7/2019 (6/16/1990)

**Atkins, Don C.,**  
11/7/2019 (12/4/2002)

**Badacour, W. Dan,**  
12/8/2019, (3/17/1990)

**Baker, Lloyd Shirrell,**  
11/28/2019 (10/1/1988)

**Bhatnagar, Ashok S.,**  
12/22/2019 (10/2/2011)

**Bohlman, Ronald G.,**  
10/20/2019 (1/27/2001)

**Bostain, Catherine,**  
12/7/2019 (6/16/1979)

**Boyd, Thomas R.,**  
1/10/2020 (5/22/2004)

**Bradford, William L.,**  
12/23/2019 (10/11/2010)

**Brannick, Kenneth V.,**  
11/28/2019 (11/20/1996)

**Bryant, Carrol D.,**  
12/24/2019 (6/10/2006)

**Burke, E. Joe,**  
11/10/2019 (10/1/1988)

**Case, Kenneth L.,**  
1/4/2020 (5/1/2017)

**Casteel, Sherman O.,**  
1/16/2020 (3/9/1985)

**Chen, Tung C.,**  
12/8/2019 (9/30/1989)

**Connatser, Russell E.,**  
1/3/2020 (12/30/1989)

**Cooper, Jesse C., Jr.,**  
1/4/2020 (2/19/1983)

**Daniel, James E.,**  
1/16/2020 (10/17/1994)

**Dewease, Jerrold G., Sr.,**  
10/27/2019 (7/6/1981)

**Edgin, William D.,**  
12/22/2019 (11/16/1991)

**Fletcher, Donald W.,**  
1/7/2020 (1/7/2008)

**Floyd, James E.,**  
12/9/2019 (10/17/1994)

**Garrison, Doyle J.,**  
12/26/2019 (7/17/1999)

**Gasque, David A.,**  
11/12/2019 (1/21/2017)

**Genosi, Alan A.,**  
12/4/2019 (1/8/2005)

**George, Thaddeus R.,**  
1/24/2020 (9/27/1997)

**Glisson, Thomas W.,**  
11/22/2019 (1/8/2005)

**Goad, William E.,**  
12/24/2019 (8/3/2013)

**Gray, Hamlin B., Jr.,**  
12/15/2019 (3/9/2013)

**Hall, John C.,**  
12/16/2019 (8/2/1988)

**Hall, John D.,**  
12/11/2019 (10/26/2004)

**Henderson, Allen L.,**  
1/27/2020 (10/1/2012)

**Hereford, Kenneth M.,**  
12/20/2019 (10/1/2014)

**Herndon, Russell H.,**  
1/14/2020 (7/28/1984)

**Howard, Donna S.,**  
1/8/2020 (9/27/1997)

**Huskey, Jerry L.,**  
11/13/2019 (8/1/1988)

**Johnson, Marvin G.,**  
11/28/2019 (7/19/1986)

**Johnson, James H., Jr.,**  
12/26/2019 (5/29/2004)

**Johnson, William T.,**  
12/5/2019 (6/26/1993)

**Johnston, Martha Sue,**  
11/11/2019 (5/8/1999)

**Jones, Douglas H.,**  
11/21/2019 (1/4/1994)

**Kent, Charles D.,**  
11/22/2019 (12/17/1994)

**Kerr, Shirley Waller,**  
11/4/2019 (6/2/1991)

**Kilpatrick, Jody B.,**  
12/22/2019 (10/1/1988)

**Kinard, Bobby A.,**  
12/10/2019 (3/2/1991)

**Lewis, Joyce A.,**  
11/21/2019 (10/17/1994)

**Longmire, John C.,**  
11/13/2019 (8/2/1988)

**Loving, Ronald A.,**  
11/1/2019 (1/8/2005)

**Madry, William L.,**  
1/18/2020 (1/14/1985)

**Martin, Nancy S.,**  
12/29/2019 (10/2/2004)

**McGuinness, Michael S.,**  
1/20/2020 (12/2/1997)

**Melton, Wilma K.,**  
1/23/2020 (5/6/2000)

**Millard, L. Roy,**  
12/4/2019 (9/17/1983)

**Miller, Maurice B.,**  
10/29/2019 (1/12/1992)

**Miller, Lula C.,**  
11/13/2019 (9/21/2004)

**Miller, Gary C.,**  
1/8/2020 (1/8/2011)

**Morris, C. John,**  
1/26/2020 (10/1/1988)

**Murray, Eleanor J.,**  
11/25/2019 (1/4/1997)

**Myers, Charles A.,**  
11/4/2019 (8/29/1981)

**Myers, David F.,**  
11/16/2019 (10/30/1993)

**Oakley, William G.,**  
11/1/2019 (10/17/1994)

**Parton, Nicolee C.,**  
11/19/2019 (9/8/2012)

**Patton, S. Margaret,**  
11/5/2019 (9/19/2005)

**Quarles, Ramsey C.,**  
1/6/2020 (1/2/2010)

**Sajwaj, Thomas E.,**  
10/31/2019 (10/1/2004)

**Sanders, Eugene Alldredge,**  
1/10/2020 (10/9/2009)

**Shook, Charles O.,**  
12/23/2019 (8/11/2012)

**Simpson, A. Gary,**  
8/25/2019 (6/8/1983)

**Sliger, Oma L.,**  
12/8/2019 (10/29/1985)

**Smith, Thomas A.,**  
12/13/2019 (10/29/1994)

**Smith, Marvin N.,**  
11/7/2019 (9/3/1988)

**Smithson, James W.,**  
11/7/2019 (10/16/2001)

**Spiceland, Roscoe M., Jr.,**  
11/8/2019 (1/11/2003)

**Stahl, Howard E.,**  
1/3/2020 (1/1/1993)

**Stevens, Kenneth T.,**  
1/2/2020 (8/2/2003)

**Tarver, Paul M.,**  
12/28/2019 (1/9/1993)

**Taylor, Floyd T.,**  
1/3/2020 (5/28/1988)

**Tubbs, Carl R.,**  
1/15/2020 (6/2/2003)

**Turnbow, Craig N.,**  
11/25/2019 (6/17/1989)

**Vastano, Michael A.,**  
1/23/2020 (4/14/2007)

**Watson, Mae Kathryn,**  
11/15/2019 (4/13/1984)

**Welch, Howard D.,**  
1/20/2020 (8/16/1992)

**Westfall, Charles D.,**  
11/19/2019 (10/17/1994)

**Whitehurst, Garland B.,**  
11/17/2019 (10/1/1988)

**Wiggins, Kenneth H.,**  
10/30/2019 (4/7/1994)

**Williams, Wanda S.,**  
10/26/2019 (10/1/1988)

**Wood, Robert L., Jr.,**  
10/31/2019 (10/2/2001)

**Yager, Robert B.,**  
11/6/2019 (10/18/2004)

# Upcoming March 2020 Chapter Meetings

## BROWNS FERRY

**March 10, 2020, Noon**

*Catfish Cabin, Athens, Ala.*

- Program: Discuss minutes from Feb. 6 TVARA Board meeting conference call
  - Discuss future of Browns Ferry Chapter
- Terry Chinn, President  
256-230-3660/[terryandjanachinn@yahoo.com](mailto:terryandjanachinn@yahoo.com)

## CHATTANOOGA

**March 10, 2020, 10 a.m.**

*Brainerd United Methodist Church, Fellowship Hall, 4515 Brainerd Road*

- 10 a.m. Coffee & doughnuts
- 10:30 a.m. Program: TVARS update by Mark Meigs, Executive Secretary, TVARS Board

Tom Swanson, President

423-344-6892/[twswanson@comcast.net](mailto:twswanson@comcast.net)

## CLEVELAND

**March 13, 2020 10 a.m.**

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

- Program: TBD

John Austin, President

423-472-2720/[austintnutfan@charter.net](mailto:austintnutfan@charter.net)

## GALLATIN

**March 11, 2020, Noon**

*Gallatin Public Library, East Main Street*

- Program: Discuss minutes from Feb. 6 TVARA Board meeting conference call
- Guest Speaker: Justin Vineyard, Senior Retirement Consultant & TVARA Liaison, TVA Retirement

Ronnie "Blue" Monday, President

615-325-9473/[ronniemonday@att.net](mailto:ronniemonday@att.net)

## HUNTSVILLE

**March 12, 2020, 10 a.m.-Noon**

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

- Guest Speaker: TBA

Daniel A. Simmons, President

256-830-0528/[dasimmon@bellsouth.net](mailto:dasimmon@bellsouth.net)

## JACKSON

**March 11, 9:30 a.m.**

*Southwest Electric Membership Corp. 1590 Highway 70E*

- Guest Speaker: Andrea Neely, Associate Director for AARP in Tennessee
- Alan Campbell, President

731-988-8814/[abcjax@eplus.net](mailto:abcjax@eplus.net)

## JOHNSONVILLE

**March 12, 2020, 10:30 a.m.**

*Country Western Steakhouse, Camden, Tenn.*

- Program: Discuss Feb. 6 TVARA Board meeting conference call, including updates on pension fund and on medical insurance Medicare Via Benefits; discuss ways to promote chapter to build membership; discuss volunteering efforts

Mickey Blackburn, President

931-209-1352/[mickeyblackburn36@gmail.com](mailto:mickeyblackburn36@gmail.com)

## KINGSTON

**March 30, 2020, 10:45 a.m.**

*Sycamore Trace Assisted Living 1098 Bradford Way*

- Meal provided
- Program: Discuss minutes from Feb. 6 TVARA Board meeting conference call

Marcus C. Melton Jr., President  
865-388-3919/[mcmelton@nxs.net](mailto:mcmelton@nxs.net)

## KNOXVILLE

**March 12, 2020, 10 a.m.**

*Fellowship Church, 8000 Middlebrook Pike*

- Program: American Red Cross "Hands Only" CPR techniques, with demonstrations
- Jo Anne Lavender, President

865 300-8272/[jillavender@tds.net](mailto:jillavender@tds.net)

## MEMPHIS

**March 16, 2020, 11:30 a.m.**

*Allen Fossil Plant Generation Construction Office Complex, 2574 Plant Road*

*Please park in the gravel Contractors Parking Lot and enter on the west side of the complex*

- Discuss Minutes from the Feb. 6 TVARA Board meeting conference call
- Discuss Robotics Competition coming up at Collierville High School
- Lunch to be provided — Must RSVP to David Teuton 212-3822, Dennis Anderson 356-1104, or James Thomas 483-5665 by **March 6**

David L. Teuton, President

901-212-3822/[davidteuton@yahoo.com](mailto:davidteuton@yahoo.com)

## MISSISSIPPI

**March 10, 2020, 10 a.m.**

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

- Guest Speaker: TBD

Tim Meeks, President

256-366-2530/[meekestim100@yahoo.com](mailto:meekestim100@yahoo.com)

## MUSCLE SHOALS

**March 11, 2020, 10 a.m.**

*Listerhill Credit Union Auditorium, 4790 East Second St. (across the street from Constellium — the old Reynolds Plant)*

- Guest Speaker: Representative of the "Sleep in Heavenly Peace" organization, which builds and delivers beds to children who do not have beds

Timothy "Tim" Cornelius, President

256-757-5220/[timwcornelius1@gmail.com](mailto:timwcornelius1@gmail.com)

## NASHVILLE

**March 11, 2020, 10 a.m.**

*Piccadilly Restaurant, 874 Murfreesboro Pike*

- Guest Speaker: Justin Vineyard, Senior Retirement Consultant & TVARA Liaison, TVA Retirement

Jeffie Gammons, President

931-729-9974/[y2kunderthehill@gmail.com](mailto:y2kunderthehill@gmail.com)

## NORTHEAST ALABAMA

**March 10, 2020, 11 am**

*Mud Creek Restaurant, Hollywood, Ala.*

- Program: Discuss issues
- Luncheon

Larry A. Hancock, President

256-437-8220/[lah35772@gmail.com](mailto:lah35772@gmail.com)

## PADUCAH AREA

**March 17, 2020, 10 a.m.**

*Pizza Inn, Joe Clifton Drive*

- Guest Speaker: Representative from TVA Retirement System

Ken Dickerson, President

270-442-9539/[kenneth.dickerson@comcast.net](mailto:kenneth.dickerson@comcast.net)

## PARADISE

**March 10, 2020, 10:30 a.m.**

*Powderly Catfish Dock, Powderly, Ky.*

- Program: Discuss minutes from Feb. 6 TVARA Board meeting conference call
- Door Prize
- Recognize new retirees, set up picnic committee, send cards to sick and sympathy cards to families of deceased

Patricia Cobb, President

270-338-6667/[pecobb1942@att.net](mailto:pecobb1942@att.net)

## UPPER EAST TENNESSEE

**March 11, 2020, 11 a.m.**

*Golden Corral,*

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

- Program: TVA Retirement System and Retirees Association updates

Les Bays, Chapter President,

423-782-8458/[lpbays1@yahoo.com](mailto:lpbays1@yahoo.com)

## WATTS BAR

**March 9, 2020, 10:30 a.m.**

*Spring City United Methodist Church Life Center*

- Guest Speaker: United Way of Rhea County representative
- Lunch will be served after the meeting, \$7 per person
- RSVP by Friday, **March 6**, to 423-365-9048 or send email to [eddiekathleen@bellsouth.net](mailto:eddiekathleen@bellsouth.net)

Kathleen Garrison, President

423-365-9048/[eddiekathleen@bellsouth.net](mailto:eddiekathleen@bellsouth.net)

## WESTERN AREA

**March 18, 2020, 10:30 a.m.**

*Lake Barkley State Resort Park*

- Program: The Status of Asian Carp in the Valley
  - Presenter: Dennis Baxter, Manager, River & Reservoir Compliance Monitoring Program
- Free lunch giveaway

K. Renee Turnbow, President

270-205-5277/[kturnbow@gmail.com](mailto:kturnbow@gmail.com)

Please visit the TVARA website at [mytvvara.org](http://mytvvara.org) and hover your mouse over the tab "Local Chapters" to find your chapter. Click on your chapter to view meeting details and announcements.



The Tennessee Valley Authority  
 Retirees Association  
 400 West Summit Hill Drive WT 8C-K  
 Knoxville, TN 37902

STANDARD  
 US POSTAGE  
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 KNOXVILLE, TN  
 PERMIT NO. 1

### 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 for the TVARA Staff:

Reba Whitson — [rjwhitson@mytvara.org](mailto:rjwhitson@mytvara.org)  
 Jean Bryson — [sjbryson@mytvara.org](mailto:sjbryson@mytvara.org)  
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## Select Survey Results Revealed from Retiree Appreciation Picnic

Following the TVA-sponsored Valleywide picnic held in Chattanooga last October, TVARA officials surveyed 380 attendees and received 170 responses.

Following are the percentage results of a few of the questions you might find interesting:

	Good to Excellent	Not Good/OK
Overall rating	86.3	12.2
Overall quality of food/buffet	66.4	32.2
Rank this picnic to others		
Best one ever	10.5	
Better than others	37.6	
About the same	28.2	
Not as good	18.2	
Will you attend next year?		
Yes	93.2	
No	2.9	

(Note: Not all respondents answered every question, so numbers do not add up to 100 percent.)

**Friday,**  
**Sept. 18, 2020**  
**10:30 a.m. — 1 p.m.**

Chattanooga  
 Convention Center

**TVA Retiree  
 Appreciation  
 Luncheon**

**SAVE  
 THE DATE!**