




Muscle Shoals Chapter
Summer 2022 Issue

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Message from our President

September Chapter Meeting Moved to September 21

Summer is almost over. Hopefully everyone had a good one.

It was good to see everyone who was able to attend our Annual Picnic and Health Fair- we had about 300 in attendance.

Our next opportunity to get together will be on Wednesday, September 21st at 10:00 A.M. This is the date of our Fall Chapter Meeting. We will meet at the TVA Community Credit Union location on Wilson Dam Road. For those who are able, please use the Tri-Cities Church of Christ’s parking lot in order to leave parking spaces available at the credit union for their members and for those who have difficulty walking.

Our guest speaker will be Doug Hartley, Battalion Chief, Florence Fire Department and we will be welcoming our Scholarship and essay winners.

Lunch will be served after the meeting. If you know a retiree who does not attend our meetings, please extend them an invitation.

We **will** have door prizes!

See you September 21st.

Tim.



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Upcoming Events

Wednesday, September 21, 2022, 10:00 a.m.

Program to be announced.

Free Lunch and Door Prizes

Wilson Dam Road TVA Community Credit Union

Wednesday, December 7, 2022, 10:00 a.m.

Program to be announced.

Free Lunch and Door Prizes

Wilson Dam Road TVA Community Credit Union

Wednesday, March 8, 2023, 10:00 a.m.

Program to be announced

Free Lunch and Door Prizes

Wilson Dam Road TVA Community Credit Union

Thursday, June 16, 9:30 a.m.

Annual Picnic and Health Fair

Program: Health, Fitness, & More

Great Door Prizes (thousands of dollars)

Florence/Lauderdale Coliseum

Our Advertisers

Our advertisers are contributing to our Muscle Shoals Chapter TVARA Endowment by advertising in our newsletter and at the Annual Picnic. When considering any of the services offered, please think first of our advertisers!

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Helen Keller Hospital

Special Thanks to non-advertising Supporters

TVA Power Service Shops

Meet your Muscle Shoals TVARA Board Members

President, Tim Cornelius

Vice President, Debbie Norton

Treasurer, Joan Marsh

Secretary, Carol Sherer

TVARA Picnic Manager, Henry Long

Hospitality, MJ Ligon

Scholarship Program, John Ingwersen

Newsletter: John Ingwersen, Janice Berry

Board Members: John Blackwell, Cameron Kay, Jim Green, Bill Baggett

Problems with benefits, pharmacy? Contact TVA Service Center 888-275-8094.

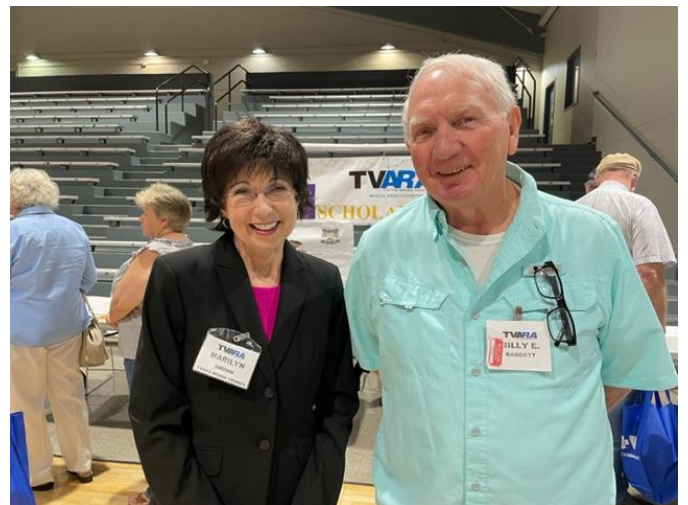
Comments/Recommendations/Articles for Newsletter? Send to jtingwersen@gmail.com.

PICNIC/HEALTH FAIR IS BACK!



Our annual picnic and health fair is back after a two year absence due to the pandemic and we had the largest gathering in several years. We were honored by a visit from our new TVARA Board 7th Director, Marilyn Brown, who took office November 1, 2021 and will serve until October 31, 2024 (below, Director Brown on left with Muscle Shoals Board Member, Billy Baggett)

The largest grand prize ever of \$1,000 was won by Willie Baugh. There were many more door prizes as well as the usual great BBQ meal. There were numerous vendors present with additional gifts and door prizes. The vendors, all sponsors of our Muscle Shoals TVARA/UNA Endowed Scholarship, are listed on page 2 of this newsletter. Our sponsors were responsible for providing \$8,900 to our endowment for this year. Please support them as they support us.



Valley-Wide Picnic

By Billy Barrett

The TVARA annual Chattanooga picnic will be September 15th, 2022. Muscle Shoals chapter will have two buses available for a cost-free trip there and back. Loading at 6:00 am with departure at 6:20 am will be in the PET SMART parking lot next to Academy Sports, Florence AL. We will make one additional pickup stop, Foodland parking lot, Rogersville AL. Call for reservation.



Billy Baggett – 256-394-1435

Cameron Kay – 256-810-6569

Meet our 2022-2023 Scholarship Winners

For the first time we have a repeat winner of one of our scholarships, Deyanara Holt; a new scholarship winner, Abigail Smith; and an essay winner other than one of our scholarship winners, Lilly Chandler. Photo at right is from our scholar luncheon with (left to right) Joan Marsh, Debbie Norton, Deyanara Holt, Abigail Smith, and John Ingwersen.



Get to know our three winners below.

Abigail Smith

Muscle Shoals TVARA/UNA Endowed Scholarship Winner

Hello! My name is Abby Smith, and I am a sophomore this year at UNA and the granddaughter of TVA retiree Leon Smith. I plan to graduate in December 2024 with a degree in Elementary Education. I am an ambassador for the College of Education and Human Sciences, which gives me an opportunity to volunteer on campus and in our community. I have always been passionate about working with children, so I am super excited about my future and making an impact in these kids' lives. I am also a member of Alpha Gamma Delta, which has given me a lifetime of friendships and opportunities. In addition to campus involvement, I also work a part time job at Reclaimed Spirit in downtown Florence. I am thrilled to receive this TVA scholarship and am so grateful for this opportunity.



Deyanara Holt

Muscle Shoals TVARA/UNA Endowed Scholarship Winner (First repeat winner)

My name is Deyanara Holt. I am the granddaughter of TVA retirees, Jim Bolen and the late Joe Holt. I am a lifetime member and Gold Award winner of the Girl Scouts. I am studying at the University of North Alabama to earn my Bachelor of Fine Arts in Cinematic Arts and Theatre with a concentration in Acting for Stage and Screen. I'm also studying with a minor in Crime Scene Investigation. I have always had a sense of dependency and a deep connection to family. And I'm always looking for ways to deepen that connection, even if it's by only a little.

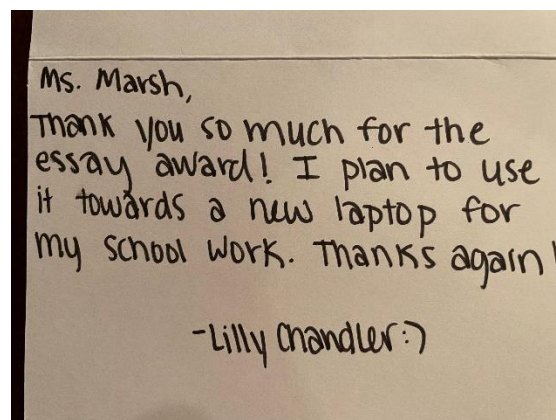
I would like to thank you so much for this opportunity yet again. It is a great honor to have received this scholarship for a second time.



Lilly Chandler

Muscle Shoals TVARA/UNA Endowed Scholarship Essay Winner

The winner of this year's essay competition is Lilly Chandler. For her winning essay, Lily has received a check for \$200 from the Muscle Shoals Chapter TVARA. Her essay is included in this newsletter.



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Endowed Scholarship - Your Support Needed!

We have several businesses and charities who have been supporting our endowed scholarship by providing financial support through the purchase of ads for our newsletter and booths at our Annual Health Fair/Picnic. We thank them for their generous support, and hope that each of our members will look at their advertisements in this, and future newsletters, and support them as they support us.

As of July 31, 2022, our scholarship endowment totaled \$87,133. We are nearing the incredible amount of \$100,000 – please help us achieve that goal in 2022.

The endowment for 2021-2022 is supporting two scholarships. These awards exceed \$1,100 each. The scholarships for the 2022-2023 academic year will total almost \$3,000. Rather than split this into three scholarships of slightly less than \$1,000 each; the Board has voted to give two scholarships of about \$1,500 each. The scholarship award gives preference to relatives of active (paid) Muscle Shoals TVARA members. In addition; your TVARA Board has approved an award of \$200 for the winning essay.

Please make our endowed scholarship a priority for your charitable giving. Donations are tax-deductible. If you would like to donate, go to: <https://www.una.edu/give/tva-scholarship.html>. You may also donate by check. Make your check payable to Muscle Shoals Chapter, TVARA/UNA Endowed Scholarship and mail it to:

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

Valley-Wide Board Meeting Thursday, August 25, 2022

- John Bradley – Senior Vice President, TVA Economic Development

Between FY18 and May of FY22 a total of 1,077 new projects have come to the Tennessee Valley – 60% are in rural areas. This has resulted in a capital investment of over \$43B and has created over 350K jobs. Economic Development, in conjunction with the states and various local communities, has developed over 300 community training programs to assist the new companies.

Ford Motor Company purchased 3,600 acres to build their manufacturing plant in Blue Oval City. This project has the potential to create 5,800 jobs and is a \$5.6B capital investment project. Once other companies, supporting the Ford plant, are established in the Tennessee region – the projected jobs will increase to ~12,000.

There are over 40 additional projects totaling \$40M TVA is currently working on security for the Valley.

- Kathy Black – Interim President, BVI/RRC/NEA

A brief history of Bicentennial Volunteer Incorporated (BVI) beginning in 1975 when a group of TVA retirees volunteered to support the bicentennial efforts. From this group of retirees, volunteer opportunities to man TVA visitor centers and other Agency activities, were created. Then in 1990, a decision was made to use TVA retirees as staff augmented personnel to fill vacant positions, short-term needs, etc., for the Agency. This group of retirees were formed under the Retire Resources Corporation (RRC). About the



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same time, TVA decided to use retirees to fulfill their requirement for mission assignments with FEMA as part of the Stafford Act – creating the National Emergency Assistance (NEA) group.

BVI is a non-profit corporation and uses profits made from the RRC/NEA side to provide grants to the TVARA chapters for use in community outreach programs.

There have been discussions between BVI and TVA to increase their involvement in community relations and work more closely within the Valley to provide support for worthwhile causes.

- Susan Lauver, Manager, TVA Brand Marketing, Communications

FY22 has been challenging year for TVA with December tornadoes in West Tennessee, ice storm in Memphis, flooding throughout various other areas within the Valley. The extreme weather in June/July resulted in 6 top peak days of over 30K megawatts in both months.

Boone Dam completed a \$326M upgrade. Rates have remained stable since 2013 with the base rate competitive. Over 40% of TVA's supply is provided by nuclear.

Six vacancies are open on the TVA board – three have had their confirmation hearings and hope to be voted on by end of 2022.

95% of TVA's power distributors have since a 20-year contract to remain with TVA as their supplier.

Study was done regarding EV charging stations – 200K throughout the Valley would only increase electrical demand one-half of 1%.

Community partnerships have assisted 3,700 homeowners in the Valley with energy conservation.

- Mark Meigs, Executive Secretary for TVA Retirement System

There are 24,000 TVA retirees. The amount paid out to retirees in the past year was \$730M while the most recent fund balance was \$8.4B and the system is currently 84% funded. System is on-track to be fully funded by 2036 at which time TVA will no longer contribute an annual \$300M to the fund. The system increased by \$730M this year (includes TVA's \$300M contribution).

\$2B has been placed in low-risk assets – interest was down to 12% first of 2022. TVARS' 401K was recognized by national magazine as one of the best in the U.S.

COLA projected to be around 7.7%, but there is a cap of 6%.

497 employees remain in original benefit plan – 434 are in original cash balance. Remaining employees are in 401K.

Mark said, "DON'T WORRY ABOUT YOUR PENSION!!!"

- Joe Galardi, Director, TVA Benefits and Well-Being

Non-Medicare retirees will have an open enrollment period for 2023 from October 15-November 9. The two plans remain the same: 80% PPO and the CDHP. Retirees should be getting information mailed to them in early October.

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HSA plans with zero balance will be closed. To be eligible for the 2023 TVA contribution you must have an active account on January 1, 2023. The maximum contribution for HSA in 2023 will be \$3,750 for single and \$7,400 for family. Retirees 55 or old can add an addition \$1,000 to their account as a 'catch-up' until the age of 65.

Open enrollment for dental insurance will be November 1-December 1 for retirees. The coverage will be effective on January 1, 2023, but waiting periods may apply for certain procedures. The enrollment packages will be available online (tva.com/retireeportal), by emailing Delta Dental (TVAEnrollmentdeltadentaltn.com) or call 8-833-932-0878 (toll free).

Saddle up for Kids

By John Blackwell

No cause touches the heart more than a child who has been diagnosed with a potentially deadly disease. Families are shaken to the core to find a cure. St. Jude Hospital answers this call. All medically eligible patients who are accepted for treatment at St. Jude are treated without regard to the family's ability to pay. In addition to providing medical services to eligible patients, St. Jude also assists families with transportation, lodging, and meals. Saddle Up for St. Jude Trail Ride and Festival isn't just the largest trail ride in the area, it's the biggest Saddle Up event in the nation. TVA and the TVA Retirees Association helped support the Saddle Up for Kids event on July 14-16, 2022. There were four tasks in which the TVA family participated. The first was to increase the fund-raising potential of the event. Specifically, this was to improve the parking area and provide additional electrical outlets for recreational vehicles. The second was clearing trails for horseback riders. The third was assist with the electrical wiring of a new concession stand. The fourth task was mowing parking areas just before the event.

In planning for the improvements in the parking area, approximately 30 loads of rock and crushed rock were needed. The Rogers Rock Group donated 10 loads of rock. In addition, Brown Trucking donated the hauling of the rock. These donations resulted in saving about \$6,000.00. TVA electricians installed the electrical outlets at no cost. Kimbrough Automotive and Power Services provided the equipment and labor to dig the trench for the electrical and plumbing lines. The work was completed before the event on July 14-16, 2022. The cost of the electrical supplies was \$7,549.17. The cost of the additional gravel was \$10,429.89. The total amount of expenses for the project was \$18,158.88. This project would have cost more than \$25,000.00 without donations of material and labor. BVI, through a request from the Muscle Shoals Chapter of the TVA Retirees Association, provided \$15,000.00 in funding. Donations provided the remaining funds.

TVA retirees assisted in clearing several miles of horseback riding trails, installed electrical wiring of the new concession stand, and in mowing grass in the parking areas just before the event.

Dr. Jimmy Gardiner, chairman of Saddle Up for Kids, was very pleased about the work of TVA and TVA retirees. The improved parking area was very well received. As of this report, the donations to date were more than \$300,000.00.

BEST Robotics Needs YOU!

NW-SCC had a great Kickoff on Saturday, August 27th! Our hub has 12 area high school teams, and they had a blast Saturday! We are looking forward to seeing what our students do with Made 2 Order.

Our **Practice Day is on Saturday, October 8th from 10:30 am - 2:00 pm** at the Florence Mall in Florence, AL. We invite everyone to come out to support our teams!

Game Day will be on Saturday, October 22nd with several judging activities the week prior. We could really use some Judges and Volunteers that week! Please register as a volunteer at <https://registry.bestrobotics.org> . **We need judges for the Engineering notebooks (this can be done completely online). We need Marketing Presentation judges on Tuesday, October 17th and Thursday, October 19th. (These presentations will be done at NW-SCC in-person during the afternoons on those dates) Volunteers on Saturday, October 22nd can help in a variety of ways such as judging, resetting fields between matches, taking pictures running video cameras, etc.**

We appreciate your help and look forward to seeing some of you at our events this year!

We hope to see some of you at the luncheon in Chattanooga on September 15th also!

BEST Wishes,

Kim

The Oberammergau Passion Play- A Once-A-Decade Event

By Joan Marsh

The history of the Oberammergau Passion Play started in 1633. In the middle of the Thirty Years' War, after years of suffering and dying of the plague, the people of Oberammergau vowed to enact the “Play of the suffering, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jeshu Christ” every ten years.

At Pentecost 1634, they fulfilled their promise for the first time. Even in the middle of the 18th century, spectators travelled from all parts of Germany to Oberammergau, attracted by the great power and charisma of the Play. Nowadays, the play is considered one of the most important religious and cultural events in Germany.

Following the 10-year rhythm, the 42nd Passion Play would have taken place in 2020. Due to the coronavirus-pandemic, it had to be postponed for two years. 103 performances were planned for the play in 2022. The village expects around 450,000 visitors from all over the world.

In 2022, the municipality of Oberammergau performed the play, which the people from Oberammergau have carried through the centuries in a unique continuity for the 42nd time. More than 2,400 local amateur actors, singers and musicians, and thus almost half of the villagers gave a voice and face to the story of Jesus of Nazareth in a five-hour performance on the impressive open-air stage of Passion Play Theater.

My daughter and I had reservations to attend the play in 2020. Since it was cancelled, we kept our reservations for the play and cancelled our air flights. This year we were able to attend, and to say it was worth the wait would be an understatement!

When we arrived in Oberammergau, we walked around the village and attended a tour of the theater and briefing about the play given by one of the actors – “Nicodemus.” He began performing in the play when he was 16 years old. We were allowed to view the building and take pictures. However, no pictures were allowed to be taken during the performance. The play is 5 hours long and is divided into two sessions - an afternoon and a night. It was totally amazing! The



village has about 5,000 people, and most of the residents take part in the play. Only people from the village or ones that have lived there for at least 20 years are allowed to participate. The choir was phenomenal. They staged live portraits between each scene of Old Testament stories that fit within the theme of the scene of Jesus's life while the choir sang. None of the actors moved at all - even the children. I was surprised at how some scenes affected me. I was so moved when Jesus came into Jerusalem. They had Him giving bread to all the little children. I was also deeply moved by the portrayal of the agony of Judas and Peter for betraying/denying Jesus. Live animals were used also including the donkey, horses, and camels. When Jesus threw out the traders in the temple they had lambs, goats, etc. When He turned over baskets, doves flew out. The hanging of Judas and the crucifixion of Jesus were very realistic.

Since the presentation was presented in German, we were provided with a text book of the play in English which was very easy to follow once the characters speaking could be identified.

When the play was over, almost everyone was overwhelmed. It was amazing! The next play will be in 2030.

Following are some pictures taken during our tour of the theater and of the town which was beautiful.







The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) has made a huge impact on my life in many ways. On a personal level, TVA has provided rewarding careers for three generations of my family, which ensured the needs of our family were met and allowed me to become the person that I am today. My father, grandfather, and great-grandfather all worked in different areas of TVA that benefitted the people of this region and nation (fertilizer development, nuclear power, and transmission). I have grown up with TVA as a major influence in my life and am very proud of its mission of service and the fact that my family has helped it accomplish this mission. I have even been fortunate enough to accompany my father to work events on occasion and interact with other TVA employees and stakeholders. It is exciting and inspiring to be around people that share a common goal of service. In my opinion, that heart of service and caring for this region is the main reason that TVA has remained relevant and innovative after almost 89 years of existence. This is quite the accomplishment!

TVA has made a vital impact in many communities in the Tennessee Valley region; however, I feel that the progress of the Shoals area is directly linked to TVA's mission of service. When TVA was created in May 1933, the Tennessee Valley region was suffering from poverty, flooding, and a lack of services that much of the nation already enjoyed. My great-grandmother used to tell our family stories of when President Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) came through town to introduce the concept of TVA. She remembered the excitement created among the residents in the community and even remembered sitting on a hillside in East Florence to watch President Roosevelt being driven through town in a convertible. She also told us how difficult life was for area residents following the Great Depression and how that TVA provided hope for our region.

The construction of hydroelectric dams helped to control devastating flooding in our area and make the river system more useful for transportation. The fact that the hydroelectric dams produced low-cost and reliable electricity allowed residents of the Tennessee Valley region to enjoy the same life-changing benefits and technology already enjoyed by much of the nation. The combination of low-cost electricity and a useful river system also helped to attract much-needed industries to the region, which provided jobs and a better standard of living for families to improve their living conditions. As a matter of fact, industries still want to locate their facilities in the TVA region today due to these factors.

It didn't take long before the benefits of the hydroelectric dams, river system, and affordable electric rates began to pay off and highlight the Tennessee Valley region as an especially attractive place to work and raise a family. These improving dynamics continued to further increase the economic development and population of the region, which meant that TVA would have to grow and adjust to continue to meet the needs of the region. These adjustments led TVA to invest in fossil generation, nuclear generation, energy conservation, and a stronger transmission system. During these years, TVA was seen as a leader in the nation and a model for other utilities to emulate. This continues to ring true today as TVA remains as strong as ever.

As technology advances and the needs and desires of newer generations of people evolve, TVA will be relied on to evolve and advance with them to remain a leader in the future. I am convinced that TVA has already gotten a head start in many of these areas and remains an industry leader. As the need for cleaner air and carbon reduction has increased, so has TVA's leadership in making the tough decisions to close older fossil facilities and replace them with cleaner gas plants. TVA has increased their amount of nuclear generation over the years and is now exploring the benefits of advanced nuclear technology, both of which increase their amount of clean energy.

TVA is also seen as a leader in green power and offers many programs and services that are the envy of other utility companies. I have personally seen TVA's investment in solar generation in the nearby Oakland community and hear that more solar installations are planned over the next decade. TVA is also working to help communities plan for the future of electric vehicles by partnering with them to install charging stations in multiple locations throughout the valley.

As you can see, TVA is a big part of my life and I look forward to seeing the positive things they will continue to accomplish towards their mission of energy, environment, and economic development.

Help! We Need Your Help!

Do you enjoy writing or photography? We're working to make this newsletter the best; and your talents are needed. If you would like to occasionally write an article on your experiences, or on a TVA person who deserves recognition, please let me know; and I will schedule your article for a future newsletter. Do you enjoy photography? We could use a designated photographer to get pictures at our various events. We have been somewhat haphazard at this, and would like to get better. Call John Ingwersen at 256-757-5325; or email him at jlingwersen@gmail.com.



Suggestions?

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