

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

TVA Retirees – Contributing to Our Communities

By **JO ANNE LAVENDER**
TVARA Valleywide President

Welcome to 2023! I hope this so far has been and will continue to be a great year for you and your family.

Here are some matters of high interest to TVA retirees these days:

Adjustments on Cost of Living

Although costs of living have risen nationally, TVA retirees are fortunate to be receiving the maximum 6-percent cost of living adjustment in our retirement checks this year, as well as an increase in our Social Security checks. The amount of increase we receive this year will continue for all future years, plus the annual cost of living adjustment determined by the national consumer price index.



JO ANNE LAVENDER

Updating TVA Response to Winter Storm Elliott

I want to thank each of you who were able to respond to TVA's requests right before Christmas to cut your power usage where you could safely do so. Winter Storm Elliott was an extreme cold-weather event that impacted most of the nation. TVA power requirements exceeded 30,000 megawatts several days in a row. A few TVA power plants were not available during this time, and TVA was limited in getting purchased power because all other power systems were also in need of maximum generation.

TVA has formed a task force to examine what happened with TVA's

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Diversification, de-risking help TVARS in tough 2022

By **JUSTIN VINEYARD**, Senior Retirement Consultant, TVA Retirement System

The year 2022 was a tough one for the financial markets, and the TVA Retirement System was not immune.

Fortunately, the pension portfolio was well-positioned with a diversified portfolio and our de-risking efforts in 2021 really helped dampen the impact to the portfolio.

The December year-end value of \$8.5 billion is above the September value of \$8.1 billion. We continue to have complete confidence that the fund will be fully funded, and that current and future benefit payments are secure.

To get a reprint of your 1099-R tax form or to update your personal information, visit bnym.accessmyretirement.com or call the Bank of New York Mellon toll-free at 1-844-545-1256.

Watch for BNY Mellon Mail on Benefits Direct Deposits

By **BILL JENKINS**, Manager, Retirement Applications, TVA Retirement System

This a busy time of the year, and, unfortunately, people who try to steal personal identities for financial gain are busy, as well. We want to remind you of the controls the TVA Retirement System uses to protect your retirement benefits and the role you can play to help safeguard your information against unauthorized changes.

TVARS utilizes the Bank of New York Mellon, the system's Master Trustee, for the payment and distribution of retirement benefits.

Whenever a direct-deposit change is made, BNY Mellon mails a confirmation letter with the BNY Mellon letterhead on the envelope. If you receive a direct-

deposit change notification without making a change, please immediately contact BNY Mellon toll-free at 1-844-545-1256 and TVARS toll-free at 1-800-824-3870 or tvars@tva.gov.

We realize you may receive a lot of junk mail, but the BNY Mellon confirmation

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Retiree or Beneficiary Death Notification

Notify the TVA Retirement System
by email or phone.

Fidelity 401(k) Plan

Phone: 1-800-354-7121

Online: nb.fidelity.com/public/nb/tva/home

BNY Mellon Payments

Phone: 1-844-545-1256

Online: bnym.accessmyretirement.com

Change of Address

Notify BNY Mellon by using the back
of any BNY Mellon statement. The address
change form can also be found online at
tvars.com or bnym.accessmyretirement.com

Medical and Drug Coverage

Call Blue Cross Blue Shield (medical)

toll-free at 1-800-245-7942

Call Express Scripts (drug)

toll-free at 1-800-935-6203

Or call People First Solution Center

toll-free at 1-888-275-8094

Over 65? Call Via Benefits

(formerly OneExchange) toll-free
at 1-866-322-2824

TVARA Membership

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TVARA's Web address is mytvara.org;

its Facebook address is

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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.

TVA NEWS & NOTES

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

Contract Opportunities in Coal Operations

TVA is building the energy system of the future to enable ongoing and future growth around the Tennessee Valley, focusing on cleaner and more efficient energy generation, while maintaining low rates and reliable power.

But because coal will remain an important part of TVA's generation mix for the next several years, critical skills and positions are required to operate coal-fired plants safely and reliably through their closure.

As TVA continues to operate five coal-fired plants, it anticipates needing staff-augmented workers both in operations and maintenance jobs for years to come.

So TVA is actively hiring contract workers with previous experience at coal-fired power plants, including former TVA employees and retirees, specifically in operations.

If you or anyone you know is qualified and interested in contracting with TVA in an operations position, email Mike Rawlings at mjrawlings@tva.gov. Positions to be filled include Auxiliary Operators, Assistant Unit Operators, Unit Operators, and Shift Operations Supervisors.

'Hail Mary' to deliver 'livers of rivers'?

Armed with snorkels and Super Glue, a group of scientists ventured into the remote mountains of North Carolina this past fall.

Their aim? Re-establishing rare mollusks inside the Nantahala National Forest.

Super Glue is what biologists at the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission used as part of a Tuckasegee River homecoming for 4,600 Wavy-Rayed Lampmussels — mollusks that haven't been seen in the stream in more than a century.

The glue is the secret stick-em that secures personalized tags for the 2-year-old animals the commission raised inside the North Carolina state fish hatchery. It allows the group to track the mollusks' health and population over time, helping ensure the cleanliness of rivers and streams.

According to Matt Reed, an Aquatic Ecologist with the Tennessee Valley Authority, a single mussel can filter up to eight gallons of water every day. That's why, he says, biologists like to call them "the livers of the rivers."

"Mussels provide a whole suite of ecosystem services," Reed says. "A healthy mussel bed is akin to a coral reef in the ocean."

That is why the work he and other biologists are doing to raise and then re-introduce mollusks to their original watery homes is important.

The challenge in establishing healthy communities of mollusks is that they have become so rare that biologists often have to start from square one.

"In a perfect world, we'd be able to translocate mussels from one source to another," North Carolina State Biologist Luke Etchison says. "Propagation is like your 'Hail Mary' for conservation. You have to propagate when you don't have enough in the wild to move directly."

According to Etchison, raising mussels in a hatchery starts by introducing a few fertile female mussels to a host fish, such as largemouth bass. As part of the mussel's reproduction cycle, the female opens her shell and displays an artificial lure that looks like a wiggling minnow.

Once the bass strikes the lure, the female mussel discharges thousands of glochidia — or larvae — into the fish's mouth. The glochidia attach to host fish by siphoning blood from the bass gills until each individual is mature enough to strike out on its own.

Nature's process usually takes a few weeks, but once the microscopic mussels drop, the host fish are returned unharmed to the wild, and hatchery biologists move the fresh crop of mollusks to a series of sand-filled livestock pans.

Each rubber bowl is linked to a series of pipes that create a free-flowing aquarium for the mussels to grow until they are large enough to hold a blob of Super Glue and a tag.

The tags are color-coated and numbered so biologists can monitor the lifecycle of each mussel after it is introduced into the wild.

If a biologist finds the mussel in a later survey,

the information on the tag will allow researchers to correctly identify the age of the individual, as well as the parents from which the animal originated. By counting tags, future surveys will indicate the success of that year's hatch.

The team expects a survival rate of 30 percent.

"If a third of the mussels we've stocked go on to have successful reproductive years, they'll be able to blanket the riverbed pretty quick," Etchison said.

Although expensive, the costs and long odds of the successful hatch are risks the commission, TVA, and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians believe are worth taking.

Their work is part of the Little Tennessee Native Fish Conservation Partnership, which is a coalition of state, federal, and nonprofit partners whose mission is to promote and preserve biodiversity throughout Little Tennessee River Basin — the nation's listed Native Fish Conservation Area.

"Partnerships such as these are key to implementing conservation efforts across the Valley," said Rebecca Hayden, Director of TVA's Natural Resources. "TVA has been a member of the Little Tennessee Native



Biologists in the Tuckasegee River looking for mussels

Fish Conservation partnership since it was initiated, providing support for projects that protect and improve aquatic biodiversity. We are proud to be a part of the partnership and help with the propagation and reintroduction of native mussels back in the watershed."

Why do mussels matter? It's simple. Large congregations of mussels attract food for aquatic fauna and provide habitat both for game and nongame species of fish to spawn. Plus, a healthy bed of shells on the river bottom stabilizes the substrate and prevents erosion.

It's a secondary filtration benefit that protects an entire ecosystem from pollution.

"Every stream we have that has a lot of mussels tends to be the best place for fishing, swimming, and general recreation," Etchison says. "It's all tied together. Recovering the mussels is part of a bigger picture of making a stream swimmable, drinkable, and fishable."

And that's a big deal, considering mussels are the water filters to a \$375-billion outdoor recreation industry that supports nearly 2 percent of the U.S. gross domestic product.

"Look at the Duck River in Middle Tennessee," Etchison says. "It's no coincidence that the most biodiverse stream in North America has

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After-Action Review Team Formed in Wake of Winter Storm Elliott

By JAIME MEYER, Director, TVA Employee & Change Communications

TVA took full ownership of the impact it had on its customers during Winter Storm Elliott in December.

"We never want to impact anyone's energy at any time," says Jeff Lyash, TVA President/Chief Executive Officer. "But the extreme conditions created by Elliott brought record-breaking demand and unanticipated challenges, resulting in two occasions that required local power companies and direct-served customers to reduce power consumption.

"These planned, short interruptions were very successful in preserving the integrity and availability of our system. As we always do, we will learn from this event, as we prepare for future needs and challenges."

Committed to learning and to continuous improvement, TVA has been conducting a comprehensive and thorough review of the actions it took both before and during the event.

In doing so, TVA formed a cross-functional team with representatives from Power Operations, Transmission & Power Supply, Enterprise Planning, External Relations, Communications, TVA Police, Emergency Management, Generation Projects & Fleet Services, Nuclear, Financial Operations & Performance, and Commercial Energy Solutions to better understand impacts and develop recommendations.

This team is charged with gathering and sharing lessons learned, determining the causes and contributing factors,

and developing corrective actions to address any gaps.

This review will be transparent and will move with a sense of urgency as we identify gaps, lay out corrective-action plans and make the necessary changes to allow us to respond better to such challenging events in the future.

One of the hallmarks of TVA is reliability, and we will work to fully restore confidence in our ability to reliably provide the energy 10 million people count on every day. We are dedicated to proving that we can continue to meet that expectation in the future.

We will continue to provide updated information as we learn more through this review and develop actions.

3 Cheers for Our Volunteers!

By PENNY WALKER, TVARA Valleywide Volunteer Coordinator

Chapters build ramps, buy benches, help 4-H, supply seed money

The **TVARA Chattanooga Chapter**, in conjunction with United Cerebral Palsy of Tennessee, is providing funding for the construction of handicap ramps within the Chattanooga area. The money purchases lumber and other materials needed to build the ramps, while the Neighborhood Helpers Volunteer Ministry provides the labor free of charge. Several members of that organization are TVA retirees.

In 2022, the group built 48 ramps (totaling 2,200 feet) and assisted with six non-ramp projects. More than 3,500 workhours and about \$76,500 in materials were needed for these jobs.

The chapter received \$20,000 from Bicentennial Volunteers Inc. to assist with the 2022 projects.

Gallatin High School earned the honor of being Tennessee's representative at the annual 4-H competition in Colorado this year. The **TVARA Gallatin Chapter** received a \$5,000 grant from BVI to assist the school with travel expenses for the trip. Chapter retirees have worked with the Gallatin 4-H club for several years on various projects.

The **TVARA Knoxville Chapter** is continuing its work with Legacy Parks Foundation to provide benches at various

parks in the Knoxville area. BVI provided the chapter a \$18,000 grant to assist with the purchase of the benches. The chapter also received a \$2,000 BVI grant to use toward the purchase of shirts, banners, and such., to be used during community events. These items will identify TVARA Knoxville and BVI as participants in the event.

The **TVARA Muscle Shoals Chapter** had several community-outreach projects over the last few months for which BVI provided funding. A total of \$17,000 was given to the chapter for assistance with local food drives, landscaping of the United Cerebral Palsy Center in Tusculumbia, a Christmas Angel Tree project, and providing Christmas gifts for mentally challenged individuals enrolled in the area's adult daycare facility.

The chapter also received a \$35,000 grant for its annual Garden Seed Program, which has been a major project for several years. The program gives low-income residents of a three-county area vouchers that can be used to purchase seeds, fertilizer, topsoil, and more, to grow their own vegetables. More than 750 individuals were provided vouchers in 2022, and it is anticipated even more will be qualifying in 2023.

Volunteers with RVs Needed at Kentucky Dam Visitor Center

Are you a TVA retiree with a recreational vehicle? If so, consider volunteering at the Kentucky Dam Visitor Center during the coming spring-through-fall season.

You'll receive many benefits, including the following:

- **Free campsite** with full hookup at Cypress Lakes RV Park.
- **Mileage reimbursement** of \$1.31 per mile when driving your RV from your home to the campground and back again. During your stay, the reimbursement rate is 65.5 cents per mile.
- **Meal allowance** of \$17 per meal per person, three meals a day.

Volunteers are asked to work a four-hour shift each day, welcoming guests to the Visitor Center. Training is provided.

Volunteers are needed for two-week periods from April through October.

Each period will begin with arrival on a Sunday and volunteer service starting on Monday. It ends two weeks later, with departure on Sunday at 1 pm.

To sign up for a volunteer slot, call Judy Allen of Bicentennial Volunteers Inc. at 1-256-762-3354 or send an email to jcallen@tva.gov.

For additional information, go online to mybvi.org/wp/volunteer-work.



Contributing to our Communities...continued from page 1

power supply and delivery during this time and learn from it. See the article on page 3 of this issue of TVARA News from Jaime Meyer, the Director of TVA Employee Communications & Change, on TVA's next steps. We will keep you informed of TVA's findings. Many of you have asked for more information on power demand and power availability during the storm.

TVARA Community Impact

TVARA members, as individuals and through their chapter projects, continue to contribute in their communities. See Penny Walker's article on page 4 of this issue on some recent chapter projects. Penny is TVARA Valleywide Volunteer Coordinator.

TVARA has an exceptional opportunity to contribute even more to our communities through partnering with Bicentennial Volunteers Inc. and TVA on community projects. Our three organizations want to make an even greater impact in our communities by looking for opportunities to assist them. As retirees, we are involved in our communities and can recognize where we can have an impact. BVI and TVA have funds allocated that can be used in for community projects.

One way we can help our communities is to partner with existing nonprofits or community organizations that are having an impact in the community and to work with them on their projects. If you have an idea for a community project, please contact any of the following TVARA officers: your Chapter President, your Chapter Volunteer Coordinator, TVARA Valleywide Volunteer Coordinator Penny Walker, me, or any of the TVARA Valleywide officers. See accompanying box for contact information for these officers.

Other Articles

Several other articles are included in this issue, including the appointment of six new TVA Board members, Lynn

Share your ideas to help communities

If you have an idea for a community project or an idea for partnering with an existing community organization, please send your idea(s) by calling or emailing one of the TVARA officers listed here.

We have a great opportunity to partner both with Bicentennial Volunteers Inc. and TVA on community projects. Both of these organizations want to have a positive impact in Tennessee Valley communities and have allocated funding for community projects.

You may already be volunteering with an organization that could benefit from TVARA, BVI, and TVA assistance.

Contact one of the following TVARA officers with your idea(s):

- Your Chapter President (see contact information on Upcoming Chapter Meetings on page 15 of this issue of TVARA News)
- Your Chapter Volunteer Coordinator
- Penny Walker, TVARA Valleywide Volunteer Coordinator pennywalker06@gmail.com, 1-202-480-5310
- Jo Anne Lavender, TVARA Valleywide President jlavender@tds.net, 1-865-300-8272
- Vickie Ellis, TVARA Past President vlellis@aol.com, 1-865-805-1512
- Alan Campbell, TVARA Valley Vice President abcjax@eplus.net, 1-731-988-8814
- Debbie Rutherford, TVARA Valleywide Secretary frogvol7@att.net, 1-865-809-7084
- Lisa Overly, TVARA Valleywide Treasurer lloverly@hotmail.com, 1-865-567-7911

— JO ANNE LAVENDER

Morehous's travel article on Northern Italy, and fun activities in which we can participate in the Tennessee Valley this spring. Also, check your Chapter Meeting date and get together with your friends and colleagues if you can.

'Hail Mary' to deliver 'livers of rivers'?...continued from page 3

the largest population of freshwater mussels.

"Put it this way — there's so many in there that I wouldn't want to walk barefoot in it."

The good news is that the Little Tennessee River Basin is home to its share of heelsplitters, too.

The White Heelsplitter and the Tennessee Heelsplitter are among Little Tennessee's remaining 30 native species of freshwater mussels — a dozen of which are listed as rare, threatened, or endangered by federal or state agencies.

Reed says the shortlist of struggling mussel species in the Little Tennessee River Basin is a footnote to a greater problem.

In the past 120 years, 26 North American mussel species have been wiped out due to extinction — all of which were native to Southeastern streams.

Of the 275 species that remain, Reed says more than two-thirds are at risk.

"Over the last century, we've seen stark declines in mussel populations," he says. "Sedimentation from urban development, construction, big ag, mining, and logging

are all things that have negatively impacted the area's biodiversity."

However, through Clean Water Act policies, conservation efforts, and improved industry practices throughout the United States., biologists like Reed are now seeing a return of habitat that can support the region's biological treasures for years to come.

"Mussels are the canaries in the coal mine" Etchison says. "They're the first to go.

"If mussels are all that's missing, but everything else has recovered, we think it's time to bring them back."



WASHINGTON UPDATE

Meeting, greeting & working with new members



JESSICA HOGLE

By JESSICA HOGLE, TVA Vice President, Federal Affairs

It was an election season with plenty of surprises, but the dust finally settled, and the 118th Congress is now in session. TVA Federal Affairs already has been working to build relationships with our new TVA delegation members — Sen. Katie Britt (R-AL), Sen. Ted Budd (R-NC), Rep. Andy Ogles (R-TN/5th), Rep. Dale Strong (R-AL/8th), and Rep. Chuck Edwards (R-NC/11th).

onshoring manufacturing jobs and ramping up domestic production. Workforce development is a key priority for sustaining this economic strategy. These supply- and demand-side policies mirror TVA's own economic-development strategies in the Tennessee Valley. We will look for opportunities to showcase economic-development successes in the Valley and take advantage of opportunities to expand our efforts based on new legislation.

This Congress is divided, with slim governing majorities, and presents changes to membership and committees important to TVA, although there remain strong opportunities for TVA to engage both sides of the aisle in support of our mission.

We will keep you apprised on these and other priorities in future newsletters!

At a broad policy level, we will engage with and monitor priorities that relate to the TVA mission's "three E's," which include the following:

Board of Directors Update

On Dec. 21, the U.S. Senate confirmed the nominations of Beth Geer of Tennessee, Michelle Moore of Virginia, Bobby Klein of Tennessee, Bill Renick of Mississippi, Wade White of Kentucky, and Joe Ritch of Alabama to the TVA Board of Directors, returning it to its full nine members. The new Board members were sworn in in Knoxville on Jan. 4. We are excited to have their collective wealth of experience at TVA's helm. The Federal Affairs team will continue to support new nominees for upcoming vacancies on the Board later in 2023 and in 2024.

- In the energy area, we will continue closely monitoring Inflation Reduction Act and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act implementation and oversight this year for opportunities that will benefit our region. We will also be monitoring EPA clean-air and water regulations and planned oversight by the Republican-controlled House.
- In the area of environment, a failed effort in the lame-duck Congress in late 2022 on permitting reform for infrastructure projects involving federal money is likely to be revisited as a key enabler of stated clean-energy goals in the Inflation Reduction Act. Climate adaptation and resiliency will be of increasing importance as real-world impacts of climate change continue to have an effect on critical infrastructure, including energy systems nationwide.
- Related to TVA's economic-development efforts, industrial policy has taken an eye toward



Taking their oath from U.S. Magistrate Judge Jill E. McCook (a former TVA Attorney, third from left) are, from left, new TVA Board members Wade White, Eddyville, Ky.; Bobby Klein, Chattanooga; Joe Ritch, Huntsville, Ala.; Bill Renick, Ashland, Miss.; Michelle Moore, Midlothian, Va.; and Beth Geer, Brentwood, Tenn.

A Valley Awakening — Nature, Events Springing to Life

By JULIE GRAHAM & MARK ENGLER, *Explore Tennessee River Valley*

Springtime in the Tennessee River Valley is marked by the seasonal changes of early flowering plants, budding trees, calls of migrating birds and, of course, the warming of longer and longer days.

People can't help but feel themselves drawn into the countryside to encounter the beauty of reawakening woodlands or onto scenic waterways for firsthand experiences with annually reinvigorated lake and river life.

But the picturesque wildlands and flowing waters of Southern Appalachia aren't the only places you'll encounter the energized spirit of vernal rebirth.

Spring festivals traditionally have served as an opportunity for neighbors to get out, gather among friends, share the latest news, and generally shake off the malaise of being cooped-up during the cold and dreary months.

Today's festivals continue to feature the food, music, and storytelling that embody the traditions of pioneers who settled the Valley. These cheerful gatherings are geared not just for the folks who happen to live in those communities, but anybody from anywhere who feels like stopping in for a friendly visit.

The migration of pioneers into the western frontier included a large number of Scots-Irish — and today many Valley towns and cities trace their genesis to those early settlers. The newcomers to the mountains and valleys of Southern Appalachia brought traditional arts and a culture of music, storytelling, dance, and craft distilling. Generally rich in skill but poor in wealth, the Scots-Irish labored in the mines and worked on railroads. They kept their communities close-knit with a strong sense of shared heritage and familial loyalties.



Migrating Back Outdoors

In March, the Tennessee cities of Knoxville, Dunlap, and Erin celebrate their Celtic roots with festivals and parades. On March 18, Dunlap will host a St. Patrick's Day Festival featuring music, food, and artists — and don't forget to stop in at the nearby **Historic Dunlap Coke Ovens Park and Museum**. Or visit Erin March 17-18 to celebrate Irish Heritage at the 61st Annual **Wearin' of the Green Irish Day Parade and Arts & Crafts Festival**.

Old Ways Make You Feel Young Again

A tradition of spring in Appalachia is foraging for spring greens, ramps, and mushrooms in the forests of the region. One of the prized greens is the pungent ramp, also called "ransom," "wild leek," and "spring onion." Loaded with vitamin C, ramps were thought to be a restorative "tonic" after a long winter diet of preserved foods.

Native Cherokees likely taught the settlers how to harvest ramps, using a sustainable method of cutting the leaves at the bulb root, allowing the plant to grow for the next season. Ramps have gained popularity with farm-to-table chefs and retained a place at local tables. Ramp festivals are fun, early-seasonal events to be found across the Valley.

On April 21 and 22, the 65th annual **Ramp Tramp Festival** will be held at Camp McCroy in Reliance, Tenn. Attendees will be treated to the traditional meal of ramps fried in eggs, along with streaked meat, fried potatoes, white beans, and cornbread, accompanied by live bluegrass music.

When Spring Is in the Air & So Is Music

Music is a language all its own, melded and shaped by people and their cultures — and no region of the country



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The Nicest Parts of Italy You've Likely Never Heard of...Until Now

By LYNN MOREHOUS

In 2021, with COVID expected to wane within the next year, my wife, Fran, and I began planning a June 2022 trip to Italy.

We chose Veneto and Friuli, the northeastern provinces between Venice and the Alps. We had never been there before except for the cities of Verona, at its western end, and Venice. This region is off the popular American tourist routes, and since Friuli was Austrian until 100 years ago, its history and culture are different from much of Italy.

Also, this is Italy's largest wine region, the home of 15th-century architect Palladio, and the famous "Shakespearean" cities of Verona, Vicenza, and Padua.

Initially, we planned two-week trip, then realized we couldn't fit everything in at the slower speed we now travel.

I also realized I had scheduled our flight home on our 55th anniversary. Whoops! Time to adjust!

Fortunately, I had purchased fully refundable/changeable



Lynn and Fran Morehous at the Alpe di Siusi. This Dolomites plateau is the largest high-alpine pasture in Europe, located in South Tyrol in Northern Italy.

airline tickets, the cost of which was not much different than adding airline travel insurance. The trip grew to 20 days, and I worked with Beatrice Bellini, a Milan travel agent we have used before, to flesh out the details.

This region is small, only 160 miles west to east and 100 miles from Venice, on the Adriatic's north coast, into the Tyrolean Alps. Its two provinces, Veneto on the west and Friuli, nudged up to Slovenia on the east.

Geographically, the northern half is mountainous, and the southern half is a broad, east-west plain that was the major route used by "barbarian" tribes that invaded Europe at the end of the Roman Empire.

We were met at the Venice airport by Annarita, a guide hired by Beatrice to show us the Dolomite Mountains. These mountains are famous for their unusual and dramatic rock formations, which look much like giant white teeth in a slightly decayed mouth.

On the way, our first stop was a Prosecco winery known for its special high-quality Proseccos (a couple of notches above those brands available in the United States). In the afternoon we drove into the mountain Tyrolean



village of Cortina d'Ampezzo, the center of Italy's major ski area with its 450 chair lifts. In 2026, Cortina will join Milan to co-host the Winter Olympics.

This village is also a beautiful base for viewing the Dolomites in the summer. During the next couple days Annarita drove us around the mountains. We visited pretty villages and a few historical sites, rode ski lifts to higher elevations, and did a little hiking.

We also visited some of the fortified Italian and Austrian military outposts, the scene of horrific mountain fighting during World War I and the setting of Hemingway's "For Whom the Bell Tolls."

Four days later, Annarita drove us back to "the plains" and dropped us off at the Verona airport to collect our rental car for the next 11 days.

We planned to stay at three B&Bs in historic country villas. That evening we checked into La Forestiere Serego Alighieri, a wine estate and villa since the 1300s, when it was purchased by the son of famous 14th-century poet Dante



Fran in front of Cappella degli Alpini (Chapel of the Alpini) at the foot of the Tre Cime di Lavaredo peaks, Auronzo di Cadore, Veneto, Italy

Alighieri. It's still in the hands of the Alighieri family and remains a Valpolicella wine-producer. We tasted some of its wines the last day.

A couple of days later, we moved to a rural area to the northeast of Vicenza. The villa was somewhat dog-eared and had been acquired at a distressed price by a middle-class Italian family from its Austrian owner at the end of World War I.

The facility is run by the last family members, a delightful mother and son who clearly struggle to keep their heads above water financially. Mom baked all the breakfast goodies and helped us locate a coin laundry to refresh our supply of clean clothes.

Apartments in the outbuildings are rented on a long-term basis, and there are a few B&B rooms. Its most unusual feature is an 8-foot-diameter, 50-plus-foot-tall ginkgo tree, said to be the second-largest in Italy.

Among the nearby restaurants, we discovered locally popular Rebecca's Diner, a pizza/hamburger/milkshake joint,

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The Church of St. Johann in Ranui, Villnoess valley, South Tyrol, Italy



Grand Hotel Misurina, Auronzo di Cadore, Italy



The Basilica di Santa Maria Assunta, Aquileia



Dining al fresco at Ristorante Prosciutteria Al Roccolo, Torreglia

complete with carhops and a Maury County, Tenn., license plate nailed on the wall. It is owned by its grill cook, a retired New Jerseyite. Real Italy here!

Fran and I have always liked early-American architecture and design, much of which derived from 18th-century English designs inspired by a 16th-century Italian architect, Andrea Palladio (father of the Palladian window, among other things). Famous American buildings inspired by his works include Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, the University of Virginia Rotunda, and the White House.

Since Vicenza was chock full of Palladio buildings, we thought we'd try to learn more about his work. Beatrice arranged a two-day, privately guided tour of some of his most iconic buildings, a few of which also contained stunning art by famous Italian Renaissance painters. We especially enjoyed the several tromp l'oeil scenes, where it looks like someone in the painting is walking through a door or doing something else.

On other days we visited the medieval walled towns of Marostica and Cittadella and the ancient city of Padua, a UNESCO Heritage town, with its famous 13th-century university. It was the only place I got a traffic ticket (parking) on this trip. On most trips, it's at least two or three tickets.



Villa Caldogno in the Province of Vicenza, Veneto, Italy

We left the Vicenza area for Friuli and another Renaissance villa/wine estate. As mentioned earlier, this flat plain was the major highway for all the "barbarian" invasions of Europe after the demise of the Roman Empire, and many of its older towns are fortified.

Close by was the medieval town of Cividale, the capital of the Kings of the Lombards, a Northern German people who invaded and conquered all of Northern Italy in the sixth century and gave their name to the region, Lombardy. Of all the old fortified towns we visited on the trip, the most intriguing was Palmanova. It was built and paid for by the city of Venice to defend its eastern flank from expected incursions by the Turkish army.

Palmanova was intended as a fortified utopian "new town," designed from scratch by the best 16th-century military engineers and woke social planners of the day. It's built in the shape of a nine-pointed star, with radiating and concentric streets. Every citizen there was supposed to be equal, with equal accommodations and business opportunities provided by Venice to new settlers for little or nothing.

Apparently, only a few took Venice up on its offer. Perhaps moving into the path of an invading Turkish army was not viewed as a wise life choice.



Above and below, just a glimpse of some of the Renaissance paintings and tromp l'oeil scenes found throughout buildings in Vicenza, Italy





Sassolungo Langkofel mountain, South Tyrol, Italy



One of the many beautiful fountains and gardens found throughout Italy.

The last place we visited before driving back to Venice and the flight home was Aquileia, the largest Roman city you have never heard of. From the second to the fifth century Aquileia, on the Adriatic coast east of Venice, was the fourth-largest city of the Empire.

It was also a major center of the early Christian church. But Attila the Hun invaded and, angry at the city for defying him for months, utterly destroyed it in 452. Today, only its ruins are left. However, many mosaics and other decorative items have been preserved. The floor of its restored fifth-century basilica has outstanding mosaic tiles, and the painted walls of its much earlier church are visible in a space beneath the altar.

Interestingly, in the museum we saw a Roman stone fireplace and mantel of precisely the same design as the off-the-shelf, builder-store-supplied “early American” mantel in our house. This so-called “early American” design is in fact of Roman origin, just passed down through Palladio and

18th-century English architects still inspired by him to this day.

On our anniversary, we drove into Venice’s Piazza de Roma — a large expanse of blacktop that marks the only place in Venice where buses, taxis, and other vehicular traffic can go — and returned our rental car.

A short walk over two canals brought us to our hotel and, later that evening, to dinner at a recommended fish restaurant nearby.

After two days of Renaissance art in Venice churches and modern art at the Peggy Guggenheim Museum, we were picked up by a taxi at 3 a.m. for the ride to the airport and the flight home.

(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.)



The awe-inspiring Dolomites offer breathtaking views from any direction.

boasts a richer melodic heritage than the hills, hollows, valleys, mountains, and towns of Southern Appalachia and the Tennessee River Basin.

This year marks a decade of Knoxville's biggest, boldest, and most dynamic festival experience, the Big Ears Festival, featuring some of the world's most celebrated performers and composers. Surprise collaborations and artistic collisions celebrate the never-ending adventure of creation and exploration.

The March 30-April 2 festival features an array of world-class artists, including Grammy Award-winners, Pulitzer Prize-winners, and MacArthur "Genius Grant" recipients in 100-plus performances and an array of panels, workshops, and exhibitions — all in Knoxville's extraordinary concert halls, listening rooms, clubs, churches, and galleries.

Up in the mountains of North Georgia, the renewing beauty of Mother Nature is magnificently celebrated April 14- May 15 at the annual **Rhododendron Festival** at Hamilton Gardens. On the last weekend, the event includes the Hiawassee Highlands Wine Festival on May 13. This lush

display of blooming flowers, live music, and locally produced wine is a toast to the magical sounds, scents, sights, and sumptuous flavors of spring.

Celebrations That Go Whole Hog

The City of Sweetwater, Tenn., is home to the **Blooms, Bluegrass, & BBQ** festival May 6-7. Barbecue is a quintessential Southern favorite, with its roots in Native American pit cooking. Pit cooking is a technique adopted from indigenous people who called this region home before the Indian Removal Act of 1830.

Appalachian cooking has been a true melting pot of diverse cultures, borrowing techniques and adapting recipes to use foods that were locally available. While barbecue can use different meats and sauces, traditional Southern barbecue in the Tennessee Valley region would use pork. What varies is the sauce, ranging from vinegar to sweet to the very unique white sauce in Alabama.

Farther upriver in Paris, Tenn., another Southern delicacy, fried catfish, is the centerpiece of the **World's Biggest Fish Fry**. "Fish Fry" evolved from "Mule Day," which originated in 1938. Farmers



came to town on the first Monday in April to trade their mules and other farm products, do their shopping, and enjoy the fellowship of their friends. The festival is a homage to the traditions of the community and to the Tennessee River, which yields the catfish that is served. This year's event is set April 23-30 and features music, arts, and, of course, catfish.

Other Spring events and festivals not to miss:

March-April: **Wildflower Walks** — Tishomingo State Park, Miss. Walk in the steps of Native Americans.

March 16-26: **Tennessee National Bike Festival** — Windrock Bike Park, Oliver Springs, Tenn., MTB Classic.

March 18: **Irish Bowling** — Rugby, Tenn. Join in and learn the skill of Irish Bowling on opening day.

March 30-April 1: **Johnson City, Tenn., Jazz Festival** — Celebrating the All-American genre, Big Band to Jazz Fusion.

April 14-16: **Women On The Water Retreat** — Blue Ridge, Ga. Women's angling workshop.

April 15-16: **Art on the Lake** — Guntersville, Ala. Featuring 130 fine artists and craftsmen from across the Southeast.

April 15-16: **Chimps Rock Tour** — Morganton, Ga. Tour the Project Chimps sanctuary in Blue Ridge Mountains.

April 20-21 and 23-24: **Smoky Mountain Fiber Arts Festival** — Townsend, Tenn. Interactive arts event connecting the community with fiber-arts activities.

April 21-23: **Trails to Trillium** — Monteagle, Tenn. Guided hikes, Wine & Wildflower Reception.

April 22: **Rossini International Street Festival** — Knoxville. Free celebration of music & arts

April 22-23: **Bloomin' Festival** — Cullman, Ala. Artists from across America showcase their finest work; decorative wood silhouettes, handmade lanterns, Bavarian art wax, magazine art, pottery, and much more.

April 28-30: **Dogwoods Art Festival** — Knoxville. Art fair & music transform World's Fair Park.

April 22-May 21: **Keep on the Sunnyside** — Abingdon, Va. Live performance at Historic Barter Theater, celebrating the Carter Family's music.

April 26-29: **AQS Quilt Week** — Paducah, Ky. All things quilting & quilts in UNESCO Heritage Arts community.

April 29: **Blue Ridge Trout & Outdoor Adventures Festival** — Blue Ridge, Ga. Casting, paddling, hiking,



climbing, riding, outdoor art, live music, craft beer, and food.

May 4-Sept 28: **Pickin' in the Park** — McCaysville, Ga. Live music jams and Pickin' on the banks of the Toccoa River. Weekly/free admission.

May 5-6: **Clinch River Spring Antique Fair** — Clinton, Tenn. Nationally recognized antiquing event.

May 5-7: **Annual Street Rod Nationals South** — Knoxville. Fifteen-hundred street rods, customs, muscle cars, street machines and more than 500 exhibitors/swappers.

May 6: **Tellico Trout Festival** — Tellico Plains, Tenn. Annual festival for angling enthusiasts, food, and guides.

May 18-21: **Tennessee Motorcycles & Music Revival** — Hurricane Mills, Tenn. Annual event at the Loretta Lynn Ranch.

May 20: **8th Tennessee Mountain Laurel Festival** — Wartburg, Tenn.

Music, barbecue, and the Obed Wild and Obed River draped in blooming mountain laurel.

May 26-27: **1890 Jamboree Days** — Ringgold, Ga. Celebrating 35 years of fiddling, dance, and food.

May 26-28: **Hiawassee Pro Rodeo** — Hiawassee, Ga. World-class contestants from all over the United States and Canada.

May 27-28: **Alabama Jubilee Hot-Air Balloon Classic** — Decatur, Ala. Hot-air balloons, music, food.

May 27-Sept. 28: **Rock City Summer Music Weekends** — Rock City, Tenn. High atop Lookout Mountain, delight your senses with delicious food, soft breezes, and live country, folk, and bluegrass music.

May 27-28: **47th Annual Spring Arts In The Park** — Blue Ridge, Ga. Art, music, food, and family activities.

May 27-28: **Blairsville Spring Arts, Crafts & Music Festival** — Blairsville, Ga. Two-day event with demonstrations, regional crafts, and music.

May 28-June 10: **Nief Norf Summer Festival** — Knoxville. Interdisciplinary music festival bringing together dozens of performers, composers, and scholars to celebrate and discuss contemporary solo and chamber music.

Explore the **Tennessee River Valley Geotourism MapGuide** to learn more about these outdoor spring events and other geotourism opportunities and find out what makes this region a National Geographic Destination. With our interactive map, you can save trip ideas and create your own trip plans to see places around the region. It's time for you to share your stories and start some new ones!

In Memoriam

Oct. 31, 2022 - Jan. 29, 2023

TVA Retirement Management received notifications of the deaths of the following retirees for the period October 31, 2022, through January 29, 2023, 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.

- | | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|---|
| Ashby, Lester D.,
11/21/2022(11/27/2005) | Edmonds, James Michael,
12/24/2022(09/27/1997) | Horne, Freddy R.,
12/18/2022(06/07/1992) | Morrison, Bobby R.,
10/27/2022(12/17/2011) | Sharma, Natvarial P.,
11/08/2022(02/06/1993) |
| Barfield, Charles D.,
11/23/2022(05/04/1991) | Edwards, Sheree R.,
11/06/2022(09/27/1997) | Hughes, Claude E.,
01/07/2023(05/05/2012) | Mull, Charles S.,
11/20/2022(10/06/2001) | Sharp, Pearl C.,
10/01/2022(09/27/1997) |
| Barnes, Samuel L.,
12/07/2022(10/10/1987) | Faulkner, Thomas F.,
11/10/2022(01/01/1988) | Hyatt, James R.,
11/08/2022(10/13/1999) | Myracle, Bobby J.,
11/13/2022(04/11/2000) | Shelton, Terry D.,
12/12/2022(10/06/2014) |
| Barron, Ruth A.,
01/14/2023(04/01/1995) | Fender, John L.,
11/25/2022(08/01/1988) | Inman, Danny L.,
1/1/2023(7/30/1988) | Nail, W. Hollis, Jr.,
01/06/2023(03/02/1996) | Sherrill, Sherman E., Jr.,
01/13/2023(11/07/2007) |
| Barry, Orlena J.,
12/02/2022(06/13/1987) | Flatford, Darrell Gene,
11/19/2022(09/19/2005) | Jacobs, H. Dean,
11/21/2022(05/26/1984) | Neal, Charles,
12/27/2022(02/19/1994) | Simonds, Mary E.,
10/27/2022(07/30/1988) |
| Beaty, Judith M.,
12/26/2022(03/18/2001) | Foster, Richard M.,
11/08/2022(12/30/1978) | Jenkins, James V.,
01/05/2023(06/02/2007) | Newberry, Stanley K.,
12/20/2022(01/03/2009) | Smith, Gary W.,
01/01/2023(10/03/1987) |
| Beck, Virgil D.,
12/12/2022(06/05/2004) | Fulton, Prentice G., Jr.,
12/27/2022(08/02/1988) | Jenkins, Michael L.,
12/20/2022(08/01/1988) | Nichols, Fred G.,
11/14/2022(10/17/1994) | Smith, Rita G.,
01/04/2023(10/17/1994) |
| Belue, Allan W.,
07/17/2022(10/17/1994) | Galluzzo, Joseph F.,
12/12/2022(06/27/1989) | Johnson, Beverly W.,
11/21/2022(02/02/2001) | Nolen, Tommy L.,
12/20/2022(10/17/1994) | Stewart, William N.,
1/1/2023(7/30/1988) |
| Berry, Janice T.,
01/08/2023(04/01/1997) | Galyon, Thomas A.,
01/12/2023(10/01/1988) | Johnson, James B.,
12/27/2022(04/11/2000) | O'Brien, Harry G.,
11/13/2022(12/02/1989) | Sulfridge, Bobbie J.,
11/21/2022(11/29/1992) |
| Berry, Lawrence J., Jr.,
12/13/2022(11/28/1994) | Gard, Ladonna L.,
11/29/2022(05/29/2004) | Johnson, Lewis,
12/07/2022(08/02/1988) | Owens, Gary R.,
01/13/2023(06/17/1989) | Taylor, Dale G.,
10/29/2022(06/02/2012) |
| Bettis, Edward N.,
12/07/2022(10/01/1988) | Gibson, Charles E.,
01/18/2023(08/08/2005) | Joly, Walter J.,
01/15/2023(10/17/1994) | Oxendine, Mary R.,
09/25/2022(06/13/1991) | Thomas, Ben C.,
01/20/2023(10/17/1994) |
| Bibee, Steven M.,
01/11/2023(10/17/1994) | Golpashin, Edward S.,
11/24/2022(10/01/1988) | Jones, Austin J.,
01/12/2023(01/12/2002) | Parker, J. Harold,
10/30/2022(10/01/1990) | Tinsley, Alan R.,
12/12/2022(10/01/1988) |
| Blanton, Larry A.,
12/27/2022(01/07/2006) | Gordon, Robert W.,
1/1/2023(7/30/1988) | Jones, Michael D.,
01/17/2022(01/09/2006) | Parker, Linda L.,
11/29/2022(12/28/2002) | Upton, Rufus E.,
12/20/2022(03/16/2000) |
| Bontadelli, James A.,
10/30/2022(12/30/1989) | Gray, Larry L.,
11/09/2022(03/15/1992) | Joyner, David E.,
12/09/2022(08/02/1988) | Patrick, Michael T.,
01/22/2023(10/01/1996) | VanCleave, Jerry L.,
12/14/2022(12/13/1992) |
| Bradford, Gerald,
01/17/2023(07/18/2000) | Greer, Wesley K.,
12/23/2022(12/11/1978) | Kelley, Evelyn C.,
01/13/2023(08/06/1988) | Peterson, Henry L.,
11/08/2022(12/01/1990) | Vess, Charles E.,
11/23/2022(11/11/1991) |
| Bryant, Grady L.,
11/17/2022(10/05/2013) | Grissom, Kermit D.,
11/23/2022(06/06/1998) | Kersteter, Patricia A.,
12/10/2022(05/31/1992) | Pickard, James E.,
12/01/2022(09/25/1997) | Vineyard, Jimmy L.,
01/01/2023(05/13/2006) |
| Byers, Wayne H.,
12/13/2022(03/08/1997) | Guthrie, William S.,
01/06/2023(10/17/1987) | King, Norman G.,
11/02/2022(11/03/2007) | Powell, Ronald D.,
1/1/2023(7/30/1988) | Walker, Terry K.,
12/13/2022(11/02/1984) |
| Christensen, Terrance M., Sr.,
11/18/2022(10/01/2017) | Hall, Gary R.,
01/05/2023(07/08/2003) | Klaes, Leo J.,
11/13/2022(10/01/1995) | Purser, John R.,
09/14/2022(09/08/1988) | Webster, Douglas L.,
12/14/2022(11/30/1991) |
| Coker, Betty J.,
11/15/2022(05/04/2001) | Hamilton, Katherine S.,
11/15/2022(07/09/1988) | Knight, Randy E.,
11/14/2022(10/04/2014) | Putman, Larry J.,
10/30/2022(12/03/1994) | White, Alfred A., Jr.,
12/17/2022(04/14/1990) |
| Coker, Ronald L.,
12/14/2022(01/01/2009) | Hargrove, Linda T.,
01/16/2023(04/11/2009) | Lawhorne, James A.,
11/07/2022(05/15/1982) | Richardson, Nelson L.,
11/15/2022(09/03/1988) | Whitlow, Luther D.,
11/23/2022(01/05/1987) |
| Cole, Carl A., Jr.,
11/07/2022(12/05/2009) | Harris, Charles S.,
12/19/2022(10/17/1994) | Lett, Edgar G.,
01/01/2023(10/04/1990) | Ridgway, Larry W.,
11/07/2022(07/03/1999) | Williams, Donnie R.,
11/26/2022(10/17/1994) |
| Coombs, James L.,
1/1/2023(7/30/1988) | Harris, Joseph P., Jr.,
12/30/2022(01/10/2004) | Locke, Donald W.,
11/13/2022(10/05/1985) | Robbins, Charley C.,
12/23/2022(05/29/1999) | Williams, Erven N.,
12/31/2022(12/19/2007) |
| Cox, Henry W.,
11/27/2022(08/18/1992) | Harvey, Bettie J.,
11/22/2022(10/31/1992) | Malenovsky, Carl J.,
12/28/2022(09/15/1998) | Robinson, Henry E.,
11/02/2022(04/25/1987) | Willoughby, Rodger T.,
12/03/2022(04/03/1999) |
| Cunningham, Daniel L.,
12/29/2022(01/11/2014) | Hawkins, Robert D.,
12/23/2022(06/15/1993) | Malone, James P., Sr.,
11/09/2022(08/25/2012) | Robinson, John H.,
11/20/2022(09/29/1990) | Witt, John W.,
01/15/2023(10/01/1988) |
| Davis, Kenneth E.,
12/25/2022(02/07/2004) | Head, James R.,
11/16/2022(04/16/2002) | Malone, Richard E.,
11/17/2022(10/17/1994) | Rotton, Royce B.,
11/21/2022(01/01/1993) | Woodcock, Reathel W.,
12/31/2022(03/01/1997) |
| DeGuzman, Jose S.,
11/14/2022(11/23/1996) | Hearn, James C.,
11/25/2022(04/02/1988) | Mann, Gregory M.,
1/1/2023(7/30/1988) | Rountree, Sharon D.,
12/29/2022(09/27/1997) | Wooten, Gladys L.,
11/23/2022(10/17/1994) |
| Dillard, James E.,
10/31/2022(08/27/2011) | Helton, C. Dean,
10/02/2022(11/30/1991) | May, Jeffrey Martin,
01/18/2023(10/22/1919) | Rouse, Robert D.,
11/30/2022(07/01/2006) | Young, Ida,
10/31/2022(04/13/2002) |
| Dollar, Nathan T.,
01/14/2023(04/01/1995) | Helton, Lillie M.,
12/18/2022(01/10/2004) | McClain, Scotty R.,
11/03/2022(01/06/2007) | Scott, Nolie E.,
11/02/2022(01/12/2002) | Young, Johnny F.,
11/17/2022(08/01/1988) |
| Dougal, Timothy A.,
11/16/2022(03/17/1990) | Hickman, Gary A.,
12/27/2022(08/05/2003) | Mincey, Albert E.,
12/01/2022(10/17/1994) | Scott, Thomas W.,
12/19/2022(10/17/1994) | |
| Dowell, Karen Jean,
01/05/2023(07/07/2012) | Hill, Carolyn C.,
01/01/2023(12/29/1990) | Mitchum, Bobby H.,
12/12/2022(10/17/1994) | Severance, Wayne A.,
12/12/2022(09/27/1997) | |
| Dycus, David A.,
11/19/2022(06/23/2006) | Hogan, Dofort R.,
12/17/2022(11/08/2008) | Montgomery, Thomas E.,
10/26/2022(10/17/1994) | Sexton, James L.,
11/18/2022(11/28/1994) | |

Upcoming March 2023 Chapter Meetings

BROWNS FERRY

March 14, 2023, Noon

Catfish Cabin, Athens, Ala.

- Guest Speaker: Steve Brown, Assistant to the Site Vice President at Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant

David C. Matherly Jr., President
256-777-2175/dcmatherly@gmail.com

CHATTANOOGA

March 14, 2023

Brainerd United Methodist Church, Fellowship Hall, 4315 Brainerd Road

- 10 a.m. Coffee & doughnuts
- 10:30 a.m. Program: TVARS Update; Special Presentation, Underwater Robotics with teams from Baylor School, Girls Preparatory School, and TVA Dam Safety

Tom Swanson, President
423-344-6892/twswanson@comcast.net

CLEVELAND

March 10, 2023, 10:30 a.m.

Hopewell Church of God, Fellowship Hall

- Program: TBD

John Austin, President
423-472-2720/austintnutfan@charter.net

GALLATIN

March 8, 2023, 11 a.m.

Gallatin City Library

- Guest Speaker: Jim Hopson, Public Information Officer, TVA Communications
- James R. Monday, President
615-481-8469/oemorgan@comcast.net

HUNTSVILLE

March 8, 2023, 10 a.m.

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

- Guest Speakers: Marilyn Brown, TVARS 7th Director; Jim Hopson, Public Information Officer, TVA Communications
- Lunch to follow

Daniel A. Simmons, President
256-509-9781/dasimmon@bellsouth.net

JACKSON

March 8, 2023, 9:30 a.m.

Southwest Electric Membership Corp., 1590 Highway 70E

- Program: TBD

Alan Campbell, President
731-988-8814/abcjax@eplus.net

JOHNSONVILLE/CUMBERLAND

March 9, 2023, 11 a.m.

Socializing at 10 a.m. Country & Western Steakhouse, Highway 641N, Camden, Tenn.

- Program: Discuss information from the TVARA Board meeting held in February
- Drawing for door prizes
- Remember to bring a nonperishable food product for the local food pantries

Mickey Blackburn, President
931-209-1352/mwblackb56@gmail.com

KNOXVILLE

March 21, 2023, 10 a.m.

Location TBD

- Guest Speakers: Ben Harrington and April Tomlinson, "Health, Wellness, and Community"

Sammy D. Sweetland, President
265-366-0952/sdsweet62@hotmail.com

MEMPHIS

March 15, 2023, 11 a.m.

Dale's Restaurant, 1226 Main St., Southaven, Miss.

- Agenda: TBD

David L. Teuton, President
901-212-3822/davidteuton@yahoo.com

MISSISSIPPI

March 14, 2023, 10:30 a.m.

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

- Program: Investing, Trusts, and Market Analysis

Judy J. Bright, President
662-791-9779/bright.judy@gmail.com

MUSCLE SHOALS

March 8, 2023, 10 a.m.

TVA Community Credit Union, 1405 S. Wilson Dam Road, Muscle Shoals

- Guest Speaker: John Blackwell, "Myths & Legends of Wilson Dam"

Timothy "Tim" Cornelius, President
256-757-5220/timwcornelius1@gmail.com

NASHVILLE

March 9, 2023, 10 a.m.

Victory Baptist Church, 1777 Pate Lane, Mt. Juliet, Tenn.

- Program: TBD
- Kevin Whitehead, President
931-215-1794/klwhite220@att.net

NORTHEAST ALABAMA

March 14, 2023, 11 a.m.

Western Sizzlin', Jasper, Tenn

- Guest Speaker: Marilyn Brown, TVARS 7th Director

Larry A. Hancock, President
256-437-8220/lah35772@gmail.com

PADUCAH AREA

March 21, 2023, 10 a.m.

Pizza Inn

- Guest Speaker: TBD
- Ken Dickerson, President
270-442-9539/kenneth.dickerson@comcast.net

PARADISE

March 14, 2023, 10:30 a.m.

Catfish Boat Dock, Powderly, Ky.

- Program: TBD
- Betty Woodlee, President
270-847-6449/mammytwo3@yao.com

UPPER EAST TENNESSEE

No Spring meeting this year

Les Bays, Chapter President,
423-782-8458/lpbays1@yahoo.com

WESTERN AREA

March 15, 2023, 10:30 a.m.

Lake Barkley State Resort Park

- Program: TBD
- K. Renee Turnbow, President
270-205-5277/kturnbow@gmail.com

Please visit the TVARA website at mytvvara.org and hover your mouse over the tab "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

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PERMIT NO. 1

TVARA Website, Email Addresses

Have you visited the TVARA website lately?

The web address is mytvara.org. You will find information about chapter meetings, volunteer opportunities, membership, and healthcare information, as well as other news of value.

TVARA will be sending emails to all members from time to time, concerning invitations to chapter meetings, volunteer opportunities, the TVA-sponsored Valleywide TVA Retiree Appreciation Luncheon, 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
Jean Bryson — sjbryson@mytvara.org
Richard Wilson — rtwilson@mytvara.org

Watch for BNY Mellon Mail on Benefits Direct Deposits...continued from page 1

letter is legitimate. BNY Mellon also will send a confirmation letter any time a change is made to your address and/or tax withholding.

Recently, a fraudulent attempt was made to change a direct deposit, but the retiree received the direct-deposit change notification and made immediate contact, preventing the transaction. The unauthorized user had somehow obtained unique, key personal information to make a change, but the letter and the retiree's actions stopped the fraudulent attempt.

This was an isolated case, but TVARS wants to provide information to make you aware and communicate that the

BNY Mellon letters confirming direct-deposit changes are legitimate. TVARS has an extensive system of controls to protect your information, and it takes a combined effort to detect and prevent attempts to gain unauthorized access.

If you believe you have been a victim of identity theft, in addition to immediately contacting BNY Mellon and TVARS about your pension, we recommend you go to identitytheft.gov and follow any additional steps recommended. That site is the federal government's one-stop resource for identity-theft victims. It provides streamlined checklists and sample letters to guide you through the recovery process.

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/ 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.

