

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

Celebrate the Season of Gathering & Sharing

By **JO ANNE LAVENDER**, TVARA Valleywide President

This time of year, we take the opportunity to gather with family, friends, and fellow retirees to celebrate the season and enjoy spending fun moments together. We also think about sharing gifts with those we know and with those who may not be as fortunate as we are. The TVA Retirees Association provides us chances to do both.

Check out the December Chapter Meetings page in this issue. There are many chapter meetings this month where you can celebrate and reconnect with fellow retirees in your area. Even if you have not attended a chapter meeting in a while or are not a current member, take the opportunity to have a great time at a meeting this month.

TVARA retirees also have many opportunities to help those in their community during this season and throughout the year — from food drives to volunteering in schools to working on garden projects to building beds and handicap ramps to helping veterans, the homeless, the elderly, and underserved children. TVARA chapters have been partnering with BVI and with TVA on many community projects. We look forward

to expanding our partnership with TVA organizations and BVI to serve even more people in our communities.

TVA and TVARA are continuing to celebrate TVA's 90th Anniversary Year. In September TVA sponsored a very large Retiree Appreciation Luncheon. See the article in this issue for more information and photos. Senior Vice President of Regional Relations Dan Pratt and Communications VP Buddy Eller were our speakers and spoke of the foundational role retirees have made in the success of TVA. They also noted the contributions retirees are continuing to make in their communities.



If you are a TVA retiree and have not received a TVA 90th Anniversary Medallion — TVA's commemorative coin — and would like one, please send an email to TVA's Retiree Communications Consultant, Liberty Phillips, lphillips7@tva.gov, to request one. Include your name and address, and she will have a medallion sent to you.

Let's enjoy this season of gatherings with family, friends, and fellow retirees and of sharing our blessings.



JO ANNE LAVENDER

TVARS reports assets for FY 2023

By **COURTNEY HAMMONTREE**
Lead Benefits Consultant,
TVA Retirement Operations

As of September 2023, the TVA Retirement System reports an asset estimate of \$8.1 billion.

The fund remains well-diversified, and TVARS continues to focus on reducing risk and volatility within the portfolio, which helped dampen the return impact during a poor September quarter-end market environment.

The fund continues to maintain a strong funded status, and TVARS is confident all current and future benefit payments are secure.

Clement Elected to TVARS Board

TVARS recently accepted nominations for a three-year term as an elected member of the TVARS Board of Directors. At the close of the nomination period, employees voted to elect Mike Clement, an Energy Services Consultant in Cleveland, Tenn.

His three-year term will run from Nov. 1, 2023, to Oct. 31, 2026.

Cost-of-Living Adjustments

The TVARS Rules and Regulations provide that eligible retirement benefits (pension and supplemental benefits) will receive a cost-of-living-adjustment based on an inflation measure, which is the Consumer Price Index-All Urban Consumers. CPI-U is an index maintained by the U.S. Labor Department that measures the price changes in a broad

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Retiree or Beneficiary Death Notification

Notify the TVA Retirement System by email or phone.

Fidelity 401(k) Plan

Phone: 800-354-7121

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

BNY Mellon Payments

Phone: 844-545-1256

Online: tvars.com/retirees, click on BNY Mellon link.

Change of Address

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

Medical and Drug Coverage

Call Blue Cross Blue Shield (medical)

toll-free at 800-245-7942

Call Express Scripts (drug)

toll-free at 800-935-6203

Or call People First Solution Center

toll-free at 888-275-8094

Over 65? Call Via Benefits

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

TVARA Membership

Contact Richard T. Wilson

at rtwilson@tva.gov

or call him at 865-632-8542

TVARA News Information

Contact tvara@tva.gov or call

Terri Welty at 865-632-3318 or

toll-free at 877-335-1222

TVARA's Web address is mytvara.org

The TVA Retirees Association is the official organization of all TVA retirees.

It was organized to serve the varied interests of TVA and its retirees and their beneficiaries, and to help keep them informed of TVA developments affecting their interests. It has been recognized by TVA as the responsible representative of retirees in conveying retiree views.

TVARA NEWS & NOTES

The following news item was submitted to TVARA News by TVA's Internal Communications department:

Energy-efficiency rebates coming back in a big way

The cheapest, cleanest megawatt is the one you never have to make, and that's why — over the next five years — TVA is investing \$1.5 billion in energy-efficiency and demand-management programs.

"We're working with our local-power-company and direct-served partners to bring substantial rebates and incentives for energy-efficiency upgrades to residential, business, and industry customers," says Monika Beckner, Vice President, TVA Energy Services & Programs.

"Everyone wins with energy efficiency. The customer has a healthier home or business and saves money, and we can shave peak-demand spikes and load growth. That's important for TVA as we see remarkable economic and population growth in our region."

Meeting its energy-efficiency goals means TVA reduces the need to construct new generation by offsetting more than 30 percent of new load growth over the next 10 years.

TVA employees and retirees are encouraged to take advantage of the home-energy rebates, as well.

Beckner says a good place to start is by doing the DIY Home Energy Assessment to learn where you might be able to save energy and money in your own home. The assessment can be done on any device and only takes a few minutes.

Once you've finished the self-guided assessment, you'll receive a free, easy-to-read report with customized energy-improvement recommendations for your home, plus an exclusive energy-saving kit and a \$10 home-improvement gift card mailed to your home.

"While starting with the home-energy assessment will give you good insights into where you can get the most bang for your buck, you don't have to do the assessment to take advantage of the rebates," Beckner says. "TVA EnergyRight is offering rebates for qualifying home upgrades, including HVAC systems, water heaters, windows, and more."

She says TVA EnergyRight also has incentives available for businesses, big and small, to install energy-saving technologies, and employees and retirees are encouraged to share information with business owners in their communities.

For a full list of included upgrades and steps for how to get started and access the assessment, visit EnergyRight.com.

TVARA Website, Email Addresses

By RICHARD T. WILSON JR.
TVARA Membership Program Manager

Have you visited the TVARA website lately? The web address is mytvara.org, and you will find information about chapter meetings, volunteer opportunities, membership, healthcare, and other news of value.

TVARA sends mass emails about invitations to chapter meetings and the TVA Retiree Appreciation Luncheon. It also sends electronic versions of TVARA newsletters, Dues Renewal Notices, confirmation of dues payments, surveys, and information from Retirement Services.

We recommend that you check your email at least once a week.

Email Address Changes

If you recently changed your email address, please email me at rtwilson@tva.gov with your new

address. If you would like to receive emails from TVARA or confirm that we have the correct email address, please email me at rtwilson@tva.gov.

Junk or Spam Folder

Sometimes we receive word a person is not receiving our emails. It may be that we don't have the correct email address, no email address, or you have unsubscribed from all emails. You may be getting our emails, but they are in your Junk or Spam folder. It is essential to check the Junk or Spam folder often. In some email systems, emails will exist in your one of those folders for a limited time (14 days), before being deleted.

Unsubscribe

If you receive an email containing an invitation

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3 Cheers for Our Volunteers!

By PENNY WALKER, TVARA Valleywide Volunteer Coordinator

Chapters Lending Helping Hands for Holidays

Between now and the end of 2023, several TVARA chapters will be providing financial assistance to various organizations within their community. The projects are being funded, in part, by grants from Bicentennial Volunteers Inc.

God's Helping Hands, a volunteer-operated facility that provides food, clothing, and prescription assistance to residents of Portland, Tenn., is a benefactor of assistance from the Gallatin Chapter and BVI. A donation of \$5,000 will be made to this agency to help meet the increased needs during the upcoming holiday season.

The Johnsonville/Cumberland Chapter will be helping the Torrey Johnson Center in Waverly, Tenn. This is a senior citizens center where older individuals can participate in exercise classes geared toward those with limited mobility, can attend Stay Strong/Stay Healthy sessions sponsored by the UT Extension Center, and can enjoy craft lessons. With a grant from BVI for \$2,500, the chapter will provide funds to help the center purchase new exercise equipment for the gym.

Also in Waverly, the chapter will be helping the Humphrey County American Legion. This agency provides lodging stays in local hotels for homeless veterans and assists in finding them permanent housing. The Legion provides a holiday gift bag to the veterans (and their spouses or widows) living in nursing

homes or assisted-living facilities. These efforts are funded by a weekly fundraising activity of selling lunches to businesses and individuals, and the facility's kitchen was in dire need of a new refrigerator, stove, and microwave. With a grant of \$2,500 from BVI, the Johnsonville/Cumberland Chapter was able to provide the needed appliances.

The American Legion post is in a 137-year-old building in serious need of repair. In order to continue providing benefits and services to the local veterans and their families, major work will need to be done. BVI provided the TVARA chapter with a grant of \$11,500 to assist with materials to restore the roof of this historic building.

The Muscle Shoals Chapter will once again be helping four agencies within its locale during the upcoming holiday season. The Colbert County Caring Center aids individuals with food, utility payments, toiletries, and diapers. More than 700 households were helped in 2022, receiving \$150,000 toward utilities and \$70,000 in food assistance. The agency is on track to exceed these amounts in 2023. In conjunction with TVA's Power Services Shops and a \$5,000 grant from BVI, the Muscle Shoals Chapter will be offering much needed financial help to this agency.

Scope 310 in Florence, Ala., is a daycare facility for mature individuals who have mental/physical handicaps.

Currently, 60 individuals are enrolled in this agency. BVI provided a grant of \$3,000 to assist the Muscle Shoals Chapter in aiding with the group's holiday activities. The chapter will host a holiday party with Santa Claus and provide gifts for each of the clients.

Muscle Shoals Chapter members also will be lending a hand to Santa this year by providing gifts to children via an Angel Tree. Members will be shopping for, wrapping, and delivering gifts to children within the surrounding locales. BVI provided a grant for \$10,000 to aid in this venture, and TVA's Power Services Shops will help out, as well.

Help Our Veterans is an organization that helps local veterans in the hospital, in assisting living, in nursing homes, or under hospice care. The Muscle Shoals Chapter, in conjunction with TVA's Power Services Shops, will present to more than 150 veterans a care package including toiletries, socks, and light snacks. The packaged items will be given to the local American Legion for distribution. BVI provide a \$3,000 grant to assist with this project.

Meanwhile, TVARA's Paradise Chapter is assisting God's Home of Hope in McLean County, Ky. This is a nondenominational nonprofit providing food to more than 150 families each month. BVI has provided a grant for \$5,000 to aid with the purchase of food and other items for this agency.

TVARS reports assets for FY 2023...continued from page 1

group of various goods and services purchased by consumers.

Under the TVARS Rules, the COLA is calculated as the percentage change in the average CPI-U for the period of November 2021-October 2022 to the period of November 2022-October 2023 minus 0.25 percent. This information was not available at presstime, but it will be communicated on the TVARS

website and on the January statements.

Eligible retirees and beneficiaries will see the increase in payments beginning Jan. 31.

Bank of New York Mellon

To access your monthly direct-deposit statements or annual tax forms online, visit tvars.com/retirees, click on the BNY Mellon link, and log in or create your account. On

the BNY Mellon website, you can also update your address, as well as information on tax withholding and direct deposits.

For assistance, call BNY Mellon toll-free at 844-545-1256.

If you have any other retirement-related questions, email tvars@tva.gov or call toll-free 800-824-3870.

Annual Retiree Luncheon furthers ongoing TVA retiree connection

By **LIBERTY PHILLIPS**
Consultant, Employee
Communications (Retiree)

Photos by **Leon Kendrick**

Coming from all over the seven-state region, more than 700 TVA retirees entered the Chattanooga Convention Center on Sept. 13, full of anticipation for the annual Retiree Appreciation Luncheon.

“I worked for TVA for 40 years,” said Cathy Burnett, who was involved in computers, programming, and systems analysis. “I really enjoy the luncheon. I get an opportunity to catch up with old friends and co-workers and hear about what TVA is doing.”

Once inside the center, retirees caught up with friends from across the region and visited TVA exhibits staffed by Retirement Services, resource providers, and other workgroups. With more exhibition booths than ever — featuring organizations ranging from Cultural Compliance to TVA Police — retirees had a lot to see.

“I thought the Mobile Command Center was fantastic,” retired TVA Police Commander Ray Jordan said. “I wish we would have had one when I was here.”

Retirees Rick and Vickie Skalka’s favorite exhibit was the Technology & Innovation booth. “We’ve been coming to the luncheon for 11 years Vickie said. “I enjoyed all the exhibits, but I liked the robotic dog more than anything.”

She was referring to one of the features of several booths staffed by students participating in Tennessee Valley Robotics — an organization supported by TVA and Bicentennial Volunteers Inc.



Workgroup exhibitors enjoyed the event, as well.

“It was wonderful,” said Missy Hedgecoth, TVA Civil Projects & Cultural Compliance Principal Project Manager. “The thing I noticed most was the pride of everyone shining through. That was so special to me.

“It gave us a great opportunity to give retirees some updates, and also to hear their stories. And it was a good opportunity to make connections with potential future volunteers.”

Students in attendance from Tuscumbia in Alabama and from Lawrenceburg, Johnson City, and Hamilton County, in Tennessee represented more than 1,000 schools and 70,000 students that benefit from TVA’s and TVA retirees’ involvement in STEM education for almost 20 years.



Hugh and Mary Gardner

After retirees visited the exhibits and enjoyed lunch, TVARA Valleywide President Jo Anne Lavender welcomed retirees, thanked TVA Board Member Bobby Klein and his wife, Sharon, for attending, and introduced the keynote speakers.

From TVA 90th Anniversary highlights given by Vice President of Communications Buddy Eller to updates on growth and partnerships in the region from TVA Senior Vice President of Regional Relations Dan Pratt, the general theme of the day was all about acknowledging the value of TVA’s retirees and their role as TVA ambassadors.

“I am honored to be part of an organization with employees and retirees who are so committed to the mission of service that TVA has,” Pratt said. “We are standing on your shoulders. We are here because of your hard work and dedication to making your communities a better place.”

Counterclockwise from bottom left, TVA Police Capt. Rick McDowell and Inspector Andrew Tweed helped provide security for the luncheon and also staffed their group’s Mobile Command Center, which was on exhibit; from left, Drew Miller, Tim Perkins, Hannah Bowman, and RaSharon King were in charge of a TVA Natural Resources exhibit; nurses in training at Chattanooga State Community College were on hand to conduct blood-pressure tests; and students from TVA- and TVARA-aided schools showed some of what they’ve been learning.





Carrie Warren



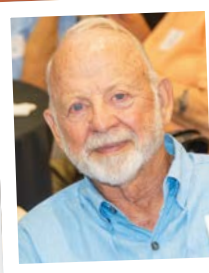
TVA Board Director Bobby Klein



Shelia Wadley-Shepherd



Pat Stewart



James Blackburn



Bill Linville



Lucille and Robert Allensworth



From left, Laven Coffey, Avice Reid, and Gabe Franceschi



From left, Mary Cleveland, with Paulette and Raymond Gore



From left, Ginger Holland, Jeanine May, and Myra Fuller



From left, Sally Weber, Mark Meigs, and Stephanie Cardwell



Part of the crowd of more than 700 retirees who attended the annual Retiree Appreciation Luncheon in Chattanooga

What's New for 2024 in Non-Medicare TVA Retiree Medical Benefits

By NIKOLAUS JORDAN, Benefit Consultant, TVA Benefits & Well-being

For retirees — or their dependents — who are not yet eligible for Medicare, here are some changes in the TVA-sponsored Medical Plan for 2024. Specifically, the following changes will be in effect starting Jan. 1:

1. Consumer-Directed Health Plan Deductibles

To comply with IRS regulations, the deductibles for the CHDP are increasing to \$1,600 for individuals and \$3,200 for families for in-network services (currently \$1,500/\$3,000).

2. Expanded Access to Diabetes Support

Diabetics who need continuous glucose-monitors to manage their condition now will be able to acquire these devices at a pharmacy through Express Scripts. For questions on coverage details, call Express Scripts toll-free at 800-935-6203.

3. 3D Mammograms

Coverage for 3D mammograms will be enhanced to align with

coverage for traditional mammograms, which means no cost when considered preventative.

4. Increased Health Savings Account Limits

The IRS has increased the contribution limits for 2024. The maximum contribution for a retiree with individual coverage will be \$4,150, an increase of \$300 from the 2023 limit of \$3,850. Retirees with family coverage can contribute a maximum of \$8,300 to their HSA for 2024, an increase of \$550 from the 2023 limit of \$7,750.

Need more information?

For more information about the plans available to you, see the Pre-65 Retiree Medical Plan Guide mailed to your home in early October. The People First Solution Center (888-275-8094) is also available to help with any questions or concerns.

Insights from inside BVI-managed NEA ranks

By LEE THOMAS

During my 25 years of full-time employment with TVA, my various TVA teams faced many challenges that were really opportunities.

These tasks included — but certainly were not limited to — getting Watts Bar units 1 and 2 online, dealing with tornadoes in North Alabama affecting Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant and Widows Creek Fossil Plant, the possible and actual loss of customers in Kentucky (Paducah, U.S. Enrichment Corp.), the Arctic polar vortex in 2015, the retirement of fossil plants and their replacement with gas turbines, and so on.

There were many challenges, but the employees of TVA came together to address these challenges and help TVA get back to improving the quality of life for our seven-state region. This is still true today and will continue to be true as TVA moves into the future.

I retired from TVA in 2018, and it was difficult to go from the pace of TVA's Nuclear Power program to cleaning the garage. I could only clean it so much. No grandkids yet, and my wife still worked for TVA (Beth Thomas with the Office of the Inspector General).

After doing a few things I hadn't had time to do while a full-time employee, I looked for other things to do. I wrote a book, volunteered at a hospice, did work on my daughter's house, visited my mom more often, and cleaned the garage again. Thought about going back to work again, but my wife agreed it needed to be a job where I could see that my actions directly helped people and/or was something I really enjoyed.

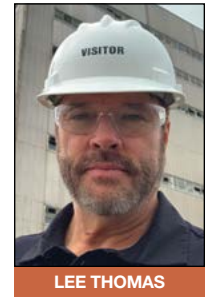
Toward the end of 2018, the opportunity came up to support TVA again through the National Emergency Assistance group. NEA is managed by BVI and meets a commitment by TVA to augment the Federal Emergency Management Agency in disasters for which FEMA does not have adequate staffing.

NEA employees specialize in FEMA's Public Assistance program (damaged roads, bridges, courthouses, schools, wastewater-treatment plants, electrical-distribution systems, city parks, and so forth).

NEA pays these employees a wage and reimburses them

for travel expenses while deployed. It also offers a small monthly stipend toward reimbursement of health insurance. These individuals could work 90-120 days at a time or sometimes as long as a disaster recovery lasts.

This looked like something that would meet my “going back to work” criteria and the chance to keep me out of my garage.



From left, having dinner together after a workday in Florida, are NEA workers and spouses Jacky Preslar, Blanton Maples, Charlotte Stansberry, Davona Mason, Tina Manion, Tony Manion, Steven Barnes, Renee Turnbow, William Turnbow, Lee Thomas, Joe Garrett, Chip Stansberry, and George Scone.

I would go on to work for NEA in Alaska (earthquakes), Oregon (wild fires), and California (COVID-19), all with my wife's approval, of course.

On Sept. 28, 2022, many of us watched as Hurricane Ian (a Category 5) barreled toward the state of Florida. It made landfall as a Category 4 Hurricane just north of Fort Meyers area.

The 10-15-foot storm surge, high winds, and heavy rains resulted in the loss of 150 lives and financial losses estimated at \$113 billion, making it the costliest hurricane in Florida history. FEMA had boots on the ground quickly to support urban search-and-rescue teams and to begin damage assessments.

The nearest motels were full of displaced Floridians, so FEMA constructed a camp to house responders.

FEMA needed help. TVA/BVI was called for that support. Many TVA retirees answered the call back to action to do what they do best, addressing problems to help improve the quality of life, this time in the state of Florida.

Susan Self, Program Manager of NEA Operations,, coordinated with TVA to create a “mission assignment” and a report date.

We started arriving Oct. 25, and there was so much work that needed to be done.

FEMA recognized our team's unique abilities and matched us with hurricane-impacted groups. We worked as program-delivery managers or site inspectors.

Several of us with transmission or power-plant experience helped with public non-profit rural electric cooperatives. Others with experience in areas such as project management, customer relations, administration, and environmental

compliance helped schools, churches, city and state governments, water- and wastewater-treatment facilities, fire departments, and police departments.

We all brought maturity to the overall team. And we brought many other life experiences that were beneficial in working with groups whose representatives might be trying to get their organization up and running, while also dealing with their own personal impacts from the hurricane.

Shortly after we arrived in Florida, we were impacted by another hurricane, Nicole, that came ashore near Daytona Nov.5.

We were fortunate in that we didn't get sent to the "FEMA Camp" (maybe because of our ages). However, because of Hurricane Ian's destructive path (from Fort Meyers to Jacksonville) and Hurricane Nicole's impact on the east coast of Florida, we were dispersed across the state.

Our team had many successes. Even though we made up only 5-10 percent of the program-delivery managers, our projects to facilitate funding to the impacted organizations were some of the first to be processed through the public-assistance process. We were also some of the first to complete the public-assistance process with an impacted group and transition its members to the State of Florida. Our team had great rapport with the people of Florida and helped so many get back on their feet.

We were busy. We worked long days and most Saturdays. Some of us had family come to visit for periods of time. On the days we had off, we did get out and about to undamaged parts of Florida (beaches, Disneyworld, restaurants, St. Augustine, and other places) and enjoyed the great weather.

FEMA authorizes up to 14 days off to return home and see your family and catch up on house maintenance, family events, medical appointments, and such every 30 days. Most of us only did this once every three or four months.

My wife and kids visited frequently, and I have aunts, uncles, and cousins in Florida, which made it easier to be away from home. And I also worked with FEMA to go home several times using what it calls a "non-rotation," which is less than five days of unpaid time off to attend family activities and ensure the garage doesn't need cleaning.

The TVA/BVI/NEA team worked with the FEMA teams, but we also do our best to help each other. And we get together after work or on weekends for dinner, Thanksgiving, playing golf, shopping, and even an occasional airboat tour in the Everglades.

Toward the end of summer 2023, we were wrapping things up with many of the groups we had been supporting since October of last year. Some TVA retirees who supported Florida from the beginning went home, after meeting their

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BVI recognizes more than 18,000 volunteer hours in 2023

By LIBERTY PHILLIPS, Consultant,
Employee Communications (Retiree)

Bicentennial Volunteers Inc President Kathy Black welcomed more than 200 volunteers, representing in excess of 18,000 hours donated in fiscal year 2023, at the group's annual awards reception in Chattanooga Sept. 12.

"We host an annual appreciation reception to recognize the contributions of our dedicated BVI volunteers who work at the TVA-manned visitor centers, along with devoting their time to several other volunteer opportunities," says Marka Smith, BVI Program Manager for Visitor Centers & Volunteer Opportunities.

"We also recognize the outstanding service performed by individuals working for FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) through NEA (National Emergency Assistance), who assist in disaster relief."

Once a formal awards banquet, the event was switched to a more casual appreciation reception last year because COVID-19 had limited volunteer opportunities.



Kathy Black (right) , with Lile and Cathryn Bickley

"All of us felt like the reception atmosphere was well-received," Smith says. "We got many compliments in 2022, so we decided to keep the same format, but we brought back awards."

TVA Board Member Bobby Klein was this year's keynote speaker, thanking all in attendance for their commitment to making the region a better place through their volunteer efforts.

Black acknowledged volunteer milestones-awards winners. While all are amazing examples of service, Carol Daniel was recognized for having volunteered more than 13,000 hours for BVI, the most in program history.

The biggest honor of the evening, Volunteer of the Year, went to Lile and Cathryn Bickley.

"Over the past 13 years, they have volunteered in BVI's Low Income Gardening program in Muscle Shoals, taught water-safety classes in numerous schools throughout northwest Alabama, and have worked at Kentucky and Fontana Dam visitor centers," Black said.

As Black wrapped up sharing the Bickleys' long list of contributions, someone from the back of the room yelled, "We want to know when they sleep!" Those in the room erupted with laughter and nodded in agreement that the two were deserving of the award.

Seeing Sights in Spain & Elsewhere on Way to ... Norway? No Way! Yes, Way!



By LARRY EDWARDS

The urge to travel struck the Edwards household yet again when my wife, Linda, and I saw a notice that Viking had a cruise in the works to go from Barcelona, Spain, to Bergen, Norway. We had already talked about something of that nature when we received the notice, so it didn't take long for us to decide that we wanted to hit the road (or, rather, water) again.

It was a bit late to be joining an ongoing cruise, and a couple of excursions we would have liked to take were sold out, but, hey, that is only a small deterrent when your mind is already made up.

So we started planning almost immediately.

Of course, as we had learned at times in the past, getting there is not always easy.

We were flying from Knoxville to a connecting flight in Chicago, with an exceedingly short layover before that flight. However, we were assured on the morning of departure that we would be fine in Chicago.

Immediately thereafter, we sat on the taxiway in Knoxville for a full 50 minutes, with no real explanation as to how we would still arrive on time.



Linda and Larry Edwards at an overlook above Bergen, Norway, with the North Sea visible in the distance

Because of our unfamiliarity with O'Hare Airport and the short layover time, we were told we would get assistance for the transfer between gates. And when we finally arrived at O'Hare, we were met by two assistants with wheelchairs. But for various reasons, we could only use one of the two.

We each had a fairly large carry-on bag, so Linda used the wheelchair, and I followed with a backpack and the other piece of too-large carry-on luggage.

The young woman pushing the wheelchair looked like she was in fitness training for the Olympics 400-meter run. She told us we had 20 minutes to make a 25-minute trip to our gate.

I struggled to follow her but was no match for her speed through the crowded corridor. I finally simply stopped, and she came back to me. I traded places with Linda for the rest of the way.

Needless to say, we missed our flight, but fortunately we were able to catch another one that got us to New York in time to maintain our original schedule.

Barcelona is absolutely amazing, and while one full day in Barcelona was included in our cruise, we added two days to have time for a more casual visit.

I had been to Barcelona previously, but Linda had not, so the extra couple of days were a welcomed addition.

To me, the crown jewel is the Familia Sagrada, a cathedral that has risen tower by tower over more than 180 years, until it defines the skyline of Barcelona.

Construction of the cathedral was begun in 1882, and the design as it stood then does not resemble what is there today. Antoni Gaudi, an architect and designer, took over the project in 1883 and worked on it until he was struck by a tram while walking to work in 1926 and died two days later.

Work on the project continued sporadically and is now close to completion. The architecture is unlike any other cathedral, or indeed any other building. It is truly a masterpiece of vivid imagination and architectural design and is worthy of any opportunity to visit.

A center of activity in Barcelona is the old port that serves private boating and swimming and hiking trails. It is the starting point for La Rambla, a mile-long pedestrian street filled with shops of various types, fruit and vegetable stands with beautiful displays, and many “character statues,” which are actually heavily made-up individuals impersonating real-life historical characters.



The Columbus Tower alongside the old harbor in downtown Barcelona — legend has it that Columbus was pointing toward the “new world.”

The cathedral and many parks and buildings have received international acclaim, many of them designed by Gaudi.

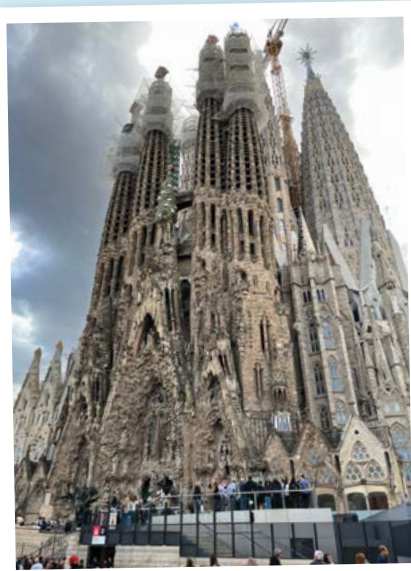
OK, so now it is time to sail.

Our first port of call was in the Murcia region and serves Cartagena.

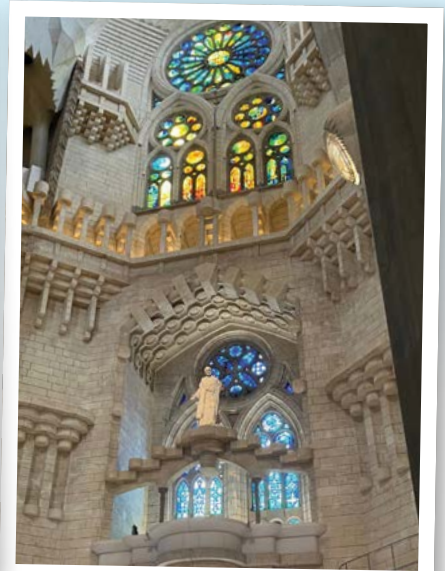
Cartagena was founded before the Roman period, dating to around 220 B.C., and boomed during Roman times. Ruins include an amphitheater and Roman walls. A guided tour brought us to an elevated observation point with a good view of a currently active arena that holds bullfights almost daily.

The remains of the Roman amphitheater went undiscovered

Continued on next page



Exterior of the Familia Sagrada — differing shades of the walls are caused by various materials used during the century-and-a-half of construction.



A very small part of the interior of the Familia Sagrada cathedral



A view of Park Guell, downtown Barcelona, and the Mediterranean Sea in the distance — the park and the cathedral are two of the many projects conceived by Antoni Gaudi, a gifted artisan and architect.



View of the city of Malaga, Spain, featuring a currently active bullfight ring — bullfights occur here several days per week for much of the year.



View inside Baixada de Santa Clara Cathedral, which was developed by and built by the "average" population of Barcelona



Linda behind a statue of Pablo Picasso in a park in Porto, Portugal



Roman ruins in Cartagena, Spain, that were rediscovered in 1988 as new buildings were started — the ruins date to the third century B.C.

until 1988 and are now a major drawing card for the city.

Continuing south to our next port (Grenada serving Malaga), we came to our first disappointment. We knew from the beginning of our trip that the shore excursion to The Alhambra was sold out, so we contented ourselves with lesser activities.

Following our stop at Malaga, we turned westerly and proceeded toward Gibraltar. We wanted to be sure we got to see "The Rock," even though our passage was at night.

Having been assured by the ship's information desk of the time we would make the passage, we decided we had time to go to a show in the ship's theater. As we sat there, we noticed some fellow attendees leaving the show early and remarked to ourselves that they were just rude to leave like that.

So, after the show ended and well before the appointed hour of the passage, we went to the deck and looked ahead of the ship for Gibraltar, only to see open ocean. Then, looking astern, we could see Gibraltar. Behind us. We had missed the actual passage. A small consolation — also visible across the strait were the lights from Morocco.

After the passage through Gibraltar, we continued overnight to Porto, Portugal. Porto is famous as the center of the production and distribution of port wine. Cork also is produced there, and shops near the dock were doing a booming business in the sale of cork purses, wallets, and assorted personal items.

The next day, we arrived in Falmouth, England, a location that is of special interest to Linda. Her paternal grandfather grew up in the region between Falmouth and London. She probably has distant relatives who live there now, although we know nothing of any specific kinfolk thereabouts.



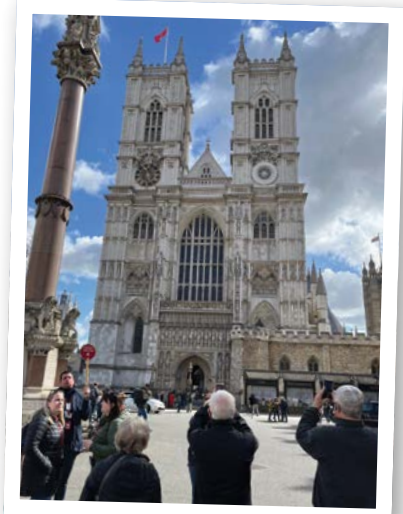
View of ceramic walls which are widely found in Porto, Portugal.

Our next stop was Portsmouth, the home port for much of the Royal Navy fleet. Docked very close to us was one of the fleet's most powerful warships, HMS Defender D37. This destroyer and several more like it are among the most advanced ships in the world. This was also where most of the planning for D-Day was carried out by General Eisenhower and military officers from other Allied nations. Much of the special equipment needed for the invasion also was constructed at Portsmouth.

We had a long but interesting bus ride into London. We were able to see many of the typical tourist attractions, including the Houses of Parliament, Big Ben, Westminster Abbey, and Covent Garden, which is a mall-like area housing restaurants, shops, and myriad street performers of varying degrees of skill.

Our next port ordinarily takes only a short sail across the English Channel to Le Havre, France. After a full day in London, we began to hear that a major storm was developing over the English Channel and that the weather for the next day was rain and wind.

We were scheduled for a visit to the Normandy beachhead area of World War II, and that kind of weather would make that excursion difficult. The visit to



View of Westminster Abbey in London, England — with the magnitude of the crowd in London that day, this is a remarkable view with a minimum of tourists to crowd the view.

Normandy was a major thing for us, since neither of us had been there before.

During the night, the storm became quite apparent. The ship began to roll, even while we were in port. When we left port for the short sail across the channel, the pitch and roll made even walking along the corridors very difficult.

Then we heard that two ships that were to leave Le Havre could not get out, so we had no place to dock.

The ship's captain tried to find another port where we could go, but he was unable to do so. We were doomed to simply sail around in the Channel for the day and night. It became quite difficult to walk around the ship, and "seat belts" for the beds would have been a welcome addition.

The ship has a monitor that shows the day's cruise location. The location of the previous hours brought a corkscrew to mind. It became obvious that our excursion to Normandy (and all others) was not going to happen. We had booked that excursion as one of the highlights of the cruise, and our biggest disappointment was losing it. We simply sailed around aimlessly in the English Channel until the storm either moved on or spent itself and we were able to continue on to our next port.

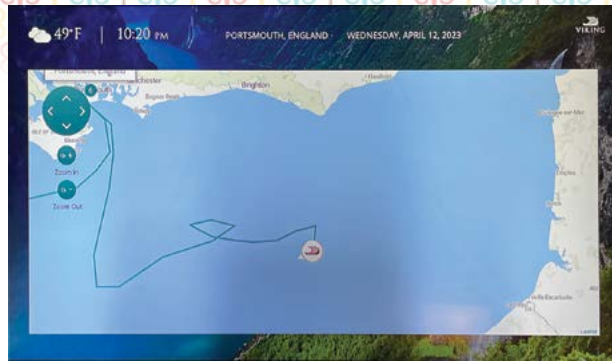
So, it was on to Bruges, Belgium, and Amsterdam, Netherlands.

There is an obvious difference in size between these two cities, but they are similar in many ways. Both are located in lowlands, and canals seem to be everywhere.

To the uninformed eye, it is difficult to know just what body of water you are on, whether it is a bay, harbor, or river, or a combination of the three.

The greatest similarity of these cities is seen in the fact that if you aren't careful, you will surely be run down by one or more bicycles. They are omnipresent, and they have — or their riders think they have — absolute right of way, and they will claim it! Fortunately, we were able to avoid contact with them and had an enjoyable day of sailing through the canals.

A major attraction for us was Amsterdam's Rijksmuseum, replete with major pieces of art painted by the world masters.



TV screen shows ship's "progress" (or lack thereof) toward Le Havre, France.

And, finally, to Norway for an answer to the question "What in the world is Bergen's claim to fame?"

We had believed that Bergen was primarily a stop to board a shuttle flight to Paris. How wrong we were.

In many ways, Bergen was among the more beautiful cities we have visited. First, we were

there on an absolutely gorgeous day in temperature, with a total lack of clouds and with manageable breezes.

The physical location is just inland from the coast of the North Sea, tucked into a marvelous fjord. Since we had not expected it to be especially interesting, we had earlier decided to stay onboard the ship and prepare for our return home. But after having seen Bergen's beauty from our ship, we decided to walk along the edge of the waterway, and enjoy the traditional architecture of the buildings along the waterfront.

After talking to some other people, we learned of a funicular railway that would take us to a higher level for a view of Bergen and its surroundings. Once we were at the mountaintop, an exquisite scene unfolded — the North Sea in the distance, the inlets from the sea leading into other fjords, and the iconic structures around the port, all marvelous to behold.

In many ways, this was the most beautiful scenery we had on the entire cruise.

Our cruise was at an end. Despite a couple of disappointments, it was time to leave. This adventure was over, and it was really satisfying to see so many cultures and different forms of beauty that had combined to make it a memorable trip. We both enjoyed visiting areas of the world we had never visited.



A portrait by Rembrandt at the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam, Netherlands

The return flights were uneventful (for a welcome change), and after a short time back home, we were recharged and wanting to do more.

(Larry Edwards, a graduate of the University of Tennessee in Civil Engineering, had a 33-year career at TVA, beginning in 1959 and ending with his retirement in 1992. He started in the Construction division and managed various estimating and budget offices at the operating and corporate levels. At retirement, he was Executive Secretary of the TVA Retirement System.)

Lots of Lights Brighten Dull Days of Valley Winter

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

The transition from the brilliant colors of autumn to the muted landscapes of winter in the Tennessee Valley call for light and merriment. The days are getting shorter, but the holidays are also upon us with their mix of traditions and seasonal events.

Merry and Bright — The tradition of hanging lights to symbolize the season dates back many centuries. When the original settlers came to this country from the Old World, they brought many of their Christmas customs and practices, including lighted trees and candles in the windows. The burning of the Yule log dates even further back to the pagan tradition of the Norse and the Celts, who believed the light of the Yule log would banish the darkness and bring luck for the new year.

Thomas Edison introduced electric holiday lights with a business display for investors in 1880. By 1882, Edward Johnson, a close friend and associate of Edison, amused his family and the New York media with a display of electric lights on a Christmas tree. It wasn't until 1923 that the first public lighting of the National Christmas Tree in Washington, D.C., occurred, some 41 years after Johnson's tree.

The tradition of stringing holiday lights still holds magical qualities. Across the Valley, there are thousands of displays using millions, perhaps billions, of electric lights of all sizes and colors, a visual feast for the eyes and senses.

Here are some favorite holiday-light displays from across the region:

Through Dec 27 — **Christmas at the Grotto** — Cullman, Ala.: At the Ava Maria Grotto.

Through Dec 30 — **Galaxy of Lights at Huntsville Botanical Garden** — Huntsville, Tenn.: Lights, faux snow, and music.

Through Jan 6 — **Dollywood Smoky Mountain Christmas** — Pigeon Forge, Tenn.: A celebration of the holidays with 6

million twinkling lights and towering Christmas trees.

Through Jan 6 — **Enchanted Garden of Lights** — Rock City, Ga.

Through Jan 14 — **Patti's 1880 Settlement Display of Lights** — Grand River, Ky.

Other winter events in the Valley to brighten your day:

December

Through Dec 30 — **Christmas in the Park** — Benton, Ky.: Annual lighting festival.

2 — **Holiday Maker's Faire** — Jonesborough, Tenn.: Some 55-plus vendors selling handcrafted goods and foods.

2 — **Christmas in the Country at the Exchange Place Living History Farm** — Kingsport, Tenn.: Fresh greens, wreaths, caroling, and the annual Lighting of the Yule Log celebration.

9 — **Sippin' Cider Festival** — Athens, Ala.: Shop, sip, and mingle with local merchants.

31 — **New Year's Eve Celebration** — Gatlinburg, Tenn.: Annual fireworks display and ball drop at midnight.

January

12-14 — **Festival of the Cranes** — Decatur, Ala.: Annual event to mark the return of the sandhill cranes to Wheeler Reservoir.

13-14 — **Sandhill Crane Festival** — Birchwood, Tenn.: Annual event to mark the return of the sandhill cranes to the Hiwassee River

27 — **Chocolate Festival** — Knoxville, Tenn.: A decadent day of chocolate.

Learn more about the Tennessee River Valley and events happening throughout the year. Explore more about this great region at tennesseerivervalleygeotourism.org.



Dollywood's annual Smoky Mountain Christmas features more than 6 million twinkling lights and dozens of towering Christmas trees throughout the park.



New Board Nominee Highlights TVA News from D.C.

By JESSICA HOGLE, TVA Vice President, Federal Affairs



JESSICA HOGLE

Some big news out of Washington was the nomination of a new TVA Board member!

On Sept. 11, the White House announced the nomination of Memphis City Council Member Patrice Robinson to the TVA Board, filling the vacancy created as Chair Bill Kilbride's term concludes. At presstime for this publication, the

Federal Affairs team was working to help prepare her for her confirmation by the U.S. Senate .

Congressional Trip to Alabama

In August, the Federal Affairs team traveled to Alabama for its annual trip with members of congressional staffs. For three days, we led a group of 19 staff members to tour TVA assets across North Alabama. They included representatives of offices of members of the TVA Congressional Delegation, along with professional staff members of relevant congressional committees and the Biden Administration.

We saw Colbert Combustion Turbine Gas Plant, one of TVA's newest generating assets; toured Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant and Wheeler Dam; received a natural-resources briefing at Lake Guntersville; and visited the U.S. Space & Rocket Center

The site visits and speakers highlighted how TVA's unique mission and model continue to serve the Tennessee Valley well after 90 years. We also put special emphasis on the skill and pride of TVA employees to operate a complicated and comprehensive integrated system.

Blue Ridge Dam Visit

Later in August, U.S. Rep. Andrew Clyde (GA-09) and Georgia State Rep. Johnny Chastain toured Blue Ridge Dam. They were eager to see the dam and learn more about the role of hydropower in TVA's generation portfolio and how TVA manages the river system for power production, environmental stewardship, and recreation that strengthens the local economy.

Powering Innovation, American Manufacturing

In September, TVA Chief External Relations Officer Jeannette Mills was in Washington for National Clean Energy Week. In a panel discussion on "Powering the Adoption of Innovative Clean Energy Technologies," she highlighted how TVA and the Tennessee Valley Public Power Model are well-positioned to help our country drive innovation, achieve energy security, and support economic growth. In addition to having one of the nation's largest and cleanest generation portfolios, TVA has the strong partnerships that will be necessary to power future economic growth and advanced American manufacturing.



Congressional staff members visiting Colbert Combustion Turbine Gas Plant

Insights from Inside BVI's NEA ranks...continued from page 7

commitments to FEMA. Some went on to other disasters.

On Aug. 30, 2023, Hurricane Idalia slammed into Florida's Big Bend region as a Category 3 hurricane, causing massive flooding and high winds not just in Florida, but in Georgia and the Carolinas, as it churned its way northeast. FEMA needed help.

Over the next three weeks, nine more TVA retirees came to Florida to answer the call.

I have been in Florida for more than a year and, working with my wife on this, decided to continue to support the State of Florida with hurricane-recovery efforts.

Even though my garage still may need cleaning, what we TVA retirees do in Florida and across the United States directly helps people and is something I really enjoy.

TVA retirees continue to make a difference, and I'm glad to continue to be part of that.

In Memoriam

July 31, 2023 - Oct. 29, 2023

TVA Retirement Management received notifications of the deaths of the following retirees for the period July 31, 2023, through October 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 800-824-3870.

Ames, Linnie L.,
10/16/2023(2/17/2004)
Anders, Michael R.,
10/23/2023(8/2/2004)
Arnold, Kenneth E.,
8/21/2023(7/23/1988)
Bailey, J. Loman,
8/17/2023(10/28/1986)
Ballard, Loman H.,
10/14/2023(4/6/1991)
Bates, Mary Evelyn,
10/3/2023(12/30/2008)
Binkley, Jerry W.,
8/24/2023(5/10/1986)
Blevins, Ralph W.,
10/5/2023(12/2/2000)
Boehms, Olin Willis,
8/12/2023(10/1/1988)
Bolden, Frederick,
9/25/2023(2/25/2023)
Borden, Michael D.,
9/4/2023(8/22/2005)
Boring, Ernest H.,
7/29/2023(12/16/2009)
Bozeman, Larry D.,
8/6/2023(1/3/2003)
Brandon, Thomas H.,
10/15/2023(1/2/1999)
Branson, Gregory H.,
7/24/2023(1/23/2013)
Brooks, Joseph H.,
7/27/2023(9/2/1989)
Brown, Peyton R., Jr.,
7/26/2023(11/10/2004)
Burdette, Jimmy W.,
8/20/2023(1/1/1995)
Buttgereit, Achim B.,
9/1/2023(3/31/1996)
Cagle, Franklin D.,
9/29/2023(7/1/1993)
Cardwell, Donald,
10/18/2023(11/14/1992)
Carlew, James D.,
8/24/2023(7/1/1989)
Chapman, Jerry K.,
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Christopher, George H.,
8/29/2023(1/8/2005)
Cobb, Huston, Jr.,
8/5/2023(1/5/1987)
Collins, Tommy A.,
8/24/2023(11/17/2001)
Coram, Steven D.,
11/5/2020(6/20/1989)
Cottles, Vertis L.,
6/22/2023(9/27/1997)
Cunningham, Margaret A.,
7/28/2023(10/17/1994)
Curnutt, Danny C.,
7/30/2023(9/27/1997)
Dabney, Helen Joy,
9/20/2023(10/13/2004)
Dalton, Charles K.,
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Davis, John R.,
8/4/2023(5/29/2004)
Davis, Ronald D., Sr.,
10/18/2023(4/3/2004)

Derington, Curtis W.,
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Dodson, Shirley A.,
4/9/2023(10/1/1996)
Driver, E. Ely,
9/11/2023(6/1/1993)
Durali, James R.,
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Easley, Timothy L., Sr.,
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Edmonds, Nancy C.,
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Elder, Larry W.,
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Etherton, Shirley F.,
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Evans, Dennis D.,
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Evans, Earl F.,
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Feurer, John A.,
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Goodman, Mason C.,
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Goss, Andy R.,
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Gray, Wayne E.,
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Hanson, Frankie R.,
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Harris, Mark E.,
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Harris, Nile D.,
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Hartman, William L.,
10/13/2023(10/17/1994)
Hartness, Shirley F.,
9/25/2023(1/21/1999)
Harvey, Martha A.,
9/27/2023(3/3/2001)
Haskew, Barbara S.,
9/8/2023(12/24/2014)
Henderson, James D.,
9/28/2023(1/1/1999)
Herbert, John J., Jr.,
8/5/2023(9/29/2007)
Hester, H. Denton,
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Hickey, Doyle T.,
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Hinds, Robert W.,
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Hobgood, Jerry K.,
9/6/2023(7/7/2007)
Holden, Lonnie K.,
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Horton, Bobby G.,
10/5/2023(10/1/2014)
Horton, Howard D.,
10/12/2023(6/2/2007)
Horton, Susan A.,
9/28/2023(7/17/1993)

Houston, Billy W.,
10/17/2023(1/1/1993)
Hulen, Amy L.,
8/31/2023(7/15/2014)
Hurst, Susan K.,
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Jackson, Charles E.,
9/3/2023(10/17/1990)
Jenkins, Charles E.,
10/4/2023(12/4/1999)
Jenkins, Robia E.,
9/18/2023(4/18/1987)
Jewell, Kenneth A.,
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Johnson, Carl,
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Jones, George T.,
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Jones, Isaac E.,
7/26/2023(10/1/1986)
Kidd, Daniel L.,
9/15/2023(1/2/2000)
Kimsey, Richard,
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King, Bernard T., Sr.,
10/14/2023(10/1/1996)
King, Jesse L.,
10/12/2023(1/5/1999)
King, William G.,
9/25/2023(10/17/1994)
Kowalsky, Norbert W.,
8/8/2023(9/27/1997)
Laney, James L.,
8/12/2023(4/21/1990)
Lawhon, Clarence H.,
8/25/2023(10/17/1994)
Lebovitz, Bruce,
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Lewis, James Edward,
8/23/2023(4/4/2000)
Long, Mary E.,
8/14/2023(8/2/1988)
Lowe, John W.,
9/30/2023(7/10/2004)
Lyndon, William A.,
10/18/2023(10/1/1988)
Magouirk, Homer D.,
10/9/2023(6/10/2006)
Malec, William F.,
10/19/2023(7/1/1995)
Martin, Kay R.,
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McClellan, Forney W., Jr.,
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McClure, J Robert, Jr.,
9/12/2023(8/27/1988)
McSween, Charles E.,
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Meischen, Sandra J.,
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Metcalfe, James Kenneth,
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Micale, Paul,
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Miller, Marvin H.,
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Mills, Louis A.,
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Ming, Verlen T.,
8/21/2023(4/2/1996)
Mitchell, Bonnie W.,
10/25/2023(10/16/1993)
Moore, Homer D., Jr.,
8/4/2023(11/12/1994)
Morris, Bertram C.,
10/16/2023(5/5/2007)
Morse, Robert C.,
10/18/2023(9/27/1997)
Msarsa, Maurice G.,
10/2/2023(6/1/1993)
Myers, Thurell B.,
10/1/2023(9/12/1983)
Nacoste, Rodney,
9/11/2023(2/10/2014)
Nance, Daniel C.,
8/5/2023(6/3/2006)
Nance, Ruth F.,
8/24/2023(10/1/1988)
Natividad, Rodolfo S.,
10/2/2023(8/16/1988)
Naylor, Glenn D.,
9/7/2023(4/4/1998)
Neely, Billy B.,
9/9/2023(7/26/1992)
Nelson, Janice L.,
8/9/2023(6/4/1993)
Nix, Sharon Lee,
10/2/2023(4/2/2006)
Nixon, Danny O.,
9/7/2023(2/17/2018)
Olin, Timothy W.,
10/10/2023(4/28/1990)
Pemberton, Johnny C.,
9/12/2023(10/17/1994)
Perry, J.W.,
9/1/2023(1/5/2008)
Pippenger, Terry W.,
9/20/2023(10/6/2001)
Posey, Jerry L.,
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Provine, Don F.,
4/11/2023(10/25/2003)
Pullin, Gertrude T.,
10/19/2023(7/2/2013)
Radford, Bobby,
7/22/2023(6/23/1987)
Redmond, Carlene S.,
9/26/2023(3/3/2007)
Reeder, Charles E.,
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Reeves, Stephen P.,
8/3/2023(7/5/2008)
Renfroe, Gerald Don, Jr.,
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Robinson, Jacky R.,
8/14/2023(11/5/1988)
Roper, Charles A.,
10/17/2023(12/9/1995)
Rose, Darryl R.,
9/11/2023(1/6/2007)
Rose, Kenneth P.,
10/3/2023(1/5/2008)
Rudd, Jerry E.,
9/22/2023(7/7/1999)
Russell, William R.,
8/6/2023(1/2/2010)

Seay, Michael L.,
8/14/2023(6/2/1998)
Shereda, David T.,
7/27/2023(1/2/1982)
Shields, Jackie L.,
6/25/2023(3/17/1989)
Slay, James D.,
9/12/2023(10/1/1988)
Smith, Kay W.,
9/17/2023(10/17/1994)
Spradlen, Robert C.,
9/2/2023(6/4/1988)
Springer, Buel T.,
8/8/2023(8/7/1993)
Spurlock, Thomas T.,
9/7/2023(6/2/2012)
Stofel, Dwight S.,
8/5/2023(11/24/2007)
Stooksbury, Sarah J.,
9/26/2023(10/1/1988)
Szabat, Nicholas M.,
9/11/2023(8/26/1989)
Taylor, Walter E.,
9/25/2023(1/2/2012)
Thompson, Carl E.,
9/18/2023(5/3/1993)
Thompson, Jackie M.,
9/19/2023(7/6/2000)
Tompkins, Charles K.,
8/9/2023(9/2/1989)
Tyler, Charles T.,
8/22/2023(9/30/1995)
Vandiver, Thomas H.,
9/7/2023(10/17/1994)
Vanosdale, Curtis A.,
8/26/2023(9/27/1997)
Varghese, Joy,
8/22/2023(6/6/2009)
Waldrep, Charles R.,
8/21/2023(10/10/2011)
Wallace, Larry W.,
8/24/2023(1/8/2004)
Warford, Billy R., Sr.,
8/29/2023(9/1/1990)
Weaver, Dwight A.,
10/19/2023(3/11/2014)
Weaver, Ronnell N.,
9/25/2023(1/13/2004)
Webb, Robert G.,
9/23/2023(10/1/2016)
Wells, Rebecca A.,
9/29/2023(9/30/1989)
West, Kenneth L.,
9/11/2023(8/12/2010)
White, Jacqueline D.,
9/3/2023(2/27/2005)
Wilson, Charles E.,
8/31/2023(1/2/2000)
Wright, Calvin E.,
7/13/2023(9/6/2003)
Wright, Davis C.,
8/28/2023(4/2/2003)

Upcoming December 2023 Chapter Meetings

BROWNS FERRY

December 12, 2023, noon

Location: Catfish Cabin, Athens, Ala.

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

CHATTANOOGA

**December 5, 2023, 10 a.m., Meet 'n' Greet
10:30 a.m., meeting**

*Brainerd United Methodist Church,
Fellowship Hall, covered entrance on left,
4315 Brainerd Road*

- Program: Wrap presents for Chambliss Center Children's Home, coffee, hot chocolate, donuts, holiday cookies, and music
- Tom Swanson, President
423-344-6892/twswanson@comcast.net

CLEVELAND

December 15, 2023, 11 a.m.

*Olive Garden Restaurant,
4499 Keith Street NW*

- Program: Christmas Luncheon
 - Guest Speaker: Liberty Phillips, Consultant, Employee Communications (Retiree) External Relations
- John Austin, President
423-472-2720/austintnuffan@charter.net

GALLATIN

December 13, 2023, 11 a.m.—2 p.m.

Gallatin Public Library, 123 E. Main St.

- Christmas Program: Finger foods and Christmas songs
- Ronnie "Blue" Monday, President
615-481-8469/oemorgan@comcast.net

HUNTSVILLE

December 14, 2023, 10 a.m.

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

- Guest Speaker: Colby Carter, Legal Counsel, TVA Retirement System, who will present a TVARS update
 - Meal provided afterward
- Daniel A. Simmons, President
256-509-9781/dasimmon@bellsouth.net

JACKSON

December 13, 2023, 9:30 a.m.

*Southwest Electric Membership Corp.,
1590 Highway 70E*

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

JOHNSONVILLE/CUMBERLAND

**December 14, 2023, 10 a.m. socializing
11 a.m., meeting**

*Country & Western Steakhouse
Hwy 641 North, Camden, Tenn.*

- Chapter Christmas Meeting, with door prizes and gifts
 - Guest Speaker: Nikolas Jordan, Benefit Consultant, TVA Benefits & Wellbeing
 - Information from the TVARA Board Meeting in November will be discussed
- Mickey Blackburn, President
931-209-1352/mwblackb56@gmail.com

KNOXVILLE

December 12, 2023, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

*The Foundry
747 World's Fair Park Drive*

- Program: Christmas Program, with Brian Child Sammy D. Sweetland, President
- 256-366-0952/sdsweet62@hotmail.com

MEMPHIS

December 12, 2023, 11 a.m.

*La Cocina Mexicana,
2495 Millbranch Road*

- Program: Christmas
- Steve Coleman, President
901-237-0214/stevenacoleman66@gmail.com

MISSISSIPPI

December 12, 2023, 10 a.m.

*Tupelo TVA Customer Service Center,
3197 Brooks Road, Belden, MS*

- Program: 2024 Planning Meeting & Christmas Luncheon
- Judy J. Bright, President
662-791-9779/bright.judy@gmail.com

MUSCLE SHOALS

December 13, 2023, 10 a.m.

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

- Program: Christmas
 - Guest Speakers: Colby Carter, Legal Counsel, TVA Retirement System; Joe Galardi, Director, TVA Benefits & Wellbeing
- Timothy "Tim" Cornelius, President
256-483-5917/timwcornelius1@gmail.com

NASHVILLE

December 14, 2023, 10 a.m.

*Victory Baptist Church,
1777 Tate Lane, Mount Juliet, Tenn.*

- Guest Speaker: Liberty Phillips, Consultant, Employee Communications (Retiree) External Relations
- Kevin Whitehead, President
931-215-1794/klwhite220@att.net

NORTHEAST ALABAMA

December 12, 2023, 11 a.m.

*Western Sizzlin
1130 Highway 28, Jasper, Tenn.*

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

PADUCAH AREA

December 19, 2023, 10 a.m.

Pizza Inn, 1001 Joe Clifton Drive

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

PARADISE

December 12, 2023, 10:30 a.m.

*Catfish Dock, 2003 W. Everly Brothers Blvd.,
Powderly, KY*

- Program: TBD
- Betty Woodlee, President
270-847-6449/mammytw3@yahoo.com

UPPER EAST TENNESSEE

At presstime, Chapter President Les Bays had been traveling out of the country and had not had an opportunity to schedule a meeting for December. He will email all chapter members when a meeting has been scheduled.

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

WESTERN AREA

December 6, 2023, 10:30 a.m.

Lake Barkley State Resort Park, Meeting Room

- Program: Christmas, with entertainment by Rick Hokans and the Give-a-ways
- K. Renee Turnbow, President
270-205-5277/kturnbow@gmail.com

Getting in touch with TVARA

Here is contact information for the TVA Retirees Association and its officers:

TVARA 865-632-3318

Jo Anne Lavender, TVARA President
jlavender@tds.net/865-300-8272

Vickie Ellis, TVARA Immediate Past President
vellis@aol.com/865-805-1512

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

Debbie Rutherford, TVARA Secretary
frogvol7@att.net/865-809-7084

Lisa Overly, TVARA Treasurer
lloverly@hotmail.com/865-567-7911

Penny Walker, TVARA Volunteer Coordinator
pennywalker06@comcast.net/423-413-7137

Please visit the TVARA website at mytvara.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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**TVARA Website, Email Addresses...
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to a meeting of a TVARA chapter of which you are not a member (you may have moved, for instance), do not unsubscribe but instead email me at rtwilson@tva.gov. I will change you to the chapter of your choice. Note that you will be removed from our email distribution list when you unsubscribe.

Please add the following TVARA Staff email addresses to your address book to prevent our emails from going into your Junk or Spam folder:

Terri Welty — tkwelty0@mytvara.org
Jean Bryson — sjbryson@mytvara.org
Richard Wilson — rtwilson@mytvara.org

Dues Notices For 2024

By RICHARD T. WILSON JR., TVARA Valleywide Membership Program Manager

You will receive a Dues Renewal Notice for 2024 in the mail during the first week of January 2024 if you have not paid for 2024. You will not receive a Dues Renewal Notice if you have already paid for 2024 or beyond.

In addition to the mailed copy of the Dues Renewal Notice, you will receive a copy by email. Sending the Dues Renewal Notice by email is a new process and in the future may replace the mailing of a paper copy.

The Expiration Date for your TVARA membership (and accompanying subscription to this newsletter) is above your name on the mailing label on this page.

The Dues Renewal Notice envelope has a postcard containing your Membership ID, name, address, and a return envelope. It includes a reminder to pay your dues for 2024 by submitting a check for \$15 made

payable to TVARA. There is also space to provide your email address and phone number (home and cell).

You can request a membership card by enclosing a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Insert the completed postcard inside the return envelope, along with your check (do not send cash), and a self-addressed, stamped envelope, in order to receive a new membership card. If your spouse wants to become a member, include his or her name and payment with your dues.

If you have not paid in a while or wish to become a member, write a \$15 check made payable to TVARA and mail it to the following address:

TVARA
400 W Summit Hill Dr
WT8 C-K
Knoxville TN 37902-9901

Civil Service Retirees also can become members of TVARA. They can write a \$15 check payable to TVARA and mail it to the above address. If you are a Civil Service Retiree and have recently changed your address, please tell Retirement Services (call toll-free at 800-824-3870) of the change. If you are not sure Retirement Services has your correct address, get in touch with that office immediately.

Thank you for your continued support of the TVARA.

Paying Dues Online

Did you know you can pay your TVARA membership dues through your local bank or credit union? Please go to mytvara.org/membership/ and scroll down to **Paying TVARA Dues Online Through Your Local Bank.**