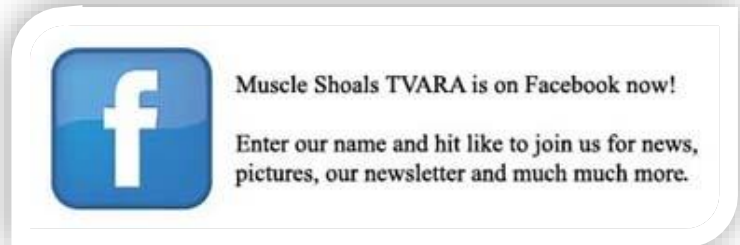


# POWER Connect!

## Muscle Shoals Chapter

Winter 2023 Issue



### Message from our President

Hello everyone! Hope all of you are well.

Our next chapter meeting will be on Wednesday, March 8, at 10:00 a.m. We will meet at the TVACCU location on Wilson Dam Road. For those who are able, please use the Tri-Cities Church of Christ's parking lot in order to leave parking spaces available at the credit union for their customers.

Our program will include a presentation by John Blackwell on the "Myths and Legends of Wilson Dam." Wilson Dam has been a major tourist attraction in the Shoals since the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Learn some interesting stories about the beginning and operation of this national treasure.

Lunch will be provided at the conclusion of the meeting, and we will have cash door prizes for some lucky attendees.

Our chapter has been supporting community projects since our last newsletter. We are working on our annual Garden Seed Program and have received a BVI grant for \$35,000 to assist in this effort. Also, we teamed with the TVA Community Credit Union for the Food Bank of North Alabama food drive.

Stay safe. Hope you see you at the March meeting.

Tim.



## Inside This Issue

- 1 Message from President
- 2 Upcoming Events/Advertisers
- 3 Board Members
- 3 TVA Board Listening Meeting
- 3 Christmas with Scope 310
- 5 Have a Heart Food Drive
- 5 Best Robotics Competition
- 7 Gerald Williams Garden Program
- 7 Endowed Scholarship
- 8 TVARA Valleywide Meeting
- 9 TVA's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- 11 And then it is Winter
- 13 Help Needed/Suggestions

## Upcoming Events

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

Program to be announced

Free Lunch and Door Prizes

Wilson Dam Road TVA Community Credit Union

Tuesday, June 20, 2023, 10:00 a.m.

Annual Picnic and Health Fair

Program: Health, Fitness, & More

Great Door Prizes (thousands of dollars)

Florence/Lauderdale Coliseum

Wednesday, September 13, 2023, 10:00 a.m.

Program to be announced

Free Lunch and Door Prizes

Wilson Dam Road TVA Community Credit Union

Wednesday, December 13, 2023, 10:00 a.m.

Benefits Update and Christmas Medley by Alyssa

Free Lunch and Door Prizes

Wilson Dam Road TVA Community Credit Union

## Our Advertisers

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

**TVA Community Credit Union**

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**Med Associates of the Shoals**

**Morrison Funeral Home**

**Helen Keller Hospital**

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## Meet your Muscle Shoals TVARA Board Members

President, Tim Cornelius

Vice President, Debbie Norton

Treasurer, Joan Marsh

Secretary, Carol Sherer

TVARA Picnic Manager, Henry Long

Hospitality, MJ Ligon

Scholarship Program, John Ingwersen

Newsletter: John Ingwersen

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

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

Comments/Recommendations/Articles for Newsletter? Send to [jl Ingwersen@gmail.com](mailto:jl Ingwersen@gmail.com).

### Board of Directors Listening Meeting

At the TVA Board of Directors listening session held in Muscle Shoals on February 15, 2023 there was a collection of historical pictures and artifacts from TVA activities in Muscle Shoals. One of these was the podium that President Kennedy spoke from on May 18, 1963. John Blackwell had just started to work there on February 14, 1963, sixty years ago. He attended the event and had an opportunity to not only shake President Kennedy's hand once but three times that day.

To the right is a picture of Pat Ezzell of TVA and John Blackwell in front of the podium.



### Christmas with Scope 310

A Christmas Sing-a-long was held on December 20, 2022, with the clients of Scope 310 in Florence. Alyssa Ashley-Guin (TVA Community Credit Union) provided the music with John Ingwersen (Muscle Shoals Chapter TVARA and Florence Civitan) and several Scope 310 clients as background and Santa (John Blackwell of Muscle Shoals Chapter TVARA) was present to give out gifts to all the clients. The gifts were provided by employees of the TVA Community Credit Union. A



presentation was made to Ralph Stanley, Program Director of the Conner Center, Scope 310, of a \$1,000 check from Muscle Shoals Chapter TVARA and Bicentennial Volunteers Inc (BVI) and a second check for \$500 from the Florence Civitan Club.



## SCOPE 310 AUTHORITY

4129 Helton Drive • Florence, Alabama 35630 • Office: 256-768-0901 • Fax: 256-768-0903

**Bobby R. Bolton**  
President

**Arvy G. Dupuy, III**  
Executive Director

December 21, 2022

TVARA Muscle Shoals Chapter  
3416 Lenz St.  
Muscle Shoals 35661

Dear TVARA,

On behalf of Scope 310 Authority, we would like to thank you for your donation of \$1,000.00. It is because of your thoughtfulness, and generosity of individuals like you that we are able to continue to provide services to individuals with developmental disabilities around this area. If I or anyone at SCOPE may ever be of assistance to you, please let us know. Thanks again for your sincere donation for our individuals.

Sincerely,

SCOPE 310 Authority  
Arvy G. Dupuy III  
Executive Director

## First Annual “Have a Heart” Food Drive

Every year in the fall and at Christmas our community goes all out to provide food for our local charities to give out to the needy. Unfortunately, by the middle of the winter most all of that food has been distributed and the agencies come up short and in need for more. For that reason, The TVA Community Credit Union and Muscle Shoals Chapter TVARA teamed up for a food drive that would run for one week ending on Valentine’s Day, February 14, and thus named the “Have a Heart” Food Drive. Boxes were placed in all eight Credit Union offices in the Shoals by TVARA members and picked up on Valentine’s Day and delivered to the North Alabama Food Bank in the Florence-Lauderdale Industrial Park. This warehouse is new and serves all of northwest Alabama. Besides 420 pounds of food, we delivered a check for \$5,000 thanks to support from BVI.



Photo to the right: Henry Long, Jenn Tittle receiving check for \$5,000 from Debbie Norton, MSC TVARA VP, Jim Green, and John Ingwersen. Not seen (taking photo) is Billy Baggett. 420 pounds from food drive in front. Alyssa Ashley-Guin, Credit Union Coordinator, was unable to attend.

## BEST Robotics Competition

As the principal supporter of the Sholas Hub of BEST Robotics through a \$10,000 award this past year, TVARA is encouraging the best and brightest throughout Northwest Alabama to consider science and technology as they consider their career goals. While this is the primary goal, BEST also encourages students to consider the other functions that support and drive the science and technology industries.

South's BEST is a regional championship where all teams throughout the southeastern United States will gather. These states may include Kentucky, South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, Florida, Mississippi and Alabama. In the past this competition has been held at Auburn but for this coming year

and future years, UNA is considering sponsoring the Southeastern Regionals. With the central location, Florence (UNA) is a likely hosting candidate, but this has not yet been settled.

NW Alabama BEST Robotics hosted 11 teams in 2022 from across NW Alabama. We had an exciting season of "Made 2 Order" that focused on supply chain solutions. Our winners were as follows:

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Greenhill: 351 AL Hwy 64, Killen, AL | 256-272-8066  
Sheffield: 1120 S. Jackson Hwy Suite 300, Sheffield, AL | 256-383-4447

Amber Olsen, DO • Anthony Horton, DO • Brad McAnalley, MD  
Courtney Bowen, MD • Jack McLendon, MD • Jeremy Thompson, MD  
Joshua Vacik, MD • Robert Dickson, DO

## 2022 NW Alabama BEST Award Winners:

- 1st Creekside Academy
- 2nd Brooks High School
- 3rd Central High School
- 4th Covenant Christian School



## 2022 BEST Robotics Performance Winners:

- 1st Trinitas Classical Academy
- 2nd Phillips High School
- 3rd Tharptown High School
- 4th Rogers High School



*The following is a message from Kim Shepherd, Co-Hub Director for NW Alabama BEST Robotics.*

*“We’ve applied for a new 501c3 called **Shoals STEM & Robotics**. We are organizing now and hope to support area STEM events and other robotics activities in our area soon as a corporation. UNA has*

indicated it will do fundraising for South's BEST, if it is all approved. But I want to have a supplementary account to help with any needs. Of course, if UNA doesn't need much help we can expand and include more events for middle school, elementary, teachers, and robotics organizations (i.e., BEST, Vex, Math Tournaments). Maybe next year, I can apply through this new organization? So far, we have officers: Trent Allen, President; Stephanie Newland, VP, Kim Sheppard, Sec.; Angela Laughlin, Treasurer. I have asked Steve Merry to be a part but haven't heard back from him yet. I'd love some TVA input and expertise.

We are now gearing up for 2023. We will begin registering teams March 1st.”

## **Gerald Williams Garden Program**

With money provided by BVI our Muscle Shoals Chapter of TVARA presented \$35,000 to the Community Action Center of NW Alabama to help fund the Gerald Williams cooperative garden program. The program offers vouchers to buy supplies at local coops in Colbert, Lauderdale, and Franklin counties for participants wishing to grow their own garden. Participants in the program must not exceed established monthly gross incomes. TVA Retirees volunteer to take applications that are processed by the Community Action Agency. Approximately 700 families are expected to participate in this project this year. Pictured are Tim Cornelius, President of local TVARA Chapter; Joan Marsh, Treasurer of the local TVARA Chapter; David Crosby, Executive Director, Community Action; Amanda Berry, Board Chair, Community Action; John Blackwell, Board Member of local chapter.



## **Endowed Scholarship - Your Support Needed!**

***Important notice: the time to apply for a scholarship has been extended now to end April 17. If you know anyone who planned to apply but has not, they can still do so.***

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

As of January, 2023, our scholarship endowment totaled \$85,433. We have recovered by about \$10,000 from our September dip. We need your support to push on toward a \$100,000 endowment.

The endowment for 2022-2023 is supporting two scholarships. These awards exceed \$1,600 each. The scholarship award gives preference to relatives of active (paid) Muscle Shoals TVARA members. In addition; your TVARA Board has approved an award of \$200 for the winning essay.

Please make our endowed scholarship a priority for your charitable giving. Donations are tax-deductible. If you would like to donate, go to: <https://www.una.edu/give/tva-scholarship.html>.

You may also donate by check. Make your check payable to Muscle Shoals Chapter, TVARA/UNA Endowed Scholarship and mail it to:

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



**UNA Scholarship Luncheon. From left, Abigail Smith, Joan March, John Ingwersen, Lynn Ingwersen**

## **TVARA Valleywide Meeting**

February 24, 2023

By John Blackwell

A conference call of the Board of Directors of the TVARA was held on February 24, 2023. Tim Cornelius, Carol Sherer and John Blackwell from the Muscle Shoals chapter participated. The following are some of the highlights from the call.

Pat began her presentation by discussion the TVA Board of Directors meeting in Muscle Shoals on February 15 and 16, 2023.

She discussed the presentation by Don Moul, TVA Chief Operation Officer, discussed the recent December winter storm and the rolling black out through the TVA region. The TVA nuclear fleet was kept on line during the storm. However, the Cumberland coal fired plant had to go off line. Because of the magnitude of the storm TVA could not rely on electrical load support from other utilities. Therefore, for the first time in 90 years TVA had to implement rolling blackouts. These blackouts were about 15 minutes in duration. TVA has immediately undertaken changes internally as well as have an outside group of utility experts, blue ribbon panel, to evaluate the causes of the failure and steps that can be taken to avoid blackouts. TVA is continuing to move to have zero carbon emissions by 2050. TVA retirees were asked to reduce their use of electrical use during the winter storm. Also discussed was the 2.5% load increase TVA is expected because of the population growth in valley. TVA is taken steps to add to new capabilities to the system. TVA has maintained the same base power rate since 2019.



90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of TVA is on May 18, 2023. Pat Ezzell, the TVA lead in the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Team stated the plans for the anniversary have been underway for about a year. TVA will conduct Day of Serving during the days leading up to, during, and after May 18, 2023. This will involve local nonprofit groups. In addition, tours will be conducted of TVA facilities that will be open to the public as well as a road show throughout the valley. TVA realizes that the age group 18-35 have little knowledge of TVA and an effort will be made to tell them the story of TVA through social media. TVA has developed a 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary logo.

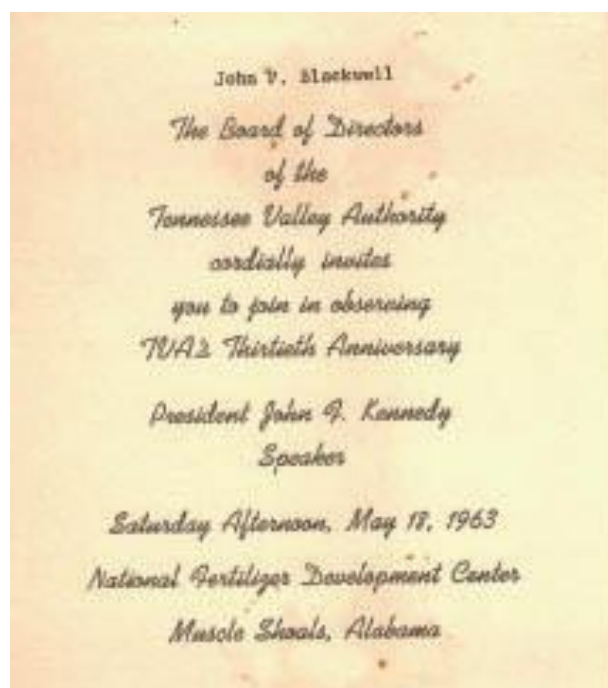
Jared Mitchem, TVA regional Vice President, that the TVA region has been broken up into four area that will handle government and community relations. TVA wanting to improve how TVA works with communities.

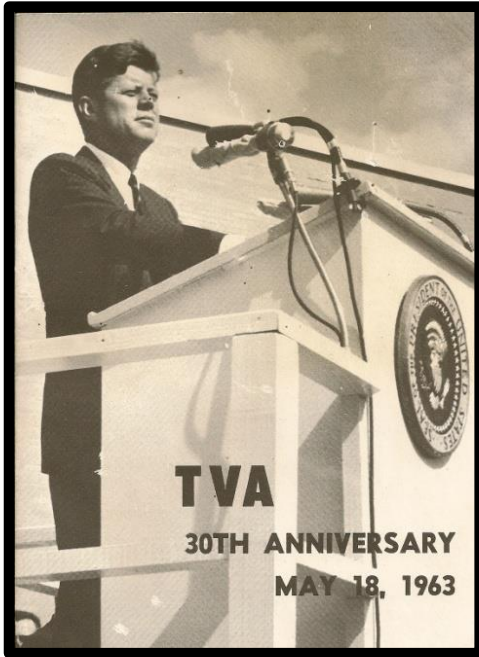
Nikolas Jordan, TVA Benefits and Well-Being discuss how retirees changed their Medicare Supplement Insurance. The top Part A and Part B carrier was Blue Cross Blue Shield. Also, retirees are continuing to change drug carriers. He also encouraged retirees to use Tele-Doc services.

## TVA'S 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

The following story was written by John P. Blackwell.

On Valentine's Day, 1963, I started to work as a part time employee while a student at the University of North Alabama in Florence. My job was in the Environmental Research Center (ERC) building on the TVA Reservation at Muscle Shoals.





One of the most memorable days of my life occurred the following May. On May 18, 1963, John Kennedy, President of the United States, traveled to Muscle Shoals, to recognize TVA on its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

TVA went all out for the visit by being sure that the reservation properties were in top shape and even planted pines along the reservation main roads. A large wooden speaker's and dignitary's platform was built immediately in front of the main entrance to the ERC building.

As the day approached, I received my invitation to attend the event and to be inside the ERC building. I was told I was to assist in installing the bunting on the speaker's platform.

The day arrived, and there was a lot of excitement in the air and all the final preparation were completed. According to the newspaper 15,000 attended the ceremony.

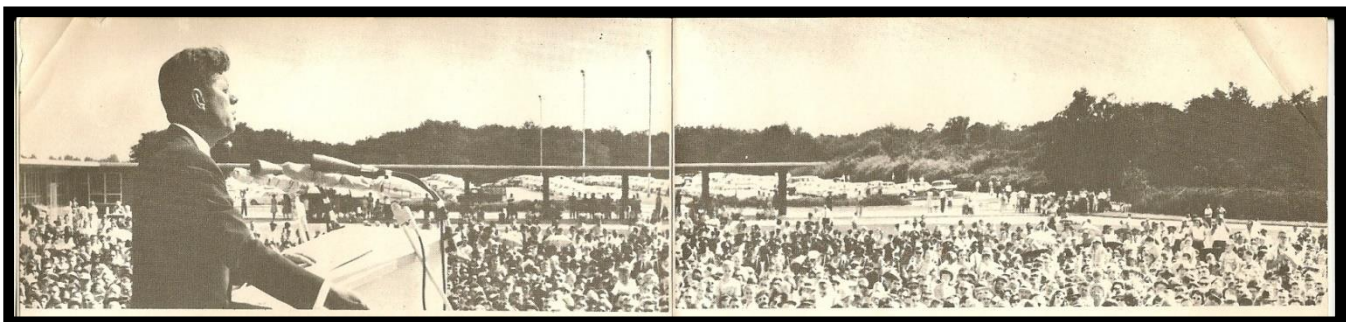


Escorted by TVA Directors Frank Smith, Chairman A. J. Wagner and A. R. Jones, President Kennedy moves to the speaker's platform at Muscle Shoals.

President Kennedy and party arrived by helicopters and landed behind the ERC building. I was standing in the rotunda area of the ERC building and could see through the glass doors the helicopters landing and the President exiting and walking to the ERC building.

The President was shaking hands as he walked in the building. President Kennedy came right by me and I reached out and shook his hand and then the President continued on through the front doors and up to the speaker's platform.

I then went outside to stand beside the platform and watch the ceremony. The press corps was in the area immediately in front of the stand and the crowd was behind the press corps, held back by a barrier.



There was a large crowd and everyone was standing except the dignitaries on the speaker's platform and the press that were seated immediately in front of the speaker's platform. The Secret Service agents and TVA Public Safety Officers surrounded the speaker's platform and more were on top of the ERC building.

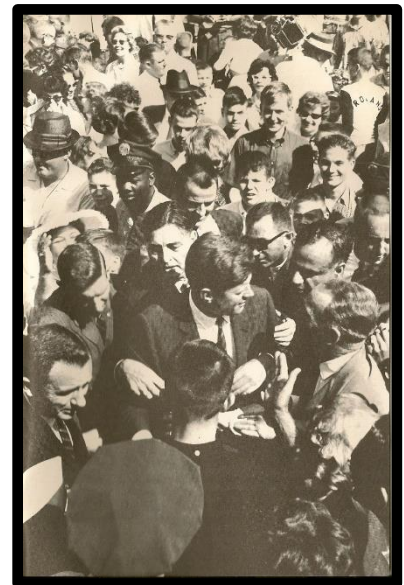


After the ceremony I returned to the lobby of the ERC building and the President came down from the stand, and went into the crowd to shake hands. Then he headed back to the helicopter by going through the ERC lobby.

The President passed again right by me and I shook his hand. When the President exited the ERC building, he decided to shake hands with some of the public by walking around the building to the fenced area. He shook hands with many of the public through the fencing. As he was leaving, he passed by me and I shook his hand again. The President and party then left on helicopters. I have bragged many times since then that I shook President Kennedy's hand three times that day.

The following November President Kennedy was killed. A lot has changed since that day in 1963. I have retired from TVA after 30 years of service, but have an office just off the rotunda where I work as a volunteer for the Combined Federal Campaign. The speaker's platform was torn down shortly after the event, but there is a bronze plaque on the sidewalk marking the spot where President Kennedy spoke and the words from his speech are written as follows: "The work of TVA will never be over there will always be new frontiers for it to conquer for in the minds of men the world over, the initials TVA stand for progress.... And the people of this area are not afraid of progress."

Also, the speaker's podium is located in the rotunda. Sometimes when I pass the podium and plaque, I think of that day not so long ago when I shook hands with the President of the United States. By the way, the pine trees are continuing to grow along the reservation road.



## **AND THEN IT IS WINTER**

You know. . . time has a way of moving quickly and catching you unaware of the passing years.

It seems just yesterday that I was young, just married and embarking on my new life with my mate. Yet in a way, it seems like eons ago, and I wonder where all the years went. I know that I lived them all. I have glimpses of how it was back then and of all my hopes and dreams. But here it is ... the winter of my life and it catches me by surprise...How did I get here so fast? Where did the years go and where did my youth go?

I remember well seeing older people through the years and thinking that those older people were years away from me and that winter was so far off that I could not fathom it or imagine fully what it would be like. But here it is...my friends are retired and getting grey...they move slower and I see an older person now. Some are in better and some worse shape than me...but, I see the great change.... Not like the ones that I remember who were young and vibrant...but, like me, their age is beginning to show and we are now those older folks that we used to see and never thought we'd be.

Each day now, I find that just getting a shower is a real target for the day! And taking a nap is not a treat anymore... it's mandatory! Cause if I don't on my own free will... I just fall asleep where I sit!

And so...now I enter into this new season of my life unprepared for all the aches and pains and the loss of strength and ability to go and do things that I wish I had done but never did!

But at least I know, that though the winter has come, and I'm not sure how long it will last...this I know, that when it's over on this earth...it's NOT over. A new adventure will begin!

Yes, I have regrets. There are things I wish I hadn't done...things I should have done, but indeed, there are many things I'm happy to have done. It's all in a lifetime.

So, if you're not in your winter yet...let me remind you, that it will be here faster than you think. So, whatever you would like to accomplish in your life please do it quickly! Don't put things off too long!

Life goes by quickly. So, do what you can today, as you can never be sure whether this is your winter or not! You have no promise that you will see all the seasons of your life...so, live for today and say all the things that you want your loved ones to remember...and hope that they appreciate and love you for all the things that you have done for them in all the years past!

"Life" is a gift to you. The way you live your life is your gift to those who come after. Make it a fantastic one.

LIVE IT WELL! ENJOY TODAY! DO SOMETHING FUN! BE HAPPY! HAVE A GREAT DAY!

REMEMBER....

"It is health that is real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver.

"LIVE HAPPY IN THIS YEAR AND EVERY YEAR!"

LASTLY, CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

***TODAY IS THE OLDEST YOU'VE EVER BEEN, YET THE YOUNGEST YOU'LL EVER BE SO - ENJOY THIS DAY WHILE IT LASTS.***

~Your kids are becoming you.....

~Going out is good... Coming home is better!

~You forget names.... But it's OK because other people forgot they even knew you!!!

~You realize you're never going to be really good at anything

~The things you used to care to do, you no longer care to do, but you really do care that you don't care to do them anymore.

~You sleep better on a lounge chair with the TV blaring than in bed. It's called "pre-sleep".

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- ~You miss the days when everything worked with just an "ON" and "OFF" switch.
- ~You tend to use more 4 letter words ... "what? "...when?"... "what?".???
- ~Now that you can afford expensive jewelry, it's not safe to wear it anywhere.
- ~You notice everything they sell in stores is "sleeveless"?!!!
- ~What used to be freckles are now liver spots.
- ~Everybody whispers.
- ~You have 3 sizes of clothes in your closet.... 2 of which you will never wear.
- ~But Old is good in some things: Old Songs, Old movies, and best of all, OLD FRIENDS!!

Stay well, "OLD FRIEND!" Send this on to other "Old Friends!" and let them laugh in AGREEMENT!!!

It's Not What You Gather, But What You Scatter That Tells What Kind of Life You Have Lived.

Contributed by Joan Marsh

### **Help! We Need Your Help!**

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



### **Suggestions?**

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