

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

Preserving TVA's Past for Future Reference

By VICKIE ELLIS
TVARA Valleywide President

I am excited about this issue of the TVARA newsletter.

One of our members, Phillip Mummert, has been working on an Oral History Program for the past several years. Phil interviewed 37 other retirees who previously worked in river and natural resources, community and economic development, and agricultural development.

The interviewees were eager to tell their stories, and Phil very meticulously captured them. The collection of those stories is housed at the University of Kentucky, and you can access them online.

The stories are delightful and bring back fond memories. I'm sure you will think so, too! Thanks to all the retirees who shared their stories, and a big thanks to Phil for preserving these TVA legacies.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, we were unable this year to celebrate our annual Valleywide picnic sponsored by TVA. We hope we can return to our picnic celebration next year.

Meanwhile, in another pandemic-related event, TVA made contributions to nonprofit agencies this fall on behalf of TVA retiree chapters. TVA made a

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Positive TVARS Report on FY '20 Performance

The TVA Retirement System reports that for the fiscal year ended Sept. 30, 2020, investments earned an estimated 4.4 percent. System assets for the fiscal year ended at \$7.9 billion, after investment earnings of \$334 million and TVA contributions of \$300 million. TVARS benefit payments for the fiscal year totaled about \$720 million. The system's annualized returns over the past three-, five-, and 10-year periods are 5.2, 7.5, and 7.2 percent, respectively.

Update on Seventh Director

The TVARS Board search committee has interviewed the first round of candidates for its seventh-director position. The committee has been impressed with the candidates' knowledge and passion to serve TVA retirees

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Keep Your Beneficiary or Beneficiaries Up-to-Date

By JUSTIN VINEYARD, Senior Retirement Consultant, TVA Retirement System

Many things in your life have changed this year, and chances are that things also may have changed since you retired from TVA – think marriage, divorce, or death of a family member.

Remember to put the people you care about first. By designating beneficiaries and keeping them current, you can ensure that your wishes are followed. You may have some or all of the benefits listed as follows, and you may name a different beneficiary for different benefits.

Federal Employees Group Life Insurance

If you elected to continue Federal Employees Group Life Insurance at retirement, you may have designated a beneficiary during employment or since retirement. If you are not sure of your designated beneficiary for FEGLI, you have two options:

1. You can request a copy of your current beneficiary designation from the Office of Personnel Management (which maintains all retiree FEGLI

records) by writing to: Office of Personnel Management, Attn: CSI Life Insurance, P.O. Box 45, Boyers, PA 16017-0045. Please note: Beneficiary records are not maintained electronically. Your paper file will need to be retrieved from archives in order to send you a copy of the designation OPM has on file for you. This may take some time.

2. Instead of waiting for OPM to send you a copy of your current beneficiary designation (if any), you

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Call TVA Retirement System
toll-free @ 1-800-824-3870
or visit website @
tva.gov/retireeportal

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 TVA Employee Benefits
toll-free at 1-888-275-8094
Over 65? Call Via Benefits
(formerly OneExchange) toll-free
at 1-866-322-2824

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at rtwilson@tva.gov
or call him at 865-632-8542

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its Facebook address is
facebook.com/mytvara.org

Retirement Services Information
Call the Bank of New York Mellon
toll-free at 1-877-876-4975

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

TVARA NEWS & NOTES

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

TVA Manages FY Record for Tennessee Valley Rainfall

Twelve straight months of above-average rain, including remnants of recent hurricanes, brought a record 75 inches of rainfall across the TVA region in fiscal year 2020.

The total since last Oct. 1 is more than nine inches above the previous fiscal-year record set in FY '73 and put the region on pace to set a calendar-year record in December, says James Everett, Senior Manager of TVA's River Forecast Center.

"We've been keeping Valley rainfall data for 131 years, and if we continue at our current trajectory, we will outpace the 2018 calendar-year record of 67 inches," Everett says.

"That would make 2018, 2019, and 2020 the three wettest years we've ever recorded."

Despite the storms and the pandemic, TVA's River Forecast Center kept a close eye on the storms 24/7 and managed releases and lake levels to accommodate for uncertainties in the storm track and intensity.

TVA continues to monitor rainfall forecasts, track more tropical weather forming in the Atlantic, and will continue to prepare the reservoir system for future rainfall and tropical events.

Everett says lower main Tennessee River dams were transitioning from summer- to winter-pool levels, and were expected to remain near seasonal-guide curves.

"We are currently in the unrestricted-drawdown period on tributaries, and lake levels at some dams like Cherokee, Douglas, Fontana, and Blue Ridge can rise several feet as we store water to lessen downstream impacts," Everett says.

"Overall, tributary storage is above normal for this time of year, so we will continue an aggressive release strategy from tributaries in order to maintain and build additional flood-storage capacity in the system."

To view a video explaining how TVA manages water levels on an annual basis, visit tva.com/environment/lake-levels/how-tva-manages-water-levels.

Vehicle check reveals creepy safety hazard

You might have enjoyed those spooky synthetic cobwebs — with their tiny plastic spiders — strung about during October, but stumbling across a host of real arachnids in your company-issued vehicle can create a momentary scare.

Perhaps no one knows this better than TVA's Robby Floyd, Plant Manager for Hydro Generation. After reintegrating back to his plant location this summer, he noticed his company vehicle had sat unused for the first seven weeks of COVID-19 quarantine.

So he gave the car a 360-degree inspection. The tires checked out, and there was no damage that could impact the vehicle's performance, but when he opened the door, he saw several spiders crawl out of the weather stripping along the door frame.

"It seemed odd, so I began opening all of the doors and the back hatch, where I found five more spiders hanging in the air," he says. "I tried to kill them as I went, but more and more kept crawling out — it was like a nightmare. I killed about 20 to 30 before I peeled back the weather stripping on the back-driver's side door to find a spider's huge egg sack."

Floyd continued his search and discovered four additional sacks and eliminated them with insect spray before he deemed the car safe — knowing any remaining spiders could definitely pose a driving distraction.

TVA Biologist Craig Phillips can relate to spiders traveling by car, as he discovered a brown recluse a while ago, tucked away in a storage bin after transporting it from the Walnut Orchard Lab to the Knoxville Office Complex. A few years ago, he stumbled upon a black widow's egg sack while unloading a used playset he had bought online for his children.

"We struggled with black widows at the house for several years after that," Phillips says. "It wasn't until I encouraged praying mantises in our yard that we finally stopped seeing them. To avoid an unwanted infestation, it's important to inspect items before transporting them."

Spider Safety Tips

While most spiders are useful in controlling environmental pests, a venomous spider like

the brown recluse or black widow poses a definite risk. Spiders are small and often hard to see, so being familiar with their habitat and following certain guidelines can help you avoid a trip to your local hospital.

“There are some situations — like ours — in which spiders have to be eliminated, and that’s understandable,” Phillips says. “But 36 out of the 40 native spider species in our area are harmless, and they help ensure that our crops and environment aren’t demolished by pests. Just like with snakes, though, it’s important to educate yourself on the characteristics and habitat of our venomous spiders.”

- Be aware that spiders may be hiding in small spaces. Be careful when opening boxes and storage crates, lifting outdoor equipment and tools from low-to-the-ground areas, and before entering dark, cool, or damp areas.
- Protect hands and feet with gloves and closed-toed shoes while in spider territory.



Brown Recluse



Black Widow

- If you discover spiders, assess the situation before acting. Take actions to remove hazards and reduce risk, or, if needed, call an exterminator before entering the infested area.
- If bitten by a venomous spider and experiencing severe pain, abdominal cramping, or a growing ulcer at the bite site, call 911 immediately or seek medical attention.
- If you see a nonvenomous spider in your yard, leave it be. It’s natural pest control and most likely helping to eliminate venomous spiders.

Keeping Your Beneficiaries Up-to-Date...continued from page 1

may wish to simply submit a new form SF 2823, Designation of Beneficiary. Your new beneficiary designation form will supersede any FEGLI designation form on file, as long as you sign it, have two witnesses sign, and complete the rest of the form properly. Beneficiary designations must be received by OPM before death for the designation to be valid. Form SF 2823 can be found on the TVARS website at tvares.com or by contacting the TVA Retirement System. The completed form should be submitted to OPM at the address listed in Option 1.

TVA 401(k) Plan

If you have a TVA 401(k) Plan balance with Fidelity Investments, you can access and edit your 401(k) beneficiary online by visiting netbenefits.com, clicking the Profile link, selecting Beneficiaries, and following the online instructions. You also can call Fidelity Investments toll-free at 1-800-354-7121 to request a beneficiary form. Once you have completed your beneficiary designations, you will be able to view them on NetBenefits.

TVARS Survivor Benefit

If you elected a survivor benefit at retirement that provides a monthly benefit for your beneficiary at your

death, the option and the beneficiary cannot be changed. If you elected a survivor benefit at retirement with a lump-sum payout to your beneficiary at your death, such as Option 1, Interest Only, or Full Cash Refund, you can change that beneficiary at any time. To update the beneficiary for these lump-sum benefits, you would need to submit a new form RS-2A, Beneficiary Designation for Lump-Sum Benefits after Retirement, which can be found on the TVARS website at tvares.com or by contacting TVARS at 865-632-2672 or retsvcs@tva.gov.

Second-Survivor Benefit

If you marry or remarry during retirement, you may elect a second-survivor option and provide your new spouse a survivor benefit of Option 2 (100 percent) or Option 3 (50 percent). Any election to provide this survivor benefit will result in a further reduction of your benefit. You have 90 days from the date of such marriage to elect a second-survivor benefit by contacting TVARS. The election and actuarial reduction will be effective the first day of the month following the first anniversary of the marriage. Previous survivor-benefit elections will remain in effect for any designated beneficiary whose life expectancy has been used as a factor in determining the amount of your benefit.

Health Savings Account

If you have or have ever had the Consumer Directed Health Plan, you may have a Health Savings Account. To designate or update your beneficiary for your HSA, log in to your account on the HSA Bank Member Website, click on the Profile tab, click Add Beneficiary, and provide information about your chosen beneficiary.

Preparing your Beneficiaries

TVARS has two publications that may be useful to your beneficiaries. One is called the “Personal and Legal Document Locator,” which can help your family know where important documents are located in the event of your death. Another useful publication is the “Step-by-Step Survivor Checklist,” which provides key steps your family would need to take in the event of your death. Both of these documents can be found on the TVARS website at tvares.com.

Other Considerations

A beneficiary is a person or legal entity designated to receive the proceeds from your insurance, account, etc., in the event of your death. A beneficiary can be one or more individuals or organizations, such as a trust or charity.

Minor Beneficiaries – When you designate minors as beneficiaries, it is

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2021 Premium Credit To Keep Costs Steady

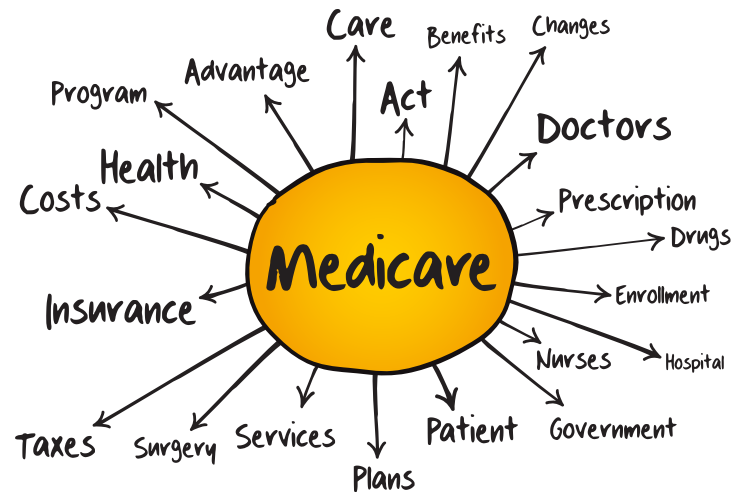
By JOE GALARDI, Director, TVA Benefits & Wellbeing

TVA is committed to putting you first.

One way it does that is providing quality, affordable benefits to help you manage your health and wellbeing.

In its continued efforts to support you, the Benefits & Wellbeing staff is proud to announce a Premium Credit for 2021 for pre-65 TVA retirees enrolled in one of TVA's medical plans. This credit will cover a nearly 6-percent premium increase in next year's medical plans – meaning costs remain at 2020 levels.

We recognize the significant financial impact and disruption that COVID-19 has had not only on our customers and communities, but also you and your families. And we're



pleased to offer this credit to provide some relief in a time of great uncertainty.

As always, we appreciate your service to our mission to make life better for the people of the Tennessee Valley.

Pre-65 Medical Plans: What's New for 2021?

By JERRY LANDON, Senior Program Manager, TVA Healthcare Plans

For retirees or their dependents who are not yet eligible for Medicare, there are some changes in the TVA-sponsored Medical Plans (the 80-Percent PPO and the Consumer-Directed Health plan, or CDHP) for 2021. Specifically, the following changes will be in effect starting Jan. 1:

Limits to Your Costs for Insulin and Oral Diabetes Medicine — TVA and Express Scripts have partnered to bring down the cost of preferred insulin products for you and your covered family members living with diabetes. Through the new Patient Assurance Program, eligible members will never pay more than \$25 per 30-day supply (or \$75 per 90-day supply) of preferred and participating insulin products. This can mean more affordable access to insulin, fewer health emergencies, and more money in your pocket. You are automatically covered under this program. Fill your prescription as you normally would. Just be prepared for a lower cost!

Changes to the 80-Percent PPO Plan — In-network deductibles for the 80-Percent PPO will be \$500 (Individuals) and \$1,000 (Families). Out-of-network deductibles will be \$1,000 and \$2,000, respectively. In-network out-of-pocket maximums will be \$3,000 (Individual) and \$6,000 (Family). Out-of-network out-of-pocket maximums will be \$6,000 and \$12,000.

Changes to the CDHP — Out-of-network deductible increases to \$2,800 (Individual contracts) and \$5,600 (Family contracts). There is no change to in-network deductibles or out-of-pocket maximums.

HSA Limits — The 2021 annual Health Savings Account contribution limit for CDHP participants will be increased to \$3,600 for those with individual coverage (up from \$3,550 in 2020), and \$7,200 for those with family coverage (up from \$7,100).

Some Things Aren't Changing ...

PhysicianNow (Telemedicine) Visits — There will continue to be NO member cost-sharing for using PhysicianNow, TVA's primary provider of telemedicine services, through Dec. 31, 2021. Typical deductibles, co-pays and co-insurance will not apply to PhysicianNow visits. (If a PhysicianNow visit results in a prescription, members are responsible for the usual member cost share on the prescription.) Don't wait until you are sick to register; getting started is free and easy. Log in to bcbst.com and, under the Managing Your Health heading, select PhysicianNow to register. Or call toll-free at 1-888-283-6691 and

Speak to a representative who can walk you through the process.

COVID-19 Testing Coverage — COVID-19 testing will continue to be provided at 100-percent coverage. Covered retirees and their families will not pay any deductibles, co-pays or co-insurance for tests ordered by their medical provider.

Need more information?

For more details about plans available, see the "Medical Plan 2021" booklet mailed to your home or visit tva.com/retireportal.

Open Enrollment Ending Soon for Medicare Retirees

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Open Enrollment for Medicare plans began Oct. 15 and will be ending Dec. 7.

Make sure you review any materials that your current plans sent you such as the Evidence of Coverage and Annual Notice of Change. Ensure your plans will still meet your needs for 2021.

If you don't want to make any changes, you don't need to do anything. You will remain in the plans in which you are now enrolled.

If you are enrolled in a plan through Via Benefits and want to make a change or are interested in learning more about the options available to you, call Via Benefits toll-free at 1-844-620-5725 by Dec. 7.

Watch Your Balance on HSA Account

Eligible participants in the CDHP can take advantage of a Health Savings Account. Note that accounts with a zero balance and no activity for six months or more are closed by HSA Bank. In order to be eligible for the 2021 TVA contribution to your HSA, you must have an active account on Jan. 1, 2021.

Call HSA Bank toll-free at 1-844-650-8934 if you are concerned that your account may have been closed.

If your account has been closed due to inactivity, call a TVA Benefit Specialist toll-free at 1-888-275-8094 to have it reopened. Accounts closed for other reasons will need to be reopened by HSA Bank.

—JERRY LONDON

Solway Veterans Memorial Being Constructed

By **BARBARA MARTOCCI**, Communications Director, Solway Veterans Memorial Project

Soon, visitors will be able to see and experience the Solway Veterans Memorial being constructed by the Knoxville Chapter of the Tennessee Valley Retirees Association on property owned by the Solway Baptist Church. The project broke ground Sept. 21 in the area in front of the church on Veterans Memorial Mile in Solway, just outside Knoxville.

Solway Veterans Memorial is being constructed on property that fronts State Highway 62 and is accessible at 9013 Solway Ferry Road. Solway Baptist has partnered with TVARA and provided the plot of land. The church will retain ownership of the land and will provide upkeep and maintenance of the site. TVARA will provide the funds to cover construction costs not donated by others.

The idea to build a memorial was the brainchild of former Knoxville Chapter Volunteer Coordinator Reny McClain Lee, who has tirelessly worked with the church and with a cadre of volunteers who are donating their time and services to complete the project.

"It has been heartwarming to see the support from area businesses," Lee says. "They are donating materials and labor that cover two-thirds of the cost of the project, with the remaining funding coming from a grant provided by Bicentennial Volunteers Inc.

"Because I have seen first-hand the sacrifices military personnel and their families make, and being proud to be from a military family, this project was something I was excited to do."



From left, Solway Baptist Church Pastor Logan Parton, Jay Ambrister, Debbie Rutherford, Mike Rutherford, and Reny McClain Lee

The memorial is designed to recognize and memorialize the veterans who have protected and defended our country. It will consist of a walkway with a brick wall and black granite military emblems representing the six branches of the military, in a peaceful, quiet area for reflection and remembrance.

The team working on the project includes Lee, who is coordinating all aspects of the effort, TVA retirees Debbie and Mike Rutherford, who are supporting Lee and working with the construction

crew; Jim Mungenast, who is the liaison between the military branches and the project; Jay Ambrister, representing the church and the liaison between the church and TVARA; and Jo Anne Lavender, President of the Knoxville Chapter of TVARA and also the liaison between TVARA, the team, and TVA.

"The Knoxville Chapter of TVARA is honored to be part of this project to remember and memorialize our veterans," Lavender says. "We hope people who come to the memorial will find this to be a place of peace, honor, and respect — and perhaps even healing."

The project was expected to be complete in late fall. At that time a plaque was to be placed at the site to acknowledge all those who donated materials and labor for the project. A formal military dedication ceremony will be held at the site when it is safe for crowds to congregate.

The Knoxville Chapter of TVARA is a nonprofit organization with about 1,400 TVA retirees who perform volunteer work and provide community service in the surrounding area.

THIS WAS US — TVARA Oral History Project Preserves Decades of Resource Development



PHILIP J. MUMMERT

By PHILIP J. MUMMERT

This may come as somewhat of a surprise to fellow retirees, but I have discovered that as the distance between my TVA work years and the present increases, the clarity of my memory of those TVA years slowly fades.

My personal bank of memories, however, still glimmers with positive thoughts of that time and experience. As hazy as the details are at times, most of the memories are accompanied by a prevailing sense of accomplishment and appreciation.

Several years ago, I began to wonder whether my colleagues in regional resource-development activities felt the same as I about the importance of our past work, its contribution to the Tennessee Valley's progress, and the creative energy, purposeful activity, and professional happiness that, at least for me, marked that era just before the early '90s.

Having an interest in TVA's history, I have felt for some time that one part of TVA's historical record could stand to be amplified. From my perspective, the resource-development activities of the 1970s and 1980s deserve more attention.

Full disclosure! My perspective may be a bit biased since some of my employment within this period was within resource-development programs.

My TVA experience was highlighted by the many people with whom I had the opportunity to work and cross paths.

Like most folks throughout the TVA workforce, they were quite knowledgeable about the technical aspects of their work and were dedicated to their jobs. But there was a unique dimension to the group of professional folks who occupied positions in community and economic development, river and natural-resources management, and agricultural development.

As a group, they were professionally diverse, and their work applied to an extremely broad range of program endeavors.

This assemblage of personnel was trained and experienced in all sorts of different fields. Most were motivated by the fact that their work contributed to the social, economic, and environmental progress of communities, governments, farms, and schools in the Valley.

But general awareness of this window of TVA's existence is vanishing. Many of the activities of this earlier period have since been curtailed or pared down. Congressionally appropriated funding that had supported so much of TVA's



Students on a field trip learn about collecting insects at one of the educational stations at Land Between the Lakes. School groups from Alabama to Michigan would book stays at LBL to experience its outdoor classroom resources.

— Interview with Lynn Hodges, Dec. 15, 2017



Riverboat Captain Nat Phillips (Bill Landry) welcomes visitors to one of the live shows at Adventure Theatre onboard TVA's "Valley Adventure" barge exhibit at the 1982 World's Fair in Knoxville.



TVA exhibit at the 1982 Knoxville World's Fair. "We counted them (visitors) with hand counters. For six months from May 1 to Oct. 31, seven days a week, 10 or 12 hours a day, we had a million people go through."

—Interview with H. Brown Wright, Feb. 3, 2016



Young Adult Conservation Corps participants work on an Environmental Education Center at Bear Creek, Ala., in 1978. The YACC was a year-round work-experience program for people aged 16-23. TVA's YACC efforts served as a national model.
— Interview with Richard Mallory, Feb. 18, 2016

core regional-development mission work was terminated in the late 1990s.

Emphasis on business practices necessary for a competitive electric utility evolved to dominate corporate thinking and culture in the '90s, with gradual conversion or diminishment of activities that seemed not to fit well.

Furthermore, the ease with which the public can access many of TVA's historical records has diminished. For instance, the capability of the TVA Corporate Library, once an openly accessible repository of TVA history, has suffered from major cuts and little investment to adapt during the advent of the digital age in recent decades.

Even physical access to TVA's only library in Knoxville is more difficult today for retirees and researchers, due to strict facility-access security measures.

Because of my interest and concern that an important piece of TVA's history might be lost, Pat Ezzell, whose official duties include serving as TVA Historian, encouraged me to organize an oral-history project.

Suzan Bowman, President of TVA Retirees Association at the time, and Jim Russell, Bicentennial Volunteer Inc. President, seemed to like the idea. They were willing to give it a try and generously offered their support.

A startup plan was developed in August 2015, and, not fully knowing what we were getting into, it was initially labeled as the "TVARA Oral History Pilot Project."

The stated project purpose was to gather information about the work experience of selected TVA retirees that

Continued on next page

INTERVIEWEES

Roosevelt Allen

Jack Barron

Judith Bartlow

Roger Bollinger

Bevan Brown

Nancy Benziger Brown

Lawrence Calvert

Ralph Carnathan

John Cartwright

Larry Clark

Pete Claussen

Larry Colaw

George Conner

Brian Crutchfield

John Culp

Charles Ellenburg

Richard Ellis

Truitt Fore

J. Bennett Graham

Lynn Hodges

Thomas Hunter

Philip Hyatt

Ben Jaco

Richard Mallory

Roger Milstead

Philip Mummert

Marshall Ted Nelson

Michael Parker

Ronald Riberich

Charles Saylor

Nan Scott

John Shields

Ron Shipe

Richard Toennisson

Chris Ungate

Erven Williams

William Willis

H. Brown Wright

SUBJECT AREAS

Forestry research, environmental review & waste management

Tributary-area development/appropriations

Natural-areas protection & management

Forestry & mine reclamation

Flood control & river operations

Community & economic development

Public relations/resource development

Industrial-development activities

Community & economic development

Water-quality management

Tributary-area development

Tellico Reservoir-area development

Navigation operations

Community & economic development

Agricultural & fertilizer development

Recreation development

Environmental research, cleanup & improvement projects

Forestry & land management

Archaeological-resource protection

Environmental education

Community planning & economic development

Tributary-area & community development

Fisheries & aquatic ecology

Skills education & economic development

Flood-risk & protection management

Regional-waste, recycling & water-supply protection

Land planning, navigation & industrial development

Architectural design

Waterway economic analysis & safety

Fisheries & aquatic ecology

Women's advancement & Weekend Academy

Agricultural & fertilizer development

Industrial-skills training & education technologies

Forest inventory, product improvement & environmental work

Engineering lab, lake-improvement planning & hydro operations

Budget planning, minority development & dam safety

Resource development & TVA general management

Community planning & economic development

would produce an informative record of that experience, and — we hoped — meet accepted oral-history standards.

Interviews would be conducted, recorded, and transcribed, the focus to be primarily on retirees with knowledge and experience of different technical specialties within Regional Resources Development (and succeeding organizations) roughly between the years 1970 and 1990, whose work was primarily supported by congressional appropriations.

How could we capture the richness and diversity of TVA? Who should be interviewed? Would retirees be willing to participate and be recorded? After 20 or more years, would their memories be clear? Would they tend to dwell on personal matters? Would they choose to complain about TVA issues that are bothering them? Would memories emerge that are best not to be shared with others?

These were some of the practical questions of concern raised at the beginning.

While reviewing some of the old TVA personnel “strip” lists and seeing the names of so many persons I knew, I became quickly aware that selecting participants for this project was going to be a challenge.

Those who eventually were selected were individuals with whom I was acquainted and who were respected in their areas of expertise or positions held. Throughout the selection process, emphasis was placed on attaining a sampling of past employees who would reflect a diverse but balanced range of subject matter and experiences.

One of the downsides of a project like this was having to make choices about who gets invited to participate. Many individuals worthy of being interviewed and falling within the designed scope of this project were not selected.

It was decided that somewhere between 30 and 40 interviews would be enough to cover much of the subject matter. I wanted to manage the project, so as not to interfere too much with the other joys of retirement. I also soon discovered there was more to oral history than just interviewing.

The logistics of scheduling, preparing for interviews,



Sketch plan for proposed Townlift improvements at Coeburn, Va.



Bridges and walkway — results of Townlift work at Coeburn, Va. Teams of TVA planners, architects, and engineers “helped local people decide what they wanted to do with their downtown . . . people really appreciated this kind of assistance from TVA.”
— Interview with John Cartwright, June 18, 2018

transcribing, reviewing transcripts, and attempting to make sure the entire process was understood and acceptable to each interviewee provided enough challenge. Without the help and support from others, this effort simply would not have been possible to see through to the end.

The project was launched quietly in early 2016. A small steering committee, including Bowman, Ezzell, and Russell, was formed to provide guidance. The first interview was conducted with H. Brown Wright on Feb. 3, 2016. Since then, 37 more interviews were conducted.

All participants seemed to have enjoyed the experience. The project has far exceeded original expectations. The results achieved have been well worth the effort and have produced a rich collection of historical record.

The collection of audio files and transcripts provides a fascinating chronicle of TVA’s broad array of activities and vital work in community and economic development, natural-resources management, and agricultural assistance



Early phase of construction of Thomas Village in 1978, a small residential development with energy-efficiency features designed by TVA to accommodate residents impacted by severe flooding at Clinchport, Va. “It’s a thriving little place now.”

— Interview with Pete Claussen, April 25, 2018



Foreign visitors observe a greenhouse-fertilizer evaluation in 1966. Working with the U.S. Agency for International Development, TVA’s ag- and fertilizer-development programs were in high demand among agricultural experts from around the world.

— Interviews with John Culp, May 14, 2018, and John Shields, Aug. 11, 2020

straight from the voices of retirees who were involved.

Interviewees were asked to talk about what brought them to TVA, their career, the nature of their work and how it changed through the years.

Favorite memories, important accomplishments, and memorable experiences are all part of the material. How they worked with local communities and state governments and were able to bring about lasting impact was covered.

How was the significance of their work recognized outside of the Valley? What conditions had to be overcome? How they and their workgroup brought about lasting change and products of their work that still exist today were discussed.

Together, they tell the story of TVA's being a catalyst for change in so many ways.

Those who delve into this collection will discover all sorts of interesting and amusing stories.

What was TVA doing in Peru, Thailand, the Philippines, and other faraway places?

What critical role did TVA play in launching the automobile industry in the Southeast?

How did the idea emerge for having two river barges as the venue for TVA's 1982 World's Fair Exhibit?

What did TVA do to help women enter the construction workforce in the 1980s?

What subtle trickery was used to recruit an exceptional team of architects to design the Chattanooga Office Complex?



TVA Boat DAKWA, a fishing-research vessel in 1965. "Nets of various sorts were a major tool we relied upon" in the earlier days to conduct fisheries investigations.

— Interview with Ben Jaco, Oct. 31, 2017

How did TVA advance environmental education in Valley K-12 classrooms?

Why did TVA receive an award from President Reagan for developing a game in partnership with Nintendo?

Answers to these questions and other interesting episodes — from counting endangered bats inside Nickajack Cave at nighttime to scuba-diving "close calls" during aquatic-habitat surveys — are embedded in the interview records.

Part of the oral-history challenge in a changing world is finding a place where the resulting material can be preserved and be available to future generations.

While the National Archives at Atlanta serves as primary repository for TVA records, materials generated by this project do not qualify as federal records.

Since TVA has no repository under its direct control with digital infrastructure capable of meeting requirements of this project, a suitable repository had to be found elsewhere.

We found 16 potential repositories, ranging from the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., to regional ones such as the Calvin M. McClung Historical Collection in Knoxville that we contacted and assessed.

The search included the Special Collections units of libraries at each major land-grant university of the seven Valley states. In the end, only one could fully satisfy all our requirements — the Louie B. Nunn Center for Oral History at the University of Kentucky.

The Nunn Center is recognized internationally as a leader in collecting and preserving oral histories and as an innovator in providing digital access to oral histories online. The center agreed to serve as the primary repository for this project.



Junk cars being removed near Asheville, N.C., in 1971 as part of TVA's program to rid the Tennessee Valley landscape of abandoned vehicles. The "program jumped into national significance, was very successful, and ended up with an award from Keep American Beautiful."

— Interview with Jack Barron, July 24, 2017



In September 2019, TVARA agreed to gift interview materials to the Nunn Center for long-term preservation and to provide public access.

The center is in the latter stages of cataloging, indexing, and preparing the collection of all our audio and transcript files for placement online for free public access. Once all is in place, the public will be able

Continued on next page



TVA Archaeologists Jill Elmendorf and Bennett Graham inspect unauthorized digging on TVA land in 1988. "The archaeological work that TVA has conducted or caused to be conducted is known worldwide... You cannot get a degree in anthropology with a subdivision in archaeology and not know of the work TVA did... I'm just very proud of what TVA has done from day one to now."

— Interview with J. Bennett Graham, Aug. 14, 2018

to access. without restriction and for free, both the audio and digital transcript of all interviews.

It has been an honor and a privilege to have had the opportunity to participate both as interviewer and interviewee in this project and be able to reconnect with persons and the memories of a special period and part of TVA's past. Special thanks go to TVARA and BVI, without whose support the project would not have been possible.

While it may be a bit too early to make historical judgments, drawing salient themes from this body of work is possible.

Some thoughts come to mind while reflecting on the common threads that are pulled from the material captured by the interviews. TVA was created as a regional development agency and by the 1980s had evolved to a level where it was a force in a broad spectrum of life in the Valley.

The absolute variety and breadth of activity being pursued by one organization is hard to comprehend. TVA was redefining the very meaning of the term regional economic development. Some interpreted this as TVA's trying to be all things to all people. And there were some who felt that this TVA work was either unnecessary or duplicated work of other agencies. Some felt that it was too poorly managed to be considered special.

From a budgetary and personnel standpoint, these activities made up less than 5 percent of TVA's total activities. But as the interviews attest, the impacts of this small part of TVA were more consequential and far-reaching than its size within the organization would suggest.

The broad nature and scope of this work did not seem to fit well with business-management practices being instilled into the TVA culture during the '90s. Regional resource-development impacts were so varied, so widespread, and

long-range, that whatever value they added defied accurate measurement and accounting in the short-term — an essential requirement of good business management.

These activities brought about desired change. They figured out better ways to do things. They helped ordinary citizens. They were delivered professionally. They fostered coordination and cooperation among government at all levels. They attempted to integrate economic, social, and environmental progress—sometimes successfully. They advanced innovation and self-help. And they served as a model for others to emulate.

These are common threads revealed throughout the interviews. What was their value?

A collection of oral histories will elevate the chances that this small piece of TVA history will not be forgotten and will be remembered for a long time. We all should hope it will be discovered by future researchers and practitioners who can assess more objectively its value and its proper place in the arc of TVA history.

Transcribing a Legacy

Johnnie Keck worked for TVA for 24 years in Power-related organizations such as Facilities Services and Customer Services & Marketing. An Administrative Assistant, she retired in 2004, then worked for the Department of Energy in Oak Ridge. She has since retired from there.

Here are her comments about her work on the TVARA Oral History Project:

"When I volunteered to transcribe interviews of TVA retirees, I honestly wasn't sure what I was getting myself into.

"I'd been away from TVA for quite a while (courtesy of an involuntary RIF), but TVA and my co-workers there still held and still hold a warm place in my heart.

"My career spanned 24 years in the Power-funded side of the 'house,' so I was only somewhat familiar with the ongoing resource-development work.

"With the first interview, I became intrigued, and my interest grew as the project advanced.

"It was such a pleasure to 'meet' these fellow retirees through their recorded interviews and to hear about the varied ways they made a difference in the Tennessee Valley.

"I learned something about TVA's rich history with each interview, and I hope others do, too, as they access the audio recordings and transcripts from the Nunn Center in the future.

"Sadly, my transcribing colleague and TVA retiree, Charlotte West, passed away about midway through the project. But I know that she would agree with me when I say that it has been a privilege to be a part of the TVARA Oral History Project."

Hear It Now — or Soon — Thanks to Nunn Center

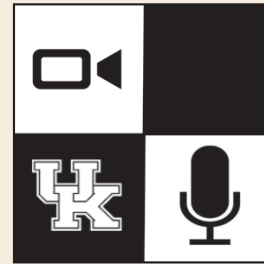
The Nunn Center and the University of Kentucky Libraries have announced they are honored to be the archival home for the TVARA Oral History Project.

Nunn Center Director Doug Boyd says, “These oral-history interviews capture powerful stories that document individual experiences. Combined with the Nunn Center’s innovative technology, this project will be used by researchers, teachers, and students for generations to come.”

Instructions for Accessing the Interviews

Search online for “TVARA Oral History Project” or go to kentuckyoralhistory.org and search for “TVARA.” Click on the collection link for the Tennessee Valley Authority Retiree Association Oral History Project. Scan the interview inventory list. If the interview is marked as being “online,” you can listen and search that interview online. Click on the interview. Then click on the blue tab marked “Play Interview.” Press play and listen to the interview. Or select from the index and play that segment. Or search the interview, and the results will take you to the segment you want to listen to. Use the toggle switch to see the transcript.

NOTE: Because processing is in progress, not all interviews can be accessed online currently. All interviews will be accessible online later in 2021.



Tennessee Valley Authority Retiree Association Oral History Project · SPOKEdb

Project Summary — These interviews were conducted under the auspices of the Tennessee Valley Authority Retiree Association between 2016 and 2020.

kentuckyoralhistory.org

Preserving TVA's Past for Future Reference...continued from page 1

corporate contribution up to \$2,000 per chapter to local nonprofit agencies across the Tennessee Valley that are helping address the hardships from COVID-19.

Each chapter stepped up and made recommendations to TVA on behalf of its community.

Many thanks to TVA for this generous contribution. That story is on page 12.

I encourage you to read closely the information on benefits and retirement in this issue. TVA has committed to changes that benefit retirees during 2021.

Also, another article advises that whenever you make any beneficiary

changes, please remember to keep copies of all executed documents for your personal files. This may save you time and heartache in the future.

It's that time of year when we encourage each of you to pay your membership dues for next year.

Dues remain \$15 for 2021. Please see the article on page 16 about where to send your dues.

Your dues support TVARA's ability to continue the work of the organization and each of its 19 chapters. Dues-paying members also receive this quarterly newsletter, which features current benefits and retirement information, along with chapter highlights

and key activities of our many retirees.

For those of you who are in our “at-large chapter” (meaning you live in an area such as Florida or Arizona, where we do not have a chapter), you are welcome to join a chapter of your choice.

Perhaps you would like to join a chapter closest to where you worked at TVA. Just note this on your renewal form, and we will take care of it. Otherwise, you can retain your membership in the at-large chapter.

We very much appreciate your continued support of the TVA Retirees Association.

Please stay well and stay safe during the upcoming holiday season.

Keeping Your Beneficiaries Up-to-Date...continued from page 3

important to understand that benefits cannot be released to a minor child. They may, however, be paid to a court-appointed guardian of the child's assets. Or you can establish a trust for the minor's benefit and name the trust as the beneficiary.

The regulations governing minor beneficiaries vary by state.

Contingent or Secondary Beneficiaries – Your primary beneficiary is first in line to receive the benefit. If the primary beneficiary dies before you, the

contingent or secondary beneficiary or beneficiaries would receive the benefit.

Once these forms have been updated, you can be confident your loved ones will receive the assets you intended for them to have.

TVA Recognizes All Its Retirees with Donations to Communities

By **ASHLEY WALKER**, Public Relations Specialist, TVA Human Resources & Communications

Local organizations in 19 Tennessee Valley communities are benefiting from TVA contributions made this fall in honor of all TVA retirees.

With pandemic conditions affecting family budgets, jobs, and education, TVA asked leaders of the TVA Retirees Association and its chapters for advice on where TVA contributions equivalent to \$2,000 per chapter could best be put to work in local communities.

With TVARA's input, a total of \$38,000 in contributions is going to communities from Paducah, Ky., to Kingston, Tenn., and from North Alabama to Gallatin, Tenn.

"I am humbled by the work of TVA employees past and present," says TVA President/Chief Executive Officer Jeff Lyash. "Their commitment to service goes beyond the workplace and into the community.

"We owe TVA's success to the hard work and dedication of TVA retirees. Today's employees are dedicated to living up to the legacy that retirees built."

Local agencies are using the dollars for good causes that range from food banks to education.

"My fellow TVA retirees and I are proud to carry on TVA's mission of service beyond our employment at TVA by supporting great community organizations across the Valley," says Vickie Ellis, Valleywide President of TVARA.

Recommendations from TVARA helped ensure the funds reach organizations in numerous locations, including areas that might not have received funds through other programs.

"I am proud of TVA and the TVA Retirees Association in their efforts to support the people we serve through these difficult times," says Sue Collins, Senior Vice President/Chief Human Resources & Communications Officer. "TVA's mission is to serve the people of the Tennessee Valley, and there is no better way of doing so than supporting local nonprofit organizations.

"Through their continuing volunteer efforts and charitable activities, TVA retirees carry on the legacy of service – service that makes a lasting, positive impact."

TVA actions to meet needs resulting from the pandemic include investing in a Community Care Fund, with \$4 million available in TVA funds to be matched locally, and a Pandemic Relief Credit for all TVA-served local power companies. The credit for 2021 is worth \$200 million to help communities and businesses recover more quickly from the pandemic.



TVA volunteers distribute food to communities in need through a partnership with Feeding America.

Refreshed Website Helps Teach Kids About TVA

Ever find it hard to explain to your kids just what TVA is and does?

Now TVA can help break it down for you, on the all-new TVA Kids website.

Launched this fall, the new site has a fresh look and tons of information on how TVA generates electricity, manages the Tennessee River, and protects the environment.

"We wanted to give the site a new look and make it a resource for kids, caregivers, and teachers in 2020," says Catherine West, TVA Web Content & Community Specialist. "Our goal was to take the content we had and add multimedia resources to it – videos, animations, photography – to help kids get the best information we can give."

The target age for the site is early middle school, and

resources such as a history booklet and historical photos can be downloaded to use in school projects. The refresh and rebranding of the site was a team effort.

"I created a custom font for the site and collaborated with our web team to bring the site to life," says TVA Graphic Designer Amber Bergdoll. "We wanted to make it bright, dynamic, and engaging for the kids who visit."

West says she is proudest of the fact the site offers "great information about TVA in modern, visual design that really encourages users to dive into learning everything there is to know about TVA. I'm excited we can provide information to caregivers and teachers working with their students either at home or in the classroom, giving them the resource they need to help the next generation learn about TVA."

Visit [TVAkids.com](https://www.tvakids.com) for more details.



Working with Washington Returnees, Newcomers

By **JUSTIN MAIERHOFER**, TVA Vice President, Government Relations



JUSTIN MAIERHOFER

Since its creation in 1933, the Tennessee Valley Authority has lived under a political microscope, supported and opposed by elected officials representing regions both inside and outside of the TVA service territory. As an early TVA director once said, “TVA is controversial because TVA is consequential.”

From city-council chambers to Congress and all the way to the White House, TVA is often discussed. This has never been more apparent than by the attention we have received in Washington this year. But we have navigated these recent months through our positive relationships with elected and government officials, as well as partners, stakeholders, and communities.

Together, we have to tell the good story of TVA. We in the Washington Office appreciate and are grateful to you, as retirees of TVA, for your help in telling that positive story in your own communities, especially to local, state, and federal officials.

As of this writing, the country was still awaiting the final outcome of the presidential election, as well as several congressional races. There was the distinct possibility that we would see recounts and litigation in the weeks ahead.

Certainly, many eyes are on Georgia, where there will be two runoffs Jan. 5 for the state’s U.S. Senate seats the state. Sen. Kelly Loeffler (R-GA) will face Raphael Warnock (D), and Senator David Perdue (R-GA) will face Jon Ossoff (D), after no candidate received the necessary 50-percent threshold of the vote on Election Day.

There is some clarity, however, on most of the races that occurred in the TVA territory, and there will be new faces in 2021 among our federally elected officials. Senator-elect Bill Hagerty (R) won his election to fill Sen. Lamar Alexander’s open seat in Tennessee and Senator-elect Tommy Tuberville (R) defeated the incumbent, Sen. Doug Jones (D), in Alabama.

In the House, as was expected, the majority of TVA’s delegation members will be returning in the new Congress. Just four members either retired or left their office for various reasons this past year. New representatives in the House for TVA are Representatives-elect Andrew Clyde (R-GA-District 9), Marjorie Greene (R-GA-14), Madison Cawthorn (R-NC-11), and Diana Harshbarger (R-TN-1), who will be replacing Rep. Phil Roe after his retirement this year.

The absences of Senator Alexander and Representative Roe will be deeply felt. They have had unwavering support for TVA in their years of public service. Their unquestionable support of the TVA business model and our mission of service has been clear and consistent over the years. Our team thanks them and wishes them the best as they join the ranks of retirees and begin a new chapter in their lives.

Before we welcome those new and familiar faces on Inauguration Day and the upcoming 117th Congress kicks off in January, there was still work to be done. The House and Senate were set to return to Washington and resume negotiations on COVID response legislation, as well as government funding.

It was not yet certain how the Senate will tackle the remaining nominations before the chamber, including the current TVA Board of Directors’ nominees.

They include former Speaker of the Tennessee House of Representatives Beth Harwell, President of East Tennessee State University Brian Noland, and Mississippi telecommunications executive Charles W. Cook. Noland and Harwell have already been approved by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, but Cook would still need to testify to move to the full Senate floor for consideration.

The TVA Washington team was continuing to work with these three nominees, Senate staff, and the White House to facilitate the confirmation process as we looked forward to filling the Board to full strength.

We also are excited to meet our newly elected officials and to continue to work with those returning to Washington. Our relationships are as important as ever, and we are excited to share all that TVA does every day to fulfill its mission.

We know that our stakeholders also are especially inspired by those who have retired from TVA, who can speak to the historical impact of the work they did during their careers. It’s further proof that TVA and the public-power model have served the people of the Valley well for the past 87 years, and only with this support can TVA continue to deliver low-cost, reliable energy, as well as numerous other services, for 87 years to come.

Thank you for your continued interest in TVA’s work in Washington. We appreciate your support and engagement with our federally elected officials. You know TVA better than anyone!

In Memoriam

Aug. 1, 2020 - Oct. 31, 2020

TVA Retirement Management received notifications of the deaths of the following retirees for the period Aug. 1, 2020 through Oct. 31, 2020, as well as other previously unreported deaths. They are listed with the date of death (and date of retirement). To report the death of a retiree, call the TVA Retirement System toll-free at 1-800-824-3870.

Allen, David D.,
9/6/2020 (1/1/1995)

Allen, William C.,
8/22/2020 (4/7/1992)

Armstead, Danny D.,
9/29/2020 (1/3/2011)

Ayers, Franklin L.,
9/6/2020 (10/5/2013)

Baird, Ronnie A.,
10/6/2020 (11/30/1991)

Ball, Thurman R., Jr.,
8/15/2020 (8/31/1985)

Barfield, William D., Jr.,
10/18/2020 (8/30/2014)

Beach, James E.,
8/15/2020 (9/27/1997)

Beasley, Kenneth H.,
9/20/2020 (7/8/2006)

Belcher, Amos Henry, Jr.,
10/5/2020 (10/1/2016)

Bennett, Edgar B., Jr.,
5/16/2020 (10/1/1996)

Bennett, John R.,
7/19/2020 (10/2/1993)

Blake, Jerome W.,
8/31/2020 (12/22/2007)

Brackett, Jerry L.,
9/10/2020 (4/7/2014)

Bruce, Robert B.,
8/7/2020 (10/1/1988)

Bryan, Francis W.,
9/28/2020 (9/24/1988)

Burnette, Billy G.,
10/30/2020 (10/17/1994)

Butler, Doris G.,
9/7/2020 (4/25/1987)

Bynum, Leonard W., Jr.,
6/24/2020 (10/1/1988)

Coffee, Eleanor L.,
9/3/2020 (1/4/1997)

Collins, James H.,
8/12/2020 (1/8/2005)

Cottles, Waylon D.,
8/24/2020 (1/29/1999)

Cox, Steve R.,
9/20/2020 (11/3/2001)

Cruise, Thamo C.,
7/25/2020 (12/14/1991)

Dailey, Bruce M.,
9/4/2020 (4/13/1991)

Deardorff, J.L.,
9/25/2020 (10/12/1985)

Debord, Edward A.,
9/25/2020 (1/3/2009)

Dixon, Sharon P.,
7/15/2020 (1/5/2008)

Dorroh, Wilford W.,
9/30/2020 (12/18/1993)

Doyle, Robert G.,
9/5/2020 (9/10/1988)

Enlow, Paul D.,
10/6/2020 (5/8/2020)

Eskridge, Joseph K.,
9/6/2020 (1/5/2008)

Farthing, Tommy W.,
9/4/2020 (3/20/2004)

Fielden, Jack A.,
8/30/2020 (11/24/1992)

Fish, John H., III,
9/19/2020 (8/2/1988)

Flowers, Robert W.,
8/21/2020 (7/27/1996)

Forester, Raymond L.,
9/19/2020 (8/2/1988)

Gaslightwala, F.H.,
10/20/2020 (6/17/1989)

Gibbs, Randal R.,
9/23/2020 (8/2/2005)

Goins Larry M.,
7/19/2020 (12/29/2008)

Goins, Marilyn H.,
10/22/2020 (6/1/1991)

Henson, William E.,
8/14/2020 (12/19/2000)

Hilke, Harry H.,
9/16/2020 (10/1/1996)

Hinton, Jimmie C.,
10/10/2020 (10/17/1994)

Houser, Mary Lou,
8/4/2020 (11/20/1999)

Hudson, Joseph C.,
7/27/2020 (11/12/2005)

Hughes, Norris Q.,
8/21/2020 (11/9/2014)

Hughley, Delores F.,
8/17/2020 (10/1/1988)

Icenhour, Delmer L.,
9/29/2020 (8/25/2010)

Johnson Bobby J.,
9/20/2020 (6/26/1993)

Johnson, Hayden S.,
2/19/2019 (10/17/1994)

Jones, Robert L.,
9/15/2020 (8/2/1988)

Kvaven, Erik,
8/22/2020 (10/1/1988)

Lawson, Betty E.,
10/10/2020 (11/2/1991)

Lee, Michael T.,
9/6/2020 (12/16/2013)

Maciejewski, John P.,
8/31/2020 (10/30/2001)

Mathis, Dianna F.,
10/2/2020 (2/21/2004)

Matthews, Jean M.,
8/14/2020 (11/28/1994)

McCormick, Chris W.,
8/1/2020 (5/2/2016)

McDowell, James H., Jr.,
9/9/2020 (1/5/1985)

McLemore, Robert L.,
8/16/2020 (10/1/1988)

Meneses, Gilbert G.,
7/30/2020 (11/5/2011)

Michael, Henry D.,
9/8/2020 (1/11/1986)

Miller, Lilia M.,
8/3/2020 (7/14/2004)

Moran, Richard F.,
10/10/2020 (5/2/2002)

Morton, Paul E.,
8/21/2020 (10/17/1994)

Nearhoof, Kenneth L.,
8/28/2020 (12/21/2002)

Nolen, Elbert G.,
8/25/2020 (10/17/1994)

Oliver, R. Genell,
8/25/2020 (10/17/1994)

Otey, Nathaniel,
10/3/2020 (9/18/1985)

Owens, Arthur J.,
8/4/2020 (10/17/1994)

Owens, Harold W.,
9/7/2020 (9/22/1984)

Percy, John E.,
10/26/2020 (2/13/1988)

Perkins, Tommy,
8/12/2020 (6/3/2006)

Pharris, Ronald H.,
7/12/2020 (5/15/1991)

Porter, Preston,
9/6/2020 (1/4/2000)

Posey, William R.,
9/28/2020 (5/6/1998)

Rahn, Robert R.,
7/28/2020 (9/30/1989)

Raulston, Donald L.,
8/8/2020 (9/4/1999)

Reburn, Lyle H.,
2/12/2020 (5/2/1980)

Reeves, Marsha A.,
7/16/2020 (4/14/1987)

Rinehart, John W.,
9/21/2020 (10/17/1994)

Rollins, Alvin B.,
9/16/2020 (10/17/1994)

Samarakkody, Upali S.,
8/26/2020 (10/1/1996)

Sammons, Rosemary L.,
8/18/2020 (4/30/2005)

Seeber, R. Lynn,
8/11/2020 (5/18/1978)

Sharp, John Edward, Jr.,
8/14/2020 (11/14/1992)

Shaver, Donald Lynn,
10/9/2020 (8/9/2002)

Smith, Arch,
8/17/2020 (6/13/1988)

Smith, David N.,
8/31/2020 (9/4/1990)

Smith, Rickey L.,
10/3/2020 (6/20/2009)

Stagnolia, Stephen P.,
10/2/2020 (9/8/1990)

Stephens, Edward A., Jr.,
10/14/2020 (5/3/2014)

Stephenson, Michael J.,
9/20/2020 (5/6/2008)

Thurman, John R.,
10/21/2020 (10/17/1994)

Vega, Jose R.,
9/23/2020 (1/3/2020)

Wallace, Francis,
7/30/2020 (10/1/1988)

Williams, Clarence R.,
7/25/2020 (9/27/1997)

Wolfe, Errol K.,
9/20/2020 (4/13/1998)

Woolf, Ronnie L.,
8/27/2020 (10/1/1996)

Young, Ronald K.,
9/25/2020 (8/19/1997)

Upcoming December 2020 Chapter Meetings

BROWNS FERRY

No meeting, due to COVID-19

Terry Chinn, President

256-230-3660/terryandjanachinn@yahoo.com

CHATTANOOGA

No meeting, due to COVID-19

Tom Swanson, President

423-344-6892/twswanson@comcast.net

CLEVELAND

No meeting, due to COVID-19

John Austin, President

423-472-2720/austintnutfan@charter.net

GALLATIN

No meeting, due to COVID-19

Ronnie "Blue" Monday, President

615-325-9473/ronniemonday@att.net

HUNTSVILLE

December 10, 2020 10 a.m.

First Baptist Church, 600 Governors Drive, Entrance 1, Front Door Code 53158, Room 250 (formerly Parlor)

- Masks required
- Program: Elder Law by Attorney Connie Glass
- Elections for 2021

Daniel A. Simmons, President

256-509-9781/dasimmon@bellsouth.net

JACKSON

December 9, 2020, 9:30 a.m.

Southwest Tennessee Electric office on Highway 70

- Christmas Luncheon following meeting, at a local restaurant to be determined

Alan Campbell, President

731-988-8814/abcjax@eplus.net

JOHNSONVILLE

December 10, 2020

Socializing starting at 10 a.m., with meeting at 11 a.m.

Johnsonville State Park Museum, Redoubt Ridge, New Johnsonville, Tenn.

- Annual Picnic (rescheduled from September), catered by Big Daddys restaurant
- Door prizes: \$25 cash, special Christmas prizes
- Annual election of officers
- Report on TVARA Board November meeting

Mickey Blackburn, President

931-209-1352/mickeyblackburn36@gmail.com

KINGSTON

December 14, 2020, 10:45 a.m.

Kingston Community Center

- Program: TBD

Marcus C. Melton Jr., President

865-388-3919/mcmelton@nxs.net

KNOXVILLE

December 10, 2020, 10 a.m.

Virtual Holiday Meeting on Webex

Information will be sent to members on how to access meeting

- TVA Update & Goals from a TVA executive
- How To Stay Safe During the Holidays, Speaker from Knox County Health Department
- TVA Retirement System Update from Mark Meigs, Vice President, TVA Retirement Services
- Healthcare Benefits Update from Jerry Landon, Senior Program Manager, TVA Healthcare Plans
- Knoxville Chapter Solway Veterans Memorial, Special Speaker
- Nonprofit Holiday Highlight
- "Door" prize

Jo Anne Lavender, President

865-300-8272/jlavender@tds.net

MEMPHIS

No meeting, due to COVID-19

David L. Teuton, President

901-212-3822/davidteuton@yahoo.com

MISSISSIPPI

December 8, 2020, 10:30 a.m.

Location and meeting details to follow

Sherry Garrett, President

662-963-3519/garrett7481@bellsouth.net

MUSCLE SHOALS

No meeting, due to COVID-19

Timothy "Tim" Cornelius, President

256-757-5220/timwcornelius1@gmail.com

NASHVILLE

Date and time to be determined, if meeting is held

Jeff E. Gammons, President

931-729-9974/y2kunderthehill@gmail.com

NORTHEAST ALABAMA

No meeting, due to COVID-19

Larry A. Hancock, President

256-437-8220/lah35772@gmail.com

PADUCAH AREA

No meeting, due to COVID-19

Ken Dickerson, President

270-442-9539/kenneth.dickerson@comcast.net

PARADISE

No meeting, due to COVID-19

Officers will not be elected.

We will have same officers as this year:

Patricia Cobb – President

Betty Woodlee – Vice President

Sue Bartlett – Treasurer

Paula Davis – Secretary

Patricia E. "Pat" Cobb, President

270-338-6667/pecobb1942@att.net

UPPER EAST TENNESSEE

No meeting, due to COVID-19

Leslie P. "Les" Bays, President

423-782-8458/Lpbays1@yahoo.com

WATTS BAR

No meeting, due to COVID-19

Kathleen Garrison, President

423-365-9048/eddiekathleen@bellsouth.net

WESTERN AREA

***Friday, December 4, 2020, 10:30 a.m.**

Lake Barkley State Resort Park

- Masks required when entering or exiting building, not while dining
- Entertainment: TBA
- Door prizes

** Please note the day has changed from the normal date.*

K. Renee Turnbow, President

270-205-5277/krturnbow@gmail.com

TVARS Issues Report on FY '20 Performance...continued from page 1

and employees as the seventh director. The process remained on track to meet the objective to have the seventh director in place by the end of 2020.

Bank of New York Mellon

To access your monthly direct-deposit statements online, visit bnym.accessmyretirement.com and log in. Or create your account using your 15-digit BNYM account number found on any statement. On this website, you also can update your address, tax-withholding, or direct-deposit information. For assistance, call BNY Mellon toll-free at 1-844-545-1256.

— JUSTIN VINEYARD

Please visit the TVARA website at mytvvara.org and hover your mouse over the tab "Local Chapters" to find your chapter. Click on your chapter to view meeting details and announcements.



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

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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.

We will be sending emails to all members from time to time concerning invitations to chapter meetings, volunteer opportunities, the TVA Retiree Appreciation Picnic, Membership Dues Notices, and other important information.

Please update your address book with the following email addresses for the TVARA Staff:

Reba Whitson — rjwhitson@mytvara.org
Jean Bryson — sjbryson@mytvara.org
Richard Wilson — rtwilson@mytvara.org

Dues Notices For 2021

By RICHARD WILSON, TVARA Valleywide Membership Program Manager

You will receive a Dues Notice for 2021 in the mail during the first week of January 2021, if you have not paid for 2021. You will not receive a Dues Notice if you have already paid for 2021 or beyond.

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

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 Notice envelope has an outside top flap that contains your Membership ID and your name and address. The inside top flap includes

the reminder to pay your dues for 2021 by submitting a check for \$15, payable to TVARA.

You can request a membership card by enclosing a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Detach the outside/inside flap along the perforated lines and insert inside the enclosed envelope, along with your check (do not send cash) and a self-addressed, stamped envelope for a new membership card. If you wish for your spouse 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 now, write a \$15 check payable to TVARA and mail to the following address:

TVA Retirees Association
WT8 C-K
400 W Summit Hill Dr
Knoxville TN 37902-9901

Civil Service retirees also can become members of TVARA. You can do so by writing a check for \$15 payable to TVARA and mail to the preceding TVARA address. If you are a Civil Service retiree and you have recently changed your address, please inform Retirement Services (call toll-free at 1-800-824-3870) of your change of address. If you are unsure that Retirement Services has your correct address, contact that office immediately.

Thank you for your continued support of 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.**