

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

Enjoying Summer's Return

By JO ANNE LAVENDER, TVARA Valleywide President

We have a lot to look forward to this summer: warm weather, perhaps vacations, getting together with friends and family, joining our fellow retirees at picnics or meetings.



JO ANNE LAVENDER

Be sure to check out the Chapter Meetings page in this newsletter to see when your chapter is getting together. Join your fellow retirees if you can for fellowship, information, and good food.

I plan to attend some of the other June chapter meetings in addition to that of my local group — the Knoxville Chapter.

Liberty Phillips, TVA's Retiree Communications Consultant, will be attending as many of the chapter picnics as she can and will catch up with the other chapters at upcoming

meetings. She will be bringing an appreciation gift from TVA for all members attending either the picnics or the meetings, if they don't have picnics.

We appreciate TVA for providing Liberty to help keep us as retirees informed. Chapters that are interested

will also have a TVA manager who will speak on TVA's appreciation of retirees, both for what retirees have done to make TVA successful and for how retirees are contributing in their communities.

Liberty also is leading the TVA team that is planning the annual TVA Retiree Appreciation Luncheon on Sept. 13 at 10 a.m. at the Chattanooga Convention Center. (See "SAVE THE DATE!" on page 16.)

I hope you will attend if you can. It is a great event with many exhibitors, many retirees, and interesting TVA speakers. Exhibitors include our insurance providers, students active in robotics programs in their school (see article on robotics in this issue), BVI (our partner and funding organization for most of our service projects), and numerous TVA organizations showing the interesting work they are doing.

You will be getting information later about how you and a guest can sign up for the luncheon. Although this event is given by TVA to show its appreciation for retirees, WE appreciate TVA for sponsoring this event for us each year.

I would like to stay with the appreciation theme. I want to thank

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TVARS confident about future

By COURTNEY HAMMONTREE, Lead Benefits Consultant, TVA Retirement Operations

As of March 2024, the TVA Retirement System reports an asset estimate of \$8.6 billion.

The first quarter of 2024 was a strong period for equity markets, led by large-cap growth stocks.

The robust performance of growth assets helped TVARS Plan assets perform well in Q1 2024. TVARS continues to take advantage of risk-reduction opportunities within the plan where feasible, to secure benefit-payment

obligations and protect against a possible slow-growth economic environment.

TVARS remains confident of meeting future payment obligations.

For more financial information, see the 2023 TVARS Annual Report, which can be found on the TVARS website at tvars.com.

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 tax-withholding and direct-deposit information. 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 800-824-3870 toll-free.



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TVARA VALLEYWIDE OFFICERS

Jo Anne Lavender

President

Vickie Ellis

Past President

Les Bays

Vice President

Kathryn Davis

Secretary

Lisa Overly

Treasurer

Penny Walker

Volunteer Coordinator

TVARA NEWS STAFF

Theresa Habiger

Editor

Email: thabiger@charter.net

Jim Andrews

Contributing Editor

Email: patjimandrews@aol.com

FOR INFORMATION REGARDING:

TVA Retirement System Benefits

Email: tvars@tva.gov

Phone: 800-824-3870, toll-free

Online: tvars.com

Retiree or Beneficiary Death Notification

Notify the TVA Retirement System by email or phone.

Fidelity 401(k) Plan

Phone: 800-354-7121, toll-free

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

BNY Mellon Payments

Phone: 844-545-1256, toll-free

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.

TVA NEWS & NOTES

The following news items were provided by Liberty Phillips, Consultant, Employee Communications (Retiree), TVA External Relations:

Kingston retirement to spawn new energy complex

TVA has formally announced its decision to retire all nine coal-fired units at Kingston Fossil Plant by the end of 2027. In their place, TVA plans to build a first-of-its-kind energy complex consisting of natural gas, solar, and battery storage to maintain uninterrupted power to customers.

It's a historic decision. Kingston has been a fixture to the Knoxville region since the 1950s, when the new plant attracted visitors on a national scale, including an ambitious young senator from Massachusetts named John Fitzgerald Kennedy.

And according to TVA President/Chief Executive Officer Jeff Lyash, the decision benefits all 10 million people in TVA's seven-state service area.

"TVA is building the energy system of the future to ensure low rates, high reliability, and increasingly cleaner generation," Lyash says. "The decision to retire Kingston supports this generational transition and aligns with our goal to reduce carbon."

The retirement announcement capped a multiyear process of weighing options, evaluating environmental impacts, and seeking public input.

Kingston was becoming increasingly difficult to operate, TVA leaders say, because the

age and condition of the units had created environmental, economic, and reliability challenges.

Kingston will be the 10th coal plant retired by TVA, and the eighth since 2012.

That will leave just three active plants in TVA's coal fleet: Cumberland Fossil Plant, Gallatin Fossil Plant, and Shawnee Fossil Plant.

"Choosing to retire our coal assets is not an easy decision," says Kris Edmondson, TVA Vice President of Coal Operations. "Our people have done a tremendous job meeting the operational challenges of an aging coal fleet."

With about 200 employees, Kingston provides electricity for up to 800,000 homes. The announcement gives those employees several years to plan their next career moves.

And TVA leaders say they're committed to supporting employees.

"TVA has a detailed workforce plan to maintain coal-plant expertise through closure," says Allen Clare, Senior VP of TVA Power Operations. "Employees will have options to transfer their skills into other career opportunities, such as operating the new energy complex."

"These are highly skilled and dedicated



Kingston Fossil Plant, awaiting rebirth in new energy age



Luke Huddleston (left) a trainee, pores over a book of Kingston Fossil Plant history with his father, Daniel, a longtime employee there.

individuals. We are focused on retention and supporting smooth transitions to their next career step.”

It is essential to have replacement power up and running by the time Kingston’s nine coal-burning units – capable of generating almost 1,400 megawatts of power – are taken offline.

“Kingston’s location in TVA’s transmission system makes it integral to power-system stability,” Lyash says.

The planned new energy complex will house at least 1,500 megawatts of natural-gas generating capacity, along with 100 megawatts of battery storage, and up to 4 megawatts of solar.

Two types of natural gas facilities are planned: a combined-cycle plant and a fleet of aeroderivative combustion turbines.

Lyash says the natural-gas generation will be in operation before the fossil plant’s retirement.

“Natural gas is the only mature technology available today that can be available by the end of 2027,” he says. “And it’s the best overall solution to provide low-cost, reliable,



Plant Operations Manager Richard “RT” Turner shows off photos from Kingston’s construction in the early 1950s.

and cleaner energy to the TVA power system.”

Moreover, natural gas produces less than half the carbon emissions of the retiring coal units, he points out. And it provides the flexibility to integrate solar and other renewables, not just at Kingston but across the grid.

“We need year-round, firm, dispatchable power, like natural gas, for when the sun isn’t shining,” Lyash says.

The addition of battery storage and solar power at the site dovetails with TVA’s overall goal to add up to 10,000 megawatts of solar power by 2035.

Training students, pros to weatherize homes

TVA’s EnergyRight program has partnered with the TVA Retirees Association and Bicentennial Volunteers Inc., along with the City of Memphis and Memphis Light, Gas and Water to fund a new facility at William R. Moore College of Technology in Memphis. This facility will train students and professionals to perform home-weatherization projects.

“We are here today to celebrate connecting people with the community – that is what we are all about,” BVI President Kathy Black said at an announcement ceremony in Memphis. “We supported this program because we believe this will enable students to have an opportunity to get training and give back to the community through the weatherization efforts that are so needed.”

Weatherization is the process by which a structure’s ability to withstand the elements is enhanced through weatherproofing, making it more energy-efficient, thus lowering energy costs for the owner.

“Weatherization is undeniably one of the most valuable investments for any homeowner,” William R. Moore President Skip Redmond said in his remarks at the ceremony. “Moore Tech is deeply appreciative of our partnerships with TVA, BVI, MLGW, and the City of Memphis and Shelby County governments, as they enable us to deliver the essential training required for professionals to offer this crucial service within our community.”

TVA EnergyRight has constructed a permanent training house on the Moore Tech campus to provide hands-on instruction, specifically for home energy-efficiency upgrades. BVI is funding the development of curriculum and instructors for the weatherization-training program.

“This training house will allow students to test their classroom skills in a safe, controlled setting,” said Mark Yates, TVA West Regional Vice President. “We believe in creating opportunities for individuals to pursue and train for in-demand fields, and we are pleased to partner with community leaders to provide this to students and professionals in Memphis.

“The stand-alone house is equipped with multiple structures, systems, and appliances, including a heating-and-air system and lighting. These facilities effectively demonstrate how the components of an average home interact to affect the home’s overall environment. After experiencing this simulation, students and trainees are able to better understand how their weatherization efforts can improve the comfort, health, and safety of occupants.”

Doug White, Director of Weatherization & Property Maintenance at the college, said the program will help students find and repair weatherization leaks.

“We have many in low-income housing who struggle, but if they can get their utility bill down, it will help that and the community,” White said. “This wouldn’t happen without TVA and BVI.”

The program is expected to train about 30 technicians a year and will help prepare energy auditors and inspectors, as well as contractors, to support objectives of various energy programs including TVA EnergyRight and the U.S. Department of Energy.

Moore Tech is a nonprofit, independent, technical-trade, higher-education institution that will train the students and professionals on weatherization techniques, as well as on building codes and other regulations.

Moore Tech will also participate in the U.S. Department of Energy’s Weatherization Assistance Program by becoming a preferred training provider.

Via Benefits Offers HRA Access – Anytime, Anywhere

By **SANDIE SMITH**, Benefits Consultant, TVA Total Rewards

If you have enrolled in Medicare using Via Benefits, ensure that you have access to your Health Reimbursement Arrangement Account anytime, anywhere.

Check out the online tools at viabenefits.com or download the Via Benefits Accounts mobile app by scanning the QR



Code below with the camera of your smartphone or tablet.

The online tools and mobile app can help you manage your reimbursement account with just a few taps or clicks, and you can check your balance, submit reimbursement requests, track your payments, and more.

	Mobile App	Website
Access your account balance and reimbursement status	✓	✓
Submit reimbursement requests quickly and easily	✓	✓
Follow reimbursements as they are processed in real time	✓	
Receive notifications “on the go” if your request is missing information	✓	
Take pictures of supporting documentation using your phone	✓	
Manage supporting documentation	✓	✓
Sign up for direct deposit	✓	✓

Enjoying Summer’s Return...continued from page 1

all the chapter officers, Valleywide officers, and TVARA staff for what they do to ensure that we retirees continue to gather for fun and fellowship and service. They and chapter members are what make this organization vibrant and successful.

TVA is continuing to emphasize community projects in each of the five TVA regions (North, East, West, South, and Southwest (Mississippi)). We are working with the TVA regions and with BVI to keep on identifying projects that positively impact local communities. If you have an idea or ideas for projects in your area, talk with your chapter president or other chapter officers to discuss your idea(s).

I’m excited to announce we have an updated TVARA website: mytvara.org. Thanks to a generous contribution by BVI, we were able to have professional website designers update our website as they updated the mybvi.org website. Please take an opportunity to look at it.

You will find information about activities for all the chapters, information on retirement and benefits, information on TVARA activities, and news articles from TVA, and can see past TVARA newsletters. You will also see how to pay your dues and pay online through PayPal if you like, as mentioned in this issue.

Enjoy this newsletter.

There is an article about the travels through life of Jim Boehms, one of our 100-year-old retirees, written by his nephew.

There are listings of fun events to attend this summer.

There are articles about robotics and STEM grants, where TVA and BVI are contributing to the education of our youth. We as retirees have an opportunity to volunteer in these efforts.

There are updates on the financial wellbeing of the Retirement System and updates on benefits.

There are articles about significant TVA projects and activities, including the Washington Office Update. TVA has decided to close its Kingston plant by the end of 2027. There is an article that talks about what is next for the Kingston site. And there is coverage of a new facility in which TVARA, TVA, BVI, and others are involved, to help train students and professionals to perform home-weatherization projects.

Enjoy your summer, also, and make the most of it!

Designating Beneficiaries for HSAs

What is a beneficiary? A beneficiary is a person or legal entity designated to receive the proceeds from your Health Savings Account in the event of death. A beneficiary can be one or more individuals (for example, spouse, children, relatives, or friends) or organizations such as a trust or charity. You can designate two types of beneficiaries:

1. Primary beneficiaries are the first to receive the designated asset upon your death. If you name more than one primary beneficiary, each will share the benefit equally, unless you indicate that specific percentages totaling 100 percent are to be paid.
2. Secondary (contingent) beneficiaries receive the asset if there are no surviving primary beneficiaries upon your death. Multiple contingent beneficiaries will share the benefit equally, unless you indicate specific percentages totaling 100 percent are to be paid.

You can designate a beneficiary to receive your HSA assets in the event of your death. If you name your spouse as beneficiary, your spouse can elect to treat the HSA as his or her own. In such a case, your spouse will not owe taxes or penalties, provided he or she uses the HSA for IRS-qualified medical expenses. If you designate a non-spouse beneficiary, he or she must take a distribution of the funds. A non-spouse beneficiary will have to pay income tax on the amount received, but will not have to pay a penalty tax. Beneficiary designations can generally be made through the Member Website. However, if you are married, live in a community-property state, and designate a non-spouse primary beneficiary, you must submit a beneficiary form with the notarized consent of your spouse.

Why it's important to designate a beneficiary

One of the most neglected areas of retirement planning is beneficiary designation. By having a designated beneficiary in place at the time of your death, the assets of your HSA can be distributed according to the designation. If you die without having a valid beneficiary designation, your HSA will be distributed to your estate.

Review your beneficiary designations

By periodically reviewing your beneficiary designations for your HSA, you can rest assured your assets will be distributed according to your wishes. It is also recommended to keep up-to-date copies of your beneficiary-designation forms.

Circumstances for which a review is recommended:

- You experience a major life event such as a birth, marriage, dissolution of marriage or domestic partnership, or death in the family.
- You update your estate plan. Consult with your legal adviser when you update your estate plan to determine whether your HSA beneficiary designations also need to be updated.
- You receive a beneficiary-verification notice.

Designate a beneficiary with HSA Bank

Designate a beneficiary or update your current beneficiary in your HSA Bank's Member Website. You'll be asked to provide information about your chosen beneficiary, including his or her Social Security number and birthdate.

— SANDIE SMITH

Getting Extra Support for Chronic Conditions

Pre-65 retirees who have maintained TVA medical insurance through Blue Cross Blue Shield of Tennessee can utilize the Chronic Condition Management program through BCBST. A little extra help can go a long way when it comes to taking care of your health.

BCBST is available to help you obtain personalized, one-on-one support if you have a long-term health condition such as asthma, coronary-artery disease, congestive heart failure, COPD, depression, or diabetes.

Have you been diagnosed with one of these conditions? If so, you can talk with a nurse, behavioral-health specialist or another member of the BCBST care team for help with the following:

- Understanding your condition so you can make decisions about treatment options.
- Creating a personalized-care plan that helps you be successful in reaching your health goals.
- Managing your medications.

A BCBST health professional can contact you by phone, mail, or email, or you can reach out to one of them directly toll-free at 800-818-8581.

Do you have other health-related questions? Log in to [bcbst.com](https://www.bcbst.com) so you can chat with a nurse about health-related questions, use the symptom-checker, get discounts on health- and wellness-related products and services, and more.

— SANDIE SMITH

Traveling through time – a journey of 100-plus years

By WILLIAM BOEHMS NORTON – In honor of “Uncle Jim”

James Herschel Boehms had an exceptional birthday this year, one that King Solomon might have alluded to when he wrote:

For through wisdom your days will be many, and years will be added to your life.

Jim Boehms, as he is known to all, turned 100 years young on Feb. 15, 2024. He would modestly deny wisdom was involved, but he’s done a lot of things right and avoided wrong ones.

So how does a centenarian’s life read?

Jim Boehms was the first-born child of Herschel and Mary Jane Nichol Boehms (pronounced “Beems”). His father was a teacher at the Jones Valley school, aka Leatherwood School, in Hickman County, Tenn., when Jim was born in 1924.

When Jim was pre-school age, say about 5, the family lived next door to the school where Herschel taught.

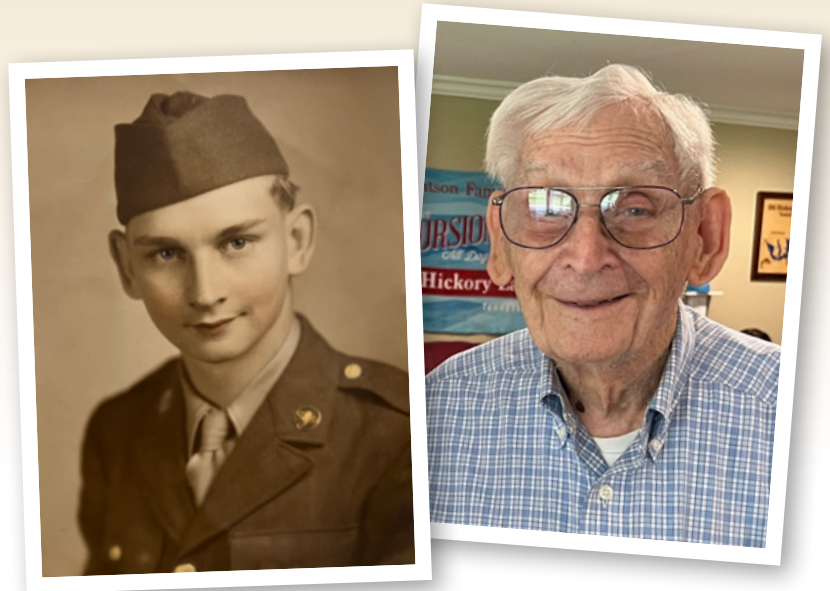
“According to my mother, I hung out at the school so much, they just let me start school early,” Jim says.

Family legend says if Herschel ever had a problem student (or problem parent), he would pull up stakes and move to another school. Whether for this cause or not, by the time Jim was 8 years old, he had gained four siblings with four different birth addresses: Theta, which is in Maury County, Tenn., and Littlelot, Farmers Exchange, and back to Jones Valley, which are all in Hickman County.

After four moves and five babies, Jim’s mother apparently put her foot down, and the family settled for good in Herschel’s father’s house by Leatherwood Creek in Jones Valley. Herschel taught and later became the principal at the school in nearby Shady Grove. Two more siblings came along for a total of seven children – two sons and five daughters.

During the Great Depression, 1929 to 1939, many citizens of rural Tennessee lost everything. My mother, who was Jim’s sister Evelyn, once told me they didn’t know they were poor because everyone was poor.

Besides teaching, Herschel farmed and was in a partnership



“GI Jim” Boehms in WWII U.S. Army Air Corps uniform and TVA retiree “Uncle Jim” Boehms in “civvies” many, many decades later

with two of his brothers in a general store. It took all of this to feed and clothe a family of nine in the hard times of the Depression. Jim grew up experiencing hardship and understanding hard work.

While in high school, Jim worked summers in Centerville, the county seat of Hickman County, for a government project created to provide jobs.

“I lived with my father’s sister, Aunt Bessie Meadors, in Shipps Bend,” Jim says. “I walked three miles with my lunch pail to my job in Centerville, crossing the Duck River on a railroad bridge along the way.”

Jim finished high school in Centerville in 1941 and enrolled in Tennessee Polytechnic Institute (now Tennessee Technological University, or simply Tennessee Tech) in Cookeville, Tenn. He attended college for just short of a year in a government program, National Youth Administration, that helped defray the cost. However, world events soon intervened in his life as a student.

Dec. 7, 1941, the day FDR said would “live in infamy” – on that date the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, and the United States was suddenly at war. The lives of everyone changed radically during the following years of World War II.

As the war effort ramped up, the government program supporting Jim’s studies was discontinued, and he returned home in the spring of 1942. Subsequently, a cousin from

Shady Grove, Arch Bratton, helped Jim land a job in Omaha, Neb., building airplanes for the military.

“When I arrived in Omaha — very much the young country boy in the big city — I was able to get a room in a boarding house operated by two older ladies,” he says. “These ladies ‘adopted’ me, and I would be friends with them for many years.”

During his time working in Omaha, Jim did not forget his younger sisters and brother back home. To this day, his siblings fondly remember the Christmas gifts he provided, for example, “a big toy bus!”

Caring for family in one way or another has been a constant characteristic of Jim’s life.

In 1943, while he was in Omaha, a terrible event occurred back in Leatherwood: His family’s house burned to the ground. Very little was saved. Herschel, Mary Jane, and the five children still living at home had to start over with nothing.

Providentially, the fire happened in mid-morning while the children were in school, instead of at night when they would have been sleeping upstairs.

And the family not only survived the fire, it survived the aftermath of the fire, thanks to the generosity of neighbors, kinfolk, and just about everyone in the community. Carpenters and truckers donated their services. Lumber from tearing down the historic Bon Aqua hotel was given to the family. Monetary contributions ranged from 10 cents to \$100.

Jim had saved \$900 while working in Omaha — a grand sum of money in 1943. He gave his savings to his parents, his generosity playing a significant role in providing the new home for his family.

Jim worked at the airplane-manufacturing plant in Omaha for about a year, but in the summer of 1943 the military draft in the United States was extended to include men ages 18-37. He had the option of being drafted or joining a branch of the service of his choosing. So, effective October 1943, Jim enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps (now the U.S. Air Force) and went through basic training at Army Air Corps Station No. 8 in Biloxi, Miss. (later Keesler Army Airfield, now Keesler Air Force Base).

After basic, he was sent to aviation-mechanics school in North Carolina, then later returned to Keesler to complete his mechanic training. From there, he was sent to airfields all around Texas: to Fort Worth, to Kelly and Randolph in San Antonio, and to Ellington in Houston.

An interesting part of Jim’s life after leaving home was hitchhiking. He did not have a car, so hitching a ride was his main means of transportation. Hitchhiking was the way he could get from Tennessee Tech to home. It was how he traveled when on leave from the Air Corps. On



Lyla and Jim Boehms on their wedding day in 1956; with sons Jimmy, born in 1961, and John, born in 1963; and continuing their partnership for 58 years of marriage.

one occasion, he got a ride all the way from Arkansas to Columbia, Tenn.

“It was easy for a serviceman in uniform to get a ride,” he says.

Jim spent more than two years in the service and was discharged in March 1946.

After that, he returned to college on the GI Bill and finished Tennessee Tech with an electrical engineering degree. In 1949, for his senior project in engineering, Jim and Herschel wired the family’s new house at Leatherwood for electricity. Observing the life-changing benefits of electricity for his family no doubt left him with a deep appreciation for the rural electrification program of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Upon graduation, Jim worked for a concrete-testing company for two years. Then, in 1951, he was hired by TVA, initiating a 33-year career with the company.

During that career, he participated in the electrical design of TVA’s growing fleet of power plants, both fossil-fuel-powered and nuclear-powered.

Interestingly, his younger brother, Joe, and brother-in-law, John Smith, would later work for TVA, as well. In addition, one of Jim’s sons, two nephews, and a niece also developed careers in the electric-utility industry. Jim had demonstrated the way into valuable vocations for the family coming after him.

Jim was working for TVA in Knoxville when Cupid shot an arrow his way. Jim met and courted Lyla Rice, a home-economics professor at the University of Tennessee. They married on July 7, 1956, in Beloit, Wis., Lyla’s homeplace. The boarding-house

Continued on next page

ladies in Omaha sent a wedding present.

In 1961, their first son, Jimmy, came into their lives, followed in 1963 by John.

Soon after marrying, Jim and Lyla joined Church Street United Methodist Church in Knoxville. Jim was ushering in 1961 and continued until 2022, just over 60 years.

Jim and Lyla were members of a large Sunday-school class, "Murphy Builders," and many of their friends were from this group. Jim has served the needy through the church's soup kitchen for some 40 years.

Jim retired from TVA in 1984.

"I have often remarked that I have been retired from TVA longer than I worked for TVA," he says. "Not many can say that about retirement from any employer."

Jim's financial acumen is unusually sharp ("for an engineer," he says, laughing). When the Individual Retirement Account was first introduced, he told me that at my then-young age I should borrow money to put into an IRA. If I had followed his advice, I could have knocked a few years off my own retirement age.

He was an early investor in the Cracker Barrel restaurant company. Like most everything, if Jim was in, he was ALL in. His loyalty to the company extended to attending stockholder meetings in Lebanon, Tenn., and memorizing the layout for each vintage of store. Had I invested in Cracker Barrel like he did, maybe I, too, could have been retired longer than I worked. Sigh.

Jim's engineering accomplishments included groundbreaking work on TVA's Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant. Just before he retired, he completed an important project documenting the plant's electrical systems.

Given nuclear-regulatory requirements and the size and complexity of the plant, the project was under close scrutiny and was a huge undertaking. Remarkably, when Jim's son John worked at Browns Ferry many years later, he found project documents his dad created.

Jim and Lyla were loyal University of Tennessee men's basketball fans — that is, "until UT built a new basketball arena and put the two of us in seats so high that oxygen masks and navigation lights were mandatory," Jim says.

After telling UT what it could do with those seats in the sky — in a nice way, of course — Jim and Lyla became loyal Lady Volunteers basketball fans. They attended all the home games — in good seats, thank you very much — and also many tournament games.



"Uncle Jim" in a familiar setting, at a family get-together, this one at Christmas

Jim also has been a faithful follower of Tennessee Tech football, becoming personally acquainted with the school's president and sitting with him at homecoming games.

Besides being sports fans, Jim and Lyla used retirement for travel through Elderhostel International (now known as Road Scholar), an organization dedicated to learning through travel. The two adventurers trekked internationally, as well as to places of interest in the United States.

After 58 years together, Lyla passed away peacefully on Oct. 14, 2014. Jim misses his life partner every day.

Jim began running for exercise a bit late in life, after seeing a friend succumb to health issues. He continued this practice by walking three miles several days a week until just last year.

He and a friend hiked to Abram Falls in Cades Cove in the Smoky Mountains National Park a few years ago. They were eating lunch at the falls when a young couple arrived and asked them, "How did you get here?" Jim's retort: "We jogged up — how about you?"

Jim's capacity to surprise has sharpened as he has added decades.

At 92, when many are (or should be) giving up the keys, he bought a brand-new Toyota Camry.

And he used it! Just a few years ago he drove from Knoxville to the family reunion in Middle Tennessee.

When immobilized (so we thought) by a recent fall, he got tired of rehab and simply left the facility and walked home.

And you never know when your phone will ring, and there will be Uncle Jim, sharp as ever, just wanting to catch up with his family. When asked how he is doing, the response is always, "Well, I don't buy green bananas."

How can you not love this guy?

Jim's love, devotion, and loyalty to family are legendary. He and Lyla traced through generations of the Boehms family tree with an insight and diligence that would put genealogy.com to shame.

He took responsibility for maintaining and automating the Boehms family directory (his computer skills exceeded those of the rest of the clan).

Jim was instrumental in the promotion of the Boehms family

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WASHINGTON UPDATE

Hosting, visiting activities keep D.C. staff moving



By JESSICA HOGLE, TVA Vice President, Federal Affairs

It's been a busy few months for the Tennessee Valley Authority Federal Affairs team. We have hosted many of our colleagues and customers in Washington and even got down to the Valley for a few days as a team.

As part of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's annual Legislative Fly-In, we co-hosted a reception with the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association for many of our co-op customers and congressional staff members. TVA Board Chair Ritch and Director Bobby Klein were able to join, and we enjoyed visiting with local power leaders from across the Valley.

Partnering with Tennessee businesses

U.S. Rep. David Kustoff (R-TN) joined TVA President/Chief Executive Officer Jeff Lyash at an event TVA co-hosted with the Tennessee Business Forum. Lyash and Rep. Kustoff talked to representatives from businesses, congressional offices, and state offices about working together to build new generation to power growth. Kustoff noted that TVA was crucial to bringing Ford's BlueOval City — the largest economic-development project in Tennessee's history — to his district. Lyash and Jeannette Mills, TVA Executive Vice President/Chief External Relations Officer, also took the opportunity to meet with TVA Congressional Delegation members during their visit. The two gave updates on TVA's work and answered questions.

On March 14, the Federal Affairs team hosted Sen. Roger Wicker (R-MS) and the Mississippi State Society in the Washington office for breakfast as part of the society's Congressional Breakfast Series.

The breakfast provided an opportunity to have an off-the-record conversation with the senator about the upcoming elections and legislation that might be moving through Congress. We had a great turnout and enjoyed visiting with our Mississippi stakeholders in Washington.

Getting out in the field

In March, the Federal Affairs team hit the road for Knoxville! During a two-day trip, we had the opportunity to tour Norris Dam and Kingston Fossil Plant. We also visited two customers, Clinton Utilities Board and directly served Oak Ridge National Laboratory, to see their operations firsthand. The team also hosted local officials and congressional staff member at a dinner in downtown Knoxville. Many thanks to our East Region colleagues for their assistance in setting up the tours and other events in a great trip to the Valley.

Celebrating TVA's Engineer of the Year

TVA's Engineer of the Year, Tim Fritch, came to Washington for the Federal Engineer of the Year Awards. Fritch, an Electrical Engineer, was recognized in the top 10 for the honor and was presented with his award by TVA Senior VP of Transmission & Power Supply Aaron Melda.



TVA Engineer of the Year Tim Fritch (left) with Aaron Melda, TVA Senior Vice President of Transmission & Power Supply, who presented Fritch with an award as one of the top 10 federal engineers of the year.

Hosting our stakeholders

In February, TVA and the Tennessee Municipal Electric Power Association co-hosted an event for Valley public-power leaders in Washington, held during the American Public Power Association's Legislative Fly-In. TVA's Lyash, Board Chair Joe Ritch, Director Beth Harwell, and Director Beth Geer joined leaders from our local-power-company customers and congressional staff members at the reception. Ritch and Lyash thanked LPC officials for sharing the importance of the public-power model with the Valley and for their work to meet peak demands during January's extreme cold.



Members of TVA's Federal Affairs team, at Norris Dam: from left, Elizabeth Gibson, Ameera Bhatti, Chloe Cantor, Natalie Cook, Sarah Eason, Jessica Hogle, Alexa Ingram, Mike Albares, Bevin Taylor, William Dorroh, and Alice Fothergill

Employees, retirees rally 'round robotics programs

By LIBERTY PHILLIPS, Consultant, Employee Communications (Retiree), TVA External Relations

What do retirees, employees, and students have in common? Well, among other things, robots, here and there around the Tennessee Valley.

Throughout the year, TVA and Bicentennial Volunteers Inc. employees and retirees partner with Tennessee Valley Robotics to support local schools' robotics initiatives, fostering innovation and inspiring the next generation of STEM enthusiasts.

As the demand for STEM (that's for science, technology, engineering, and math) skills continues to rise, and TVA continues to focus on building pathways and pipelines through workforce development, a means of providing students with early, hands-on experiences in these fields has become a priority.

"We are happy to partner with BVI to provide sponsorship of Tennessee Valley Robotics, because the programs these organizations support help get students interested in STEM and opportunities at companies like TVA," says Althea Jones, TVA Senior Manager of Public & Community Engagement. "This is one way we can directly impact TVA's ability to reach our future workforce."

Over the past six years, together TVA and BVI have donated \$3.6 million and many hours of volunteer time working with robotics teams and/or attending competitions as representatives and judges.

In TVA's South Region each year, the Power Service Shops group in Muscle Shoals receives competition field drawings. Then, weeks later after the Northwest Shoals Community College hub has provided lumber and materials, Power Service Shops Carpenters Miles Willis and George McConnell have turned those drawings into reality.

"This year we received more than 240 drawings, and our carpenters took those drawings and did an excellent job fabricating all the components," says Keith Poston, a Mechanical Specialist at the Power Services Shops.

One of the key aspects of this initiative is a mentoring program in which retirees engage with students, guiding them through robotics design and programming. For Poston and the other mentors, sharing their experience and expertise is a rewarding

way not only to impart technical knowledge but also serve as a source of inspiration.

"I think it is wonderful that the students have opportunities to learn how to use these different programs to build a robot and make it work," says TVA retiree and current Engineering Contractor Fred Sumrall. "Seeing the lightbulb go on and watching them achieve their goal is the best thing for me."



Brentwood (Tenn.) High School robotics teams, showing their own school banners and Tennessee Valley Robotics/BVI/TVA banners at recent VEX Robotics World Championship in Dallas

By bridging the gap between industry professionals and young learners, TVA helps foster a collaborative learning environment that extends beyond the classroom.

"Robotics in schools gives our students the tools necessary for the highly technical jobs both of today and tomorrow," says Tennessee Valley Robotics Treasurer Charley Spencer. "We must prepare this generation to be a part of the workforce of tomorrow."

Robotics not only instills valuable technical skills, it also exposes students to real-world applications, providing a glimpse into potential career paths within the STEM fields.

"Volunteering with robotics has given me an opportunity to work with students and help them figure out what they want to be when they grow up," says TVA retiree and current Engineering Contractor Steve Merry. "Robotics helps all students, not just the college-bound kids, but also the ones who are interested in trade-union jobs."

The work of Tennessee Valley Robotics isn't confined to one area; it spans the whole seven-state service area.

Bob Deacy, Senior Vice President of TVA's Clinch River Nuclear project, recently spoke at the opening ceremony of the VEX IQ robotics competition at the Tennessee School for the Deaf.

"At TVA we use aerial drones to inspect our transmission lines, drones to inspect confined spaces in our plants, underwater remotely operated vehicles to inspect our dams, and robotic 'dogs' to do maintenance and security inspections," Deacy said. "Behind each of these tools is a person, an operator, who makes the technology work."

"The skills you are building through robotics competitions like this put you on the path to be the operators of the future."

Bright futures stem from TVA/BVI STEM grants

Every student at Oakland (Ky.) Elementary School is participating in a STEM-and-coding class each week, thanks to a STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) grant provided by TVA in partnership with Bicentennial Volunteers Inc.

In Huntsville, Ala., students attending Columbia High School have created an audio/makerspace equipped to inspire more independent, entrepreneurial project-based learning. (A makerspace is described on Google as “a hands-on community learning environment for crafts like sewing, laser printing, etching, 3D printing, and paper crafts, as well as robotics, film and photography, coding, and more.)

That’s the result of a TVA/BVI STEM grant, also.

And that’s also the case in Bartlett, Tenn., where Elmore Park Middle School students are participating in community data collection and research as part of a “Purify the Park” city initiative to make the school environment even better. In addition, students are utilizing PocketLab Weather Kits to explore weather patterns, temperature, and humidity, sharing what they learn with the school’s Eagle News broadcast-journalism program.

These are among the learning projects designed to spark student interest in STEM areas, projects made possible by 343 grants of up to \$5,000 each, awarded to educators in the 2023-24 schoolyear. A total of \$1.5 million will help about 130,000 students across the seven Tennessee Valley states learn STEM subjects and develop teamwork skills to help them achieve future success.

“STEM grants are vital because they provide funding for research, education, and innovation in science, technology,

engineering, and mathematics fields,” says BVI President Kathy Black. “BVI is thrilled to be investing in the workforce of tomorrow – preparing students for steady, well-paying careers that will see them through a lifetime of prosperity right here in the Tennessee Valley.

“These grants support our mission to improve lives in the Tennessee Valley.”

The competitive STEM classroom-grant program is operated in partnership with the Tennessee STEM Innovation Network managed by the Battelle organization.

“The Tennessee STEM Innovation Network is honored to partner with TVA in this exciting grant program to further STEM education endeavors across the state,” says Gretchen Brown, the network’s Operations Director. “This opportunity can make the difference for educators and students as they incorporate 21st-century skills and real-world problem-solving.

“It is a privilege to work with this partnership year after year and continue to serve the incredible educators of the Tennessee Valley.”

Grants are awarded through a competitive process, and preference is given to applications that explore TVA’s primary areas of focus: environment, energy, economic development, and community problem-solving. Any school that receives its power from a local power company served by TVA is eligible to apply.

Since 2018, TVA and BVI have provided nearly \$6.5 million in STEM grants, supporting nearly 730,000 students.

– LIBERTY PHILLIPS

Traveling through time...continued from page 8

reunions that began around 1957. His tender spirit was revealed at the reunions by his inability to report about family without shedding tears.

A hallmark of the Boehms family is that it has stayed connected. Much of this unique quality is due to the gentle heart of the eldest son, Jim.

To summarize, ask yourself this key life question: How should one invest 10 decades on this planet?

Should you employ your talents in a wholesome occupation that is an example to others? Should you use your time in retirement to follow the good and pure passions God enables you to enjoy? Jim Boehms has.

Should you enjoy your family and love them sacrificially with unstinting devotion? Jim Boehms does.

Should you steward your opportunities and gifts with wisdom and grace? Should you honor your Creator, and follow his Son the best you know how? Jim Boehms does.

This is how one should pursue 10 decades on Earth: Just look at what Jim Boehms is doing.

All of his many family, friends, and associates join together to say, “Happy 100th birthday, Jim!”

(William Boehms Norton is a nephew of TVA retiree and centenarian James Herschel Boehms. Norton worked 35 years as a mechanical engineer for Southern Co. in Birmingham, before retiring in 2018. He says this article was compiled from the collective memories of Jim Boehms’s sons Jimmy and John Boehms, siblings Joe Boehms and Bea Jobe, and grand-nephew Richard Boehms.)

Seeking a Hideout from Summer's Simmer? *Try Chilling Out in a Cave To Beat the Heat*

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

The sweltering landscapes of the South can seem a forbidding place to maintain an unsheltered presence in summertime. But if you're willing to dive a little deeper, as it were — scratch the surface, so to speak — there is a maze of amazing places into which to delve, where you'll encounter cool new perspectives on spaces that forever avoid the sun's glare.

TAG, You're In It

Just under Southern Appalachia's surface lies a natural refuge from the heat. It's a world of caves, caverns, grottos, and natural catacombs, where the ambient temperatures are perpetually comfortable and the atmosphere is steeped in history, natural wonder, and an astounding sense of discovery.

In fact, some of the best caving in the world is under land within or adjacent to the Tennessee River Basin. The region is home to some of the largest-known caves on, or rather, in Earth, and in the greatest abundance.

says Dave Hughes, a veteran cave explorer and cavern conservationist for five decades. "They are very big, and there are very, very many of them.

"Tennessee has more than 10,000 caves, so it is an absolutely spectacular area. People come from all around the world to go caving in Tennessee, Alabama, and Georgia. They actually have a nickname for the area, they call it 'TAG.'"

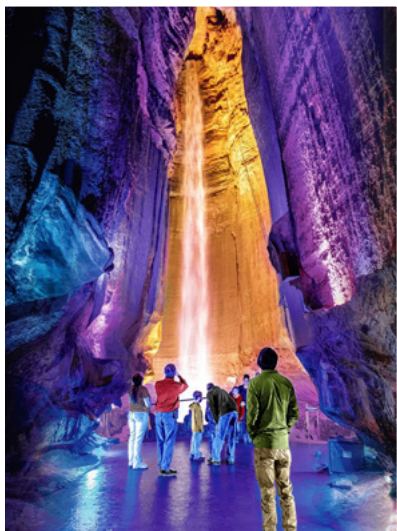
From caverns so immense they defy imagination, to nooks no bigger than a spare bedroom — the diverse range of caves is astonishing, as well, Hughes says.

"The vastness of these caves is oftentimes what really hooks people into more exploration. They go through this little opening, and suddenly a whole new world opens up. People sometimes voice concerns beforehand about being claustrophobic — and then they're surprised when they get into a cave and realize they are standing in rooms so huge you can't see the walls with your flashlight. Claustrophobia usually ends up being the last thing anybody is thinking about."

Never Too Old for Inner Discovery

Hughes works closely with groups like the Tennessee-based Southeastern Cave Conservancy and the National

"The caves here are very long, and they are very deep,"



Ruby Falls



Photo by Billy Pope

Cathedral Caverns



Forbidden Caverns



The Lost Sea



Tuckaleechee Caverns

Speleological Society, headquartered in Huntsville, Ala. He often meets people who were bitten by the caving bug in their Golden Years, who'd never before given much thought to the magnificent worlds beneath their feet.



Bristol Caverns



The Caverns

He has written a book about caving, called "Hidden Wildernesses." It underscores ageless themes of unshrouding mystery, embarking upon quests of discovery, and protecting the past for the future.

"Plenty of people in America don't fully realize how awesome this country is — and, from my perspective, they are never too old to discover and appreciate a resource like our caves in the Southeast," says Hughes, who is 71 years old and still craving caving in a big way.

For those interested in getting a first taste of the "low life," Hughes recommends visiting one of the region's many commercial caves, which are "great places to see some

spectacular underground wonders where they have trails and lighting and tour guides, making these places feel very safe and nonthreatening."

Here are a few regional commercial caves in that have been developed for activities and exploration by the public:

- Bristol Caverns — Bristol, Tenn.
- Forbidden Caverns — Sevierville, Tenn.
- Tuckaleechee Caverns — Townsend, Tenn.
- Ruby Falls — Chattanooga, Tenn.
- The Lost Sea — Sweetwater, Tenn.
- Cathedral Caverns — Woodville, Ala.
- The Caverns — Pelham, Tenn.

Cool Summer-Season Events in the Tennessee River Valley

June 1 & 2: Lenoir City Arts & Crafts Festival — Loudon County, Tenn. Close to 200 vendors draw thousands of buyers and browsers seeking ceramics, glassware, metal work and jewelry, baskets, and too much more to mention. Greater-Knoxville Area's ever popular come-one-come-all, craft-focused event has been delighting visitors for six decades and counting.

June 7 & 8: Popcorn Sutton Jam — Newport, Tenn. Enjoy authentic mountain music, crafts, and local lore in honor of the legendary moonshiner.

June 15: Lavender Festiva — Oak Ridge, Tenn. Delight in the beauty of blooming lavender, artisan crafts, live music, and unique local foods in a family-friendly atmosphere.

June 22 & 23: 77th Roan Mountain Rhododendron Festival — Roan Mountain, Tenn. Witness the spectacular bloom of rhododendrons, enjoy traditional music, and explore craft stalls in a scenic mountain setting.

June 23: Walnut Street Bridge Festival — Chattanooga. Stroll the historic bridge, enjoy panoramic river views, and partake in cultural festivities that celebrate the spirit of the area.

June 29 & 30: Guntersville Lake Hydrofest — Guntersville, Ala. Thrill to the high-speed action of world-class hydroplanes racing at breathtaking speeds in a festive atmosphere with food, music, and fun for the whole family.

July 19-28: W.C. Handy Festival — Florence, Ala. Celebrate the musical heritage and legacy of W.C. Handy, "Father of the

Blues." Weeklong celebration of soulful sounds, craft artistry, and cultural heart in the Shoals region, featuring headliner concerts, side performances, exhibits, and more.

July 20 & 21: Butternut Creek Festival — Blairsville, Ga. Can legitimately lay claim to being among the finest juried arts & crafts shows in the Southeast. Discover the work of 80 to 85 artists and craftsmen in categories from basketry to woodturning, with live music, food, family-friendly activities, life-embracing attitude.

Aug. 2 & 3: Piney Chapel American Farm Heritage Days — Athens, Ala. On display are historic farming practices, traditional music and dance, local foods, in a celebration of rural heritage.

Aug. 17 & 18: Big Mouth Bluegrass Festival — Pelham, Tenn. Award-winning artists for a weekend of underground performances, camping, and more in a unique festival setting (see previous list of top regional commercial caves).

Aug. 31: Iuka Heritage Festival — Iuka, Miss. Live music, food, and activities that highlight the region's heritage, with a focus on blues and folk music.

Aug. 31-Sept. 2: 49th Grand Rivers Arts & Crafts Festival — Grand Rivers, Ky. Around a hundred booths from numerous states, unique items and specialty foods, vibrant celebration of community, music, and artistic commitment to handmade things of beauty.

(Explore more events and places to go. Share your story! Go to exploretv.com.)

In Memoriam

Jan. 29, 2024 - Apr. 28, 2024

TVA Retirement Management received notifications of the deaths of the following retirees for the period Jan. 29, 2024, through April 28, 2024, 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.

Atkins, Bobby R.,
4/1/2024(2/27/1999)
Aycok, Jerry Wayne,
2/27/2024(9/29/2007)
Bain, John W., Jr.,
3/10/2024(9/7/1988)
Baker, Stephen M.,
2/16/2024(6/12/2004)
Baldwin, Nola R.,
1/24/2024(5/12/1984)
Barnard, Barry L.,
3/24/2024(1/7/2008)
Bates, Mary F.,
3/23/2024(7/14/1990)
Beachler, Charles W.,
2/15/2024(12/2/1997)
Beene, L Robert,
3/23/2024(9/27/1986)
Berryman, Aaron R., Jr.,
3/1/2024(6/30/1990)
Blaylock, George T., Jr.,
2/1/2024(6/26/2004)
Bontemps, Alex T.,
2/7/2024(11/26/1994)
Bounds, Charlene N.,
3/4/2024(10/2/1990)
Bowling, Charles L., Jr.,
3/19/2024(12/2/2011)
Brannon, David W.,
2/9/2024(12/21/1997)
Brooks, Gary L.,
4/8/2024(1/9/2016)
Brown, Janice A.,
2/6/2024(6/2/1999)
Burrow, J. Franklin,
3/28/2024(5/29/2004)
Butler, Charlotte G.,
3/3/2024(10/1/2014)
Carpenter, Norma H.,
11/17/2023(8/20/1997)
Carpenter, Ray L., Jr.,
3/14/2024(1/9/2005)
Charnock, Richard E.,
2/7/2024(1/1/1993)
Cherry, Irvine C.,
2/11/2024(8/2/1988)
Clay, Sadie M.,
2/13/2024(10/17/1994)
Coates, Richard W.,
3/1/2024(2/18/1998)
Cole, Robert C.,
3/5/2024(10/1/1988)
Conder, Lynn R.,
4/1/2024(7/9/2006)
Cowley, Jessie P.,
4/11/2024(6/27/1992)
Crandell, Walden T.,
2/10/2024(7/12/2003)
Crowder, James F.,
1/28/2024(1/1/28/1998)
Curtis, Charles C.,
1/12/2024(1/6/2007)
Davenport, Austin W.,
3/7/2024(10/11/1988)

Denney, Roy C.,
4/10/2024(10/6/2012)
Dilday, Gilbert E.,
4/17/2024(1/1/1993)
Drake, Dennis M.,
1/24/2024(3/1/1999)
Durham, Tom H., III,
3/14/2024(9/29/2007)
Dykes, Sheila K.,
2/19/2024(1/31/2014)
Ebersole, Patrick M.,
3/19/2024(10/1/1996)
Ekvall, Charles J.,
3/1/2024(5/4/2014)
Elliott, Walter L., Jr.,
3/1/2024(6/15/2004)
Eskew, Johnny C.,
3/11/2024(9/27/1986)
Farley, James A.,
3/6/2024(1/1/2011)
Flake, Gene A.,
4/1/2024(10/17/1994)
Foster, Loretta F.,
4/14/2024(9/23/1989)
Foust, James E.,
1/11/2024(9/27/1997)
Fretwell, Larry H.,
4/17/2024(12/15/1999)
Garretson, Allan J.,
3/13/2024(5/29/2004)
Goins, John C., Jr.,
2/24/2024(10/17/1994)
Graham, Phyllis K.,
1/27/2024(8/9/1996)
Gregg, Elizabeth C.,
2/20/2024(9/23/2000)
Guinn, Stanton M.,
4/14/2024(5/7/2011)
Gusmus, Bradford F.,
4/9/2024(10/20/2007)
Haley, Ronald W.,
2/3/2024(10/17/1994)
Hall, Paul H.,
2/29/2024(10/1/1988)
Harris, Mathew C.,
1/26/2024(10/17/1994)
Hatfield, Deloras A.,
3/11/2024(1/1/1995)
Henne, Thomas R.,
2/17/2024(4/26/2003)
Hennessee, Charles G.,
4/2/2024(1/17/1995)
Hooper, John B.,
3/14/2024(3/30/1998)
Howard, Mary J.,
3/6/2024(7/3/1993)
Hunt, Marvin K.,
2/26/2024(3/4/2006)
Jackson, James P.,
2/19/2024(10/17/1994)
Jenkins, Judy H.,
4/14/2024(9/27/1997)
Jennings, Mary Ann,
1/12/2024(3/5/1988)

Jewell, Rhonda T.,
3/18/2024(8/15/1989)
Johnson, Harold W.,
3/12/2024(10/7/2013)
Johnson, James T.,
3/1/2024(10/17/1994)
Joyner, Jennifer Anne,
2/26/2024(11/13/2021)
Kearney, James T.,
4/6/2024(8/2/2004)
Keenan, John C.,
1/28/2024(6/5/2004)
Keller, Glenn A.,
2/7/2024(8/16/1988)
Kelley, A Richard, Jr.,
4/17/2024(7/1/1989)
Kenamore, George R.,
3/13/2024(2/6/1999)
Kephart, James R.,
4/9/2024(1/15/1969)
King, Donald,
3/11/2024(10/17/1994)
Kisac, Michael R.,
2/1/2024(9/13/2003)
Kitchen, Alyce R.,
3/4/2024(10/17/1994)
Knight, Thomas R.,
3/23/2024(1/9/2006)
Lai, Brenda K.,
12/28/2023(12/28/1985)
Lusby, Judy B.,
2/24/2024(10/4/2003)
Manning, Charles A.,
1/17/2024(6/8/1991)
Martzin, George,
2/14/2024(6/18/1994)
Masterson, James W.,
2/7/2024(9/20/2014)
Mathis, Dillard T.,
3/21/2024(12/27/2012)
Maxwell, George A.,
4/3/2024(11/21/1991)
McCall, Jack Humphreys, Jr.,
4/13/2024(2/2/2021)
McGrew, John L.,
3/2/2024(10/1/1995)
McKelvey, James E.,
3/30/2024(9/29/1990)
McKibben, William G.,
2/18/2024(8/2/2000)
Medlin, Marvin F.,
2/2/2024(10/1/1988)
Melton, Marcus C., Jr.,
2/24/2024(5/5/2001)
Miller, David W.,
2/1/2024(9/27/1997)
Moore, Robert L.,
2/7/2024(3/29/1992)
Morris, James L.,
1/25/2024(9/24/1988)
Mozingo, Ivan,
4/24/2024(1/1/2000)
Mullin, Robert J.,
4/1/2024(10/1/1995)

Myers, Alan Bruce,
4/8/2024(2/15/2011)
Olive, Thomas M.,
2/25/2024(1/1/1995)
Parker, B. Jeanette,
4/18/2024(10/17/1994)
Perkins, Deborah A.,
3/6/2024(4/30/2005)
Phillips, Thomas E.,
3/26/2024(2/3/2007)
Pirtle, James E.,
1/24/2024(9/23/2000)
Point, James N.,
3/26/2024(4/18/1982)
Rainwater, Kenneth E.,
3/4/2024(5/10/1995)
Randolph, Donald D.,
3/4/2024(3/21/1992)
Rawlston, John E.,
7/3/2022(12/7/1985)
Rector, James E.,
3/12/2024(1/11/2003)
Rich, Martha B.,
3/19/2024(12/30/2000)
Rickard, Sandra L.,
3/22/2024(2/8/1994)
Rogers, Grady M.,
2/10/2024(10/17/1994)
Rogers, Ralph U.,
3/8/2024(9/12/1983)
Rollins, John B.,
3/12/2024(10/17/1994)
Rowland, Samuel L.,
3/9/2024(10/17/1994)
Rudnik, Gust, Jr.,
2/29/2024(7/30/1988)
Sandidge, Harry C.,
2/9/2024(7/16/1988)
Scarbrough, Kenneth E.,
7/1/2023(9/16/2012)
Scruggs, Malcolm F., Jr.,
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Serini, Barry L.,
3/29/2024(2/16/1998)
Sessoms, Richard A.,
3/9/2024(7/7/1989)
Sharp, Rhonda H.,
2/23/2024(5/29/1993)
Shaw, Michilene H.,
2/25/2024(8/3/2001)
Shields, John T.,
3/4/2024(11/13/1993)
Shipp, Eston D.,
4/13/2024(10/1/1996)
Shoulders, Harold H.,
2/22/2024(1/1/1999)
Sims, Hanson S.,
3/7/2024(10/17/1994)
Skinner, David W.,
2/12/2024(1/11/2016)
Smith, Janice P.,
1/24/2024(10/17/1994)
Snodgrass, Terrill,
3/3/2024(1/4/2008)

Spence, Betty J.,
3/29/2024(3/28/1998)
Stephens, Alphonso C.,
4/7/2024(10/5/2013)
Stewart, Jimmy O.,
3/4/2024(4/2/2005)
Stewart, William D.,
2/13/2024(10/11/2008)
Strawn, James T.,
4/20/2024(8/24/1999)
Strong, Stanley A.,
1/28/2024(10/17/1994)
Sullivan, Marion O.,
3/12/2024(9/27/1997)
Thomison, William C.,
4/3/2024(10/1/1996)
Tiffin, Donald C.,
3/23/2024(6/2/1988)
Trammell, H. Jane,
3/15/2024(10/1/2004)
Trent, Walter D.,
3/10/2024(1/11/2003)
Troxell, M. Carolyn,
1/1/2024(10/17/1994)
Upton, Thomas Eugene,
2/10/2024(7/7/2008)
Vick, Linda L.,
2/18/2024(9/15/1994)
Vincent, Gwenda J.,
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Wade, Edward L.,
4/5/2024(10/17/1994)
Waits, John L., Jr.,
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Wakefield, Lorna L.,
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Walia, Gian C.,
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Walker, Cecil R.,
4/1/2024(7/5/2003)
Walker, Charlotte D.,
3/20/2024(9/24/1988)
Walker, Janice M.,
3/18/2024(9/27/1997)
Walker, Roy D.,
2/24/2024(7/14/1992)
Wallace, Lewis E.,
3/22/2024(3/7/1987)
Weaver, Barbara C.,
4/5/2024(10/17/1994)
Westmoreland, Ronald A.,
4/10/2024(12/5/2009)
White, Margaret P.,
1/26/2024(4/9/1988)
White, Michael D.,
4/3/2024(5/16/1996)
Whitehead, Oscar D.,
3/17/2024(5/3/2003)
Wyrick, Ronald G.,
3/5/2024(12/1/1992)

Upcoming June 2024 Chapter Meetings

BROWNS FERRY

June 11, 2024, noon

Cattfish Cabin, Athens, Ala.

- Program: TBD

David C. Matherly Jr., President

256-777-2175/dcmatherly@gmail.com

CHATTANOOGA

June 11, 2024, 10:30 a.m.

*The Colonnade (Catoosa County Civic Center),
264 Catoosa Circle, Ringgold, Ga.*

- Program: Chapter Picnic
- Guest Speaker: Chari Buckner, Director of Customer Relations in TVA's East Region

Tom Swanson, President

423-344-6892/tswanson@comcast.net

CLEVELAND

June 14, 2024, 11 a.m.

*Mike Long Pavilion, Hopewell Church of God,
5765 Eureka Road NW*

- Program: Annual Summer Picnic

John Austin, President

423-472-2720/austintnutfan@charter.net

GALLATIN

June 12, 2024, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.

Gallatin Public Library,

123 E. Main St.

- Program: TBD

James R. Monday, President

615-481-8469/oemorgan@comcast.net

HUNTSVILLE

May 30, 2024, 10 a.m.

*First Baptist Church, East Entrance,
Parlor Meeting Room, 600 Governors Drive*

- Program: Fire Inspections
- Guest Speaker: Huntsville Fire & Rescue Deputy Marshal Jerry Tanner

Daniel A. Simmons, President

256-509-9781/dasimmon@bellsouth.net

JACKSON

June 12, 2024, 9:30 a.m.

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

- Program: TBD

Alan Campbell, President

731-988-8814/abcjax@eplus.net

JOHNSONVILLE/CUMBERLAND

June 13, 2024, 10 a.m.

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

- 10 a.m. Socializing
- 11 a.m. Meeting
- Program: Information from the May TVARA Board Meeting

Mickey Blackburn, President

931-209-1352/mwblackb56@gmail.com

KNOXVILLE

June 20, 2024, 11 a.m.

Melton Hill Dam Picnic Pavilion No. 2

- Program: United Way and Knox County School Initiative

Ron Riberich, President

865-679-1565/rjriberich@comcast.net

MEMPHIS

June 14, 2024, 11 a.m.

*Cocina Mexicana Bar & Grill,
2945 Millbranch Road*

- Program: TBD

*Steve Coleman, President (see note at bottom)

901-237-0214/stevenacoleman66@gmail.com

MISSISSIPPI

June 11, 2024, 10 a.m.

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

- Program: TBD

Judy J. Bright, President

662-791-9779/bright.judy2@icloud.com

MUSCLE SHOALS

June 18, 2024, 9:30 a.m.

*Florence Lauderdale Coliseum,
709 Veterans Drive, Florence, Ala.*

- Program: TVARA 22nd Annual Picnic & Health Fair

Timothy "Tim" Cornelius, President

256-483-5917/timwcornelius1@gmail.com

NASHVILLE

June 13, 2024, 10 a.m.

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

- Guest Speaker: Justin Vineyard, TVA Retirement Services Representative

Jeffie Gammons, President

931-729-9974/ly2kunderthehill@gmail.com

NORTHEAST ALABAMA

June 11, 2024, 11 a.m.

Western Sizzlin',

1130 Highway 28, Jasper, Tenn.

- Program: TBD

Larry A. Hancock, President

256-437-8220/lah35772@gmail.com

PADUCAH AREA

June 18, 2024, 10 a.m.

Pizza Inn, 1001 Joe Clifton Drive

- Guest Speaker: Justin Vineyard, TVA Retirement Services Representative

Ken Dickerson, President

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

PARADISE

June 11, 2024, 10:30 a.m.

*Cattfish Dock, 2003 W. Everly Brothers Blvd.,
Powderly, Ky.*

- Program: Planning chapter picnic and reporting project updates

Vernon R. Perry, President

270-543-4707/vrperry76@gmail.com

UPPER EAST TENNESSEE

July 9, 2024, 11:30 a.m.

*Boone Dam Pavilion, 301 Boone Dam Rd.,
Kingsport, Tenn.*

- Program: Annual Picnic, everything provided, including BBQ, drinks, sides, and desserts.
- Please RSVP with your name, phone number, and total number attending in your party to Bobby Davis at 423-367-9073 or Lisa or Phil Holt at 423-360-8306. (Meeting plans will also be posted via email and Facebook.)

Les Bays, President

423-782-8458/lpbays1@yahoo.com

WESTERN AREA

June 19, 2024, 10:30 a.m.

Lake Barkley State Resort Park in Meeting Room

- Guest Speaker: Historian Ski Witzofsky, "Scrimmage at Canton"

K. Renee Turnbow, President

270-205-5277/krturnbow@gmail.com

**The Memphis Chapter needs a replacement for Steve Coleman, who has moved out of the area. Call Coleman at 901-237-0214 or Vice President James Thomas at 901-483-5665 if you are interested in filling this two-year position.*

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**
viellis@aol.com/865-805-1512

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

Kathryn Davis, TVARA Secretary
krdavis3@yahoo.com/615-361-9954

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 mytvvara.org and hover your mouse over the tab "Chapters" to find your chapter. Click on your chapter to view meeting details and announcements.



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

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TVA FY 2023 Sustainability Report: *Building a Sustainable Future*

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of this QR Code:



PayPal, a new way to pay dues

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

You can now pay your TVA Retirees Association membership dues through PayPal. In fact, 169 retirees already have done just that.

PayPal has proven to be very convenient in such transactions. It only takes a few minutes, and TVARA will receive your payment in its PayPal Account immediately. That means no checks, stamps, weather delays, or trips to the post office, and nothing getting lost or delayed in the mail.

You will also receive a Payment Confirmation email from TVARA upon receipt of your payment.

If you pay by PayPal, the annual membership dues are \$15 per year plus a \$1 processing fee for a total of

\$16 (\$32 for two years, \$48 for three years, etc).

Just enter paypal.com/paypalme/tvaradues/16 in your browser on your PC or phone and follow the PayPal instructions. (You will soon be able to click on that link on the TVARA website, mytvara.org, to pay your dues via PayPal.)

Of course, you can still pay your dues by check, money order, or Online Bill Pay, although those currently paying by Online Bill Pay may consider using PayPal instead.

Feel free to email me at rtwilson@tva.gov or call me at 865-632-8542 if you have questions.

Welcome to PayPal!

SAVE THE DATE!

Annual TVA Retiree Appreciation Luncheon

September 13, 2024

Chattanooga Convention Center

Doors open at 10 a.m.

Lunch & program begin
at 11 a.m.

To register, go to:
forms.office.com/g/Ofavnyb0mx

(Address uses zeros, not capital O's.)

If the above link does not work for you, try
adding <https://> in front of the address.